

Profile - Jim Dougherty, Candidate 2008 National Sierra Club Election



SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND:

- Profession: environmental lawyer for 30 years; representing the Club, NRDC, NWF, anti-nuclear groups, Indian Tribes, endangered species, animal advocates, etc. Also professional landscape photographer - www.jimdougherty.org. Formerly a professional wilderness guide.

- Chapter/Group leader, 1993- present (Chapter Chair, Conservation Chair, Legal Chair, Outings Chair, Secretary, Pizza Chair, others). Member since 1971; Life Member since 1990.

-National Leader for 23 years (current member, Board of Directors; Conservation Governance Committee; Legal Committee, Youth Integration Task Force; formerly Council of Club Leaders, Finance Committee, others).

- Endorsed by former Presidents Ed Wayburn, Michele Perrault, Larry Fahn, and the Angeles, San Francisco Bay, San Diego, Oregon, Missouri, New Jersey, Mother Lode, North Star, Tehipite, Virginia, District of Columbia, Florida, Tennessee, and Santa Lucia Chapters.

SUMMARY OF PLATFORM:

- I call for strengthening our Global Warming campaign to be more bold, visionary, values-based, and grassroots oriented. Instead of, *e.g.*, lobbying Washington for modest regulatory gains (*e.g.*, CAFÉ standards of 35 mpg by 2020), I contend that we should be calling for a new federal Department of Climate Security, a \$3-billion Civilian Energy Corps that will weatherize low-income homes, schools, etc, \$5 billion to install photovoltaic panels on every U.S. building in this country and around the world, \$10 billion in residential solar tax credits, a ban on incandescent light bulbs, and the creation of an alliance with musicians, actors, politicians, students and others to “take it to the streets.” In this election year we should be setting standards that candidates strive to meet.

- Alone among sitting Board Members, I voted to oppose current efforts (“Project Renewal”) to reorganize the national volunteer conservation entities.

- I led the (unsuccessful) effort to restore \$70,000 in 2008 budget funds for national support for chapter fundraising programs. I support the primacy of Chapters and Groups.

- As a Board Member, I have led the fight against attempts by National to crack down on chapters or volunteer leaders considered “dissident.”

– Alone among Board Members, I oppose the Staff’s current plan to allow the Club’s membership level to continue to fall (to below 725,000 from a high of 800,000+). We have tens of millions of \$\$ in our reserves; we should spend some of it to **increase** the membership – like all the other national environmental groups. The grassroots are the source of our power.

EXPERIENCE WITH SIERRA CLUB, OTHER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, PUBLIC ENTITIES

A. Principal activities and service within the Club

Chapter Positions (Potomac Chapter 1984-93, D.C. Chapter 1993-present):

- Legal Chair 1985-89, 1994-present
- Conservation Chair 1985-86, 1995-1996
- Secretary 1985-86
- Chair 1986-88
- Political Committee 1994-present
- Excom 1984-89, 1994-97
- Fundraising Chair 1985-88 (Received Kerhlein National Fundraising Award 1988)
- Pizza Chair (honorary) - 1995-present
- Nominating Committee - 1993 - present
- Received Walter A. Starr Award for continued service by a former director (or some such) 2001

Group Positions:

- Secretary 1985-86
- Conservation Chair - 1983-89
- Excom 1983-89

National Positions:

- Club Director 1989-1992, 2005 - present
- Sierra Club Council - member or alternate - 1984-89
 - Chair, Committee on Chapter and Groups 1988-89
- Chair, Membership Committee's Task Force on Low-Income Membership 1984-85
- Legal Committee and Litigation Subcommittee 1990-present
- Co-Director, Shareholder Action Task Force, 1990-92, 2002-2005
- Member, Youth Initiative Task Force, 2006 - present
- Conservation GovCom 2001- present
 - Vice Chair May 2004 - 2005
- Finance GovCom - 2006-2007

Leadership in Local/Regional Conservation Campaigns:

- Founder and co-leader, "Save Klingle Valley" campaign, 1994-present. See clip at right; also www.klinglevalley.org



– Drafted and led successful campaign for enactment of phosphate detergent ban - DC - 1986

– Co-led successful fight against \$150 million amusement park (“Children’s Island”) proposed for African-American neighborhood - DC - 1984-97

– Co-led successful opposition to construction of road through Glover-Archbold Park - DC - 1986-87 (received D.C. City Council good citizenship award, 1990)

– Co-led successful fight against \$200 million federal highway (“Barney Circle”) project through African-American neighborhood - DC 1991-98

– Led successful campaign to restore curbside recycling collections - DC - 1995-97

– Led successful campaign to initiate internal recycling and green procurement by DC Government, 1999-2002

– Co-led campaign to stop cell phone tower construction in Rock Creek Park - DC - 1998-99

– Drafted and co-led successful campaign for enactment of tree protection ordinance - DC - 2002

I have been active in several other past local campaigns, e.g., the 1987 bottle bill initiative campaign, several

road/highway fights, local appropriations, and am now active in other campaigns, e.g., protecting national park land on the Anacostia River from development.



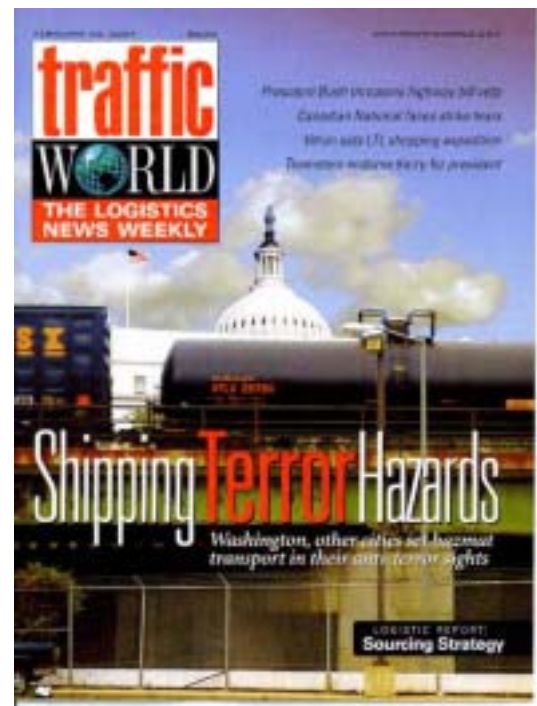
JD and Mayor Williams at press conference announcing bill signing February, 2005

I’m the Chapter’s lead activist on a four-year campaign to keep deadly chemical train cargoes out of town, in order to prevent terrorist attacks that could kill 100,000. I drafted a first-in-the-nation bill that was passed by the City Council in 2004 and I’ve taken a lot of photos (*see above right*) that have gotten national play. I represent the Club in the railroad’s federal-court constitutional challenge to the law.

We recently got a federal law passed that should solve the problem for the nation’s largest 46 cities.



JD and colleague on a recycling dumpster dive



Affiliations with other organizations:

Member, Mayor's Environmental Advisory Committee 1999-2006;
Member, Advisory Committee, League of Conservation Voters 1991-93
Member, D.C. Environmental Planning Commission 1995-98
Member, Board of Directors, Friends of the National Zoo 1993-98
Member, Board of Trustees, Committee of 100 on the Federal City 1996-2001
 Treasurer, 1999-2000
Vice Chair, GreenHome 1996-1999
 (building environmentally advanced housing for Habitat for Humanity)
Co-founder (with Brent Blackwelder, CEO of Friends of the Earth) of D.C. Environmental Network
 1996

OCCUPATION AND BRIEF EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

I have been an environmental lawyer since 1977; a sole practitioner of environmental litigation since 1995. I've represented the Club in a half-dozen cases, including successful U.S. Supreme Court litigation over oil drilling off the shores of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and an on-going successful campaign to block a proposed \$6 billion coal-hauling railroad that was hyped by the Cheney Energy Task Force as a coal source for 100 new power plants. I'm now challenging, on the Club's behalf, the Department of Energy's proposed "National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor" Order of October 5, 2007. I've done a lot of work with sea turtles and pig poop.

Previously, I have served as:

Associate Editor and Editor (CEO), Environmental Law Reporter 1977-82
Staff Attorney and Branch Chief, U.S.E.P.A. 1985-90 (RCRA and Superfund
 enforcement policy and litigation)
Vice President for Conservation Programs, Defenders of Wildlife 1990-92;
 Acting President 1991-92
Vice President and General Counsel, Green Seal 1992-94 (environmental product testing
 and certification)
Part-time professional wilderness guide 1996-2000