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Vol. 48, No. 2 Approximately 21,000 Members in New Jersey April-June 2019

Reports from Trenton

Gov. Murphy Supports Full Fracking Ban

From a press release issued on Jan 30, edited by Irene Gnarra

Governor Phil Murphy has announced his support for a full fracking ban in the Delaware River Basin. Made clear in a letter to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), he also asks for support from his colleagues: Governors Andrew Cuomo of New York, John Carney of Delaware, Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania, and Major General Jeffrey Millborn of the US Army Corps of Engineers, North Atlantic Division. The DRBC will need a 3/5 vote to pass the complete ban, and the NJ Sierra Club hopes that the other commissioners will agree with Murphy.

Fracking is an environment-damaging process for underground oil and gas production, used in the Marcellus shale

region of eastern Pennsylvania and western New York States, including much of the Delaware River Basin. The toxic waste-brines, if released in the Basin, would contaminate the drinking water of the 17 million people in communities on both sides of the River, including communities in Central Jersey - which take drinking water from the D&R Canal.

We hope that Gov. Murphy's input will result in DRBC rules that ban all fracking activities, including the import, treatment, and discharge of fracking wastewater. The rules must also assure that companies such as DuPont and Elcon be prohibited from exporting water from the Basin to hydraulic fracking operations outside the region.

An Environmental Perspective on Road Salt

From a Press Release issued on Jan 16

At a meeting in Jersey City, Governor Murphy responded to criticisms of over-salting our roads - in preparation for snow that doesn't fall! Blasts of DOT salt then wash into storm-sewers and on into local freshwater streams - from which we then pull our drinking water.

One consequence of salty drinking water is its ability to leach lead out of older pipes in our homes and thus out of our faucets and into our bodies. If the Governor is serious about his commitment to reduce exposure to lead, then he needs to stop over-brining our roads.

Salt in drinking water has other public health impacts for people with high blood pressure, people with heart disease, and children. Environmental salt also harms fish and other aquatic species.

The Oradell Reservoir in Bergen County is actually listed by the DEP as impaired for salt. Many winter health advisories go out to people who consume that water. Chemists know salt as sodium chloride; it's the chloride ions that dissolve lead from pipe-solder in older homes. From Toms River to Middletown (in Ocean and Monmouth Counties),

schools in New Jersey have repeatedly failed lead testing, resulting in water fountains being shut down and emergency screenings for lead poisoning being conducted. Another problem, in Newark, Paterson and Trenton which have open-air finishing reservoirs, is the inability to add orthophosphate to the water to prevent lead from leaching out of pipes.

Salt doesn't go away! It remains a persistent risk to aquatic ecosystems and to water quality. Approximately 55 percent of road-salt eventually runs off with snow melt into streams; the remaining 45 percent infiltrates through soils and into groundwater aquifers, according to a 1993 study. It kills trees (especially white pines), slowly, and other roadside plants, leading to succession by invasive species that are more salt-tolerant.

Salt also corrodes the metals in automobiles, and brake linings. It penetrates concrete to corrode the reinforcing rods - causing damage to bridges and pavement. Municipalities across the state have begun to use alternate salts such as potassium carbonate, but they cost much more.

Introducing Keith Ryzewicz, our new Chapter Communications Editor

By means of the usual interview:

1. What's your environmental background? My environmental advocacy over the years has been primarily achieved through my work as a journalist, both as a reporter and as an editorial page editor. In the latter role especially, I was able to choose many of the topics we tackled, and influence the positions we took, and I used that pulpit as much as possible to support environmental causes. For years we spoke out strongly on the climate change crisis, the importance of toxic cleanups, a greater push for renewable energy and many other concerns. We championed many local causes; for instance, we played a leading role in urging federal officials to move a dangerous mercury stockpile out of a residential neighborhood. There may have been a few occasions when our views differed from the Sierra Club, but not many.

2. What environmental issues concern you most? It is difficult to overstate just how great a concern climate change is at this stage. For years I felt as if I had a proper level of awareness of the growing effects of global warming, but regardless of what I may have understood intellectually, I look back now and realize I had fallen into the trap of seeing it as a somewhat far-off challenge. The more we learn, however, the more we realize the immediacy of the crisis. Climate change encompasses a wide range of environmental concerns. Reducing the impact and preparing for the effects will be one of the great challenges of our time.

3. Why NJ-SC; what does your job consist of? As a journalist, advocacy only goes so far. There are two sides of every story to tell, and the goal is to help the public inform its own views. Even from the perspective of the opinion page, supporting causes can be a bit of a balancing act. As that profession continues to

evolve and shrink, I began considering a career shift, and hoped I could find a role in which I could support a cause in which I believed. Also, as my children begin heading into adulthood, I realized just how much they, and their children one day, will have to live with the damage caused by climate change that's already started. That inspired me to try to take more action, and I am glad to have found my way to the Sierra Club to act upon that inspiration.

4. Might you have a personal success story to tell? As my children grew up in urbanized New Jersey, my wife and I sometimes wondered how we would be able to instill in them an appreciation and respect for nature. Would our own examples be enough? Is it just something that either happens or it doesn't? We hiked and went camping, they joined Girl Scouts and 4-H clubs. We volunteered for cleanup projects. They loved animals and complained about big houses being environmentally unfriendly. One daughter has gone on to study wildlife biology. So maybe we were doing something right. But the moment that really clicked was when one of the kids, for a religious-school project, designed a postcard that could be printed and sold as a small fundraiser. The parameters were broad, just something important to you. She drew a polar bear balancing precariously atop a small outgrowth of ice - all that was left, apparently, after the rest of the ice had melted. I don't know how much I may have influenced my kids' values. But I love who they are. My family will always be my greatest success.



State Parks at Risk of Privatization

From a Press Release issued by our Trenton staff on Jan 16.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has invited applications from vendors to operate concessions in Wharton and Bass River State Forests (Burlington Co), and in State Parks elsewhere in New Jersey.

This is a task that DEP staff used to perform. But because DEP funding has been cut, there are no longer enough people to provide many of the former park services. In the last nine years, staff numbers are down from 1,000 to 400, while 40% more land is being preserved as open space. It's important to build up morale and funding in a Department that's been disheartened and slashed.

The DEP is also accepting proposals for a mobile food concession at Leonardo State Marina in Monmouth

County, a food and novelty concession at the Shepherd Lake Recreation Area at Ringwood State Park (Passaic Co), and a food and novelty concession at Parvin State Park (Salem Co).

There's nothing wrong with private concessions in our parks, so long as they are available to public, not too expensive, and don't close any areas of the park. But, as we keep cutting more staff and outsourcing more services, we are concerned that the slippery slope will bottom out with full privatization of our parks. This has happened in New Jersey: in the last few years we fought a hotel, a millionaire's golf course and a private marina for Liberty State Park (Hudson Co). We also fought a private food court for Island Beach State Park (Ocean Co).

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Thank You for Your Support!

Supplied by our Fundraising Committee Chair, Ken Johanson

The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club wishes to thank all those who provided the Chapter with financial support during 2018. As in prior years, our members and supporters were there when we needed them most. Listed below are the names of those who contributed \$100 or more during the calendar year. But please be assured that all contributions are very much appreciated, regardless of the amount.

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Political Chair's Report

As the Glaciers Melt, Politics!

by John Kashwick, also our Wildlands Issues Coordinator (jkashwick@gmail.com)

Our four new members of Congress, all endorsed by the Sierra Club, all promised to champion environmental issues. Right now, we need these representatives to support three important pieces of federal legislation. You, our members, should please make sure they do:

In Alaska, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) is the largest unit in the National Wildlife Refuge System. In this age of climate change it is vital that we protect such sensitive lands. The Refuge includes 19.6 million acres of wildlands including its biological heart, the northern coastal plain - which after decades of legislative protection is now under federal attack. The 2017 'Tax Cuts and Jobs Act' opened up the coastal plain to oil and gas development. It is the same Act that eliminated real estate tax deductions for many New Jerseyans. To counteract the ravenous oil industries' exploitation of this natural resource, **HR-1146 (the Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act)** would reverse the dam-

age done in the Tax Act and hold off on development of the 1.5 million acres of the Refuge's coastal plain, which is the calving grounds for the porcupine caribou herd, and summer nesting areas of migrating birds, as well as provide subsistence for the Native Americans of northern Alaska.

In Utah, our National Monuments have been chiseled away by the Trump Administration. It is a national disgrace that these beautiful lands can now be exploited and despoiled by extractive industries. **America's Red Rock Wilderness Act** would protect these iconic western landscapes with evocative names including Desolation Canyon, Cedar Mesa, and Labyrinth Canyon, as well as lands within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. This



Conservation Chair's Report

Effects of Global Warming

By Greg Gorman (ggorman07419@embarqmail.com)

Since March, 2017, National Geographic Magazine has maintained a "running list of how Trump is changing environmental policy" (1), generally relaxing pollution standards affecting our health. Most disconcerting are policy changes that accelerate global warming. In particular, as of January, 2019, the list includes increased logging on public lands; roll back of Obama-era coal rules; and expansion of oil and gas drilling in the Arctic, off-shore, and on public land. In October, 2018, the International Panel on Climate Change stated that, "limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require "rapid and far-reaching" transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities. Global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) would need to fall by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching 'net zero' around 2050. This means that any remaining emissions would need to be balanced by removing CO2 from the air. We have about 12 years to avoid catastrophic climate change" (1); Yet, the President's actions accelerate our planet toward this catastrophe.

The opening chapter of the U.S. Global Climate Research Program's Fourth National Climate Assessment (2) begins, "Climate change creates new risks and exacerbates existing vulnerabilities in communities across the United States, ..." The report explores the effects of climate change on natural and social systems with other stressors such as aging and deteriorating infrastructure, land-use changes, and population growth. It discusses the impacts of coastal flooding, damaging wildfire seasons, destructive storms, heat waves, and widespread forest death, particularly in the Rocky Mountains. As the severity of these events rises, the United States will experience increased pressure on groundwater supplies, risks to our electricity supply, and disruption of transportation systems. There is evidence of coral reef destruction, and disruption of food supplies by plant and animal range shifts, and changing seasons. Even our military bases and National Landmarks are at risk.

New Jersey feels these impacts now. Coastal communities, still rebuilding from Sandy, send construction waste materials to dump sites across the State. Heavy snows require excessive road salt application that contaminates wells as in Knowlton Township (Warren Co). Bayonne's boardwalk, opened in 2006, becomes impassable at high tide. The Black Horse Pike (Atlantic Co) and Long Beach Island (Ocean Co) are also subject to this "sunny-day" flooding. Ice skaters find fewer ponds with skatable ice. Ski season is shorter. Fall foliage festivals lack colorful trees. Humidity issues close schools due to black mold. Fishermen follow their Jersey Blues further north as waters become warmer. Community gar-

dens incur reduced harvest of Jersey tomatoes due to excessive rainfall and cloud cover.

"Without substantial and sustained global mitigation and regional adaptation efforts, climate change is expected to cause growing losses to American infrastructure and property and impede the rate of economic growth over this century." (3) A recent Sierra article proclaims that, "Humanity's on the brink, but signs are emerging that we'll pull back" (4). Cost effective clean energy technologies are projected to replace fossil fuels as the main source of energy within the next 20 years. (NJ needs to continue its support of solar, wind, and energy storage). The 1000th institution has agreed to divest its investments in fossil fuel. (The NJ Pension Fund should do likewise.) (5) More than 200 municipal mayors nationwide have adopted goals to transition to 100% renewable energy, community-wide, no later than 2035. (Nine of them are from NJ - we need communities to commit to being "Ready for 100.") (6)

The brightest light on the horizon is young people becoming involved and taking leadership to push for stronger climate action. Internationally, Swedish 16-year-old Greta Thunberg advocates, "We can no longer save the world by playing by the rules because the rules have to be changed." (6) Greta started the School Strike for Climate, a weekly strike which has grown to include more than 70,000 students on strike across the globe. She spoke at the World Economic Forum in Davos and in front of the UN during COP24, and she has inspired many with her clarity and dedication. Nationally, the Sunrise Movement is pushing for a Green New Deal and putting pressure on politicians (8). In New Jersey, the Princeton Student Climate Initiative focuses on efforts to create the political will for putting a fee on carbon— making sure the cost of fossil fuel use reflects their environmental damages by taxing the fuels at their source (8; see op-ed on p. 4). Climate is a very real threat to the future of these young people, and they are taking matters into their own hands.

We need to change the conversation about climate on global, national and local scales. A lot of work is needed to transform from the Age of Fossil-Fuel to the Age of Clean Energy. To achieve a safe climate and sustainable environment, we need to support each other across generational lines. We need to act together with a shared sense of urgency.

(Footnotes continue on page 14)

visionary legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives since 1989, and for a time was sponsored by New Jersey's Congressman Rush Holt, now retired.

The **Land and Water Conservation Fund** was set up by Congress in 1964 to provide a funding source for our national parks, refuges, forests, rivers, and lakes. The fund, which has to be renewed periodically, is based on a simple idea: when companies do harm to federal lands by extracting oil, gas, copper, etc., they need to pay royalties that could be used to acquire additional land or make improvements to existing federal lands. It can also be used in the form of grants for state or even local projects. The fund expired last September, but there is bipartisan support to for a permanent renewal of the Fund. We need to ensure that this renewal bill does not languish in Congress.

The Sierra Club and many other groups are working to make sure that our newly-elected Representatives—Andy Kim (NJ 3), Tom Malinowski (NJ 7), Mikie Sherrill (NJ 11), and Jeff Van Drew (NJ 2) - support these initiatives. It is important that they hear from you. As a constituent, you need to let them know that wilderness protection is important for you. Be assertive and ask them to co-sponsor the two bills bolded above, and to support permanent renewal of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. You can find the contact information at www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative, or just google their names. Even if your representative is not newly-elected, please reach out and let her/him know the importance of these bills.

Please help make sure that New Jersey's congressional delegation is the greenest in the nation and get all 12 of our representatives to co-sponsors these acts.

Is there an environmental issue that we're MISSING? If so, please call or write to Club officers.

Editorial

Immigration as an Environmental Non-Issue



By Dick Colby (dick.colby@stockton.edu)

Perhaps the single greatest privilege of active Club membership is participation in the internal debates conducted in our Conservation List-serve, an e-mail discussion forum maintained by our Chapter Conservation Chair, Greg Gorman. Few holds are barred! (But the volume can be overwhelming.)

That's where, in the last four days of 2018, more than 20 exchanges took place on the subject of immigration, beginning with the assertion (reprinted with the author's permission) that, "[We should oppose] residential development because education and municipal services cost more than the taxes brought in. So the more houses that are built, especially low and moderate-income housing, the more ratables are needed to balance the budget. The quality of life in America is declining. The open spaces and wildlife we once took for granted are in serious decline as the population explodes. The wild places in which I played as a boy are now all houses, buildings, parking lots, ribbons of roads, concrete, asphalt, and grass lawns. Biodiversity is at 20% of what it was when I was young. There aren't enough resources – food, gasoline, housing, open space, education, medical services, etc, to support all our people. America is unable to control its own birth rate, let alone all the millions more people who want to come here to live. Open borders are exacerbating the situation. I think America needs to secure our borders and limit immigration. We can't keep building, digging, drilling, burning, and increasing."

Thus opened a can of worms, including both supporting and opposing arguments: New Jersey's population is actually shrinking. We need immigrants to fill open jobs. "Give me your tired, your poor . . ." Immigrants actually supply needed doctors, scientists, service workers, etc. Diversity is our strength. Much of the immigration pressure stems from American meddling in Central American politics and is thus legitimate. Welcoming immigrants is as American as Apple Pie. Immigration is a smokescreen or scapegoat for our "real" environmental problems, etc.

Then came the reminder that this issue is not new to the Sierra Club: There was a campaign in the 1990s (as I remember) to stack the Club's National Board of Directors with opponents of immigration. Their overwhelming defeat resulted in the following policy declaration: "**The Sierra Club, its entities, and those speaking in its name will take no position on immigration levels or on policies governing immigration into the United States. The Club remains committed to environmental rights and protections for all within our borders, without discrimination based on immigration status.**"

I have a different perspective, based on a hobby-interest in residential sociology and my experience of having lived in Europe for 40 years of my life (working summers and other spare moments in biology research laboratories). Consider average home lot-sizes: 100x100' in this suburban country (10,000 sq ft) cf. 25x75' for European townhouses (1875

sq ft): a difference of about six-fold. Both accommodate garages and gardens front and back. But European densities enable frequent public transit services, and walkable-bicyclable shops and schools, and open fields at nearby municipal boundaries, whereas American densities demand car-dependence and other wasteful energy practices, not to mention consumption of open space. So, if we could "retreat" to European residential densities, there would be room for all the millions of immigrants who want to follow in the footsteps of our ancestors. But how did our wasteful suburban lifestyle come to be?

The two lifestyles (American and European) diverged most spectacularly, I think, just after World War II, when our relative wealth, our post-war exuberance, our "wave" of returning young soldiers starting jobs and families, our available open spaces near cities, our corporate (massive) farms far away, our young advertising industry promoting luxurious kitchen appliances and much else, our federal legislation providing cheap mortgages, especially for veterans, our newly-invented transportation convenience (especially automatic-transmission engines), our war-energized women, and our raw materials (especially wood for home-building) all converged into new suburbs. Suburb inventors such as Arthur Levitt were part of the picture. Another factor was the general rootlessness in our country (thanks to immigration!), contrasted with the staid conformity that descends from high-density town life in the walled European cities of the Middle Ages.

So what can be done? The answer should be obvious: densify! But how to change our behavior? Carrots or sticks? Persuading politicians must be part of the answer, but also the application of environmental psychology to convince suburbanites to revise their ways and attitudes! (Why are so many of my neighbors AFRAID to get on a bus or train?) I'm hoping our new Advisor on the Psychology of Sustainability might have something to contribute!

I suspect you'll note messianic delusion in the paragraph just above. (It's endemic in the Sierra Club and in politics generally. Also in a biography I just enjoyed of Pete Seeger (1981, by David King Dunaway), the folk-singer who thought folk music would solve or salve all the world's problems, successively singing communism (as a Harvard undergraduate during the Great Depression), labor unionism, patriotism during WW2, opposition to the red-baiting of the McCarthy era, civil rights, opposition to the Vietnam War, and finally environmentalism: cleaning the toxins out of the Hudson River, sung from the deck of the sloop *Clearwater* by an all-folksinger crew. He never stopped trying.)

I'm also encouraged that there may be progress on the other of the "needs" noted in my previous editorial: for good environmental muckraking journalism in New Jersey. The Chapter welcomes a new member of staff in Trenton, Communications Editor Keith Ryzewicz, an experienced newspaper reporter. See his interview responses on p.1.

Chair's Message

Chapter Welcomes Three New Activists!



By Richard Isaac (risaacx@aol.com)

We extend a warm welcome to the following members as they take on their new Chapter officer positions:

Angela De Sapio, PhD, Member At-large of the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom)

A biologist also serving on the ExCom of our South Highlands Group, Angela is deeply committed to protection of wildlife and of wildlife habitat. She volunteers at Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, a rehabilitation center for orphaned and injured animals. Her interests include open space and farmland preservation, and forest stewardship. Accordingly, she is also our Chapter's Endangered Species/Wildlife Issues Coordinator.

She's also an avid bicyclist throughout the seasons, and thus a member of our Chapter Transportation Committee, contributing particularly on issues regarding bicycling.

Sylvia Kay, another new Member At-large of Chapter ExCom

With a professional background in business, including research and marketing at The New York Times and NBC, Sylvia has also been involved in K-12 education for the last fifteen years.

She also serves on the ExCom of our

Central Jersey Group, and helps edit this Jersey Sierran newsletter.

One of her passions is the Club's efforts to ban single use plastic bags, straws and Styrofoam containers. So she's our Chapter Zero Waste Issues Coordinator, working with our staff, other state activists, and the Club's Zero Waste/Community Response Team, which lobbies municipalities to approve ordinances banning these items.

Claudia Mausner, PhD, Advisor on the Psychology of Sustainability

Responding to the editorial in this Newsletter's previous issue, up stepped Claudia Mausner, who teaches exactly that subject at Pace University! Claudia received a doctorate in Environmental Psychology from CUNY Graduate Center, studying perception and the hike experience for her dissertation. The course she has taught for the past 10 years is called Sustainable Living.

She will contribute a regular column to the Jersey Sierran, addressing questions submitted by both Chapter committees and individual members, with priority given to questions that relate to planned or ongoing Chapter projects. Please note the first of these on p. 4.

Resolutions:

Approved by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in January and February, 2019

January: Rich Isaac was re-elected Chapter Chair; other officers, including Issue Coordinators, were confirmed as listed in the Leader List on p.12. NEW appointments include Jim Andreano as a Vice-Treasurer, Abdel Alfahham as GIS Chair, Evangelina Pena as GIS Analyst, Claudia Mausner as Advisor on the Psychology of Sustainability, Laura Tracey-Coll new to the Personnel Committee, Buddy Jenssen new to the Nominating Committee, and John Ottomanelli and Sindu Pasrichia new to the Elections Committee. New Issues Coordinators include Angela De Sapio for Bicycling - and Endangered Species/Wildlife, and Sylvia Kay for Zero Waste.

We also seated our **three newly-elected at-large members of the Executive Committee**, beginning three-year terms of office: **Angela DeSapio, Sylvia Kay and Laura Lynch.**

Concerned that there is **overlap of jurisdiction** between some Issue Coordinators, a committee, consisting of Laura Lynch and Joe Testa, was appointed to consider this issue.

Electric school bus initiative: our Transportation Committee was invited to lobby appropriate state agencies to urge that VW settlement funds be used to purchase all-electric school buses.

Opposing Teaneck's Dinosaur Park: Legal action was initiated to oppose commercial development of Green Acres land in Overpeck Park. [This campaign has since succeeded!]

In February: Offshore seismic exploration for oil: We voted approval of federal legislation proposed by Congressman Jeff Van Drew: to rescind contracts for acoustic testing on the Eastern Seaboard - consistent with national Sierra Club policy.

All our resolutions are now available online: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/chapter-resolutions.

YOU HAVE MORE TO GIVE THAN YOU KNOW

Maybe you can't make a gift to protect the environment during your lifetime, but you can become a financial hero by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. You can even direct your gift to a special Club program or to the New Jersey Chapter.

For information about making a bequest to the New Jersey Chapter call Paul Sanderson at 908-233-2414

Urgent plea from Chapter Chair Rich Isaac:

The NJ Sierra Club is a member of the **Empower NJ Coalition**, a group of more than 50 organizations in the state calling on Gov. Murphy to enact an immediate moratorium on new fossil fuel infrastructure (pipelines, power lines, compressor stations). To sign your name to the Coalition's petition, go to <http://empowernewjersey.com/petition/>

JERSEY SIERRAN AVAILABLE BY EMAIL

You can save paper and postage by opting for our electronic version. It's in color, has extra (supplementary) pages, and will arrive several weeks before the paper version. Just send your name and membership number to the Editor: Dick.Colby@Stockton.edu - with "Electronic JS" in the Subject line.

Op-Ed: Carbon Economics

Arguments for a Carbon Tax to Reduce Greenhouse Emissions

Offered by a group of Princeton Univ. students, represented by Nikhil De (nikhild@princeton.edu), at our Chapter ExCom meeting on Jan 12.

The burden of climate change will fall disproportionately on young and future generations. As today's youth, we inherit a world on a trajectory, which — if unmitigated — will lead to disaster. We would be remiss to repeat the mistakes of past generations and leave our future children with an uninhabitable planet. As a group of college and high school students based out of Princeton University, we hope to do our part to ensure we leave behind a better world.

We are currently developing and advocating for a carbon cashback policy in the state of New Jersey. This policy will place a rising price on carbon and return the dividends to every New Jersey household. A group of leading policy experts — including former Federal Reserve chairs, Nobel Prize-winning economists, and advisors to past presidential administrations — recently endorsed a carbon dividend policy.¹ We believe that carbon cashback is an efficient and fair way to reduce emissions, aid businesses, and generate revenue for important environmental investments. Additionally our analysis shows that low and middle income households will come out ahead financially as a result of the check in the mail.

A carbon cashback generates revenue to make New Jersey an environmental leader: for initiatives to promote clean energy and make important repairs to

New Jersey infrastructure. Because of New Jersey's coastal location, our state is especially vulnerable to sea level rise and extreme weather. Accordingly, we hope to invest in coastal resiliency to keep our state safe. We also hope to invest revenue from the policy in renewable energy programs, transportation infrastructure, and environmental justice initiatives.

We are currently engaged in the process of getting feedback from a diverse set of stakeholders. We have written a 100-page white paper examining how this policy could look in New Jersey and have spoken with over 80 stakeholders across the state about the design of the policy. We presented our research at the first International Carbon Pricing Research Conference, and in March we will hold a new set of meetings at Princeton University to solicit input to refine our current policy.

We are optimistic that New Jersey can be a leader in the United States on climate policy. As students, we believe that we must take responsibility for our planet and reverse trends in climate change. We hope our policy can contribute to this goal.

¹ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/economists-statement-on-carbon-dividends-11547682910?mod=searchresults&page=1&os=1>

New Issue Advisor

Ask the Doctor: “Why Don't They Just . . .?!!”

By Claudia Mausner, PhD, c.mausner.phd@gmail.com



Do you ever get frustrated by people who ignore your environmental warnings? After all, our beloved Planet Earth is being degraded and even destroyed, along with the health of humans and other living creatures. Do you sometimes interpret lack of environmental responsibility as evidence that non-environmentalists are stupid, ignorant or lazy? In the Jan-March issue of this newsletter, Editor Dick Colby placed a call for interested psychologists with expertise in Environment and Behavior. I responded, and thus the new position of *Advisor for Psychology of Sustainability* was proposed and approved by the Chapter Executive Committee.

My interest in environmental issues evolved from a lifelong love of the outdoors — including biking/camping/canoeing trips during childhood, hiking with Sierra Club's Atlantic and Connecticut Chapters in my 20s, and serving as Public Service Coordinator for the Appalachian Mountain Club's NY-North Jersey Chapter prior to entering graduate school. I am delighted to reconnect with the Sierra Club in this advisory capacity and to share my professional expertise in this new column.

My PhD in Environmental Psychology is from CUNY Graduate Center. This is an interdisciplinary degree at the intersection of social and behavioral sciences, natural resource management, environmental science, and the planning and design professions. For my dissertation I videotaped pairs of people recruited to hike a short section of the Appalachian Trail in Sterling Forest State Park. I analyzed these data to understand how people experience nature in terms of multi-sensory perception and movement, with implications for landscape design in both built and natural settings (Mausner, 2006). (1)

Since receiving my doctorate I have worked as a consultant on community-based environmental projects that focused on psychological benefits of nature, environmental justice and brownfields redevelopment. My role as *Advisor for Psychology of Sustainability* will be



based in large part on knowledge gained from developing and teaching a course on that subject at Pace University over the past decade. CAVEAT: I discovered through teaching this course that the best way to understand how “others” feel, think and act in relation to environmental issues is often by looking more carefully at ourselves.

Environment and Behavior (2) was the first academic journal launched by founders of the field of Environmental Psychology, and will be celebrating its 50th anniversary at the annual conference of the *Environmental Design Research Association* (3) at NYU's Tandon School of Engineering this Spring. I will rely on this and other academic journals for my column as well as articles from the popular literature, hoping to provide insights that help Club members to promote pro-environmental behavior and achieve the best possible on-the-ground results in New Jersey.

“Ask the Dr.” will be a regular column in this Newsletter, addressing questions submitted by officers as well as all other members. Examples of questions and topics include: Why do people have difficulty grasping the seriousness of climate change? What discourages people from recycling or using reusable bags? Is fear a good motivator? Is there such a thing as an environmental “IQ” or a way to measure environmental responsibility? Priority will be given to questions that relate to planned or ongoing Chapter projects. Please send questions/comments to me at c.mausner.phd@gmail.com. (*The graphic is in the public domain.*)

References

Mausner, C. (2006). Capturing the hike experience on video: A new methodology for studying human transactions with nature. In J. G. Peden & R. M. Schuster (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 2005 Northeastern Recreation Research Symposium*, pp. 168-176. Gen. Tech. Rep. NE-341. Newtown Square, PA: USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station. Retrieved from: <http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/22290>.

Environment and Behavior <https://journals.sagepub.com/loi/eab>.

EDRA 50th Anniversary: <https://www.edra.org/page/edra50>.

Toxicology Advisor's Report

Eliminating Lead: A Moral Imperative

By Mark Fukayama (markexams@aol.com)

(Footnotes are on p. 14 of our electronic edition: on the Chapter website.)

Lead poisoning caused the Fall of the Roman Empire, according to some academicians. (1,2) Roman emperors and the very wealthy who could afford a variety of cookware and indoor plumbing presumably ingested lead leached from their pots and pans and their lead pipes. The Roman aristocracy thus suffered from abdominal pains, aggressive behavior, constipation, sleep problems, headaches, irritability, memory loss, anemia, numbness or tingling in the extremities, and many other adverse effects typical of chronic exposure to lead. (3)

Although that happened more than 1500 years ago, the public health consequences of lead poisoning continue to this day — with exposure to lead leaching into our drinking water, from lead-containing paint chips and dust in buildings built before the ban on leaded paint in 1978, and from contaminated soils. In the U.S., 24 million dwellings built before 1978 are inhabited, with four million of these households having children exposed to high levels of lead. (4) Racial and class disparities in exposure are well documented (5), with African Americans and the poor bearing the greatest risk.

Infants and children are especially vulnerable to lead toxicity, with low dose chronic exposure resulting in damage to the brain and nervous system, lowered intelligence, hyperactivity, attention deficits, decreased hearing, and developmental problems. (6,7) Most alarming is that there is no safe level of lead exposure, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). (8) In 2012, the CDC

established a reference blood lead level (BLL) of 5 ug/dl in children less than 6 years of age, that health officials and policymakers should act on to reduce exposures. Approximately 500,000 children aged 1 through 5 have tested at or above this reference value. But the actual number of affected children is much higher, since many states do not test, or test only a limited number of children. Here in New Jersey only 44% of children were tested in 2016.

Unfortunately, the 5 ug/dl action level is still too high. Adverse effects in children have been observed at lower BLL's, and recent studies have linked chronic lead exposure from early childhood to increased criminal and antisocial behavior. (9,10,11)

Based on the 2016 NJ State Department of Health Childhood Blood Level Report (12), 2.4% of our children under 6 years old have BLL's greater than 5 ug/dl, consistent with national levels. But 2.4% is an average value statewide; it's much higher in urban centers such as the City of Newark. Although efforts are underway to eliminate exposures, much more can be done to expedite remediation.

Time and again, cost-benefit analysis has shown that the benefits of eliminating exposure far exceed the cost of remediation. (13-16) In one conservative estimate, every dollar spent controlling lead exposure returns at least \$17 in benefits: cost of health care, increased IQ, higher lifetime earnings and tax revenues, lower costs of special education, and reduced criminal activity. (17)



In December of 2018, a Presidential Task Force released a ‘Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Associated Health Impacts.’ (18) This report is supposed to offer a blueprint for reducing exposures to lead. But on careful review, the report describes past accomplishments and ongoing programs, with no mention of new, meaningful and measurable goals, timelines, funding, or the anticipated monetized benefits that would support remediation.

Instead of the previous (Obama) Administration's vision to **eliminate** lead exposure, the current Administration seeks only to **reduce** exposure, and the report constantly brings up the states', tribal and local governments' involvements and responsibilities. The EPA has indicated that an implementation plan will be developed by March, 2019, that will include performance metrics. (19)

However, the current EPA placed the head of its Office of Children's Health Protection, a well-respected advocate of children's health, on an unexplained administrative leave in September, and

has disbanded the National Center for Environmental Research, which tests the impacts of chemicals on adults and children. More than 1600 staff members departed during the first 18 months of this Administration (replaced by only 400 new hires), and, with the critical loss of more than 100 staff in the Enforcement and Compliance Office (20-22), optimism is in short supply. Our local and state elected officials should not expect the current Administration to be supportive, and should instead pass legislation that ensures the funding of efforts to eliminate lead exposure: monitoring, training, remediating and enforcement.

Given the high societal costs of inaction, lead hazard control is a public health imperative. Because so many of our nation's children and poor are at serious health risk, eliminating lead exposure should be a moral imperative as well. Hopefully our elected officials will not be apathetic to lead poisoning and will pass meaningful legislation to protect our nation's most vulnerable citizens, and ultimately our future.

(Footnotes continue on page 14)

Reports from Trenton

SRL Pipeline Under Construction

From a press release issued on Nov 30, and edited by Irene Gnarra

The Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter is proceeding with a lawsuit against the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and the Pinelands Commission over their approval of the Southern Reliability Link (SRL) Pipeline. We oppose a gas pipeline that is not needed and not wanted. The SRL will destroy environmentally sensitive land, and threaten ecosystems, drinking water, and public safety along its route through Burlington, Ocean, and Monmouth Counties.

Wagering against an eventual negative verdict, the pipeline company, NJNG, obtained road opening permits and, at their own risk, began the installation of sections of the pipeline in Ocean County. It is irresponsible and unconscionable that NJNG should circumvent the rule of law. Chapter Director Jeff Tittel has applied for a stay to their actions, and we hope that the Murphy Administration will intervene.

The 28-mile SRL pipeline will be part of a bigger network, which would include the Garden State Expansion compressor station in Chesterfield Township and the PennEast Pipeline, which has not yet obtained approval. Together, they would transport fracked natural gas from Pennsylvania to the New Jersey coast for development. Without any one component, the other two cannot work.

The SRL Pipeline will create irreversible harm to wetlands and streams and threaten one of the largest sources of fresh drinking water on the east coast. It would also violate Pinelands rules, since this type of infrastructure is allowed in the Pinelands Forest Preservation Area only if it serves primarily the Pinelands. It would not – but the Pinelands Commission, which ex-Gov. Christie stacked with pro-fossil fuel advocates, ignored public opposition, sided with the pipeline companies, and approved the project.

During his campaign for Governor, Murphy promised to appoint Commissioners who would protect the Pinelands; he has not yet done that. It is time for him to support the will of the people by denying all fossil-fuel projects, which threaten the health and safety of our communities.

Murphy's First Clean Water Rule Fails the Test

From a Press Release issued on Jan 4.

New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection has just proposed its first new rule under the Murphy Administration: revising its Stormwater Management Rules, N.J.A.C. 7:8.

New Jersey has long suffered serious flooding and water quality problems from stormwater runoff. Sadly, the new rule is a step backwards, failing to deal with climate change, flooding, and combined sewer overflows; it would make it easier to build new pipelines, and further ex-Gov. Christie's rollbacks on protections to our waterways. Although it allows for green infrastructure, a good thing, it qualifies its requirements with the phrase, "to the maximum extent practicable," a loophole big enough for a bulldozer.

The proposed rule's major flaws include dependence on "100-year storm events" that we are now experiencing every year. It fails to consider climate change or recent increases in the frequency and intensity of storms. It doesn't really change the design of flood infrastructure. This means that if you live along the Passaic or Raritan Rivers, you're going to need snorkels. It exempts replacement of existing development, now the largest source of non-point-source pollution in our state. Thus, for example, a box store built on a former shopping center in Paterson, or a new high rise on an old housing site in New Brunswick, will be exempted. Roof- and sidewalk runoff are also exempted, even though they contain pollution.

It's stupid to call for green infrastructure to satisfy the current standards that do not work. The proposal also keeps in place ex-Gov. Christie's rollbacks of 300 foot stream-buffers, and of the former requirement for revegetating stream buffers and riparian corridors to absorb non-point-source pollution. The proposed rule avoids the need to retrofit our stormwater retention basins that don't work. It's as if Christie is still pulling the strings

There are two kinds of stormwater problems. The first is called combined sewer overflow: stormwater runoff during and after heavy storms that overwhelm the capacity of the storm sewers, entering the sanitary sewer system. The high volume of water thus entering our sewage treatment plants overwhelms its treatment capacity, resulting in incompletely-treated sewage spilling into our rivers and estuaries. That's why beaches get closed, fish and shellfish become inedible, and disease microorganisms, and nitrogen and phosphorus compounds, enter the plants in downstream municipalities that take in and purify drinking water. New Jersey needs at least \$14 billion just to fix this problem. The proposed rule avoids the entire issue!

The second aspect of stormwater management relates to "normal" rainfall that should ultimately be directed to replenish streams and groundwater – after removal of the pollutants acquired as lawn and farm chemicals, animal excrement, and all the other non-point-source pollutants that settle out of the atmosphere and accumulate on rooftops and land. Only 5% of the streams in New Jersey meet standards for being fishable, swimmable and drinkable, mostly because of non-point pollution. 65% of our streams are impacted by phosphorus. We have to retrofit urban areas for stormwater management, at an estimated cost of \$31 billion. Green roofs and wet gardens could help, but these methods are exempted because the rule exempts redevelopment.

Over ten percent of New Jersey's land surface is impervious, making us prone to flooding and pollution problems. The Christie Administration weakened protection of our coastal areas with Flood Hazard rules that added more development to environmentally sensitive areas, eliminating stream buffers and protections for headwaters. Then, in a one-two punch for water quality, Christie increased sewer hook-ups via the Water Quality Management Planning rules, impacting open space, nearby reservoirs and streams throughout the state. But especially in the Highlands and Pinelands which provide the water supply to millions of people.

DEP Dragging Its Feet on Spending VW Settlement Funds

From a Press Release issued on Dec 13

Background: Following cheating by Volkswagen on air-pollution controls in diesel-engine cars, the US Dept. of Justice won a lawsuit, in June, 2016, for \$14.7 billion. Of that, \$2.9 billion was distributed to the states, NJ receiving \$141M, of which the Murphy Administration has already stolen \$69M to patch holes in the State budget. Thus, in October of 2017, our Department of Environmental Protection invited "projects" compatible with its draft "Beneficiary Mitigation Plan for the Volkswagen Mitigation Trust." The DEP then opened a comment period in early November of 2017, having received more than \$400 million in project proposals – including freight trucks, school buses, transit buses, airport ground-support equipment, freight-switching locomotives, ferries, tugboats, cargo-handling equipment, ocean-going vessels and government vehicles.

The Club has asked the DEP to use its remaining \$72M on electric vehicles rather than replacing diesel engines with cleaner fossil fuel engines. That means charging stations is underserved areas, electrifying our ports and buses, and encouraging EV's that everyone can afford. Given the limited amount of money, the DEP should pick only a few projects, hopefully creating more in-state jobs, better vehicles, less carbon pollution, and cleaner, healthier air.

DEP's draft mitigation plan divides its Trust allocation into three \$24.1M phases: primarily replacing heavy duty vehicles/engines such as buses, trucks, and non-road equipment in urban areas disproportionately impacted by diesel emissions.

We urge only projects that are 100% electric, especially for use by lower- and modest-income families who would have trouble affording an EV. We should consider rebates, tax breaks and outright grants. Rather than the Short Hills Mall, we should target Belleville and Perth Amboy.

We urge electric buses for NJ Transit, which is currently buying fossil fuel buses. Those contracts should be cancelled, now, so that we can transition to 100% electric buses by 2025.

We also urge a pilot experiment with electric school buses, especially for children who live in urban areas overburdened by air pollution. School buses in poorer areas tend to be older and more polluting.

Compared with fossil-fueled vehicles, EVs are more than five times more efficient in converting fuel energy into mechanical energy: 15% vs. 80%. Battery technology continues to improve and cheapen.

PennEast Gets Eminent Domain, but the Battle Continues

From a Press Release issued on Dec 14, edited by Joe Testa

The PennEast Pipeline would extend 110 miles to bring natural gas from the Marcellus region of Pennsylvania through Hunterdon and Mercer Counties in New Jersey. It would traverse communities, preserved open space, and farmland. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has granted of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for PennEast, and a Federal court has granted it the use of eminent domain to gain access to private properties for the survey work needed to prepare permit applications along the proposed route.

Since acquiring this Certificate, the company has sent hundreds of letters to Hunterdon County homeowners suing them for eminent domain. Over 70% of landowners along the project route had denied them access in earlier survey attempts. Many of these homeowners have gone to court to fight this decision. We want to thank the landowners who have helped to slow down this project for three years, and will continue to slow it until it is stopped. The longer it takes, the more chance we have to stop the project.

This is not just the beginning of the end, it is the end of the beginning. The next round in the battle to stop PennEast starts now. After this court ruling, our next task is to lobby Governor Murphy and his Administration to deny these new permit applications, and thus stop this unneeded and dangerous project.

In addition to needing state and federal permits, PennEast also needs approval from the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). The Commission's review could take up to a year; a rejection could help stop the pipeline. DRBC has also urged FERC to prohibit tree felling within the boundaries of the Delaware River Watershed for pipeline projects. The DRBC can also strengthen protections in the region by including all fracking activities in their proposed moratorium.

The pipeline would put many waterways at risk. Its construction would affect the water supply for 17 million people, and a Wild and Scenic Area with Special Protection Waters. It would violate the Clean Water Act and cannot meet the criteria for Section 404 permits. In addition, because of the large number of high-quality streams, wetlands, and rivers the pipeline would cross, we believe that this pipeline cannot meet the requirement for a Section 401 Water Quality Permit. Many of these streams are protected by anti-degradation rules. The route contains steep slopes, threatening siltation and runoff. Until the company receives these permits, it should not be allowed to proceed.

New Jersey has Wetlands Rules and Flood Hazard Rules that can stop pipelines. Unfortunately, ex-Gov. Christie weakened both rules by introducing the concept of general permits. The DEP needs to keep to Murphy's campaign commitments to repeal those Christie-era weakenings.

Air Quality & Clean Air Issues Coordinator's Report

Coping with Air Pollution

by Paul Ehrlich (p.w.ehrlich@gmail.com)

The effect of air pollution on health is usually dealt with through the removal or modification of major sources that will provide benefits over the long term. In the April-June 2017 issue of the *Jersey Sierran* I outlined methods to cope with air pollution before conditions improve. Such is the pace of clinical research, as well as development and manufacturing of relevant materials, that an update is required. Below is a list of mitigation techniques described in the earlier article, along with modifications that are recommended because of recent work. In addition, new techniques/activities are suggested. The efficacy of these methods relies on breathing air that is purified or has low pollutant levels. *Please check with your doctor that none of these activities will be harmful to you.*

- Use an allergy room air purifier with a particulate [HEPA] filter and a fresh charcoal filter:

Improved HEPA filters: filters that remove smaller particles than previously possible are now available. These particles contribute significantly to toxicity. Charcoal filters are still needed to remove gaseous pollutants as well as some particles. With the new HEPA filters it may be possible to replace charcoal filters less often than previously indicated.

Mercury and lead mitigation: heavy metals adhere to particles that can be removed by both HEPA and charcoal filters. Thus, dust and small particles from lead-based paint will be removed. Mercury from fossil fuel-powered electric generators will also end up on the filters rather than in indoor air.

- Take long-weekend vacations to an area with low pollution:

Short periods of low pollution exposure can help: you don't have to go far away to experience low pollution. Studies have shown that pollution is *hyperlocal*: levels can vary significantly over 30 yards or up to eight-fold over the

distance of a city block.

- Plant trees on your property and encourage local authorities to plant and maintain trees:

High tree density can reduce pollution: Particulate pollution binds to leaves while gaseous pollutants use the same pathway as oxygen to their interior.

- **New suggestion:** Use personal care products sparingly:

Personal care products emit chemicals of varying toxicity. Apply as little as necessary and move away from the area immediately after application.

- **New suggestion:** Buy/use furniture and other household items that are made of materials certified to have low toxic volatility:

Manufacturers frequently use toxic materials but this is not necessary. Furniture can emit large amounts of toxic chemicals. Shower curtains made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) are especially unhealthy.

- **New suggestion:** Walk and exercise in areas likely to have low pollution:

As indicated above, air pollution can be hyperlocal. If possible, avoid areas near busy streets or shops that generate significant amounts of toxic chemicals. Exercise in parks—even small parks can provide better air.

- **New suggestion:** Drive at times and along routes that are likely to have less pollution:

If possible, avoid traveling when there is a lot of traffic, and along crowded routes, especially if congestion results in very slow speeds and/or many stops. Pollutant concentration can increase almost 30-fold when a large number of vehicles stop at a traffic light.

- **New suggestion:** Replace devices that rely on indoor combustion:

Even if the device and your home are well ventilated, the levels of gaseous pollutants can increase. Consider buying electric stoves and electric hot water heaters.

Vice Chair: (12/31/19)

Secretary: (12/31/20)

Treasurer: (12/31/19)

ExCom at large: (12/31/19)

(12/31/20)

(12/31/19)

(12/31/19)

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Environmental Justice:

Political Co-Chairs:

and:

Co-Publicity Chairs:

and:

Webmaster:

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Norene Haberski

Jeri Doherty

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GENERAL MEETINGS: SECOND TUESDAY of each month and open to the public. We meet from 7-9pm at the Unitarian Fellowship, 1 West Nelson St, Newton.

The Skylands Group of the NJ Sierra Club serves the environmentally sensitive region of Sussex and Northern Warren Counties in Northwestern NJ.

We offer a variety of opportunities for the public to learn about and connect with their natural environment, including informative films and speakers at our monthly general meetings; exploration of the great outdoors on hikes, edible plant tours and picnics; public outreach via town tabling; and visits to schools to teach students about the environment. Our hope is to foster a love of and deep respect for our great outdoors.

As advocates, The Skylands Group works with other grassroots organizations to protect open spaces and water quality; promote clean energy; oppose privatization of our water and land public trust resources; and other local, national and global environmental issues as they arise.

We table annually at Luscroft Farm's Medicine Wheel Festival in May, host a summer picnic in July, conduct a Drive Electric Event in September at the GreenLife Market in Andover Township, and celebrate winter holidays in December. All our events are free of charge and open to the public.

CURRENT CAMPAIGNS: The Skylands Group advocates the protection of the Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area from logging done under the guise of creating 'healthy forests.'

The Skylands Group supports Green New Deal, Sunrise Movement, Sierra Club's Ready for 100 Campaign, and projects to move toward a Clean Energy Economy. The Skylands Group supports the residents opposing ill-conceived dump sites such as those found in Wantage and Vernon.

The Skylands Group also opposes the Munsonhurst Planned Residential Development, which will adversely affect the ecology of a Natural Heritage Priority Site in Franklin Twp (Sussex Co).

South Highlands Group

(Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties)

WEBSITE: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/south-highlands/>

MEETUP: <http://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/53817136187/>

OFFICERS:

Chair:

Jonathan Wall *

jonwall@jonwall.com

Vice Chair:

Celeste Martin *

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Secretary:

Amy Weeder *

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Political Chair:

Karen Becker*

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Conservation Co-Chair:

Dawn Peterman *

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Nancy Carringer

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Children's Program Coor:

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Outings:

Jonathan Wall *

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Treasurer:

John Kashwick

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Webmaster/Listmaster:

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(* Group Executive Committee Member)

GENERAL MEETINGS: All our general meetings are held at the Hunterdon North County Library, 65 Halstead St, Clinton, 08809 on the first Wednesday of each month. Meet and Greet at 7pm followed by program at 7:15 pm. Meetings are free but donations are gladly accepted. There are no speaker programs in July and August. Please check www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/ for updates.

April 3 (Wed): Himalayas! Adventure traveler Skip Jonas will present on his travels with the National Sierra Club on Himalayan Treks in the Dolpo Region of Nepal. Beyond the popular and crowded Everest Base Camp and Annapurna Circuit treks, there is the Dolpo District - a remote and lesser-known Himalayan region with some of the oldest Buddhist monasteries in Nepal. We'll hear about the joys and challenges of daily life while on trek, an overview of what gear to take, and of course - a visual glimpse into this stunningly beautiful part of our planet.

May 1 (Wed): The History and Future of the Spruce Run Reservoir. Angela Gorczyca, Watershed Protection Specialist from the NJ Water Supply Authority will speak on the history of Spruce Run,, including an update on the recent quarry spill. Learn about ongoing efforts to enhance and safeguard our water supply by the environmental stewards of this important natural resource in our area.

June 5 (Wed): Environmental and Social Justice: Angela De Sapio, a member of the



Group News

FROM
AROUND
THE
STATE

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

Skylands Group: Sussex & northern Warren

South Highlands Group: Hunterdon & southern Warren

North Jersey Group: Bergen & Passaic

Gateway Group: Essex

Hudson County Group: Hudson

Loantaka Group: Morris & Union

Central Jersey Group: Mercer

Raritan Valley Group: Somerset & Middlesex

Jersey Shore Group: Monmouth

Ocean County Group: Ocean

West Jersey Group: Burlington, Camden & Gloucester

South Jersey Group: Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland & Salem

These designations are approximate: members are welcome to participate in whichever Group(s) they find convenient

(Groups are arranged in rough geographical sequence: North to South)

Skylands Group

(Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

Web-site: <http://SkylandsGroup.org> or click from the NJ Chapter's web-site.

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/SkylandsNJSC>

E-mail: ggorman07419@embarqmail.com; **Phone:** 973-886-7950

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE and other **OFFICERS:** (ExCom Members are elected to serve 2-year terms; term-expire date in parentheses):

Chair: (12/31/18)

Greg Gorman

ggorman07419@embarqmail.com

There's an electronic bi-weekly Chapter Alert Service. Sign up via: <https://tinyurl.com/scnj-Esubscribe>.

Club's State Executive Committee, will host a talk that will explain how disproportionate or unfair zoning, housing situations, or laws increase the burden on communities of color and individuals of low socio-economic status. Environmental and Social Justice means equality for all in our community impacted by Climate Change, health concerns, pollution, and racism.

OTHER EVENTS:

April 10 (Wed): Executive Committee/Planning Meeting, 7:30 pm, at the offices of Dr. Jonathan D. Wall, 21 Water St, Clinton. The meeting is casual and informative. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about the Club, hear about and discuss issues, plan future events, and become more active. (Please contact jonwall@jonwall.com or sign-up on Meetup)

June 1 (Sat): Hoffman Park Hike. 11am. Leaders:Angela De Sapio and John Kashwick. This will be an easy hike of about 2-3 miles on mostly flat terrain, earthen paths. Bring snack and at least 1-2 quarts of water. Hiking boots recommended. Rain cancels (check our Meetup page if in doubt). Group limit: 10. Meet at Hoffman Park parking lot, 26 Baptist Church Rd., Hampton. Reservations required by emailing Angela at angela.desapio@gmail.com or by registering at Meetup.com/njsierraclub.

North Jersey Group

(Bergen and Passaic Counties)

WEBSITE: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/north-jersey>
MEETUP: <http://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/>
FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/northjerseysierraclub>

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Vice Chair: Diane Scarengella
Secretary: *Open position!*
Conservation Co-Chairs: Mary Walsh * blehlwalsh@hotmail.com
 and Laura Tracey Coll * lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com
Political Chair: Sandi Cortazzo dillon7744@yahoo.com
Political Associate: Phoebe Gistrak * p-mg@att.net
Air Quality Issues: Laura Tracey-Coll * lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com
Climate Issues: Jeff Rapaport jefrap@optonline.net
Fundraising Chair: Francie Goldstein * franciegoldstein@gmail.com
Membership Chair: Buddy Jenssen * buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Outings Co-Chair: Ellen Blumenkrantz eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Outings Co-Chair: Mary Walsh * blehlwalsh@hotmail.com
Programs Chair: Buddy Jenssen * buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Publicity Chair: Marty Cohen martincohen@verizon.net
Social Media Coor: Ariana Schanzer arianaschanzer@gmail.com
Trail Maintenance: Marty Cohen martincohen@verizon.net
Webmaster/Listmaster: *Open position!*
(Group Executive Committee Member)*

The North Jersey Group continues its concerted efforts of political engagement, raising environmental awareness, and activism.

The present political push is a continuation of the effort to elect people with an environmental consciousness. Last fall Chairperson Buddy Jenssen, Political Chair Jermaine Spense and several other Sierra Club members went from door to door soliciting votes for representatives Gordon, Eustace, and Lagana. This year the effort will be on voter registration for the mid-term elections.

The Long Swamp issue is in limbo, as the neighboring buildings have hired a lawyer to prevent construction of a 14-story building (down from 17) between them. According to Laura Tracey-Coll, the developer imagines he is going to get a permit to do it.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Unless otherwise noted, meetings and outings are free and open to general public. Please check our Meetup page, Facebook page, or web site for meeting dates, times, and topics (see above for URLs). You can also email us at northjerseysierraclub@gmail.com.

Gateway Group

Serving Hillside, Elizabeth, and Essex County (except for Livingston, Millburn and Roseland)

The Gateway Group was organized in January 2011. Please contact any of the leaders below if you are interested in joining our campaigns to protect the environment. There are several Gateway Group positions open.

Our website: <http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/Gateway/>. (also accessible from the NJ Chapter website)

Please also join the Gateway Group on **Facebook** at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gateway-Group-NJ-Sierra-Club/128998363842782>.

OFFICERS:
Co-Chairs: Suzanne Trimel 973-509-8335 suzanne.trimel@gmail.com
 and David Yennior 973-844-1384 dyennior@gmail.com
Vice-Chair,
Conserv'n Chr: Caroline Kane 646-961-9003 ckane678@verizon.net
Secretary & Treasurer: Anne Hirs 973-844-1121 annehirs@msn.com
Program Co-Chairs: Suzanne Trimel 973-509-8335 suzanne.trimel@gmail.com
 and Steven Yafet 908-354-2537 syafet@gmail.com
Publicity Chair: *Open Position!*
Political Chair: Bill Beren Beren1@verizon.net
Fundraising Chair: *Open Position!*
Membership Chair: Steven Yafet 908-354-2537 syafet@gmail.com
Water, Newark Issues: Bill Chappel 973-623-6490 chappel.bill@gmail.com
Recycling,
Passaic River Issues: David Yennior (see above)
Elizabeth Issues: *Open Position!*
Outings Chair: Dionne Howe 206-430-0288 dionnelhowe@gmail.com
Group Executive Committee: David Yennior, Bill Chappel, Suzanne Trimmel, Steven Yaffet, and Caroline Kane.

Please contact Suzanne Trimel or David Yennior, Gateway's Co-Chairs, if you have ideas or suggestions for a meeting-topic or program, or conservation project. We are very grateful for the contributions of Anna Whitley, John Beadle, Barbara Conover, ZaSah Khademi, Bill Chappel, Steven Yafet, Anne Hirs, Paula Borenstein, and Brenda Toyloy.

We invite YOU to join in our activism and ask your support as we strive to address the many issues facing our urban as well as suburban communities. Note several vacant positions listed above.

LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS: There are no events currently on the calendar. For up to date information about programs please check our website.

Hudson County Group

Website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/hudson-county>.
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HudsonCountySierraClub>
E-mail: hudsonsierraclub@gmail.com
Instagram: @sierraclub_hcg

OFFICERS: (*=ExCom)

Chair: David 'Ace' Case* acecase88@gmail.com
Vice-Chair: *Open position! Email Ace to volunteer!*
Secretary: Patricia Hilliard* hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com
Treasurer: *Open position! Email Ace to volunteer!*
Conservation Chair: *Open position! Email Ace to volunteer!*
Political Chair: Pramod Raju* Modisone@gmail.com
Ready for 100: Allyson Samuels Allyson.samuell@sierraclub.org
Delegate to ExCom: Pramod Raju* modisone@gmail.com
Membership: Andrea Rodriguez* aarodriguez87@gmail.com
Publicity: *Open position! Email Ace to volunteer!*
Outings and Events: Steve Krinsky* stevekrinsky@comcast.net

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Mar 17 (Sun): Hudson County Group ExCom Meeting: 12:30-2pm. Hudson County Community College, 71 Sip Av, Journal Square, Jersey City. All Sierra Club members and general public are welcome. We will be planning Earth Day Activities, "Ready for 100," and outings for the rest of 2019.

Mar 30 (Sat): Nature Walk: 10am-2 pm. Lincoln Park West, Jersey City.

May 19 (Sun): Hudson County Group Excom Meeting: 12:30-2pm. Location TBD. All Sierra Club members and general public are welcome.

July 21 (Sun): Annual Picnic: Liberty State Park. At main picnic area at south end of park near Park Office and Memorial.

Outings: Hudson Group is planning nature walks at Liberty State Park, Jersey City Reservoir, Lincoln Park West, Bayonne Waterfront Park, Hackensack River, and other destinations. Join us and explore the wonderful natural areas which we have right here in Hudson County.

Also coming soon: midweek "Drinking Green" pub nights. Visit our webpage and facebook page for details and updates.

Do you have an idea for a walk or other event in Hudson County? Would you like to share one of your favorite natural areas with others? Come to a meeting and share your idea with us.

Hudson County Book Group. The Book Group meets every other month to read and discuss literature about environmental justice, conservation policy, climate change, sustainable development, etc. If interested, email John Ottomanelli at otto.pittsburgh@gmail.com.

Current Campaigns:

Climate Change: #ReadyFor100 is a movement of people working to inspire our leaders to embrace a vision of healthier communities powered by 100% clean energy. We are asking mayors, CEOs, pastors, principals, civic and community leaders, parents and students to commit to solutions that help us achieve 100% clean, renewable energy across the United States by the year 2050, or sooner. Get involved and be part of the solution locally.

Hackensack River Greenway: Sierra Club is working connect existing parks with new rights of way along the Hackensack River to create a "Hackensack River Walkway" from one end of the county to the other. We are working to see that the Hackensack becomes Hudson County's "Green Coast."

Green New Deal: Creating the green infrastructure of the future. Building our local economy, creating good paying union jobs, and empowering urban communities who have been the victims of environmental injustices for too long.

Loantaka Group

(Morris and Union Counties (except for Elizabeth and Hillside), plus Livingston, Millburn and Roseland, approximately)

WEBSITE: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>
 Loantaka now has a FaceBook page. Please check it out and like it:
<https://www.facebook.com/LoantakaGroupNJSC>

OFFICERS:

Group Chair (Acting): Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com
Treasurer: Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com
Secretary: *Open Position!*
Conservation Chairs:
Morris County: Len Fariello len@wildlifepreserves.org
Union County: *Open Position!*
Political Chair: Clea Carchia 908-892-7229 info@cleacarchia.com
Programs: Ahlia Bethea 908-884-5017 ahlia.bethea@gmail.com
Fundraising Chair: Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com

(Continued on page 8)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

Outings Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Publicity Chair:	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
Membership:	Bruce Ostrow	973-625-0792	ostrowb@gmail.com
Webmaster:	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
Upper Passaic River Coor:	Kathy O'Leary	908-647-2870	kolearypcnj@gmail.com

If you might be interested in getting involved, come to one of our Executive Committee Meetings on the first Tuesday of the month and get to know us. Or come to one of our General Meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. There are no obligations and there will be no pressure.

To find out our activities, go to: <http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>
To join our e-mailing list, go to: <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/nj-loantaka-news.html>

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: are held on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St, Chatham. All members are welcome at Executive Committee meetings. Right now, we have open positions on it! If you would like to find out more, please contact Paul Sanderson.

GENERAL MEETINGS: are held on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at the Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St, Chatham. Come learn something new and make some new friends. We'd welcome the chance to meet you and to introduce ourselves. Please see the schedule, below, and join us!

DIRECTIONS: posted on our website: <http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Apr 10: To be announced - please look at our website for the most current information.

May 8: A representative from New Jersey's Clean Energy Program™ will give a presentation about clean energy and solar options for New Jersey residents.

June 12: A representative from the Plant Society of NJ will speak about native plant gardening and NJ native plants.

ACTIVITIES: The Loantaka Group is working with concerned citizens and local environmental organizations to protect open space and wildlife habitat in Morris and Union Counties, and to safeguard the water resources on which we all depend. In addition, the Group is actively involved in State-wide initiatives involving air quality, transportation, and environmental legislation. Volunteers are always welcome. Call Paul at 908-233-2414.

Consult our website (<http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>) for more information.

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

Web-site: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/central-jersey>. Or click from the NJ Chapter's web-site. Please see the Outings List in this newsletter - or on Pineypaddlers.com.

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Joanne Pannone	609-443-6992	jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
Group Vice Chair:	Xiaoping Du		xiaping_du@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Leona Fluck		leona@pineypaddlers.com
Outings Coord:	George and Leona Fluck		leona@pineypaddlers.com
Treasurer:	Steve Eisenberg		steveis@optimum.net
Programs:	Joanne Pannone		jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
Conservation Chair:	Kip Cherry		KipAtTheSierraClub@gmail.com
Recycling:	Scott Fulmer		Swfulmer@icloud.com
Trails:	Dave Mattek		MattekDC@aol.com
Webmaster:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Education:	<i>Open Position!</i>		

MEETINGS SCHEDULE: The Central Jersey Group is continuing with its popular monthly meetings at Mercer County Community College.

MCCC is located at 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, 08550. Plenty of parking will be available in the normally-closed lot at the entrance to the Student Center. Just drive around to the entrance and you should find the entrance-arm in the up-position.

Mar 13 (Wed), 6pm: Mrs. Angela Juffey, Monmouth County Master Gardener, Central Jersey Beekeepers: Honeybees, Powerful Pollinators. Room SC104.

Apr 10 (Wed), 6pm: Rider Univ's Dr. Michael Brogan. Note room change to CM109. (follow signs from SC104).

May 8 (Wed), 6pm: Stockton Univ's Prof. Patrick Hossay, Can Cars Be Sustainable? Room SC104.

Please rsvp to kipatthesierraclub@gmail.com so we buy enough pizza!

ON THE CONSERVATION FRONT: we have been fighting the Elcon Toxic Waste Treatment Facility, proposed for Falls Township, PA, a half-mile from the Delaware River - with other environmental groups: the issues are drinking water and air quality. Also A135/S1261, which would establish fire safety standards and protocols for certain light frame residential construction. We offered testimony to Hamilton Twp on a proposed solar field project on Sweetbriar Av: the plan calls for the destruction of more than 800 trees in a very wet location near Assunpink Creek. Robbinsville Boy Scouts will be helping with the Eastern Bluebird Nestbox and Trail Monitoring Program. We commented opposing the Meadowlands Power Plant. We are also working with the Transportation Committee's Campaign for Electric School Buses. We are pipeline fighters: against PennEast in the central and western part of the state, South Jersey Gas and New Jersey Natural Gas in the Pinelands, and the Pilgrim Pipeline in the north. These projects would all contribute to global climate change and endanger our local environ-

ment. At Governor Murphy's State of the State address, we lobbied for a moratorium on pipelines.

Outings: George and Leona Fluck conduct weekly outings. All the dates were not available at the writing of this article. Check Pineypaddlers.com, and the Outings section of this Newsletter.

Watershed Presentation: On Oct 10, the Group heard a talk by Jim Waltman, Executive Director of The Watershed Institute, in Pennington, titled "The Water Challenge of our Time: Polluted Stormwater Runoff."

It comes from our vast paved roadway systems, suburban sprawl, and urban and town commercial footprints throughout the state, on all topographies that include flood zones, coastal areas and inland watershed/riparian areas. The common theme is diminished permeable surfaces needed for natural water absorption.

This modern dilemma has resulted in frequent flooding and has threatened clean water supplies. Also, rain-water draining into sewage systems can overwhelm treatment cleaning plants.

Waltman proposed some needed changes, introducing new technologies such as rainwater cisterns and porous pavements for sidewalks and streets. (from Sylvia Kay)

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

WEBSITE: <http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/Raritan-Valley/>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/RaritanGroupNJSC/>

For current outings, please see the Outings List in this newsletter - or on Pineypaddlers.com.

OFFICERS:

Chair and Conservation

Chair:	Gary Frederick	609-203-3382	gary.frederick3@gmail.com
Membership:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Political Chair:	Daphne Speck-Barynski	732-390-5311	speckbartyn@comcast.net
Publicity Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Secretary:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Treasurer:	S.Pasricha		
Webmaster:	Paul Ehrlich		ph Ehrlich-nj@outlook.com
Outings/Events Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
College Liaison:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Bee affairs:	Brenda Bradley		

Our **monthly committee meetings** are held on FOURTH WEDNESDAY of each month, from 7pm to 8:30, in New Brunswick. Meetings are free and open to the public. We discuss the environmental news important to New Jersey and the Raritan Valley, plus discuss upcoming events, speakers, volunteer efforts, etc. To confirm the location of the meeting, please contact Gary Frederick at gfredsierra@gmail.com.

The issues of interest to our communities include but are not limited to:

1. **Opposition to gas and oil pipelines** that threaten our communities' air and water.
2. Conservation and protection of the **Raritan River basin** area.
3. Passage of and responsible enforcement of environmentally friendly **zoning and development ordinances**.
4. **Prevention of conserved land** from commercial or other development. We are for preservation of open space and preventing diversion of land from the state's Green Acres program to commercial development.

We encourage you to attend your town's planning/zoning board or land use board meetings. If you are aware of development proposals in your town that may have a negative environmental impact, please let us know by attending our meetings and by contacting Gary Frederick at gfredsierra@gmail.com. We are also interested in any environmental news or events affecting Middlesex and Somerset counties and invite you to submit those items, as well.

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

WEBSITE: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/Jersey-Shore/>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/JerseyShoreNJSC/>

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Dennis Anderson	732-970-4327	dennisaza@aol.com
	6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747		
Vice-Chair:	Bob Grize	732-892-0684	nyucwnyppb@aol.com
Secretary:	John Luard	732-708-9221	John.Luard@gmail.com
Conser. Co-Chairs:	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445	faithtei@aol.com
and:	Bob Sandberg	732-241-7757	Sandberg00@gmail.com
and:	Stan Greberis	732-431-0082	grapefruit@msn.com
Social Media Chair:	Yazmin Sourias		yazming915@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Pat Fuschetto	732-308-4588	fusche40@yahoo.com
Political Co-Chairs:	Robin & Harold Zullo		drzullo@optonline.net
Outings Chair:	John Luard	732-708-9221	John.Luard@gmail.com
Outings Leaders:	Needed!		
Membership Chair:	Bob Grize	732-892-0684	nyucwnyppb@aol.com
Program Chair:	George Moffatt	732-544-1726	gmoffattgt@aol.com
Climate Chair:	Steve Miller	732-671-5917	SteveMiller@Comcast.net
Fund-raising Co-Chairs:	Mark Fukayama	908-902-1555	markexams@aol.com
and:	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445	faithtei@aol.com
Publicity Chair:	Open Position!		
High School Coordinator:	Open Position!		
Letter-writing Committee:	Mark Fukayama, Steve Miller and Stan Greberis		

Jersey Shore Group Happenings:

Progress at Whale Pond Greenway – The Jersey Shore Sierra Club is a partner of the Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association, whose goal is to restore the banks and water quality of Whale Pond Brook and create a greenway from the Long Branch shoreline to the uplands in Tinton Falls. On October 18, 2018, we had the official opening of Ross Lake Park, the first Long Branch section of the greenway. It was a great day; participating were Long Branch Mayor, John Pallone, boy scouts from Troop 148, Scott Cardelfe, our fabulous mason, and Chuck Ficca who created our trail.

Now we are turning our attention to the next section of the greenway which is in Ocean Township. It will include 350 acres which lie between Industrial Way West and W. Park Ave. The WPBWA, as a non-profit, has received permission from Ocean Township to hire a forester to tell us how to best manage the land and build a greenway. To help: contact Faith Teitelbaum at Faithtei@aol.com.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Our general membership meetings take place at 6pm on the fourth Monday of the month at Brookdale Community College's Lincroft Campus (BCC). We are delighted that the college has invited us to continue the joint meetings of Sierra members, BCC students and the public through 2019. Our meetings, billed by BCC as "Science Monday," average 75 attendees a month, with some talks peaking at 120 to 150 people. The cooperative effort between Sierra and BCC extends the "reach" of both organizations into the Monmouth community. Our BCC liaison is Dr. Patricia Dillon, biology professor in the college's Science Department.

We meet at BCC to share our speakers with environmentally-concerned BCC college students, the general public, and other environmental organizations. A buffet is available for the students and adults at 6pm. The programs start at 6:30pm.

To get to Brookdale, take GSP Exit 109 to Rte 520 West (Newman Springs Rd, which becomes E Main St at the Lincroft campus). Exit the traffic circle into the campus and follow the signs to the Warner Student Life Center (SLC), where the meeting usually is in the Twin Lights Rooms I and II. Use parking lot 7. As you walk towards the building complex, Warner will be down the slope on your left. If lot 7 is full, use parking lots 5 or 6. A campus map is at http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP_04_08.pdf.

Mar 25: Paul L. Sieswerda, president and CEO of Gotham Whale, an environmental and educational organization, will discuss his organization's goal to study, advocate for and educate about whales and other marine mammals. While many Jerseyans travel to Cape May to see whales, few are aware that NJ and NY have their whale attraction – in New York harbor.

Apr 7 (Sun): Hike Allaire State Park, Wall, 10am. An early spring walk in this mostly pine forest. About 5 miles, easy pace, some ups and downs, bring plenty of water, beginners welcome, supportive footwear recommended. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com

May 4 (Sat): Walk at Sandy Hook, near Highlands, 9:30am. This walk will take us to the very tip of the hook, with lots of shore birds and views north into New York Harbor. If we're lucky a tanker (ship) will pass a stone's throw away. We'll walk about 2.8 miles, flat but mostly on sand, all within the National Recreation Area. Water and good footwear recommended. After the hike, if there is interest, we can visit the newly renovated Battery Lewis in Hartshorne County park. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com

June 2 (Sun): Hike Huber Woods Park, Middletown, 9:30 am. We will walk the hickory and oak forest with occasional distant views of the Navesink River – listen and look for pileated woodpeckers. About 4 miles at an easy pace, some ups and downs. Beginners welcome, supportive footwear recommended, bring plenty of water. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com

Ocean County Group

WEBSITE: MEETUP.COM/SIERRA-CLUB-OCEAN-GROUP

OFFICERS:

Acting Chair & Conservation Chair: Margit Meissner-Jackson sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair & Treasurer: Laura Stone Laura36@yahoo.com
Outings & Envl Ed'n: Terrance Brown terrybrown@comcast.net
Recording Secretary: Nancy Brown nancybrown624@comcast.net
Political Chair: Margaret Mary Piccolo gogreenp1@yahoo.com
Membership Chairs: Ray & Cathy Kozakerich raykozak@comcast.net
Social Media Chair: Annie Jones AnnaLeighEilbacher@yahoo.com
Fund-Raising Chair: Joyce M. Isaza realtmstr@aol.com
Group ExCom Members: William Rodgers
 And: Peter Leighton JPLighton1@verizon.net

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: Held bi-monthly at the Skywalk Cafe in Toms River, except July and August.

ACTIVITIES & ISSUES: Our group is focused on a number of critical issues. Locally and state-wide we are fighting a myriad of over-development issues. Along with our allies we are working hard to save Barnegat Bay and The Pinelands, two natural gems in Ocean County.

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

WEBSITE: <http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/West-Jersey/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseyGroupNJSC> Log on and Like Us
Follow us on Twitter @Wjsierraclub **and Instagram** @wjsierraclub

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Gina Carola 856-848-8831 ginaceee@verizon.net
Vice-Chair: Frank Zinni efzin4@aol.com
Secretary: Ellen Zinni efzin4@aol.com
Treasurer: Trish Clements patri3210@gmail.com

Publicity Chair: Anne Caridi annecaridi@yahoo.com
Political Chair: Linda Rubiano Linda_Maritza@yahoo.com
Pinelands Rep: Lee Snyder pinelands1@hotmail.com
Greenways Coord's: Frank and Ellen Zinni efzin4@aol.com
Conservation Chair: Stacey Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Delegate at Large: Aida Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Membership Chair: Mike Brown 856-547-9221 eyebrown@verizon.net
Fundraising Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Smart Growth Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Programs Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Outings Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Social Media
Coord's: Evan Kostka evan.kostka@gmail.com
 and Dayna Hovern dayna.hovern@gmail.com

GENERAL MEETINGS: are held at 7:30 pm on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month, September thru May, at the Quaker Meeting Hall on Friends Ave in Haddonfield. Inclement weather may cancel. Please call 856-848-8831 if unsure.

Directions: From I-295, take exit 34B onto Rte 70 West. Follow the signs for Rte 41 South, which is Kings Hwy (you will have to exit to the right into a jug handle and then turn left onto Rte 41 (Kings Hwy). Cross over Rte 70 and you will be briefly on Rte 154 (Brace Rd). Make the next right and then the next left onto Kings Hwy. After about 1 mile, you will cross Grove Rd (Indian King Tavern is on the right corner). After crossing Grove Rd, go two more blocks and turn right on to Friends Ave. Go one block to the Meeting House. Park in the lot next to the Meeting House and enter the auditorium through the doors on the right side of the building. Do not go into the Meeting House.

Mar 13: Movie Night – Human Footprint. Join us to learn how we can make small changes in our lives to collectively make a big, positive impact on the planet.

May 8: Macro Invertebrates and Stream Health in South Jersey. Mike Hogan, New Jersey's best photographer of sites around the state, will present.

The West Jersey Group does not meet in June, July or August. Please join us on a hike or paddling trip. Meetings resume on Sept 11.

South Jersey Group

(Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:

Group, Outings Chair: Tom Boghosian 609-625-0878 boghosian1@verizon.net
Vice-Chair: *Open Position!*
Conservation Chair: *Open Position!*
Pol. Chair, Calendars: Dick Colby 609-965-4453 dick.colby@stockton.edu
Membership Chair: *Open Position!*
Secretary/Treasurer: Julie Akers 609-432-3280 julieakers56@gmail.com

Our consuming conservation issue,, adopted just after the Group was founded in the 1970s, continues to be protection of the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continues to consume the energies of those few officers who remain active both within the Sierra Club and in the Watershed Association (GEHWA) that spun off from the South Jersey Group. Very few of our local members seem interested in the meetings we once scheduled (monthly, from the early 1980s until 2005). For now, we'll continue to be listed in this Newsletter, and offer a point of contact for Club members in South Jersey who want help with local issues. We strongly recommend GEHWA's website for keeping up with local issues, and for links to many other local, regional, state and national environmental organizations: www.gehwa.org. If you have topics (and places) for meetings, please let the officers know about them. We welcome general comments from Club members in South Jersey. To be placed on a carefully guarded distribution list for local issues and meetings, please e-mail dick.colby@stockton.edu. Dick is also an Atlantic County Parks Commissioner; contact him if you might be interested in attending monthly meetings of the Commission, which are open to the public.

Tom Boghosian is an avid kayaker (- certified as a Maine Guide!), both ocean-going and in fresh waters, possibly willing to lead trips. Julie Akers is also president of Atlantic County Friends of the Parks, and of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association

Current Issues: (1) We've been blue-blazing the southern portion of what will be a continuous footpath between the southern and northern tips of New Jersey. Many others (and other groups) are contributing. Contact Dick for copies of some of our preliminary maps. Dick has also produced a brochure describing 14 historic walks in Egg Harbor City. Every municipality ought to have its own such brochure: this is a hint for you to try your hand at it! (2) There is "movement" on the prospect for a Community Solar experiment in South Jersey, fueled by new legislation that prods the BPU, and a new president of Atlantic Electric Co. (3) If you know an Atlantic County Freeholder, please consider lobbying her/him to take on Clark's Landing as an historic county park. (4) With the passage of a plastic-bag-restricting ordinance in Longport, there's lobbying work to be done in each of our other municipalities! (5 etc.) Many other South Jersey issues are described in previous issues of this Newsletter, available on the Chapter website.

Some Possibly Relevant Activities of Allied Organizations:

Apr 3, May 1 and June 5: (first Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Atlantic County Friends of the Parks: Monthly meetings of a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Park System. All are welcome. Warren Fox Nature Center (WFNC*), Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor, Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 3½ miles south of Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280. Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Atlantic-County-Friends-of-the-Parks>.

Apr 10 & June 12: (alternate second Wednesdays), 7pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries (another "Partnership River" under federal protection): Meeting place: George Luciano Center, Cumberland County College. Cumberland County development issues are commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Karla Rossini (CU) at 609-774-5853 or karla.rossini@cumauriceriver.org. Website: www.cumauriceriver.org.

Apr 17 & June 19: (alternate third Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss river management strategies. Open to the public. WFNC*. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

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Become active in one of your Group's conservation campaigns! Attend a Group meeting! Meetings offer interesting speakers and topics, nice fellow-members, and usually food!

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

Mar 27, Apr 24, May 22 & June 26: (fourth Wednesdays), 7pm: Atlantic Audubon Society is a lively member-organization with strong environmental programs and an excellent monthly on-line newsletter. Membership is free. Meetings are in the Galloway Twp Library, 306 E Jimmie Leeds Rd. www.AtlanticAudubon.org.

Mar 26 & May 28: (alternate fourth Tuesdays) 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: get yourself onto the electronic mailing list by contacting Lynn Maun, 856-649-2792 or email lynnkmaun@comcast.net.

350.org South Jersey is an organization that opposes Climate Change, and that may or may not be extant. Leaders were (at least) Glenn Klotz: glennk1949@gmail.com, and Ron Hutchison: Ron.Hutchison@Stockton.edu.

Singles Section

(A chapter-wide, special interest section offering hikes/cleanups, social gatherings, meetings, etc.)

Website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/sierra-singles>

We're a friendly, active group of individuals who enjoy hiking, biking, canoeing/kayaking, as well as a variety of social and cultural activities throughout the year. This section was created to offer a variety of singles-oriented activities to NJ Sierra Club members.

OFFICERS:

Interim Co-Chairs:	Ron Pate and Jimi Oleksiak
Outings Chair:	Joyce Haddad
Conservation Chair:	Position open
Treasurer:	Position open
Social Chair:	Position open
Vice Social Chair:	Jeff Sovelove
Programs:	Position open!
Publicity:	Position open
Membership:	Position open
Nominations:	Position open

Executive committee members: Rozanna Fanelli, Joyce Haddad, Ron Pate, Jeff Sovelove, Daphne Speck-Bartynski

Activity: April 27 (Sat):11am-4pm: Come help us celebrate Earth Day at the Essex County Environmental Center, 221 Eagle Rock Av. Roseland. We will have a table distributing literature about the environment. Also canoe trips, hikes, lots of fun for the kids, and a variety of things to help with. Leader: Ron Pate (ronpate31@verizon.net)

PURPOSE: Our purpose is to acquaint single adults with the natural history and beauty of the surrounding area, to promote environmental conservation, and to provide recreational and social activities for members. All activities shall be consistent with Sierra Club purposes. We are not a local group; we're a statewide additional "layer" of club involvement. Everyone is welcome to join us.

COMMUNICATIONS: The best way to be notified of upcoming events is to join our free listserv. Anyone may subscribe by going to: <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-SINGLES-NEWS.html> and clicking on "Join or leave the list." You may subscribe and unsubscribe at will; directions on how to unsubscribe are at the bottom of each announcement. We recommend joining the listserv to receive announcements for all of our events a few weeks before each event. Events are also list on the online calendar on the Chapter's web site: sierraclub.org/new-jersey. You can also "like" us on Facebook: "Singles Group New Jersey Sierra Club." Activities will also be posted on Meetup.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS:

Social dinners: Join us for dinner the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, at a variety of restaurants in different locations. Jimi Oleksiak, the leader, will announce the details one week in advance through a listserv message. An RSVP will be required as described in the announcement.

HIKES AND OTHER OUTINGS: The Singles Section sponsors many outings, ranging from beginners' level of hikes to advanced difficulty. Some of these are listed in this newsletter; others will be announced on our listserv, the Chapter's online calendar, Facebook and Meetup. Hikes are for anybody who is capable of hiking the distance described. It is up to the person who wants to hike to determine their own ability and limits. All hikers are required to sign a liability waiver.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Section

Our mission of this Section is to support Sierra Club goals, and to promote activism within the LGBT community through letter writing, phone calls, and other active support for environmental issues. Anyone is welcome to join our outings regardless of sexual orientation.

WEB SITE: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/>

MEETUP: <http://www.meetup.com/njsierraclub>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/njsierralgbt>

OFFICERS:

Co-Chair:	Robert Zitzman *	robertmz@att.net
Co-Chair:	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@gmail.com
Secretary:	OPEN POSITION--contact John or Robert if interested	
Outings Co-Chair:	Jonathan Wall *	dojdwall@gmail.com
Outings Co-Chair:	Robert Zitzman *	robertmz@att.net
Webmaster/Listmaster:	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@gmail.com
Ex-Com Member:	OPEN POSITION--contact John or Robert if interested	

(* Section Executive Committee Member)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Check Meetup.com/njsierraclub or www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/ for outings

listings. You can also receive updated information by joining our email list. Please contact John at jkashwick@gmail.com to be included in the list.

Please see the website, and/or contact John Kashwick as above.

Volunteers Needed! We are continuing to recruit volunteers and outings leaders. For more information, please email John at jkashwick@gmail.com or Robert at robertmz@att.net.

Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

(A chapter-wide special interest section which offers a weekly to monthly calendar of activities and events, including hikes, clean ups, social gatherings, dinner get-togethers and other functions intended for those members over fifty)

More New Jersey events are posted on a web site: <http://www.funtravels.com>. In addition, a monthly Buy & Sell newsletter is sent out to members free of charge, in which they can list items they are searching for or want to buy.

The mission of this section is to support Sierra Club goals, and to promote activism through letter writing, phone calls, and other active support for environmental issues.

We work through a "list-serve," by which members learn about current environmental issues, and how they can be supported. Please find more news at web site <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/senior-section>.

Arline Zatz is the editor and Chair of the Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section. She can be reached at azatz@funtravels.com, and invites members to check her web site at www.funtravels.com for trips, tips, and travel information regarding New Jersey and other states.

Paul Ehrlich is the Vice-Chair (phehrlich-NJ@outlook.com). He vice-edits the Essays Section of the Senior Section website. These essays are written by members of the NJ Sierra Club, and focus on environmental issues, including reports of environment-related news that may not be easily accessed by many members, opinions on how to deal with environmental problems, and support/criticism of environmental actions taken by organizations and individuals. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT YOU'D LIKE TO TELL A LARGE AUDIENCE? Send an essay to Arline and me for editing and approval and it will be posted on our website.

Sierra Student Coalition

(a semi-autonomous organization of college and high-school students)

National Website: <http://www.ssc.org/>

Introducing Children to the Outdoors Section

(another Chapter-wide special interest activity with the motto: No Child Left Inside!)

OFFICERS:

Chair: Marty Cohen pele4191@gmail.com

In 2018 we took 38 students from Paterson's Clemente Middle School on a hike in Harriman State Park. We had enough leaders and assistants to break the group in two - for two separate hikes, a lot more enjoyable for all involved than an H. M. Stanley expedition. The weather cooperated so, despite the challenging trails and hills, there were smiles all around.

NJ-ICO is a public service program, one of 50 Sierra Club groups nationwide which provide about 1,000 nature outings per year, oriented towards children. About five such outings take place in New Jersey each year. That's right: only five - but they are great! We sure could use a couple of steering committee members to help expand this wonderful program.

If you would like information about volunteering or if you would just like to be placed on our email list for our sporadically issued e-newsletters, please send me an e-mail.

On the Trail State-Length Trail Taking Shape



The first actual printed guide to a portion of the "High Point to Cape May Point Hiking Trail and Greenway" has just been published by the Atlantic County Parks Commission. Titled Blue Blaze Trails in Atlantic County Parks, it includes a description of the route, along with two of Frank Pearce's maps for the Atlantic County portion of the trail:

The route south from Batsto uses roadsides to reach the Hammonton Creek Wildlife Management Area, which includes the former Amatol Raceway and WW1 munitions plant. After crossing US Rte 30 at Snow Hill Rd, it continues on sand roads to the Makepeace Lake Wildlife Management Area in Hamilton Township, including a newly-cut berm: the dam that holds back Makepeace Lake, with spectacular wetland views. Then more old sand roads bordering the south edge of

Makepeace Lake, eventually reaching the county park at Weymouth Furnace. Crossing US Rte 322, it then tries to follow the Great Egg Harbor River downstream to Lake Lenape and Mays Landing, then onto a WW1 rail bed alongside Belcoville, part of another WW1 munitions plant operated by the Bethlehem Loading Co, and now Estell Manor County Park. It then continues south through the Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area including a wide dyke across more spectacular wetlands, edging Corbin City and through the Peaslee Wildlife Management Area to the Tuckahoe River bridge near Rte 49.

The design of this portion of the footpath is a collaborative effort of members of the Sierra Club, the Outdoor Club of South Jersey, and Atlantic County Friends of the Parks with support from park and

(continued on page 11)

ON THE TRAIL

(Continued from page 10)

other county officials. We scouted and mapped multiple location options, obtained permission for blue blaze markings, and then wielded our paint brushes. The red and yellow colors on the maps show that some sections are not yet publically owned and must therefore

be bypassed for the time being.

The driving force for the entire State-length route has been the Club's long-time Trails Coordinator, David Mattek. We'll keep you informed as more portions of the route are described in publications and on websites.

ATLANTIC COUNTY NORTH



ATLANTIC COUNTY SOUTH



Outings

Learn more about your environment... take a Sierra Club educational hike!

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS (roughly north to south)

- Skylands:** Dave Alcock: dwhoob@hotmail.com
- South Highlands:** Jonathan Wall psychologist@jonwall.com
- North Jersey: Co-Chairs:** Ellen Blumenkrantz ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 and Mary Walsh: blehlwalsh@hotmail.com
- Gateway:** Vacant
- Hudson Co:** Natalya DeRobertis-Theye natalyadt@gmail.com
- Loantaka:** Vacant
- Central Jersey:** Leona & George Fluck Leona@pineypaddlers.com
- Raritan Valley:** Vacant
- Jersey Shore:** John Luard: John.Luard@gmail.com
- Ocean County:** Terrance Brown: 848-333-7331 terrybrown@comcast.net
- West Jersey:** Vacant
- South Jersey:** Tom Boghosian, 609-625-0878 (H) 4794 Andorea Drive, Mays Landing, 08330 boghosian1@verizon.net
- Singles Section:** Joyce Haddad: jkhaddad@juno.com
- LGBT Section:** Jonathan Wall: dojdwall@gmail.com, and Robert Zitzman: robertmz@att.net
- ICO:** Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H) NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd, Warren, 07059
- River Touring:** Fred Tocce, 908-453-2205 (H) RD-1, Box 277, Washington, 07882
- Chapter Outings Chair:** Ellen Blumenkrantz ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417

Outing Leaders: Please send June-August 2019 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator (or, if you don't associate yourself with a single Group, directly to Ellen Blumenkrantz, the Chapter Outings Chair) before May 5. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it also for the previous Sierran, due to the occasional lag in mailing. Also, please send outing rosters or sign-up sheets to the Chapter Office as soon as possible after each outing.

Note: Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your June-August 2019 trip write-ups by May 10.

NOTES ON OUTINGS: All Outings are generally open to Club members, guests and anyone interested in outings. Unless otherwise specified, the events are free and open to the public. ALL participants must sign liability waivers on ALL outings sponsored by the Sierra Club. Please check with the leader before bringing small children on an outing. A parent or other responsible adult must accompany persons under 18. At their discretion, leaders may permit pets on outings if the event description specifically includes bringing pets.

Sierra Club outings are arranged by volunteer leaders who are in charge of the trip and responsible for the safety, wel-

fare and enjoyment of all participants. Leaders determine qualifications to participate, adequacy of equipment, routes to be followed, and special precautions to be taken. Please arrive adequately prepared and equipped. If you have any allergies, please remember to bring your medication. The leader has the final word in the conduct of the trip. Your cooperation will help assure a safe and pleasant outing.

Please arrive early at the meeting place so that the outing can start on time. For day hikes, lunch, water (at least a liter), extra clothing, rain gear, and emergency equipment should be carried in a small daypack. For all except easy hikes, sturdy over-the-ankle shoes or boots should be worn. For most trips, you are expected to have your own equipment. In some cases, it may be rented from outdoor/camping suppliers - check the yellow pages or call the trip leader. If the weather is questionable on the date of the outing, you may assume that it will take place, unless the schedule indicates otherwise.

Unless registration is required, or if you have a question about the outing, it is not necessary to contact the leader before the trip. However, as these outings are planned many months in advance, we do advise that you contact the trip leader 1-2 days before the outing to make sure it is not cancelled. Do not call to join a trip after the posted deadline date. When phoning a leader, please honor his or her requested calling times and call 3 to 5 days before the outing. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) when writing to a leader. On popular trips, Sierra Club members will be given preference.

Watercraft trips let you experience the unspoiled parts of our region, but water safety does impose special requirements. The size and skill of each party must be appropriate to each river, so participation in each trip must be at the discretion of the leader. We ask you to register at least one week in advance. Unless a phone number is provided, please send a SASE with an honest assessment of your paddling experience, whether you need or can offer a ride, your phone number, and any questions you may have. You will receive a description of the trip, with directions, where you can rent a canoe, and what you will need to bring. Almost all trips can arrange partners to share a canoe if you are coming by yourself. Unless stated otherwise: rental canoes are available, trips do not require advanced paddling skill or exceptional physical conditioning, public transportation is not available, non-members may participate, and responsible smokers are welcome.

If you are a Sierra Club member interested in becoming an Outing Leader or have suggestions for new outings, contact your Group Outings Chair or the Chapter Outings Chair for assistance and further information. The Sierra Group contributing each outing is given at the end of the write-up, as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| (C) - Central Jersey | (JS) - Jersey Shore |
| (G) - Gateway | (L) - Loantaka |
| (N) - North Jersey | (Sk) - Skylands |
| (RV) - Raritan Valley | (S) - South Jersey |
| (W) - West Jersey | (NJ) - NJ Chapter |
| (RT) - River Touring | (ACOC) - Atlantic Chapter |

Apr 13 (Sat): Cherry Blossom Festival Hike, Bellville/Newark (Essex Co). 10am. <https://www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/south-mountain-reservation>. The hike will cover 7 miles in 4 hours. Level terrain, moderate difficulty, easy pace. There will also be a shorter version of the route, 3-4 miles, with a second leader. Features: Cherry Blossoms of Newark and Bellville. Facilities: there are two visitor centers with indoor restrooms. Requirement: Sneakers or hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch. Registration required via Web: Start with the calendar at <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey> and click on the Cherry Blossom Festival Hike, then click on RSVP. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: The_Hikist@mac.com.

Apr 14 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 10am. The section we paddle will depend on weather conditions. Rental boats are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and details. Option for early breakfast at the Vincentown Diner. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Apr 17 (Wed): Hike at Six Mile Run Reservoir (Somerset Co). 10am. About 4 miles, easy pace. We'll hike the Red Trail. Leashed dogs are welcome. Bring water, snacks and lunch. Inclement weather cancels. Please contact leaders for meeting location: Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

Apr 25 (Thurs): Bicycle the Union Transportation Trail (UTT) (Monmouth Co). 10am. 9-10 miles, leisurely pace on a gravel trail. The UTT is the County's second rail-trail; ideal for hikers, equestrians, joggers, walkers and bicyclists. The UTT was once the Pemberton & Hightstown Railroad, established in 1864 as a short line right-of-way to provide dairies and farms with access to larger railroads. Meet at 70 Herbert Rd, Upper Freehold. Bicycle helmets must be worn. Bring water and snacks. Rain cancels. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Apr 27 (Sat): Earth Day at the Essex County Environmental Center. 11am-4pm. Come help us celebrate Earth Day. 221 Eagle Rock Av, Roseland. We will have a table distributing literature about the environment. There are canoe trips, hikes, lots of fun for the kids, and a variety of things to help with. Leader: Ron Pate: ronpate31@verizon.net.

Apr 28 (Sun): Hike at Duke Farms (Somerset Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, leisurely hike with stops along the way. Duke Farms serves as a model of environmental stewardship in the 21st century. Meet at the Farm Barn Orientation Center. Arrive early for breakfast - the Farm Barn Café is a Certified Green Restaurant. www.dukefarms.org/. Bring your camera, water and lunch on the hike. We'll take a side trail to Doris' Pet Cemetery. Rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

MAY

May 1 (Wed): "May Day" Hike at the Thompson Park Conservation Area (Middlesex Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. Thompson Park stretches south from Thompson Park and Schoolhouse Road along the Gravel Hill. It is dominated by heavily wooded forests and lowland swamps along the Manalapan Brook. Parts of the area also continue to support local agriculture, with farmers growing corn and soybeans. Meet at the Thompson Park Trailhead near the Off-Leash Dog Area on Fir Drive, Monroe Twp. GPS Coordinates: N 40° 20' 3.753", W 74° 26' 8.556". Rain cancels. Bring water, snacks and lunch. Leashed dogs are welcome. Co-Leaders: Sindhu P: spjersey@gmail.com, and Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

May 4 (Sat): Walk at Sandy Hook, near Highlands (Monmouth Co). 9:30am. This walk will take us to the very tip of the hook, with lots of shore birds and views north into New York Harbor. If we're lucky a tanker (ship) will pass a stone's throw away. We'll walk about 2.8 miles, flat but mostly on sand, all within the National Recreation Area. Water and good footwear recommended. After the hike, if there is interest, we can visit the newly renovated Battery Lewis in Hartshorne County Park. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com. (JS)

May 4 (Sat): Canoe trip on the Hackensack River (Bergen Co). Noon. We will paddle 2-3 hours in the Hackensack meadows observing wildlife and unique ecosystem. \$25 per person. Bring lunch. Must contact by leader April 15 to register. Leader will confirm meeting time and location once you register. Limit 12 Registrants. Leader Ron Pate: ronpate31@veizon.net.

May 5 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the D&R Canal from Lawrenceville to Kingston (Mercer/Middlesex Cos). 9am. Cinco de Mayo 11-mile paddle from Cherry Tree Lane to Kingston. Sombreros optional! Bring water, snacks and lunch. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and meeting location. Rental boats are not available: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C/RV)

May 11 (Sat): Stephens State Park, Hackettstown (Warren Co). 10am. <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/stephens.html>. The hike will cover 7 miles in 4 hours through hilly terrain. Features: The Musconetcong River, A nice trail network. Facilities: Restrooms. Required: Hiking Boots, Knapsack and water, Bring a lunch. Registration required via Web: Start with the calendar at: <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey> and click on the Stephens State Park, then click on RSVP Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: The_Hikist@mac.com.

May 12 (Sun): Hike at Cattus Island County Park (Ocean Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. This is a great family hike as we walk flat trails through pine lands, around marshes, and along beaches while looking for returning Osprey in nesting platforms. There are vistas of Silver Bay. We'll meet at the Cooper Environmental Center which features exhibits in natural settings and live animals. Bring binoculars, water, snacks and lunch. Rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

May 15 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. Join us for a trip on the Wading River. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental: 609-726-1380 or www.mickscanoe.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip and river section we are paddling: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

May 19 (Sun): Hike the Mountain Lakes Nature Preserve (Mercer Co.) 4-5 miles, easy pace. The Preserve is a favorite for family walks just outside of downtown Princeton. In the spring the area is lovely with flowering dogwood and other plants like yellow trout lily and spring beauty. We'll listen for spring peepers and enjoy "birding" opportunities too. Bring water and snacks. Option for late lunch at restaurant(s) in the Princeton Shopping Center. Contact leaders to confirm hike and meeting location. Rain cancels. Co-Leaders: Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com, or Joanne P: jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (C)

May 24 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Batsto River (Burlington Co). 10:30am. We'll enjoy a later start on our 7-mile Pinelands paddle from Quaker Bridge to Batsto Lake. We'll use Pinelands Adventures for our trip shuttle: www.pinelandsadventures.org. Contact leaders to confirm the trip, meeting location and your participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

May 26 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. Join us for a Memorial Day Weekend trip on the Wading River. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental, 609-726-1380, or www.mickscanoe.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip and river section we are paddling: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

JUNE

Jun 2 (Sun): Hike Huber Woods Park, Middletown (Monmouth Co). 9:30am. We will walk the hickory and oak forest with occasional distant views of the Navesink River - listen and look for pileated woodpeckers. About 4 miles at an easy pace, some ups and downs. Beginners welcome, supportive footwear recommended, bring plenty of water. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com. (JS)

Jun 2 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Hunterdon Co). 10am. Join us for an 8-mile trip on the Delaware River. The trip will be leisurely with opportunities to practice skills for paddling in moving water which include ferrying and eddy turns. Helmets required and spray skirts recommended. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip, participation and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 8 (Sat): Storm King Art Center (Orange Co, NY). 11am. We will tour the Art and Sculpture gardens, with easy walking through through countryside that includes farmed fields, natural woodlands, lawns, native grasses & wetlands. \$18 admission (\$15 for seniors). <https://stormking.org/>. Address: 1 Museum Rd, New Windsor NY 12553. Rain cancels. Leaders: Ron Pate and Ellen Blumenkrantz. Participants must register with Ron Pate: ronpate31@verizon.net by May 15.

Jun 8 (Sat): Lake Tiorati, Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. The hike will cover 8 miles in 4 hours in hilly terrain around Lake Tiorati. Features: Views of Lake Tiorati. <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/117/details.aspx> Facilities: There is a restroom building next to the parking lot. Requirements: Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch. Registration required via web: Start with the calendar at <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey> and click on the Lake Tiorati Hike, then click on RSVP. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: The_Hikist@Mac.com.

Jun 8 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek on World Oceans Day (Ocean Co). 9am. We'll paddle 7 miles from Ore Pond to Dudley Park and option into Lanoka Harbor/Barnegat Bay. Rental boats are avail-

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Why not rank the environmental issues of most importance to you: sea-level rise, air pollution, loss of open space (wilderness), clean water supply, recycling, toxic sites, plastic, automobile dependence, etc. Now: how to act?



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Paul Ehrlich, Transportation Air Quality
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Ken Johanson, Chair
Joan Denzer, Paul Sanderson, Joe Testa

Personnel Committee
John Kashwick, Paul Sanderson, Laura Tracey-Coll, Ken Johanson, Joan Denzer

Legislative Coordinator & Litigation Oversight
Ken Johanson (see above)

Finance Committee
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Paliamentarian
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If no one is in the office to take your call, please leave a message on the answering machine. Please SPELL YOUR LAST NAME, and state whether the phone number you leave is for daytime or evening.

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

able from Cedar Creek Campground. <http://www.cedarcreeknj.com/kayak-canoe> Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 14 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Hunterdon Co). 10am. It's Flag Day - wear red, white and blue! We'll paddle 8 miles from Kingwood to Bulls Island. Paddling helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Rentals are not available. Bring lunch, snacks and beverage or buy lunch at the Famous Hot Dog Man's River Island. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. Current Sierra Club membership required: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 15 (Sat): A Sightseeing Afternoon In and Around Paterson (Passaic Co). 11:45am. Meet at Lambert Castle parking lot. We'll tour the Castle from 12 to 1, then drive to Paterson to view the Great Falls and have lunch at a local eatery. Then drive to nearby Haledon to visit the American Labor Museum at the historic Botto House. Tour the museum from 3 to 4pm. Directions: Just west of the junction of Rtes 3 and 46, take the Valley Rd. exit from Rte 46. Go north on Valley Rd. for 2 miles to the Lambert Castle entrance on the left. Leader: Jay Dibble: jaydib41090@peoplepc.com. Registration Required Via Web: <https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7010Z000001qtbaQAA>.

Jun 16 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Tidal Maurice River (Atlantic Co). 9:30am. The Maurice is a nationally recognized Wild and Scenic River and its environment supports a great variety of plant and animal life, including Ospreys and Bald Eagles. We'll paddle 10 miles on the tidal Maurice River. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 21 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Mullica River on the First Day of Summer (Burlington Co). 8:30am. The aquatic flowering plants of the NJ Pinelands will still be in bloom. This is a 12-mile trip for experienced Pines paddlers; expect downfalls and portages. Pinelands Preservation Alliance has launched Pinelands Adventures and we'll use Pinelands Adventures for our shuttle (<http://www.pinelandsadventures.org>). Contact leaders to confirm the trip, meeting location and your participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 23 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Hunterdon Co). 9am. We're paddling 10 miles from Riegelsville to Kingwood Access. The proposed route of the Penn East Pipeline, with "fracking gas," will cross from PA thru Riegelsville, destroying the environment and the fragile ecosystems of the Sourland Mountains in Hunterdon. Paddling helmets required for all participants. Rentals are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 27 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River/Crosswicks Creek (Burlington Co). 9am. We'll meet at the confluence of the Delaware River and Crosswicks Creek at Bordentown Beach. Depending on weather/wind conditions we'll paddle the tidal Delaware River or the Crosswicks Creek. Contact leaders to confirm trip plans and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

JULY

JULY 2-5: Join us in Scenic Stratton Mountain, Vermont. We will hike, bike, kayak and yoga. Swimming pool, hot tub and sauna on premises. Fourth of July fireworks-concert-barbeque. All-inclusive food and accommodations. Spa services also available for additional cost. Please contact leader if interested by May 15: Ron Pate: ronpate31@verizon.net.

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

All members are welcome to attend these monthly statewide policy deliberations, held on SECOND SATURDAYS. Details, including agendas and travel instructions, are available from Rich Isaac, the Chapter Chair. (Best confirm!)

Conservation and/or Political Committee meetings usually start at 10am; Environmental Justice Committee at noon. Lunch is otherwise shared at noon. The main meeting starts at 1pm.

April 13: Hamilton Township (Mercer Co.) Public Library, 1 Justice Samuel Alito Jr. Way

May 11: Chatham Library, 124 Main St.

June 8: Reformed Church of Highland Park, 19-21 S. 2nd Ave.



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The Jersey Sierran appears in January, April, July and October. The deadline for copy is on the 10th of the month, two months before appearance. Members are cordially invited to propose articles, essays, letters, poetry and artwork. (Group/Section News columns are prepared by Group/Section Chairs; Outings are vetted by the Chapter Outings Chair, Ellen Blumenkrantz.)

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Thank you to all who contributed to this issue!
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* Indicates Chapter-wide elected ExCom members.
** Indicates committee chair or co-chair

Reports from Trenton

Ocean Temp Hottest On Record- Climate Crisis Getting Worse

From a Press Release issued on Jan 16

A new report, released by a group of international scientists, has revealed that ocean temperatures in 2018 were the highest ever recorded. Published in the scientific journal *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences*, the article also notes that temperatures in the last five years were the warmest on record and that Global Warming is a consequence of greenhouse gas trapping of heat radiation.

New Jersey is already suffering from sea level rise and loss of fisheries due to high water temperatures offshore. Fish are migrating north. Global warming is getting worse partly because we have a President who denies climate change. Pres. Trump has pulled the US out of the Paris Climate Accord, and attacked automobile efficiency standards, Ex-Pres. Obama's Clean Power Plan and rules that reduce methane emissions.

Another report - from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - found that our oceans are 40-50% warmer than in its previous report. 2018 will be the warmest year on record in the oceans, as was 2017 and 2016 before that. The IPCC reports that oceans are warming faster than we thought.

As carbon emissions are rising, so are its health impacts. Climate change has brought droughts, fires, and high temperatures resulting in Ozone-related human health impacts that include premature deaths and acute respiratory illnesses such as asthma episodes in children. Higher temperatures have caused heat exhaustion, heat stroke, hypothermia and dehydration.

One expedient for reducing the level of greenhouse gases would be for Governor Murphy to put a moratorium on fossil fuel projects.

AG To Investigate EDA Tax Incentive Program

From a Press Release issued on Jan 14, edited by Joe Testa

New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal said in January that his office would investigate whether any laws were broken during the state's distribution of corporate tax incentives. Governor Murphy has ordered an audit on the Economic Development Authority's (EDA's) tax incentive programs worth almost \$11 billion, and announced that he will be capping some of New Jersey's tax break credit programs for 2019.

We are concerned that EDA mismanaged these tax breaks and subsidies. This tax program is a giant giveaway to corporations that don't need it, at the expense of critical programs that help the middle class and the environment. These cut revenues that would have been better spent on open space, cleaning up toxic sites, and supporting our park system. The tax breaks resulted in very few jobs.

Some of the subsidies that the Christie administration gave out were \$81 million to Goya Foods to move 5 miles and create 9 additional jobs; \$250 million for Prudential to move a few blocks in Newark; \$42 million to Campbell's Soup; \$261 million for construction of the Revel Casino in Atlantic City; \$14 million to Bayer Healthcare; and millions more to the Xanadu Mall, Intrasphere Technologies, Holtec, Honeywell, Lockheed Martin, and others.

This is especially troubling since the state cannot even fund brownfield remediation projects to clean up toxic sites around the state. In order to make up for the tax subsidies, they raided critical environmental funds like the Clean Energy Fund and Exxon Settlement Fund - a form of taxpayer robbery.

A comptroller's audit examined 48 projects and found that out of 15,000 promised jobs, nearly 3,000 couldn't be documented or were double counted. We thank Attorney General Grewal for investigating EDA's downright fraudulent tax program. It is an important first step in holding them accountable.

Jackson Must Protect Pines from Massive Sports Project

Modified from a Press Release issued on Dec 3.

On Dec 3, the Jackson (Ocean Co) Planning Board held a public hearing on a proposal for a massive 200-acre sports complex in the Pinelands, near Exit 16 of I-195, on land that is currently forested and part of Great Adventure-Six Flags. To be called Trophy Park, it would occupy the shore of Prospertown Lake, on property owned by the late Stanley Switlik and adjacent to the Prospertown Wildlife Management Area. Trophy Park would accommodate 2000 athletes in 15-person dormitory rooms and an 800-seat dining hall, and feature two hotels, restaurants, 23 full-sized athletic fields, a 400,000 square foot indoor sports facility, a 6000-seat stadium, and more. The site drains to Crosswicks Creek.

The outcome of the meeting was to defer action until Feb 4.

The Jackson planning board should please do its job of protecting the Pinelands by rejecting this massive sprawl project. It would impact wetlands and require the destruction of almost 100,000 forest trees. Aside from increased traffic and more stormwater runoff, the proposed park would be right next to an environmentally sen-

Court Affirms: No Bear Hunt On Public Lands

From a press release issued on Nov 19, and edited by Irene Gnarra

Although breaking his campaign promise to discontinue the annual black bear hunt in New Jersey, Governor Phil Murphy did issue an executive order banning the hunt on all state-managed lands. But the hunt took place as scheduled - in county parks, on non-profit lands, and on property owned by water companies and municipalities. In the six-day hunt in October, 140 bears were killed; in the second season in December, 85 were killed. The total of 225 was less than in previous years (409 in 2017, 636 in 2016, 510 in 2015), suggesting that the black bear population has diminished significantly. Indeed, the Bear Activity Report produced by the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife shows that the bear hunts since 2010 have successfully managed the resident black bear population. There is no longer a need for the hunt. Like previous Govs. Whitman, McGreevey, and Corzine, who stopped the Fish and Game Council from scheduling hunts, Murphy has the authority to impose a complete ban. He should do that, despite negative press from hunting groups.

Murphy's partial ban was challenged in an October court suit by the Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation, the NJ Outdoor Alliance, and the Safari Club, which argued that the hunt is required to minimize the number of human-bear conflicts. The case was remanded to the Administrative Office of Law, to determine whether or not the ban on hunting on state lands undermines the current Comprehensive Black Bear Management Policy, which was adopted in 2015.

Chapter Director Jeff Tittel advocates for a bear management plan that tracks the bear population and includes non-lethal techniques to control bear populations. Thankfully, the NJ Senate listened. On October 15, while sportsmen were challenging the governor's hunting policy, Senators Vin Gopal, Loretta Weinberg, and Linda Greenstein introduced two new bills: S3007 would require the Fish and Game Council to prepare an annual report on a comprehensive policy for managing black bear population, and S3008 would impose a moratorium on bear hunting until adoption of such a policy. We expect that Governor Murphy will sign those bills into law.

Trump Targets Endangered Species by Approving Seismic Testing for Big Oil

From a Press Release issued on Nov 30, edited by Joe Testa

In November, 2018, the Trump administration authorized five companies to conduct seismic testing in the Atlantic as soon as this spring. They will be surveying the sea floor to detect oil and gas reserves, as a precursor to production drilling off our shores. These seismic air-gun surveys will affect marine life across 200,000 square miles of ocean waters, from Delaware to Florida. These air-guns emit continuous blasts, permeating the ocean environment with intense industrial noise, so loud that it can deafen whales, dolphins and other ocean creatures.

The ocean off our coasts is home to many threatened and endangered species, including the Atlantic Sturgeon and the North Atlantic Right Whale. Seismic air-gun blasting is a disruptive and potentially economically damaging method of surveying offshore reserves. It has been known to be harmful to marine life by damaging their hearing, causing major injuries or even death. This testing will impact both marine mammals and fish, threatening our fishing industry during important summer months.

The Department of the Interior has proposed opening 90 percent of U.S. federal offshore waters to the fossil fuel industry, exposing nearly every coastline in the nation to the risk of an environmentally devastating oil spill and the degradation that comes with industrializing more of our rich ocean environments.

Offshore drilling jeopardizes our state's tourism, ecosystems and fisheries while harming people who live along the coast. The Jersey Shore region is responsible for \$28 billion in tourism and over \$40 billion in overall economic impact. The oil would be taken to refineries in our area, further putting us at risk. New Jersey will not only be at risk from a spill or explosion, but we will see more climate impacts threatening people and property.

We could end up with oil derricks on our beaches and boardwalks. If we had drilling platforms off our coast and another storm like Sandy hit, we could see catastrophic spills similar to what happened after Katrina when 200 oil rigs were destroyed. The Sierra Club has already filed a lawsuit against this senseless proposal to defend our safety, ecosystem, fisheries, and coastal economies from Trump's dangerous and greedy actions.

sitive Wildlife Management Area. We think there are plenty of alternative sites on already developed land that would not cause as much environmental damage.

Endangered and threatened species concerns include corn and pine snakes, as well as major greenway status connecting Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area to Brendan Byrne State Forest. The project will need permits from the DEP for stream encroachment, flood hazard, wetlands, and stormwater discharge.

In addition to the on-site construction there would need to be road improvements and sewer installation. The deforestation alone would undo any good that came from our settlement with Six Flags over a proposed parking lot. (We saved close to 10,000 trees in the Pinelands; this new proposal would remove 10 times that number.) It would violate Jackson's tree replacement ordinance.

Alternative sites include redevelopment of brownfields in the cities of Camden, Kearny or even Trenton - where there are fewer endangered species, C1 streams and important ecosystems that must be protected. We'll keep you updated!

Last minute addendum!

Moratorium on Fossil-Fuel Projects an Urgent Need

—Introducing a New Coalition: Empower NJ

By Jeff Tittel, Director, New Jersey Sierra Club

We live amid a rapidly worsening climate crisis requiring a much greater sense of urgency from our government in combating that crisis. Last year globally was the fourth hottest on record, and the rest of the top five have occurred since 2014. Recent reports show oceans warming 40 percent faster than previously thought. The impact of such warming can be catastrophic, increasing sea level rise and the intensity of extreme weather events while devastating marine life. Human health impacts are already evident in New Jersey, with rising rates of asthma and Lyme disease.

The Empower NJ - No Fossil Fuel Campaign on Feb. 20 released a special report, FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE IN NJ: The Urgent Case for a Moratorium on all Fossil Fuel Projects. The study details the danger of 5 proposed power plants and 8 new pipelines increasing greenhouse gases and blocking the state from reaching Gov. Murphy's goal of 100 percent renewable energy by 2050. The report urges the creation of rules limiting CO2 and GHG emissions before any projects move forward. The New Jersey Sierra Club is part of Empower NJ, a group of 58 community, faith-based and progressive organizations.

The report comprehensively examines the climate impact of each new fossil fuel project. If built, the projects collectively would increase CO2 and GHG emissions by 32 metric tons per year, or about 32%.

Five new power plants would increase CO2e emissions from electricity generation by 76%. To regulate CO2 and GHG emissions, Empower NJ recommends several steps, including removal of cost caps on renewable projects, reversing Gov. Christie-era regulatory rollbacks making it easier to build pipelines, and a fracking ban in New Jersey and the Delaware River Basin.

While Gov. Murphy has pledged action on climate change, he has made little progress toward the 100% percent renewable goal by reducing greenhouse gases as the state is overrun by fossil-fuel proposals. He must turn words into action. A moratorium on fossil-fuel projects would allow New Jersey to implement rules reducing GHGs and CO2 before any new project proceeds.

New Jersey governors have a history of using moratoriums to tackle pressing environmental issues. Gov. Byrne stopped Pinelands development until the Pinelands Act was approved. Gov. Kean preserved freshwater wetlands while awaiting approval of wetlands protections. Gov. Florio blocked new incinerators.

A moratorium is vital because many projects are moving ahead quickly despite strong public opposition. Construction has begun on the 28-mile Southern Reliability Link pipeline, which would destroy environmentally sensitive land in the Pinelands. The New Jersey Sierra Club is seeking a stay halting that construction,

while also legally challenging a South Jersey Gas pipeline that would damage the Pinelands to create a gas-powered B.L. England power plant. PennEast has been granted eminent domain to gain access for land surveys for its 120-mile pipeline. DEP granted permits for a new compressor station in Roseland threatening that community with increased amounts of compressed gas.

The proposed Meadowlands power plant that would serve only New York customers has prompted increasing resistance from surrounding communities. Murphy has not offered an opinion on the project, and said he will not call balls and strikes on the proposals. That, he said, is the DEP's job. DEP is powerless to stop those projects until regulations are established on CO2, which New Jersey declared an air pollutant in 2005. Murphy isn't just the umpire. He's the owner. A moratorium is the only way to halt projects and allow the state to achieve its 100 percent renewable goal by 2050. Otherwise, pipelines and power plants that began under Christie will become Murphy's legacy.

Officials across the nation are not just talking, they are acting responsibly reducing greenhouse gases. In Seattle, Washington, the county council adopted a six-month moratorium on major fossil-fuel infrastructure. Los Angeles officials just announced plans to shut down three gas-fired plants. Even in staunchly

Republican Arizona, regulators extended a moratorium on new natural-gas power plants until August.

Empower NJ estimates that if the proposed power plants and pipelines in New Jersey are approved, the state would generate 30 percent more greenhouse gases. When Gov. Christie pulled the state out of RGGI in 2011, New Jersey produced 12 percent of the pollution among 10 member states. That figure is now 19 percent, and will rise with more fossil-fuel infrastructure.

President Trump's climate change denial and active sabotage of clean energy makes a sense of urgency from the governor even more important. Murphy can become an environmental champion, cutting greenhouse gases, creating green jobs and developing our own version of the Green New Deal. An immediate moratorium on fossil-fuel infrastructure is a crucial step in that direction.

The Empower NJ- Stop Fossil Fuel Campaign is a coalition of 58 environmental, citizen, faith and progressive groups. Participants include: NJ Sierra Club, Green Faith, Indivisibles, Blue Wave, People Over Pipelines, Central Jersey Environmental Defenders, UU Faith Action NJ, Environment NJ, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Clean Ocean Action, Surfrider Foundation.



Footnotes to GLOBAL WARMING

(Continued from page 2)

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Footnotes to ELIMINATING LEAD

(Continued from page 4)

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