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Nonprofit Organization-Sierra Club
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The Jersey..... SIERRAN

Vol. 49, No. 2

Approximately 21,000 Members in New Jersey

April-June 2020

Editor's note: This web version of *The Jersey Sierran* has been revised to include the following updated Group News from our North Jersey Group, which was inadvertently omitted from the print version:

Revised North Jersey Group News

(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>

The North Jersey Group has a duly elected nine-member Executive Committee, as follows:

Co-Chairs:	Diane Scarangella	diascat@hotmail.com
and	Buddy Jenssen	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Buddy Jenssen	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Secretary:	Laura Troy	ltroy1019@gmail.com
Political Chair:	Sandi Liberti	libertisandi@gmail.com
Outings Chair:	Mary Walsh	blehlwalsh@hotmail.com
Conservation Chair:	Judy Greene	jugreen547@gmail.com
Climate Change Chair:	Jeff Rapaport	jefrap@optonline.net
Marketing/Publications Chair:	Jan Barry	janbarry61@hotmail.com
ExCom Member:	Bob Weiss	bobweiss1967@gmail.com

We are actively involved in preserving open spaces and parklands, fighting climate change, and collaborating with Empower NJ and Don't Gas the Meadowlands partners to advocate for renewable energy and a moratorium on fossil fuel usage.

We seek volunteers for our Political, Conservation, Publications, Climate Change, and Trail Maintenance Committees. Please contact the appropriate chair listed above - to join a committee or for specific information about it. Or see the addendum below.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Unless otherwise noted, meetings and outings are free and open to general public. Upcoming events include:

Sat, Mar 28, 6:30-10pm: Meet & Greet - at Ghost Hawk Brewing Company, 321 River Rd #6, Clifton 07014. Join North Jersey for conversation and great beer. Meet our members and learn about what North Jersey Sierra is doing to make change. Take action to stop climate change, preserve parklands and natural spaces, support renewable energy, halt our dependence on fossil fuels, and connect people to nature through outdoor activities.

Thurs, Apr 2, 7-10pm: Free showing of the feature film, Dark Waters. Teaneck Cinemas, 503 Cedar Lane, Teaneck 07666. Join North Jersey Sierra for a free showing of this powerful feature film and hear from experts about the ongoing PFAS water crisis effecting Northern New Jersey. Follow the journey of Rob Bilott, played by Mark Ruffalo, as he uncovers a dark secret that connects a growing number of unexplained deaths to one of the world's largest corporations. The film exposes DuPont's ongoing PFAS contamination of drinking water throughout the country. Communities in New Jersey, including those in Bergen and Passaic Counties, are among the hardest hit - which is why New Jersey sued chemical giants DuPont, 3M and Chemours for decades of pollution at four of New Jersey's most toxic sites, from Carney's Point to Pompton Lakes.

You can also join North Jersey Sierran members at the following Earth Day 2020 events:

- **Ramapo College Global Earth Day:** Apr 22, Teach-In at the College.
- **Northern Valley Earth Fair,** Apr 25, 11am-4pm, Norwood Public School, 177 Summit Street, Norwood.
- **Hudson County Earth Day,** Apr 25, Liberty State Park.
- **Earth Day 50th Anniversary Celebration:** Climate Change, Apr 26, Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Av, Englewood, 2-4pm.
- **Earthfest Overpeck 2020:** May 17, "New" Overpeck Park, 40 Fort Lee Rd, Leonia 07605.

Please check our Meetup page, Facebook page, or web site for newly posted meeting and events. You can also email us at northjerseysierraclub@gmail.com.

COMMITTEE OPENINGS: The North Jersey Group seeks members for the following volunteer committees. *Please contact the Chair of the Committee below if you are interested in joining dedicated people taking meaningful action in Bergen and Passaic Counties and throughout the state.*

Conservation Committee: We assist people in the community with grassroots efforts to prevent destruction of natural habitat in Bergen and Passaic Counties and surrounding areas. Help us by finding and reviewing public records, circulating petitions, going door-to-door with lawn signs, speaking in public meetings, attending and organizing press conferences. The choice of activity is up to you. No activity or time commitment is too small. Make your voice heard. If interested contact Mary at blehlwalsh@hotmail.com or Judy at jugreen547@gmail.com (Committee Co-Chairs), or Diane at diascat@hotmail.com (Group Co-Chair).

Climate Change Committee: The objectives of the Climate Change Committee are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, discourage new fossil fuel facilities (like the Meadowlands and NJ Transit gas-powered plants) and encourage the use of renewable energy. Slowing down climate change may give scientists time to find permanent solutions to this crisis. Our committee works in conjunction with other environmental groups to support a transition to renewable energy. Your help could bring us a little closer to a cleaner, safer, and healthier world for our children and grandchildren - be a part of it! For more information or to sign up, contact Jeff (Committee Chair) at jefrap@optonline.net.

Political Action Committee: We recommend candidates for political office in Bergen, Passaic and Hudson Counties (where there is overlap). Learn where our elected officials and candidates for office stand on environmental issues by examining their voting records and interviewing them. You can phone bank, or otherwise, work from your home, or visit candidates and their representatives in their offices. Canvass door-to-door for endorsed candidates. The way you contribute is up to you. But know there is work to do. If interested, contact Sandi (Committee Chair) at libertisandi@gmail.com.

Event Planning and Membership Committee: We seek a Committee Chair and additional members! Interested in conducting an event on a particular topic? Like speaking with other people about environmental issues and concerns? This committee is for you! We seek someone who is dedicated to the environment, believes in the Sierra Club, is enthused about the actions our North Jersey Group is taking and wants to help us move forward through program planning and the recruitment of new members. If interested contact Diane (Acting Chair & Group Co-Chair) at diascat@hotmail.com. PLEASE!

Publications/Marketing Committee: Are you creative? Do you love graphic design; writing press releases and short stories; contacting newspapers and radio; using instagram, facebook, twitter, snapchat? We need you! If interested, contact Jan (Committee Chair) at janbarry61@hotmail.com.

Outings Committee: Organize and lead hikes, snowshoeing, kayaking and other of your favorite outdoor activities on trails and locations of your choice. Trips can vary in length, level of difficulty and location. If interested, contact Mary at blehlwalsh@hotmail.com (Committee Chair) or Buddy (Group Co-Chair) at buddy.jenssen@gmail.com.

Trail Maintenance: If you are interested in combining outdoor activity with actions that restore hiking trails and preserve the natural environment, please contact Marty at martincohen@verizon.net



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Conservation Chair's Report

Earth Day Turns 50

By Greg Gorman (ggorman07419@embarqmail.com)

Fifty years ago I was a freshman at Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania, located in the heart of bituminous coal country northeast of Pittsburgh. Pollution was all around us. Our cars were powered by lead-containing gasoline. Someone you knew had black lung- and heart disease. You or your childhood friend carried an inhaler for asthma. You knew of at least a dozen waterways that had no fish. Residential streets and sidewalks were often strewn with paper and other trash. It was common to enter Squirrel Hill Tunnel in sunshine and exit in dark skies thanks to a billowing steel mill. Small factories and shops could be identified by their toxic smells. Alarmed by dire predictions of Rachael Carson's *Silent Spring*, and Paul Ehrlich's *Population Bomb*, organizing events to clean the planet came naturally.

Even before the first Earth Day, many of my teachers geared their classes to environmental and ecological themes. Physics demonstrations with bell jars provided an explanation of greenhouse effects. My course in Cultural Geography included field trips to strip mines and deep mines - to demonstrate how man alters his environment. In Biology there were slide show lectures on water pollution and its effects on flora and fauna. Even my English professors required us to write essays and poems expressing views on nature and Mother Earth.

When Earth Day arrived in 1970, we were primed for action. We had grown up amid the social unrest of the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement, so we knew how to organize! The Student Union was lined with tables offering bro-

chures on topics ranging from erosion control and the handling of household chemicals to birth control. There were campus clean-ups, rallies, petition campaigns and share circles. Someone counted 20 million students activated across the Nation to protest deterioration of the environment.

Later that year, Earth Day was deemed a success as Congress produced the Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts and founded the Environmental Protection Agency to enforce regulations. Then came many other laws, regulations, and practices to protect the Earth for future generations.

Fifty years later, it's clear that our work is not done! Temperatures continue to rise, at ever-higher rates. Our oceans are contaminated with plastics. Coral reefs are threatened by carbon acidification. Our drinking water and breathing air remain polluted. The Trump Administration has cancelled more than 95 environmental protections, denies the existence of a climate crisis, and has dismantled the EPA.

The first Earth Day inspired Dr. Seuss's 1971 book, *The Lorax*. It reminds us that if we do not accept the responsibility of stewardship, then the world will be left to those who will exploit it. Do we need to be reminded that we are all connected? Do we need inspiration from the Lorax? On this 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, "Who will stand for the trees?"



Report from Trenton

NJ Sierra Club Initiates Campaign for Electric School Buses

From a Press Release dated Sept 6, and edited by Sylvia Kay

In August, 2019, the Club's Executive Committee passed a resolution in strong support of electric school bus legislation, and directed our Transportation Committee to advance this effort.

The Resolution stipulated that:

- Modern, battery-powered electric school buses do not emit harmful toxic pollutants, and would contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and
- Modern, battery-powered electric school buses would cost less over the entire life cycle in comparison with buses powered by diesel fuel or compressed natural gas.

Thus, we supported A3830 (Pinkin)/S2436 (Diegnan), which call for a pilot program in three school districts to be chosen from North, South and Central New Jersey. Funds would come from the Board of Public Utilities Societal Benefits Program, the Volkswagen Mitigation Trust Fund, and other such existing sources.

The Club also supported S723 (Greenstein) and S721 (Greenstein), which would authorize the use of electric buses and increase the permitted width of school buses from 96 to 102 inches - to allow our use of more currently-available electric buses.

We also detailed a wider set of health, environmental and economic facts and benefits supporting the change from diesel school buses to electric school buses:

- Children will no longer be exposed to diesel exhaust pollutants inside and outside the bus. Many of New Jersey's current diesel school buses do not meet the current clean air criteria set in 2007. Electric vehicles have zero tailpipe emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and hydrocarbons.
- As a target for electrification, school buses would have greater impact than transit buses: One study estimated that traditional diesel school buses emit 5.3 million tons of greenhouse gases each year, compared to 2 million tons for transit buses. Furthermore, the theoretical "fuel efficiency" for a 40-50-student electric school bus is 17 mpg, compared to 7 mpg for a diesel powered bus and 9 mpg for a hybrid electric bus.
- Efficiency varies greatly and depends on a variety of external factors - weather, terrain, maintenance and bus operator training.
- Subsidies will be needed to help communities offset the higher upfront purchase costs of electric school buses until the economics of mass production reduces manufacturing costs.

VW Mitigation Trust and BPU funds may be allocated toward bus purchases, and private sector school bus funding options may be available from utility companies and manufacturers.

Taxpayers in districts participating in the pilot project will avoid considerable costs of replacing older diesel school buses.

Update from Sylvia Kay:

- The 2019 Bill A3830/S2436 was not passed. The current (2020) version is A1971.
- In January 2020's lame duck session, S721 /A1751 was signed into law. This states that electric school buses may now be 102 inches wide, excluding accessories.
- Also in January's lame duck session, S2421/A1030 was passed by the Legislature but pocket-vetoed by the Governor. This would have required the installation of electric vehicle-charging facilities in common interest communities.

High School Liaison's Report

Kicking Off 2020 with the Passing of the Electric Vehicle Bill

By Allison L. Fabrizio (allisonl.f1190@gmail.com), our High School Liaison

On January 13th, the NJ Legislature passed the electric vehicle bill S-2252/A-4819. The margins were bipartisan in both the Assembly and the Senate: 27-12 and 65-9, respectively. This new law will not only help elevate the sustainability of New Jersey's transportation sector, but maintain and advance the Garden State's 2050 climate and clean energy goals. New Jersey already waives the 7% sales tax for electric vehicle (EV) purchases. In addition, the federal government offers income tax credits from \$2500 to \$7500 based on the capacity of the car's battery. Passage of this bill now makes New Jersey a regional leader in the mitigation of greenhouse gases. The Senate Environment and Energy Committee takes credit for establishing goals, initiatives, and programs to promote an influx of plug-in EVs.

The bill requires the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), in conjunction with electric public utilities and various govern-

ment agencies, to install a network of public charging stations. This infrastructure will support the expansion of the use of EVs and provide the electric transmission and distribution systems to assure public security for the availability of charging stations.

To achieve the goal of 330,000 EVs on the road by 2050, New Jersey plans to add 8,569 charging stations to the 1031 stations already in use. Two new rebates (partial refunds) will be put in place. Firstly, up to \$5000 will be refunded following the purchase of EVs, improving their competitiveness against gasoline-powered cars. Secondly, the BPU will encourage the installation of home EV-charging apparatus with rewards of up to \$500. The program will last for 10 years, or until \$300 million of rebates are dispersed.

This bill demonstrates a promise for clean energy in a state known for leadership on

(continued on page 2)

NEW SERVICE FOR MEMBERS

The Sierra Club now has a member portal where you can update your member record, including your preferences for receiving different types of Club communications! If you enable receiving emails, then we will be able to send you an e-ballot for our Chapter elections in October. The portal is at <https://myaccount.sierraclub.org/MyAccountLogin> If we do not already have your email address, you will need to use your member ID (the 8-digit number, before the hyphen, found in the first line of the mailing label of this newspaper). Note: if you have a login already set up on our "Campfire" system, use the same email and password that you use on that system.

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More in our Electronic Supplement (pp. 13-16): North Jersey Group News Addendum, Reports from Trenton: Legislation on Plastics, Electric Vehicles and Contaminated Soil, Drinking Water Standards (not!), Trees at Bass River (not!), Offshore Wind, Keegan Landfill Closure, Holly Farm Saved, Superfund Sites, Gov. Murphy's "State of the State," and thorough coverage of "The Sierra Club's Failures and Successes in 2019, and its Priorities for 2020." (The supplement is part of the Newsletter posted on the Chapter Website, and is sent to all of our electronic-subscribing members.)

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 2019. As in prior years, our members and supporters were there when we needed them the 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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ELECTRIC VEHICLES

(Continued from page 1)

energy issues. Doug O'Malley, director of Environment New Jersey (an affiliate of Environmental America) responded by noting that, "Electric vehicles are our best way to tackle the climate crisis and reduce air pollution. This bill will ensure that New Jersey will once again be a clean cars leader" (Environment America).

Every mile driven in an EV is 70%-80% cleaner than a mile driven in a petroleum-fueled vehicle. This improves both air quality and our health, as noted by the American Lung Association. The bill was supported by a variety of groups including the Sierra Club and the New Jersey Coalition for Automotive Retailers, as well as a variety of businesses, communi-

ties, equity and environmental groups, manufacturers, technology institutions, and health and consumer advocates. Adding to the promises of the Clean Energy Act, passed in 2018, New Jersey can now move on to lead the incentivizing and implementing of wind, solar, and other energy-efficient technology.

More information:

<https://environmentamerica.org/news/ame/statement-new-jersey-legislature-passes-electric-vehicle-bill-making-state-clean-cars>

<https://www.nrdc.org/experts/kathy-harris/nj-races-pass-landmark-ev-legislation-kick-2020>

Our Toxicology Advisor's Report on some Fluorocarbons

'Dark Waters' – a Battle Cry for Action

By Mark Fukayama (markexams@aol.com)

The movie 'DARK WATERS' tells the scary-but-true story of the poisoning of residents in Parkersburg, West Virginia, by one of the largest corporations in the US, and the legal battle to reveal the truth. Adapted from Nathaniel Rich's 2016 New York Times Magazine article¹, starring Mark Ruffalo, and released in Nov, 2019, the movie follows corporate lawyer Robert Bilott's decades-long suit against DuPont for poisoning its workers at its nearby Washington Works facility, as well as the residents of the surrounding communities, with perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

The movie unfolds with the unassuming lawyer struck by the plight of Wilbur Tennant, whose farm is next to DuPont's PFOA dumping ground, and who suspected that his cows were dying from an unknown poison released into the creek, a source of water for his cattle, running from the waste site. Tennant videotaped vivid scenes of his cattle suffering from distemper, blackened teeth, and abnormal organs; his original footage is shown in the movie.² Bilott took on Tennant's case in 1998, only to quickly realize that DuPont was anything but cooperative.

Bilott learned that PFOA is a member of a large family of perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) used in many consumer products including nonstick pans, stain resistant carpets, and firefighting foam. At that time these manmade chemicals were not considered to be hazardous, but there was little information to support their safe use. Obeying a court order, DuPont handed over thousands of documents, hoping to bury Bilott in paperwork. But the documents showed that DuPont and 3M, the maker of the related substance perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), had conducted toxicity studies demonstrating potential health concerns, and that PFOA had infiltrated the water system at high levels, exposing workers and residents in the surrounding communities. A protracted David-versus-Goliath class action legal battle ensued, with Bilott suffering physically and financially. In the end, Bilott wins his class action lawsuit; DuPont pays \$670 million in 2017.³

Since 1951, DuPont, whose marketing campaign promised 'Better things for better living...through chemistry', had been using PFOA in the manufacture of fluoropolymers such as Teflon at its Washington Works facility. As mentioned in the movie, employees working near the PFOA tanks would complain of nausea, vomiting and fever, calling their symptoms 'Teflon flu'.⁴ As part of a legal agreement to determine the possible effects of exposure, DuPont paid for the largest PFAS human study ever - with over 69,000 Parkersburg residents who volunteered to be evaluated. This independent study took seven years, and resulted in reports published in 2012 of probable links of PFOA exposure to testicular cancer, kidney cancer, ulcerative colitis, thyroid disease, pregnancy induced hypertension, and high cholesterol.⁵ Additional animal studies have indicated many other adverse outcomes from exposure, including reproductive

and developmental, liver and kidney, and immunological effects. Both PFOS and PFOA have caused tumors in animals.⁶

Bilott won his class action suit, but the movie ends with an ominous foreboding of the battle yet to come. To this day DuPont denies any wrongdoing, and the EPA has not identified PFOA or PFOS as hazardous substances. Nor has it imposed any use-restrictions, drinking water limits, or contaminated site cleanup requirements. About 1400 contaminated sites, mostly public water systems and military bases, have been identified in the US,⁷ and almost all Americans, including newborns, have these compounds in our blood.⁸ Of the 1400 sites, more than 500 are in New Jersey,⁹ and in a recent drinking water survey of major urban areas by the Environmental Working Group, Bergen County had the fourth highest level of PFAS in the nation.¹⁰ Although companies in the U.S. have phased out PFOA and PFOS, they've been replaced with shorter chain PFASs for which we know even less about their safety. Recent studies suggest that these replacements produce toxic effects similar to those of PFOS and PFOA.¹¹

In early January, the House passed H.R.535, the PFAS Action Now Act. It would require the EPA to designate certain PFASs as hazardous under the Superfund law, thus requiring remediation of contaminated sites. Mandatory drinking water limits would have to be established, and manufacturers of PFASs with limited safety data would be required to conduct further studies. Despite our continued exposure to these substances, and their threat to our health, Donald Trump has threatened to veto the PFAS Action Now Act should the Senate pass it.¹²

I highly recommend 'DARK WATERS', especially for those not as familiar with this ongoing crisis. And all elected officials should be required to see this movie.

Footnotes

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/10/magazine/the-lawyer-who-became-duponts-worst-nightmare.html>
- <https://www.mensjournal.com/entertainment/mark-ruffalo-talks-the-real-horror-behind-his-eco-thriller-dark-waters/>
- <https://cen.acs.org/articles/95/i8/DuPont-Chemours-settle-PFOA-suits.html>
- Ibid, N1
- <http://www.c8sciencepanel.org/>
- <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas>
- <https://www.epa.gov/research/national-pfas-testing/>
- https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/PFAS_FactSheet.html
- <https://www.epa.gov/news-and-analysis/2019/10/forever-chemicals-almost-200-nj-water-systems-and-sources-more-1000>
- Ibid, N7
- <https://cen.acs.org/environment/persistent-pollutants/Short-chain-long-chain-PFAS/97/i33>
- <https://chemicalwatch.com/88078/trump-threatens-veto-as-house-considers-pfas-action>

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

Editorial

Much Ado about Jeff Van Drew

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

You may have read in the previous issue of this Newsletter that the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club has early-endorsed all the New Jersey Democrats running for re-election to Congress, including Jeff Van Drew in the 2nd (my) Congressional District. The District is geographically the largest in the State; it includes all of Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem Counties, and southern parts of Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Ocean Counties. That means it is the most rural of our Congressional Districts. It contains the smallest percentage of college graduates, the largest percentage of unemployed voters, and probably the largest percentage of gun-owners. It is one of the most Republican Districts, voting for Donald Trump in 2016 by four percentage points.

I like to think I've had a good rapport with all "my" (2nd District) congresspersons, in my role as Political Chair of the South Jersey Group - including Van Drew's two long-tenure predecessors, Bill Hughes (D) and Frank LoBiondo (R), both champions of environmental protection and endorsed by the Club. Van Drew's voting record on environmental issues has been right in line with that of his NJ colleagues in Congress - and it continues to be so, since his switch. (As does, incidentally, that of Chris Smith, our remaining Republican, representing the 4th District.)

We've had our eye on Van Drew since he was Mayor of Dennis Twp (Cape May Co), and took an environmental "champion" stand opposing the extension of a superhighway, NJ Rte 55, across the wetlands of southern Cumberland County. His opposition didn't last long, unfortunately, as he quickly discovered the power of populism, and its path to higher offices. As a State Senator, he wowed his Cape May County constituents with the rebuilding of the bottom 12 miles of the Garden State Parkway, eliminating some pesky traffic lights. But, like his two Congressional predecessors, he voted and lobbied his colleagues in concert with our advocacy for protecting wilderness in Utah, Alaska and other western states, and in support of full National Park Service funding for New Jersey's four Wild & Scenic Rivers - including his own District's "Great Egg" and Maurice-



Manumuskin.

Now we come to strange doings. The handwriting has been on the wall: that Van Drew's chance for re-election this November, as a Democrat in a District that will go overwhelmingly to Donald Trump, can be predicted as slim. So he crossed over. No doubt his "undying allegiance" to Trump was required by the deal for the support that will get him re-elected. Call it corruption if you like. I can speak from experience in suggesting that the first level of political corruption is the chimera that one is good at the job and deserves to continue at it.

As you might expect, the Chapter is in the process of re-considering our early endorsement of Van Drew. The process requires multiple steps, including approval by the Club's national Political Committee, and it demands silence until completion, so no more can or will be said here. More next issue! I have resisted my Club-colleagues' advice not to publish this editorial because to me it has important human interest value.

It's easy to see the world as split between the forces of Good and Evil, God and the Devil, Light and Darkness, Aragorn and Sauron, Cowboys and Indians, Democrats and Republicans. The Sierra Club used to endorse Republicans, especially in New Jersey. The pathology of Pres. Trump clearly can't apply to all Republican office-holders. (For solace, I retreat to a favorite high school history teacher's assertion: that our Founding Fathers drafted a Constitution strong enough to throttle even the most villainous President.)

I had hoped to end with an appropriate quotation from my favorite American political muckraker, Lincoln Steffens (*Shame of the Cities*, 1904), but I couldn't find one. Steffens came to admire the scoundrel politicians he exposed, explaining their peccadillos as necessitated by laws of human nature and economics. All the reforms promoted by him and his muckraking colleagues during the Progressive Era (1903-14) were ultimately crushed - with reversion to corrupt practices such as those Pres. Trump touts in his book, *The Art of the Deal*, and that he demonstrated when he owned casinos in Atlantic City. I feel sorry for Jeff Van Drew, and all the other Republicans snared in Trumpism.

Sustainable Lifestyle

Plant a Tree

By Sylvia Kay, our Zero Waste Issues Coordinator (sylvia222@gmail.com)

Help alleviate global warming and purify the air you breathe? Plant a tree.

Science tells us that our current climate crisis and global warming results primarily from an excess of greenhouse gases created by burning fossil fuels, and from deforestation. Also, that our cars are a major source of that fossil fuel pollution.

Trees make major contributions to stabilizing our climate by absorbing carbon dioxide (CO₂), the most important greenhouse gas. Trees act as reverse lungs, using CO₂ to manufacture and expire oxygen. They also pull other specific pollutants from the air.

Did you know?

- One tree will absorb approximately one ton of CO₂ over its life-span.¹
- Trees absorb odors and pollutant gases (nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and ozone) and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.²

- Forests can offset 10 to 20 percent of the country's greenhouse gas emissions annually.³

- One acre of mature trees absorbs as much CO₂ as is produced by driving a gasoline-powered car 26,000 miles.⁴

- California's 173.8 million urban trees absorb an amount of CO₂ equivalent to that released by 1.8 million vehicles.⁵

So if you can't buy a shiny red Tesla or a lush rainforest in 2020 - plant a tree.

Footnotes:

1 http://www.eastwillimbury.ca/services/Environment/Ten_ways_to_Reduce_Greenhouse_Gases.htm

2 <http://www.nitrofill.com/TreeBenefits.aspx>

3 <https://www.climatecentral.org/gallery/graphics/the-power-of-trees>

4 <https://www.treepeople.org/tree-benefits>

5 https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/topics/urban_forestr

Chair's Message

The Chapter Welcomes Our New Volunteers!

By Richard Isaac, Chapter Chair (risaacx@aol.com)



I'm glad to say that our Chapter continues to gain more activists holding an array of positions, so let me introduce some of our newest ones!

• Allison Fabrizio, Chapter High School Liaison

In addition to editing and producing her school's Spanish newsletter on a tri-annual basis, leading school-wide workshops on multicultural dance and dance history, and steering fundraising initiatives to advance education in Grenada, Allison Fabrizio cares greatly about the environment.

A high school senior, Allison listened in and participated in a Sierra Club meeting, which reinforced a possible career path for her. In part from her attending that meeting, she went on to have an internship with the New York City Food Policy Center, where she was able to research and write published articles regarding new programs across the United States and in other countries.

Currently, as our Chapter's High School Liaison, Allison is networking with other students interested in environmental issues and this Spring, for her school's capstone project, will be working with Lisa Hoyos, Director of Sierra Club's 100% Clean Energy School Districts Campaign to move school districts (which are major energy consumers) to adopt 100% clean energy.

• Loraine Terrell, Chapter Webmaster

Loraine Terrell has communications, web design, and social media experience in her role working at the University of Pennsylvania, where she serves as the University's Executive Director of Marketing and Communications at its School of Arts and Sciences and handles general media, public relations, and faculty inquiries.

Loraine cares deeply about water quality issues and preserving open space; she is also a serious landscape photographer who has focused on the NJ Pinelands. I look forward to seeing her Pinelands photographs on our Chapter website.

• Judy Minot, Chapter Greenhouse Gas Issues Coordinator, Grant Writing Editor

Judy recently left her job as a marketing exec, and is now a freelance writer (mostly marketing and corporate communication). She contacted me because she wanted to devote spare time to helping reduce the catastrophic effects of climate change. After about a year of dabbling in various types of activism, she circled back to the Sierra Club because she believes (as I do) that our only hope is a combination of coordinated political change and changing public opinion. She is well aware that the Club has been working on the first for many years and

now sees that we are stepping up our efforts in the second.

With 20 years in broadcasting, 10 in marketing, a BA in Economics, a Master's degree in communications, and highly developed writing skills, Judy clearly has a lot to offer, and I'm glad that she's now on board.

• Renée Pollard, Environmental & Social Justice Committee Chair

Renée Pollard, a 23-year resident of Washington Township (Gloucester Co.), has an established reputation in education and leadership and has chosen to use her knowledge and skills to assist the Township School Board build upon its exceptional standards for all children and residents. She is a single mother of three adult children.

Renée has had a successful career in education at Camden County College for the last 23 years. She obtained an associate's degree in Liberal Arts and Science/Pre-Nursing, and then furthered her studies at Rutgers University - in Computer Science. In addition, Renée is a CWA-Certified Diversity Trainer.

For most of her adult life, Renée has been an advocate in the areas of education, poverty, homelessness, and environmental and social justice. This background has not only prepared her to be an effective school board member, urging equitable access to resources and opportunities for all children regardless of color, socioeconomic status and inclusivity; it has also given her a superb background to Chair our Chapter's Environmental & Social Justice Committee.

I am confident that our Chapter is placing the chairmanship of our E&SJ Committee in great hands.

• María Santiago, Environmental & Social Justice Committee Vice-Chair

María Santiago is a Learning Disabilities Consultant and Behavior Technician, currently one of the bilingual columnists and writers of the digital magazines *My Trending Stories* and *Negocios Hispanos USA*. She is currently an Educational Diagnostician /Specialist and case manager in a Child Study Team, and has been an educator for 22+ years. She speaks English, Spanish, and French with fluency. In 2010 she served on the Board of Trustees of the Barack Obama Green Charter High School in Plainfield.

Ms. Santiago is also a climate change activist, becoming a Climate Reality Leadership Corp member in 2013, and serving on the Organizing for Action Climate Change Issue Team since 2012. In April, 2017, she organized the NJ People's Climate Rally at Warinanco Park. One outcome of the Rally was her founding the NJ Coalition of Climate Justice.

Resolutions: Approved by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in January and February, 2020

January: Rich Isaac was elected to his 5th year as our Chapter Chair, and the other officers listed on p.12 of this Newsletter were confirmed in their roles. An at-large vacancy in the ExCom, due to a resignation, was filled with Paul Sanderson.

In accordance with rules set by National Sierra Club, electronic voting was enabled for the Chapter election of officers that will take place in the Fall of 2020.

Two land-use policy statements were adopted: one opposing a stewardship plan for the Mahlon Dickerson Reservation (Morris Co), and one opposing a redevelopment plan in Franklin Twp (Warren Co).

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

Transportation Report

Solar Renewable Rail – a Gamechanger!

By Tim Sevenser, of our Transportation Committee (orbit7er@gmail.com)

While progress has been made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in other sectors,

Transportation lags: it is now responsible for 42% of NJ's CO₂ emissions. That's because cars and trucks run primarily on fossil fuels. Most people would probably conclude that we just need to power cars, trucks and buses with electricity.

But consider that 300,000 New Jerseyans already commute electrically: on electricity-powered commuter railroads. And consider how that electricity is generated: mostly in fossil fuel or nuclear power plants!

Elsewhere in the world, electric trains are increasingly getting their power from renewable sources: solar and wind. Ahead of schedule in January, 2018, the Dutch achieved 100% renewable Electric Rail. Austria also now has 100% renewable Electric Rail, and the first

Rail powered by solar panels above the tracks. Germany just announced a 42 MW solar farm to power trains in eastern Germany. India is expanding its rail system, and converting to all-electric, with 1.2 GW of solar and other renewable electricity. Denmark has achieved a 42% reduction in CO₂ emissions by rail electrification. As early as 2011, Belgium completed the first solar tunnel, providing enough electricity in just two miles to power all the trains in Belgium for one day per year.

How can heavy trains compete with lightweight cars for solar efficiency, you



might ask!

The answer is that steel-wheels-on-steel-rails is the most energy-efficient land transportation for large numbers of people. The environmental virtues of Grid Electric Rail were outlined in Gilbert and Perl's 2010 book, "Transport Revolutions."

In New Jersey we have the opportunity to launch the first solar rail project in the US: \$546M has been allocated for "NJTRANSITGRID," including a fracked natural gas plant in the Meadowlands. We advocate replacing that with solar microgrids. 155 MW of solar power could be built on existing NJ Transit properties on the Morris and Northeast Corridor Rail Lines. There may also be a potential for tidal power at the proposed natural gas plant site.

While some minimal on-demand natural gas may be needed to assure NJTRANSITGRID's design objective to run trains for two weeks off-grid, there is no need for a new natural gas plant when we have already shown the potential for over 100 MW of solar power. That power will provide a template for converting all of NJ Rail Transit to renewable electricity.

Graphic courtesy Austrian Rail (OBB) website.

Welcoming Allison Fabrizo, our High School Liaison, by means of an Interview:

What is your environmental background? (How did you get interested in the environment? What projects have you attempted and with what outcomes?)

Starting at a young age, I always thought I wanted to be a veterinarian. Learning and caring for animals lead me to taking classes about Animal Behavior, Botany, and Conservation. I realized, in order to preserve and allow larger natural areas to flourish, changes must be made at a local level first. I first made changes in my own home, creating a sustainable composting system for my family and myself, and showing my fellow classmates the benefit of reducing their carbon footprints through small actions. While teaching my classmates to be more ecologically aware, I also became interested in how other areas worldwide are working to curtail the effects of climate change and preserve natural habitats. During the summer of 2019, I had the amazing opportunity to work with the NYC Food Policy Center. I was able to study and compile information regarding food policy changes in many states and countries to be used in their Snapshot Series. Returning from this internship, I brought my new awareness and knowledge to both my school community in Summit NJ, as well as my town of South Orange.

What might you hope to accomplish this year? What are your current projects?

This is my final year in high school. Leaving a tangible legacy is something many people at my school in Summit choose to do. I, however, hope to instill something intangible: awareness and a mindset that will grow and develop over

time as new students become more aware of the state of the environment locally and globally, and learn the positive effects of creating a more environmentally sustainable community. Currently I am working alongside Ms. Lisa Hoyos to convert my town's school district (MapSo) to 100% clean energy. In addition, I was given the amazing opportunity to become a high school liaison. Through this, I hope to be an advocate for other students in their desires to change their schools, empowering them to make others aware that change can be brought about even by young people!

What are your career goals (as relevant to the environment)?

In college I hope to double-major in environmental studies and international relations. I aspire to bring my knowledge of new innovative technologies not only into communities within my area, but also to other countries as well. Learning about different regions and cultures, I hope not to change, but to enhance what is already being used, and to help communities to live more sustainably without changing the national individualities. Through intergovernmental climate

(Continued on page 5)



Annual Sierra Club Celebration: "Appreciation Day"

Contributed by Ken Johanson

Sierra Club members and friends from across the State gathered in New Providence on a Sunday afternoon this past November to attend the New Jersey Chapter's annual Appreciation Day reception. The Chapter hosts this reception every year to recognize and express our appreciation to all those who have helped us in achieving our goals over the past year, including governmental officials, environmental activists, Chapter staff, volunteers and supporters. It's also an opportunity for our volunteers and other supporters to get together and socialize on an informal basis while partaking of home-made goodies and wine.

While many people have contributed to our successes over the past year, the Chapter recognized four individuals by presenting them with Awards for Outstanding Achievement.

The awardees were Congressman Tom Malinowski, for his work in protecting our clean air and water, opposing environmentally destructive pipelines, and fight-

ing to prevent offshore drilling, Kevin Brown, New Jersey State Director of the 32BJ SEIU labor union, who has worked to fight climate change, promote green jobs and remove lead pipes from our communities, Ananya Singh, a 16 year-old environmental activist who has reached out to and motivated young people, as well as people of all ages, to come out and fight for the adoption of meaningful measures to address the global climate crisis, and Paul Sanderson, our volunteer of the year, who has contributed so much as Chapter treasurer and in many other capacities.

We had a great turnout at the reception, and everyone appeared to be having a good time. It's important to get together from time to time to remind ourselves that we are not alone and to renew our commitment to do all that we can to address climate change, as well as so many other environmental issues.

Here are some photos from the event, courtesy of Spencer Brown, George Fluck and Taylor McFarland.



Issue Coordinator's Report

bST & Small Dairy Farmers

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

Farmers and their families are known to take good care of their land, and to prefer their independent and rural lifestyle. Increasing their incomes would probably help to reverse this decline. Small dairy farms have been especially hard hit by economic factors. The hormone bovine somatotropin (bST) has been shown to increase milk production. In 2005 it was used by only 13% of small farms, compared with 44% of large farms.¹

After 2005, the preference of many consumers for "hormone-free" milk caused many farmers to stop using bST. Small farmers were more likely to abandon its use - in order to obtain the higher prices offered for organic dairy products. The transition to organic production increased labor and equipment costs. Owners of large farms were better able to invest the much larger sums required for separate production of "hormone free" milk.

Consumers' preferences for organic dairy products result largely from the imagined health detriments of milk produced by bST-injected cows. While these fears were initially justified, there is now overwhelming evidence that bST is safe.²

Today's bST is synthetic. It has exactly the same chemical structure as the bST produced by cows, and is completely free of the contaminants that plagued the origi-

nal animal-derived version. Many studies by the Food and Drug Administration, as well as regulatory agencies in other countries, demonstrate that synthetic bST milk is not harmful to humans. When synthetic bST was first used, it produced side effects on cows' health requiring treatment with antibiotics that could potentially harm humans. The cost of treating those side effects reduced the profits that resulted from extra milk production. However, farmers have since learned how to use bST so it is not harmful to their herds.³

Organic dairy farmers have two disadvantages when competing with farmers who use synthetic bST: their cows produce less milk and their farms cost more to operate. Organic dairy products are generally an option only for people who can afford the higher cost.

Footnotes

1 Gillespie et al. AgBioForum, 13, 251 (2010). Small farms as defined in this article have fewer than 250 cows while large farms have more than 250 cows.

2 FDA: Bovine Somatotropin (bST)

3 St-Pierre et al. J Amer Veterinary Medical Assoc 245, 550 (2014). Meta-analysis of the effects of somatotrope zinc suspension on the production and health of lactating dairy cows.

Reports from Trenton

Trump's Environmental Record Impeachable

From an OpEd by Chapter Director Jeff Tittel, dated Nov 27, 2019, and edited by Joe Testa

In November, the national Sierra Club came out in support of the impeachment and removal of President Trump from office. While he may be acquitted by the Senate, his environmental behavior continues to be reckless - he has deliberately ignored laws and tried to destroy important environmental institutions.

President Trump has declared war on the environment. He unilaterally pulled us out of the Paris Climate Accord, called climate-change a hoax, and has muzzled scientists while trying to compromise fifty years of environmental progress. He exploits our public lands while attempting to roll back 85 environmental regulations including the Endangered Species Act, and is allowing banned toxic chemicals and pesticides back on the market. He has stacked government agencies with industry lobbyists like the EPA's Andrew Wheeler.

Trump is trying to privatize our parks and open up public lands and coasts for mining and drilling. His Administration has eliminated the plastic bottle ban in National Parks; he is even pushing uranium mining in areas around the Grand Canyon.

The EPA's own research has shown that rolling back the Clean Power Plan would lead to more than 1,400 premature deaths and 40,000 cases of asthma each year, and freezing CAFE standards [for automobile fuel efficiency] would result in 41,000 deaths and 1.67 million cases of asthma over a decade. Trump has diminished programs for removing lead from drinking water, refused to set standards for dozens of other water pollutants such as PFOAS, and abandoned Superfund site clean-ups and acknowledging their climate impacts.

Trump's actions are not unopposed. The Sierra Club and other organizations are suing him over dozens of rules he is trying to weaken, from Waters of the United States to coal ash to offshore drilling. We are also fighting his Administration for hiding scientific reports, holding private meetings with lobbyists, and the Mexican Border Wall, as well as challenging his permits for projects like the Dakota Access Pipeline, LNG terminals, and fossil-fuel power plants. The Obama Administration banned chlorpyrifos, a pesticide known to cause cancer in children, but Trump lifted the ban after receiving a \$1 million contribution from a Dow Chemical executive. Even though we won the suit against him, Trump is still keeping chlorpyrifos on the market.

What Trump is doing to the environment is a High Crime and worse than a Misdemeanor. No matter what happens in Washington, we will fight to Make America Green Again.

SJ Gas Pipeline Nightmare Continues

From a press release issued on Jan 10, and edited by Sylvia Kay

We hoped the Pinelands Commission would finally reject the South Jersey Gas Company's pipeline application. However, by a vote of 4-5, they rejected a resolution "Addressing the Remand of the South Jersey Gas Company Application Due to a Significant Change in Material Fact."

Final action on the SJ Gas pipeline has thus been blocked, and resurrection of the Pipeline proposal enabled. This despite the Attorney General's request for rejection, noting that it fails to meet the criteria for Pinelands approval. The Club also won a motion remanding reconsideration of the pipeline application by the Pinelands Commission.

The pipeline through the southern Pinelands was originally intended to repower the B L England Electric Generating Plant in Marmora, Cape May Co. But this old plant has now been permanently closed, eliminating the need for the pipeline. So South Jersey Gas cooked up a new rationale, claiming it would improve "system resiliency."

The Commission's January ruling allows South Jersey Gas to reapply, and to find a buyer for B L England. Sadly, the Commission is still controlled by Governor Christie's appointees who have been favorable to pipeline applications. A year ago, Governor Murphy nominated Jessica Sanchez and Jennifer Coffey to the Commission, to replace Gary Quinn and Bob Barr, respectively. Murphy also re-nominated Ed Lloyd as a Commissioner, and appointed Rick Prickett as the new Chair. But the State Senate has not confirmed them. The Governor should fight harder for final approvals, so that the Commission's January vote can be rescinded.

DEP Blocks Public Access to Wildlife Information

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

In a stealth operation, without public input, the DEP has amended a rule, N.J.A.C. 7:10-3.2(a)4, which protects from disclosure any information that might enable the general public to locate and track certain species of wild animals, including black bears, wild canids, snakes, and exotic species. Only "affected property owners" may have access to this data on animal sightings, dens, nests and other signs of habitation.

Wildlife data would be available to people investigating potential property purchases, but not to scientists pursuing scholarly research, nor environmentalists wishing to protect endangered species. Bizarrely, property owners who can learn of the location of bears would be able to sell that knowledge, and access rights to their land, to hunters.

The rule change appears to promote hunting, since it denies information to those who might wish to oppose the bear hunt. Governor Murphy has voiced opposition to the bear hunt; but, instead of eliminating it completely, he extended the 2019 season. As of Dec 19th, hunters had killed 305 bears in 2019.

The New Jersey Sierra Club believes that it was foolish to continue that hunt. New Jersey should adopt a bear management plan that protects their habitats and educates people in bear country to coexist with them, resulting in a stable bear population. Also, the Murphy Administration should accept transparency in rulemaking!

Liberty State Park Remains Unprotected

From a press release issued on Jan 13th

Liberty State Park, in Hudson County, is the gateway to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. With more than 7 million visitors a year, it is one of the most visited state parks in the country.

It is also one of the places in New Jersey most coveted by developers: for a golf course, a private marina, a water park, a shopping mall, and for other recreational amenities for our wealthiest citizens. The Sierra Club has successfully fought off several attempts to restrict public access to the Park.

Last year we supported legislation in Trenton to protect the Park. In the 2019 session, S3357 (Cunningham/Weinberg) / A4903 (Mukherji), the "Liberty State Park Protection Act," would have established the Liberty State Park Advisory Committee. The bill passed the Senate with a vote of 21-13, but died when it was not voted on by the Assembly.

Billionaire Paul Fireman has been lobbying to get an ultra-exclusive golf course expansion for the Caven's Point area of Liberty State Park. A so-called environmental group calling itself the Enhance Liberty State Park Coalition has circulated a petition that would allow privatization of 22 acres of public land. Fireman has support from a labor union and others.

The Liberty State Park Protection Act would prohibit the DEP from considering any proposal to commercialize, develop, or privatize Liberty State Park, except as provided in the bill. It would also prohibit any concession, conveyance, or lease within the 235-acre natural restoration area in the interior of Liberty State Park, and at Caven Point Peninsula. The bill would require the DEP to develop a management plan for Liberty State Park in consultation with the Advisory Committee within three years.

We will continue to lobby for this protective legislation. It would still permit leases and concessions - but with public oversight and a public approval process. Liberty State Park belongs to all of us.

FABRIZO INTERVIEW

(Continued from page 4)

work, I believe a stronger global community will be formed with the common desire of strengthening and promoting climate justice and reform. I would hope to become a sustainability specialist for a company with innovative and sustainable products with branches worldwide.

What do you think are the environmental issues most important to the residents of New Jersey?

New Jersey faces many problems that

other states are currently combating: ecosystem destruction, air and water pollution, and excess carbon emissions. Specific to New Jersey, I believe that the threats facing our barrier islands are of increasing concern. In addition, economic inequality within the cities in New Jersey, whose economic gap ranks 12th highest in the nation, plays a big role in environmental justice and sustainable development.



Group News

FROM AROUND THE STATE

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

- Skylands Group:** Sussex & northern Warren
- Hunterdon Warren 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: (12/31/20)	Greg Gorman	ggorman07419@embarqmail.com
Vice Chair: (12/31/19)	Susan Williams	SkylandsGroup@gmail.com

(Continued on page 6)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 5)

Secretary: (12/31/20)	Norene Haberski	norenehaberski2@gmail.com
Treasurer: (12/31/19)	Jeri Doherty	bjd8974@gmail.com
ExCom at large: (12/31/19)	Dave Alcock	dwhoob@hotmail.com
(12/31/20)	Nicole Guerrieri	SierraClubNicole@gmail.com
(12/31/19)	Scott Dieman	
(12/31/19)	Chris Dunbar	chrisdunbar458@gmail.com
(12/31/19)	Joanne Morgan	jojommorgan@yahoo.com
(12/31/19)	Anthony Riccardi	anthony.j.riccardi@gmail.com
Conservation Chair:	Greg Gorman	ggorman07419@embarqmail.com
Outings Chair:	Dave Alcock	dwhoob@hotmail.com
Outreach Chair:	Joanne Mogan	jojommorgan@yahoo.com
Environmental Justice:	Susan Williams	SkylandsGroup@gmail.com
Political Co-Chairs:	Nicole Guerrieri	SierraClubNicole@gmail.com
and:	Susan Williams	SkylandsGroup@gmail.com
Co-Publicity Chairs:	Jeri Doherty	bjd8974@gmail.com
and:	Joanne Mogan	jojommorgan@yahoo.com
Webmaster:	Nicole Guerrieri	SierraClubNicole@gmail.com
Open position available: Membership Chair – please contact Greg!		

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).

Hunterdon Warren Group

(Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties - Formerly the South Highlands Group)

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

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

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sierraclub.hunterdonwarren>

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Jonathan Wall *	jonwall@jonwall.com
Vice Chair:	Celeste Martin *	oncentral@mac.com
Secretary:	Amy Weeder *	aweeder@comcast.net
Conservation Chair:	Nancy Carringer*	ncarringer@yahoo.com
Political Co-Chair:	Karen Becker *	karbecker@gmail.com
Political Co-Chair:	Amy Weeder *	aweeder@comcast.net
Children's Programs:	Kimberly Borin*	storiesofourown@mac.com
Environmental & Social Justice:	Angela De Sapio *	angela.desapio@gmail.com
Highlands Issues Coordinator:	Cinny MacGonagle *	cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Outings:	Jonathan Wall *	jonwall@jonwall.com
Excom Member at Large:	Christopher Runion *	runionc3@gmail.com
Treasurer, Web-/Listmaster:	John Kashwick	jkashwick@gmail.com
Fundraising Chair:	Open Position!—please contact Jonathan if interested	

(* 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 at 7pm (except for January, which will be on the 2nd Wednesday). Meet and Greet to follow. Meetings are free but donations are gladly accepted. There are no speaker programs in July and August. Please check <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/hunterdonwarren> for updates.

Apr 1 (Wed): Speaking Truth to Power: Weathering U.S. Political Climate Impacts on Global Warming. As the politics of climate denial festers across our nation, climate-related disasters continue all over the world. Hal Benz, a volunteer presenter for the non-profit Climate Reality Project offers an update on the current status of the climate crisis, and what can still be done to turn things around.

May 6 (Wed): Film Screening: "The City Dark": Astronomers, medical researchers and ecologists offer insight into the science of the dark and the human race's relationship to the stars as we screen portions of this 2011 film by Ian Cheney. Following the program, we will have discussion about what we can all do about light pollution.

June 3 (Wed): We Are the Sierra Club: Join us for a video, pizza party and postcard writing campaign. Officers and volunteers for the Hunterdon Warren group briefly discuss what we do and the current issues club is working on. This is an excellent program for new members and long-time members alike to get more involved with the Club, in the especially important election year. We will discuss how best to support our endorsed candidates.

OUTINGS AND OTHER EVENTS:

Mar 21 (Sat): Heritage Park Walk and Talk with Skylands Preservation Alliance. 11am. Near the 112-acre Tobias Farm where there is a proposal to build a massive warehouse, hike the pastoral Heritage Park. Learn about sites in Hunterdon and Warren counties that in jeopardy of becoming Mega-Warehouses. The hike will end with a postcard writing to oppose the development—please bring a blank post card if you have one. Bring snack and at least 1-2 quarts of water. Hiking boots recommended. We will walk approximately five miles through relatively-level pastoral terrain. Rain or snow cancels (check our web site if in doubt). Meet at Heritage Park parking lot, Vliet Farm Rd., Bethlehem Township. RSVP required. (Please email jonwall@jonwall.com or sign-up on our web site.)

Apr 8 (Wed): Executive Committee/Planning Meeting. 7:30 pm, at the offices of Dr. Jonathan D. Wall, 21 Water Street, 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 our web site.)

Apr 25 (Sat): Earth Day at Echo Hill Park : 10 am – 3 pm. Join fellow Sierrans as we table at the annual Hunterdon County Earth Day event at Echo Hill Park. Volunteer to help or stop by to say hello. For more information, please contact Amy Weeder at aweeder@comcast.net.

June 17 (Wed): Winery Tour and Talk: 7 pm. Learn about the interesting story and the inspiration behind the Villa Milagro winery which began as a 104-acre corn field. The owners will share with us their experience and challenges in their attempts to grow grapes organically. Wear comfortable shoes and a jacket - weather permitting we will take a tour of the vineyard. Optional wine-tasting after presentation for \$5 per person. Villa Milagro is located at 33 Country Road 627 (aka Rieglesville-Warren Glen Rd), Phillipsburg, NJ. Visit their website at <https://www.villamilagrovinyards.com/contact> for directions. RSVP Required: Space is limited. Please sign up on our website.

July 12 (Sun): Save the Date: Sierra Club Member Fundraiser for Congressman Tom Malinowski. Details in our next issue.

CURRENT ISSUES:

Oppose Mega-Warehouses. There are several massive warehouse projects that are proposed for Hunterdon and Warren Counties. We are working with other groups to oppose these projects that threaten to spread industrial sprawl to our farms and natural areas. For more information, please contact Cinny MacGonagle at cmacgonagle@yahoo.com

Dark Skies. Voorhees State Park in Hunterdon County is home to the NJAA Observatory which relies on dark skies. The Hunterdon Warren Group is initiating a campaign to have our county and local municipalities adopt stricter ordinances to reduce excessive light pollution which not only conflicts our view of the night sky but also wastes energy and harms wildlife and human health.

North Jersey Group

(Bergen and Passaic Counties)

Editor's note: The North Jersey Group News published in the print edition of this Newsletter was incorrect, and has been removed here. The replacement text is on the cover-page of this web-edition of *The Jersey Sierran*.

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:	Bill Beren	862-283-8754	Beren1@verizon.net
and	David Yennior	973-844-1384	dyennior@gmail.com

Each Group is invited to designate a Group Environmental Justice Officer

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:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Political Chair:	Bill Beren		Beren1@verizon.net
Fundraising Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
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:	Kason Little	908-305-7719	kasonjamal@icloud.com
Outings Chair:	Dionne Howe	206-430-0288	dionnelhowe@gmail.com
Group Executive Committee:	David Yennior, Bill Beren, Bill Chappel, Suzanne Trimel, Steven Yafet, and Caroline Kane.		

Please contact Bill Beren 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 many contributions of Suzanne Trimel, 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.

CONSERVATION NEWS: We have filed an objection to a proposal, by the Essex County Parks Department, of a \$16 million Grizzly Bear Exhibit, an \$8 million amphitheater, and all future major development at the Turtle Back Zoo, located in the South Mountain Reservation, which was created as a nature reserve!

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:	Pramod Raju*	modisone@gmail.com
Secretary, Treasurer:	Patricia Hilliard*	hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com
Conservation Chair:	Patricia Hilliard	hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com
Political Chair:	Pramod Raju*	modisone@gmail.com
Publicity, Outings, Events:	Steve Krinsky*	stevekrinsky@comcast.net
Delegate to Chapter:	<i>Open position!</i>	
Membership:	Andrea Rodriguez*	aarodriguez87@gmail.com
At-Large:	Nancy Booth*	boothnancy2011@hotmail.com

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Apr 6 (Mon), Climate Town Hall - Jersey City Town Hall. Sponsored by Sierra Club acting through Hudson County Climate Coalition. Check website for time and further details.

Mar 15 (Sun), 12:30 to 3pm: ExCom meeting: at Hudson County Community College, 71 Sip Ave. Jersey City.

May 17 (Sun), 12:30 to 3pm: ExCom meeting: at Hudson County Community College, 71 Sip Ave. Jersey City.

Event: Picnic at Liberty State Park, July 19, from 12noon to 4pm. Green tables behind Park Office, 200 Morris Pesin Dr. Bring a dish to share. Help spare the environment by bringing your own utensils etc.

Outings: We will be adding other nature walks in our local parks. Check the online calendar or social media for updates.

Current Campaigns: Please join in. We can use help with any of these:

#MoratoriumMondays! Call Gov. Murphy to tell him you want a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects in the state of NJ. Here Hudson County there are proposals for two huge new gas-fired power plants which would pour toxic chemicals into the air we breath for generations. Help make the change to renewable energy. Stop the Meadowlands Power Plants - no more Fossil Fuel Projects! www.empowernewjersey.com

Climate Change: We are still supporting the installation of solar panels and the creation of aggregate energy programs.

Hackensack River Greenway: The Sierra Club is working to 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.

Community Solar for Hoboken: We've sent the Board of Public Utilities a letter of support for Hoboken's application to be one of New Jersey's five pilot projects, based on Hoboken's population of low- and moderate-income residents.

Environmental Justice: Low-income communities and black and brown communities suffer the most from environmental destruction: elevated levels of cancer, respiratory disease, lead poisoning, and a host of other problems. We need lead-free drinking water!

Combined Sewage Overflows (CSOs) - A federal court has mandated that Hudson

cities eliminate raw sewage discharge into our rivers. Billions of \$\$\$ will be spent to fix this. We need to see that the solutions include green infrastructure: open space, trees, bio-swales, green roofs.

Loantaka Group

(Morris and Union Counties (except for Elizabeth and Hillside), plus Livingston, Milburn 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:	Jessica Cid	201-713-7328	CidJessica@outlook.com
Conservation Chairs:			
Morris County:	Len Fariello		len@wildlifepreserves.org
Union County:	Allen Swanson		afswanson@hotmail.com
Political Chair:	Clea Carchia	908-892-7229	info@cleacarchia.com
Programs:	Bob Zega	973-349-8001	rjzega@yahoo.com
Fundraising Chair:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
Outings Chair:	Kevin O'Brien	908-403-0900	kbkob@aol.com
Publicity Chair:	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
Membership:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Webmaster:	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
Upper Passaic River Coor:			
	Kathy O'Leary	908-647-2870	kolearypcnj@gmail.com
Member-at-Large:	Priti Thakker	973-752-1100	pthakker@newjersey.sierraclub.org

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 8: Ellliott Ruga, NJ Highlands Coalition Policy Director, will show a film, NJ Highlands Rediscovered, and discuss the major initiatives in the Highlands and environmental issues affecting northern NJ.

May 13: Claire Whitcomb, Madison Environmental Commission Chair, will discuss sustainable fashion. The talk will cover a variety of ways that clothing impacts the climate. These include pollution from dyes, pesticides and microfibers, a hazard created by washing fleece, polyester and nylon, all of which are made from petroleum. Microfibers are one of two primary plastic pollutants detected by a recent Great Swamp Watershed study on microplastics in local surface water.

Jun 10: Keri Ann Lombardi will give a presentation on NJ Clean Energy Program. Please see our website for more information.

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	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:	Arlene Ceterski	va2c2015@gmail.com
Programs:	Joanne Pannone	jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
Conservation Chair:	Kip Cherry	KipAtTheSierraClub@gmail.com
Recycling:	Sylvia Kay	sylviakay222@gmail.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 from September through April. We meet at 6 pm in the Student Center Room sc104. Parking across from the Security Office after 5:30pm. Everyone welcome, but please rsvp to kipatthesierraclub@gmail.com so we buy enough pizza!

(Continued on page 8)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

Outings are listed in the Sierran and at Pineypaddlers.com. Join George and Leona, weekly, for hikes, kayaking or biking. Join Dave Mattek forging a trail from the bottom of NJ to the top. Find us on Facebook.

We lobby at the State House for laws to fight polluters and climate change. We need a moratorium on pipelines and fossil fuel projects. Support Empower New Jersey!

Get Sierra news by joining Sierra Club and receive our email.

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:

Group Chair and

Conservation Chair: Gary Frederick gfredsierra@gmail.com 609-203-3382

Membership: John Miraglia johnworks3@aol.com

Political Chair: Teresa Callahan teresa.callahan@thomsonreuters.com

Publicity Chair: *Open position!*

Treasurer: S. Pasricha spjersey@gmail.com

Webmaster: Paul Ehrlich p.w.ehrlich-nj@outlook.com

Outings/Events

Co-Chairs: S. Parischa
Brianna Cerione
Bernadette Maher

College Liaison: *Open position!*

Bee Affairs: Brenda Bradley

Our **monthly 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

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: Jim Baye jimbaye@optonline.net

Political Co-Chairs: Robin & Harold Zullo drzullo@optonline.net

Outings Chair: John Luard 732-708-9221 John.Luard@gmail.com

Outings Leaders: *Open Position!*

Membership Chair: Wael Kanj waelkanj@gmail.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

Communications

Chair: Wael Kanj waelkanj@gmail.com

High School Coor: *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 ocean at Long Branch to the uplands in Tinton Falls.

We are working with the Long Branch Green Team in Long Branch. In Ocean Township we are aiming to create a trail in the Whale Pond Preserve, part of 350 acres of open space in the rectangle formed by Rte 35, Industrial Way West, Rte 18, and W. Park Av. The WPBWA, as a non-profit, has engaged a forester to tell us how to best manage the land. To help: contact Faith Teitelbaum at Faithtei@aol.com.

Cleanups continue in the Whale Pond Brook Watershed. The next date is March 22, at



The Shore's Group Winter Beach Outing, Feb. 2020

10am, in Ocean Township; meet at the corner of Collins Ave. and Kings Highway. For more information: 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 2020. 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.

March 23 - Our Betrayed Wilderness - Tim Whitehouse, Executive Director of PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility), an environmental voice for public employees, will discuss the threats and give-aways of public lands, even in our national parks, to the extractive industries and other commercial corporations. The preservation of open spaces, begun under President Theodore Roosevelt, has been described as "America's Best Idea," but many corporations now quietly eye our preserved lands as "America's Best Cash Cows."

April 27 - Yes, WE Can - Several Brookdale Community College scholars will explain their college's environmental projects. Haley Preylich, who also is a NASA Scholar, will discuss "What Happens When Harmful Algal Blooms Vanish?" Algae can harm marine life by depleting oxygen, and some algae are even toxic. Sebby Freeman will describe the details "Brookdale's Campus Biodiversity Project." And, closer to home, San Scaggs will describe "The Ecosystem and Benefits of the Planted Aquarium," which many of us can re-create in our own homes. Also, the BCC Biology Department and Biology Club will describe some of the college's Earth Day programs, "50 Acts to Celebrate 50 Years of Earth Day." These projects include "Tempestries" knitting projects that track the Earth's warming temperatures, creating a digital greenhouse library, conducting hydroponics studies, constructing pollinator (read "bug") habitats, and creating sustainable fashions.

April 27 and May 25 Meetings - Sierra members are encouraged to participate in the college's "Soles4Souls" shoe drive by bringing old but wearable shoes to the April or May "Science Monday" meetings. Your contributions will go to the needy.

May 25 - From STEM to Root to Branch - Dr. Marion McClary, a behavioral/physiological ecologist at Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU), will describe the college's STEM program, geared to encourage high school students to consider careers in the sciences. STEM is a special curriculum created to teach students science, technology, engineering, and mathematics as closely interconnected disciplines. Dr. McClary's STEM program is specifically tailored for urban minority students, who are under-represented in the four technical fields.

June 22 - Yes, YOU Can - Presentations by Sierra Group members and others will include important environmental programs that they are personally involved in. These include the continued development of the six-mile-long Whale Pond Park from Long Branch to Eatontown; programs to encourage local, state, and federal officials to initiate community-wide programs that combat global warming and to create new open spaces; and public relations efforts, such as letter writing and petitions, to let our environmental and elected officials know we want protections for our environment - and not for corporate profits!

Speakers' Contact: George Moffatt, Jersey Shore Program Chair, 732-544-1726 or gmoffattgt@aol.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 LauraS36@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

Group ExCom Members: William Rodgers

And: Peter Leighton JPLighton1@verizon.net
 And: Joyce Isaza realtymstr@aol.com
Hospitality, Fundraising, Publicity, Webmaster: *All Open Positions!*

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_Maritz@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
Media & Communications: Tony Hagen hagenajohn@verizon.net
Social Media Coordinator: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831

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 11: Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) - Travis Hammill, the Eastern Grassroots Coordinator for SUWA will update us on efforts to protect the iconic Redrock Wildernesses of southern Utah.

May 13: Horseshoe Crabs, Oyster Reefs and the Wetlands. Zach Nickerson, the Education Outreach Coordinator for the Littoral Society will tell us about the work of the Littoral Society along the Delaware Bayshore.

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 9.

Contact Gina at 856-848-8831, ginaceee@verizon.net to get involved in any of our many initiatives on climate change.

South Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:
Group, Outings Chair: Tom Boghosian 267-930-8583 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

The officers listed above are wearing out (with respect to the Club), and would more than welcome new blood, with ideas and energy for local projects. Please contact Dick Colby for a discussion. Otherwise, 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 active with Atlantic County Friends of the Parks, and 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! (4 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:

Mar 24 and May 26: (alternating fourth Tuesdays), 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Watershed Assn. Activities centered on protecting the Wild & Scenic Recreational River. All are welcome. (Note: the May 26 meeting will be a Frog Walk; place and time TBA.) 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.

Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6, Jun 3: (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. WFNC*. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280. Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Atlantic-County-Friends-of-the-Parks>.

Apr 8 and Jun 10: (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 15 and Jun 17: (alternate third Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss and implement river management strategies. Open to the public. WFNC*. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

Mar 25, Apr 22, May 27 and Jun 24: (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.

Apr 26 is Earth Day - at the Atlantic County Utilities Authority, Egg Harbor Twp. The Group offers a "presence" in the big tent: at the booth of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Assn. Please visit.

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, and Jeff Sovelove.

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.

Mar 19 (Thu): Singles Movie: Montclair Environmental Film series, Montclair Public

(continued on page 10)

Are you familiar with your Group's conservation campaigns? Might you wish to join one?

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

Library (Essex Co). 6pm. Come enjoy film and lively discussion on topical environmental issues. 50 S Fullerton St. Montclair. Leader: Ron Pate: <ronaldjamespate@gmail.com>.

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 the Outings section of 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 environmental activism and social equity. We are an inclusive group and all are welcome to join our events.

WEB SITE: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/>
MEETUP: <http://www.meetup.com/njsierraclub>
FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/njsierralgbt>

OFFICERS:

Chair:	William Parish *	whparishiv@gmail.com
Vice-Chair:	Andrew Bevacqua *	andrewpbevacqua@gmail.com
Secretary:	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Jonathan Wall	docjdwall@gmail.com
Outings Chair:	Robert Zitzman *	robertmzi@yahoo.com
Fundraising:	Matthew Lang *	matthewjlang58@gmail.com
Webmaster/Listmaster:	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@gmail.com

(* Section Executive Committee Member)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Apr 7 (Tue): Executive Committee Conference Call. 8pm. This is our quarterly meeting to discuss issues and plan events for next quarter. Check our web site for details and dial in information.

Apr 18 (Sat): Stonewall National Monument Tour. 10:30 am. Celebrate National Park Week! Join us for a ranger-led tour of the first national monument dedicated to LGBTQ history. Check web site for details and to register.

Other outings: see 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 William Parish at the email address above for additional information.

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/>

Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Previously: Introducing Children to the Outdoors; before that: Inner-City Outings (another Chapter-wide special interest activity with the motto: No Child Left Inside!)

Reminder: You can save trees by opting to receive this newsletter electronically. Just e-mail Dick.Colby@Stockton.edu with "Electronic JS" in the subject line and your 8-digit membership number in the text.

OFFICERS:

Chair: Position Vacant

ICO is a public service program that provides outdoor trips to children, and is active in 50 of the Club's roughly 59 Chapters, including the New Jersey Chapter since at least 1998. In recent years, we produced about five trips per year for students in the Clemente Middle School in Paterson.

On the Trail In Glacier National Park – a Name in Jeopardy

By Ken Lefkowitz, a member who lives in Medford (Klefkowitz@aol.com), and took the photo

Over the past three years, my wife and I have been on a schedule to visit the magnificent western National Parks. Each was spectacular and awe inspiring. However, hiking in northwestern Montana's Glacier National Park this past September was the experience we will most remember.

We began our adventure on the Park's eastern side at the Two Medicine area. A

boat ride across Two Medicine Lake led to a hike through the verdant pine forests with an understory of huckleberry bushes that provided quite a satisfying treat when picked along the trail. Huckleberries are one of the staples for grizzly bears as they store fat in preparation for their hibernation during the winter to come. The locals also delight in the huckleberry harvest, serving treats such as huckleberry pie, syrup, pancakes, and ice cream. Along the trail we spotted a male moose resting in the brush, its paddles as wide as a truck. The hike ended at Twin Falls that proved true to its name. Another hike led to Red Eagle Falls with water rushing from the middle of a cliff. Fog and clouds obstructed the view of higher peaks, presenting a haunting beauty of their own.

Next, we traveled to the Many Glacier area where a boat ride across Swift Current Lake culminated in a steep hike over a ridge to another boat ride across Lake Josephine. We were treated to a view of Salamander Glacier and Falls, a spiritual experience made even more poignant because climatologists predict that all of the Park's glaciers will be gone by 2030, a mere decade away!

Our next stop was the St. Mary's area, named after its lake. At our lodge we were treated to the sight of black tailed magpies with long blue iridescent tails. Most other birds were already gone, migrating to warmer climes for the winter. We hiked on a high ridge along sparkling crystal clear St. Mary's Lake, ending

at Barring Falls. The next day we hiked a somewhat steeper trail to double-cascading St. Mary's Falls. As with our other hikes, the steep cliffs rise directly from the lakeshore, presenting a spectacular view of water, rock and sky. Many of the cliffs were snowclad, in spite of global warming, although it shrinks every year. A male moose, wading in the shallows of the lake, provided an enchanting wildlife scene on our return hike.

After St. Marys, we drove the famous Going to the Sun Road, traveling east to west across the Park. Stopping to see Jackson Glacier, a fraction of its former size, was a wondrous experience that brought tears to my eyes, knowing that it, like all the glaciers in the Park, is receding at a rapid rate and will soon be gone. As we drove the switchbacks over the Continental Divide, our eyes were treated to views of mountain peaks and valleys of indescribable beauty. At Lake McDonald we hiked to its falls and on the Trail of the Cedars, which proved as breathtaking as the others we had taken. Through much research, I was even able to find the site of the CCC Camp where my father served in the 1930s.

Our trip to Glacier was an experience of a lifetime. The landscape is unrivaled. Fantastic crystal clear lakes, rivers, and waterfalls with giant jagged cliffs rising around them, many rimmed with snowfields, and some with glaciers, abound. The dense forests, populated with towering lodge pole and tamarack pines, and black tailed squirrels, were a distant reminder of the NJ Pinelands back home, although quite different.

And yet the experience was bitter sweet, with the knowledge that climate change will alter the landscape in many ways over the next decade, the most devastating being the disappearance of all the glaciers, the Park's namesake. Even residing nearly a continent away in coastal NJ, one can shudder at the prospect.



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
Hunterdon Warren: Jonathan Wall
psychologist@jonwall.com
North Jersey Co-Chairs: Ellen Blumenkrantz
ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, and
Mary Walsh: blehlwalsh@hotmail.com
Gateway: Vacant
Hudson Co: Natalya DeRobertis-Thye
natalyadt@gmail.com

Loantaka: Kevin O'Brien, kbkob@aol.com
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, boghosian1@verizon.net

Singles Section: Joyce Haddad, jkhaddad@juno.com

LGBT Section: Jonathan Wall: dojdwall@gmail.com, and Robert Zitzman: robertmz@att.net

Chapter Outings Chair: Ellen Blumenkrantz ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417

Outing Leaders: Please send July-September 2020 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 July-September 2020 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, welfare 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/camp-

ing 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 |

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. Leashed dogs are welcome. Rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Apr 25 (Sat): Earth Day at the Essex County Environmental Center (Essex Co). 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: ronaldjamespate@gmail.com.

Apr 26 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River and Tour Lambertville's 37th Annual Shad Festival (Hunterdon Co). 9:30am. We'll paddle the Delaware River and then walk around town, check out the arts & crafts and have lunch at the Food Court. Paddling helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. Current Sierra Club membership required. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

MAY

May 2 (Sat): Eagle Rock Reservation Hike (Essex Co). 9am. Meet at 9/11 Memorial parking area off Eagle Rock Av, West Orange. 5 miles at an easy pace. Pretty view of NYC. Bring lunch; hiking boots a must. Rain cancels. Leader: Ron Pate: ronaldjamespate@gmail.com.

May 3 (Sun): Historic Cranbury Walking Tour (Middlesex Co). 1:30-4pm. Join us for a leisurely walk through Cranbury's historic district and learn about its history and architecture from Richard Moody, a knowledgeable and experienced tour guide with the Cranbury, Historical and Preservation Society (CHPS). There are a number of trees to look at as we walk around the streets of Cranbury. Donation of \$7 per person to CHPS. Please register with leaders to confirm the walk and meeting information. Co-Leaders: Sindhu P: spjersey@gmail.com, and Joanne P: 609-443-6992, jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (RV)

May 3 (Sun): Mahlon Dickerson Reservation Hike (Morris Co). 10am. 4.7 miles, moderate pace. The route includes swampland, forests, and abandoned iron mines. Bring plenty of water and a lunch. Hiking boots recommended. I-80 West, Exit 34B to NJ Rte 15 North. Go about 5 miles to Weldon Rd. Turn right. Go about 4 miles on Weldon Rd to lot on left (past trailer & camping areas) to Picnic Area. Coordinates N 41° 0.75', W 74° 33.88'. Jefferson NJ. Rain cancels. Contact leader to register for hike: Kevin O'Brien: 908-403-0900, kbkob@aol.com. (L)

May 3 (Sun): Walk at Sandy Hook, near Highlands (Monmouth Co). 2pm. 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 often on soft sand, all within the National Recreation Area. Water and good footwear recommended. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com. (JS)

May 5 (Tues): Barnegat Bay Blitz Land and Water Cleanup (Ocean Co). 9am-2pm. Volunteer on Cinco de Mayo! This is the 8th year that the NJ Sierra Club is participating in the "Blitz". We'll meet Lauren Keltos, NJ-DEP Team Captain Barnegat Township, at the Barnegat public launch area. Option for a land cleanup or bring your kayak and we'll paddle to areas designated for cleanup in the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. Garbage bags and gloves will be provided. Bring water and snacks. After the cleanup: option for late lunch at Sweet Jenny's Restaurant. Rental kayaks are not available. Contact leaders to confirm participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

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

May 15 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 9:30am. The river section we'll paddle depends on river trail conditions. Option: early breakfast at the Vincentown Diner. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

May 16 (Sat): Hike Garrett Mountain to the Great Falls, Woodland Park/Paterson, (Passaic Co). This hike will cover 6 miles in 4 hours in hilly terrain with great views of Paterson. After hiking Garrett Mountain Park we will descend the mountain and visit the nearby Great Falls in Paterson and the surrounding area, and an amazing pedestrian bridge over the Passaic River. Difficulty: Moderately strenuous. Requirements: No pets. Hiking boots or sensible shoes and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. Facilities: There is now a port-a-john next to the parking lot. There is a restroom at the Great Falls visitor center and there is a Burger King near the falls. Registration required via Web: Start with the calendar at https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey and click on the "Garret Mountain to the Great Falls Hike", then click on RSVP Leaders: Jimi Oleksiak <the_hikist@mac.com>, Ron Pate <ronaldjamespate@gmail.com>.

May 18 (Mon): Canoe/Kayak the Crosswicks Creek (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 11am. We'll enjoy a weekday tidal trip - no shuttle. Meet at Bordentown Beach - end of Park St. Participants must have their own boats; rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip information and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

May 22 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Batsto River (Burlington Co). 9:30am. Enjoy a 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 25 (Mon): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River on Memorial Day (Hunterdon Co). 10am. The Hot Dog Man will be open Memorial Day weekend! We'll paddle 8 miles from Kingwood Access to Bulls Island. Paddling helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Rentals are not available. Bring or buy lunch, snacks and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. Current Sierra Club membership required. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

May 27 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am. Enjoy an 8-mile spring paddle on "The Jewel of the Pinelands" and maybe we'll see Pitcher Plants in bloom. Meet at Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego Rd. Bring lunch and water. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Rental: 609-726-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com/. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

JUNE

Jun 1 (Mon): Canoe/Kayak the Tidal Delaware River (Burlington/Bucks Cos). 10am. This is a 10-mile tidal trip - from one historic city to another! Bristol is the oldest town in Bucks County and the 3rd largest in PA. We can expect power boat traffic and boat wakes. Kayaks must be 12 ft or over; spray skirts recommended. Bring lunch and water. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 6 (Sat): Pyramid Mountain (Morris Co). 10am. 3 miles, easy pace. The trails are challenging in places. Bring plenty of water and a lunch. Hiking boots recommended. Meet in the parking area for the Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area. I-287 North to Exit 45 (Wootton St, Boonton). Make first left and go under I-287. Follow Wootton St straight uphill to blinker light. Turn right onto CR 511/Boonton Ave, and 2.7 miles to Visitors Center Parking Lot on left. Coordinates N40° 56.81', W74° 23.30'. Kinnelon/Montville NJ. Rain cancels. Contact leader to register for hike: Kevin O'Brien: 908-403-0900, kbkob@aol.com. (L)

Jun 6 (Sat): Ringwood State Park Hike, Ringwood (Passaic Co). 10am Route Details: 7.4 miles in 4+ hours. Moderately strenuous, featuring: Ringwood Manor, Shepherds Lake, Skylands Manor, The NJ Botanical Garden, and views from Mt Defiance. Lunch is at a Lookout on Mt Defiance. Facilities: There are restrooms with flush toilets and running water in two locations during the hike, including one near our parking location. Registration required via Web: Start with the calendar at https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey and click on the "Ringwood State Park Hike", then click on RSVP Leaders: Jimi Oleksiak: <The_Hikist@mac.com>, Ron Pate <ronaldjamespate@gmail.com>.

Jun 7 (Sun): Hike Huber Woods Park, Middletown (Monmouth Co). 2pm. 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 7 (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 Mountain 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 12 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am. Double Trouble State Park was established in 1964 to help protect the Cedar Creek watershed and now features over 8,000 acres of Pine Barrens

(continued on page 12)

APRIL

Apr 1 (Wed): A Lighthearted Day, No Pranks: Hike in Mercer County Park (Mercer Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. We'll meet at the East Picnic Area parking lot: 1346 Edinburg Rd, Princeton Junction 08550. We'll walk the East Trails and see the new Campground available for overnight camping on the trail to the Casperson Rowing Center. Bring binoculars, water and snacks. Option for late lunch at Lola's Restaurant in Robbinsville. Leashed pets are welcome in the Park. Rain cancels. Co-Leaders: Leona F: leona@pineypaddlers.com and Joanne P: jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (C)

Apr 3 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 10:30am. The section we paddle will depend on weather conditions. Experienced cold weather/water paddlers only. Rentals 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 3 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 10:30am. The section we paddle will depend on weather conditions. Experienced cold weather/water paddlers only. Rentals 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 4 (Sat): Cherry Blossom Festival Hike, Bellville/Newark (Essex Co). 10am. 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, visits to the festival booths and cultural entertainments. Facilities: There are two visitor centers with indoor bathrooms as well as port-a-johns. 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. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak <The_Hikist@mac.com>.

Apr 5 (Sun): Hike Allaire State Park, Wall (Monmouth Co). 2pm. An early spring hike in this mostly pine forest. 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. (JS)

Apr 5 (Sun): Hike the Franklin Parker Preserve (Burlington Co). 10am. 5-6 miles, easy pace on the Yellow Trail. The acquisition of the Franklin Parker Preserve in 2003 by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation was a momentous occasion in conservation. This 9400-acre preserve is a keystone piece of land, linking the expanses of Brendan Byrne, Wharton, and Penn State Forests and creating a more contiguous Pinelands National Reserve. Meeting at Speedwell entrance off Rte 563, Woodland Twp. Leashed dogs are welcome. Bring lunch and water. Inclement weather cancels. Contact leaders to confirm hike. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Apr 11 (Sat): Turtleback Rock, South Mountain Reservation (Essex Co). 10am. Meet at the Turtleback Rock picnic area on Walker Road at 9:45. GPS address: 142 Walker Rd, West Orange 07052. Bring water, and wear hiking boots. We will take the orange trail down to Hemlock Falls and also see the famous Turtleback Rock. Heavy/steady rain cancels. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@Yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Apr 12 (Sun): Hike in Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY) 10am. 7-mile scenic hike that combines several trails to scenic viewpoints and lakes. Exact trails to be determined based on trail conditions at that time. All trails contain some rocky sections and ascents/descents of a few hundred feet. Inclement weather cancels. Hike limited to 12 who must preregister with the leader, Ellen Blumenkrantz: ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

Apr 15 (Wed): Hike the Pole Farm (Mercer Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. The Pole Farm is a Mercer County Park in Pennington with meadows and great botany. Once used as the nerve center for AT&T overseas radio transmissions, this abandoned radiotelephone communications site encompasses 800 acres and is now part of the Mercer County Park System. Check out this website for directions and more information about the Pole Farm: http://lhtrail.org/trail-guide/trail-sections/mercer-county-park-northwest-former-pole-farm/. Meet at the corner of Keefe and Cold Soil Rds parking lot. Bring binoculars to observe returning birds and resident hawks. Bring water and snacks. Leashed dogs welcome. Option for late lunch at local restaurant. Rain cancels. Please RSVP and note "Sierra" in the subject. Joanne Pannone: 609-443-6992; jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (C)

Apr 19 (Sun): Spring Hike at Duke Farms (Somerset Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, leisurely walk 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. Pets are not permitted. Rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

Apr 22 (Wed): Earth Day Cleanup at Mercer County Park (Mercer Co). 10am-Noon. Lake Mercer was formed by Assunpink Dam #20 and is part of the Delaware River Watershed. Today is the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. Join the NJ Sierra Club's Central Jersey Group and enjoy the lovely smell of fresh air as we clean up litter. We will walk along Lake Mercer and on the wooded trails with emerging wildflowers and green moss. Bring lunch and water. Gloves and trash bags will be provided. Contact leaders to register and for meeting location. Leashed dogs are welcome. Co-Leaders: Leona F: leona@pineypaddlers.com and Joanne P: jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (C)

Apr 25 (Sat): Watchung Reservation Hike (Union Co). 10 am. 6.5 miles, moderate pace. The Watchung Reservation consists of 2,000 acres of woods. Bring plenty of water and a lunch. Hiking boots recommended. Meet at the Trailside Nature and Science Center, located at 452 New Providence Rd, Mountainside 07092. Coordinates N40° 40.97', W74° 22.38'. Rain cancels. Contact leader to register for hike: Kevin O'Brien, 908-403-0900, kbkob@aol.com. (L)

Apr 25 (Sat): Hike at Cattus Island County Park and Nature Festival (Ocean Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. This is a great family hike as we walk flat trails through pinelands, around marshes, and along

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 Advisor
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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)

habitats. We'll paddle 7 miles from Ore Pond to Dudley Park. Rental boats are available 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@pinceypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 13 (Sat): Lewis Morris Park Hike, Mendham (Morris Co). 10am. Meet at the Sunrise Lake upper parking lot at 9:45. We will do most of the yellow trail minus the northern loop. GPS address: 270 Mendham Rd, Morristown 07960, then follow the signs to Sunrise Lake. Bring of water, a snack, and wear hiking boots. Inclement weather cancels. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com . Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Jun 14 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River on Flag Day (Hunterdon Co). 10am. 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. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. Current Sierra Club membership required. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pinceypaddlers.com. (W)

June 17 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Crosswicks Creek (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 11am. We'll enjoy a weekday tidal trip - no shuttle. Meet at Bordentown Beach - end of Park St. Participants must have their own boats; rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip information and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pinceypaddlers.com. (C)

Jun 19 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Batsto River (Burlington Co). 9:30am. Tomorrow is the First Day of Summer. Our 7-mile Pinelands paddle will be from Quaker Bridge to Batsto Lake. 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 and your participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pinceypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 21 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Lake Oswego (Burlington Co). 10am. Join us as we enjoy a leisurely day on Lake Oswego and explore the upstream reaches and see beaver lodges and Fragrant Water Lilies This is a great paddle for anyone interested in kayaking or canoeing,as well as experienced paddlers too. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental: 609-726-1380, or www.mickscanoerental.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Bring lunch and beverage and snacks. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pinceypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 24 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 10am. This is a 9-mile trip on the "Egg" from Penny Pot to Weymouth Furnace. Palace Restaurant & Outfitters will provide our shuttle. Rentals are available: 609-625-8552, or www.thepalaceoutfitters.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pinceypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 25-28: Overnight trip to Scenic Stratton Mountain, Vermont. We will hike, bike, kayak and yoga. Swimming pool, hot tub and sauna on premises. All-inclusive food and accommodations. Spa services also available for additional cost. Please contact leader if interested by May 15. Leader: Ron Pate <ronaldjamespate@gmail.com>.

Jun 28 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak with your Pooch on the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. Join us for a Sunday trip on the Wading River. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental: 609-726-1380, or www.mickscanoerental.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip and river section we are paddling: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pinceypaddlers.com. (W)

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, and is usually followed by a meeting of the Transportation Committee.

April 11: Hamilton Township (Mercer Co.) Public Library, 1 Justice Samuel Alito Jr. Way

May 9: Chatham Library, 124 Main St.

June 13: 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.)

Opinions, unless otherwise attributed, are of the writer only. Advertised products and services carry no Club endorsement.

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue! This newsletter is produced mostly by volunteers.

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

North Jersey Group News Addendum

The North Jersey Group seeks members for six volunteer committees. Please contact the Chair of the Committee below if you are interested in joining dedicated people taking meaningful action in Bergen and Passaic Counties and throughout the state.

COMMITTEE OPENINGS

Outings Committee: Organize and lead hikes, snowshoeing, kayaking and other of your favorite outdoor activities on trails and locations of your choice. Trips can vary in length, level of difficulty and location. If interested, contact Mary at blehlwalsh@hotmail.com (Committee Chair) or Buddy (Group Co-Chair) at buddy.jenssen@gmail.com.

Publications/Marketing Committee: Are you creative? Do you love graphic design; writing press releases and short stories; contacting newspapers and radio; using instagram, facebook, twitter, snapchat? We need you! If interested, contact Jan (Committee Chair) at janbarry61@hotmail.com.

Conservation Committee: We assist people in the community with grassroots efforts to prevent destruction of natural habitat in Bergen and Passaic Counties and surrounding areas. Help us by finding and reviewing public records, circulating petitions, going door-to-door with lawn signs, speaking in public meetings, attending and organizing press conferences. The choice of activity is up to you. No activity or time commitment is too small. Make your voice heard. If interested contact Mary at blehlwalsh@hotmail.com or Judy at jugreen547@gmail.com (Committee Co-Chairs), or Diane at diascat@hotmail.com (Group Co-Chair).

Climate Change Committee: The objectives of the Climate Change Committee are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, discourage new fossil fuel facilities (like the Meadowlands

and NJ Transit gas-powered plants) and encourage the use of renewable energy. Slowing down climate change may give scientists time to find permanent solutions to this crisis. Our committee works in conjunction with other environmental groups to support a transition to renewable energy. Your help could bring us a little closer to a cleaner, safer, and healthier world for our children and grandchildren - be a part of it! For more information or to sign up, contact Jeff (Committee Chair) at jeffrap@optonline.net.

Political Action Committee: We recommend candidates for political office in Bergen, Passaic and Hudson Counties (where there is overlap). Learn where our elected officials and candidates for office stand on environmental issues by examining their voting records and interviewing them. You can phone bank, or otherwise, work from your home, or visit candidates and their representatives in their offices. Canvass door-to-door for endorsed candidates. The way you contribute is up to you. But know there is work to do. If interested, contact Sandi (Committee Chair) at libertisandi@gmail.com.

Event Planning and Membership Committee: We seek a Committee Chair and additional members! Interested in conducting an event on a particular topic? Like speaking with other people about environmental issues and concerns? This committee is for you! We seek someone who is dedicated to the environment, believes in the Sierra Club, is enthused about the actions our North Jersey Group is taking and wants to help us move forward through program planning and the recruitment of new members. If interested contact Diane (Acting Chair & Group Co-Chair) at diascat@hotmail.com. PLEASE!

Reports from Trenton

Assembly Failed to Act on Plastics Bill

From a press release issued on Jan 13th, and edited by Irene Gnarra

The old state Legislative session ended on Jan. 13, without a vote by the Assembly on the comprehensive Senate bill (S2776, Smith/Greenstein) that would have restricted the ubiquitous availability of single-use plastic bags in stores. So a new bill will have to be introduced in the new session.

The Senate bill would have applied to both plastic and paper single-use carryout bags in stores and food service businesses, and would also have regulated polystyrene foam plastic and barred food service businesses from offering single-use plastic straws.

All these plastics are made from natural gas. Until the Legislature acts, plastics will continue to pose serious public health and environmental problems. They are not recyclable, and degrade very slowly. Plastic bags clog storm drains and accumulate in detention basins, and find their way onto beaches and into oceans, where they can strangle and suffocate birds, fish and whales. Their intermediate degradation products, called microplastics, contaminate our water supply. Polystyrene breaks down into carcinogenic chemicals such as benzene and styrene, which have been found in breast milk.

We need a statewide ban. More than 80% of our trash is plastic. Thankfully, some municipalities have taken the initiative by banning these items. 38 NJ towns have instituted plastic bans, another 18 have passed ordinances that are not yet in effect, and dozens more are in the process of doing so. Jersey City will be the largest city in the state to implement a ban on single-use, disposable plastic bags. Atlantic County has banned them from its parks.

S2776 was stopped by special interests, including lobbyists for the paper, plastic bag, and the oil and gas industries. The Club will double its efforts to have the Legislature pass a statewide plastic ban in the new session.

Drinking Water Quality Institute: No Meetings

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

After failing to meet for five years during the Christie Administration, Gov. Murphy assured us that the New Jersey Drinking Water Quality Institute would now meet regularly. Alas, the most recent meeting was on Dec. 19, 2018.

Why is this important? A panel of academic scientists, government officials and water-industry executives, the DWQI is charged with protecting our health. Its specialists are charged with making health-based risk assessments to ensure that our drinking water is safe. They determine acceptable limits for toxins and other carcinogens, and can advocate for modification of existing water quality standards. They consider chemical substances linked to birth defects, developmental problems, cancers, and other health complications.

In 2010, they determined that eleven chemicals needed new regulatory standards, including perchlorate, chromium, perfluorinated chemicals, and arsenic. Sadly, the DEP has not yet acted on those recommendations. Meanwhile, new contaminants have been found in New Jersey's water supplies. Some counties have unique problems: e.g. volatile organic chemicals, cyanobacteria in reservoirs, and lead in Newark and Camden. Recent reports from the Environmental Working Group show toxins in more than five hundred water systems in the state. In Bergen County, fourteen drinking water systems have PFOA levels of at least 20 parts per billion. The carcinogen 1,4-dioxane, which can destroy the liver and kidneys, was found in the Wanaque Reservoir. The EPA estimates that NJ contains 3500 sites in which contaminated groundwater affects nearby drinking water wells. The carcinogens trichloroethylene and perchloroethylene, which cause birth defects and respiratory problems, have been found in wells. The New Jersey Private Well Act restricts lead levels for private well water to 5 ppb. Unfortunately, the Trump Administration trumped this standard by permitting the federal standard for lead in drinking water to be increased to 15 ppb.

Like Christie before him, Murphy appears to be siding with the chemical industry and polluters rather than listening to health professionals. This is a public health and environmental concern, which should start with the DWQI doing its job.

A Sad Fate for Trees at Bass River

From a press release issued on Jan 6, and edited by Tony Hagen

The end of 2019 saw the unfortunate and unnecessary start to the clear cutting of 16.4 acres of Bass River State Forest. The Pinelands Commission and the state Department of Environmental Protection argued the trees interfered with the line of sight from a fire-spotting tower. Other solutions were turned down that would have saved the trees that the fire tower is there to protect. These included building a higher tower, which officials said would have cost an estimated \$483,000 to \$728,000. They said this cost was prohibitive. The current tower is now below the approximately 90-foot height of the mature trees. The clear-cutting cost was \$17,160 and the Salem County-based contractor could do with the trees as it liked. Many alternatives to the radical tree cutting might have led to a less destructive solution: elevated cameras, heat sensors, even drones.

The tree-cutting plan was staunchly opposed by community members and the New Jersey Sierra Club. The trees slated for removal were planted in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps; approximately 4 percent of the popular Orange Trail will be denuded of trees by the cutting.

Further, by removing established forest, the Bass River preserve becomes more susceptible to invasive species growth; and wildlife whose numbers are in decline will suffer loss of habitat.

Reports from Trenton

Big Win for Environment – Murphy Advances Electric Vehicles

From a press release issued on Jan 17th

One of the “lame duck” measures signed by Governor Murphy in January was S2252 (Smith), a law to establish a Statewide public charging system for plug-in electric vehicles (EVs). The law will mandate 330,000 registered light duty vehicles in the state to be plug-in electric by Dec 2025, and 2 million by 2035.

More than 45% of the greenhouse gasses in New Jersey come from vehicles, and are related to our failing levels of asthma-causing ozone. This law is the first to reduce pollution from our transportation sector.

The new law mandates, by Dec 31, 2025, at least 400 DC Fast Chargers to be available for public use at no fewer than 200 charging locations in the State. At least 75 of the locations shall be in travel corridors, separated by no more than 25 miles. At least 100 of the charging locations shall be in communities.

The Murphy Administration now needs to get rules and funding in place. The Department of Community Affairs is tasked with changing building codes to require charging stations.

A network of charging stations statewide will make people more comfortable with buying and using EVs. The technology is becoming cheaper and more available.

In addition, the law requires by the end of 2024 that at least 10 percent of the new bus purchases made by the New Jersey Transit Corporation shall be zero-emission buses. This percentage shall increase to 50 percent by the end of 2026, and 100 percent by the end of 2032. Zero-emission buses shall not produce emissions at the tailpipe, nor use fuels stored on the vehicle derived from fossil-fuel sources, and shall be prioritized for low-income, urban, or environmental justice communities.

So NJ Transit will have to electrify its fleet: to 10% electric by 2024, 50% by 2026, and 100% by 2032. We believe NJ Transit should start buying electric buses sooner. Some should be bought this year, at least 100 next year, and there should be a target of 50% EV buses by 2025. NJ Transit is currently planning to replace its old buses with diesel buses. San Francisco and other cities are advancing more rapidly. Electric buses and trains are 70% cheaper to operate. There are 100 transportation systems around the nation that are buying electric buses and looking to meet a benchmark of 70,000 buses in the next 30 years. New Jersey needs to be in that mix.

Yet more could and should be done: electrification of zip cars, taxis, Uber and Lyft, van and shuttle services, and ride shares, to encourage EV's that everyone can afford. The BPU must offer opportunities for all people to buy EVs, including those of modest means through rebates or 'cash for clunkers' programs. New Jersey should also have rebates for leases and resale.

We thank Governor Murphy for signing this comprehensive EV legislation.

Reports from Trenton

Increased Goal for Offshore Wind: 7500MW by 2035

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

Last November, Governor Phil Murphy and the First Lady welcomed Vice President Al Gore to the Liberty Science Center to witness the signing of an Executive Order increasing New Jersey's offshore wind goal to 7,500 Megawatts by 2035. They agreed that offshore wind is one of the most reliable and cost-effective ways to reduce greenhouse gases and get renewable energy to scale, as well as providing green jobs.

This Executive Order is a win for the environment, a win for the battle against climate change, and a win for our economy. 7,500MW will power close to 3.2 million homes: almost half the homes in the state. And while this is one of the biggest offshore wind proposals in the nation, it is merely an opening for further progress on wind energy. It takes just 1,100MW of offshore wind to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide and oxide emissions by close to 3 million metric tons.

But, given the climate crisis, we should aim for 12,500MW of wind, not 7,500, and 100% renewable energy by 2035.

Offshore wind will create thousands of jobs, including in construction and operation. Two companies have been approved to begin this work: Atlantic Shores and Ørsted, of Ocean Wind LLC. The power will be brought ashore and connected to the PJM grid at the former Oyster Creek nuclear station (Ocean Co). In June, Ørsted won approval from the BPU to build a 1,100-megawatt, \$1.6 billion offshore wind facility about 15 miles offshore from Atlantic City.

Meanwhile, there are proposals for two new fossil fuel power plants in the Meadowlands area. We hope that the Murphy Administration will cancel those plans, as well as plans for five pipeline projects in NJ, which would undermine offshore wind.

Murphy Must Do, Not Talk

From a press release issued on Jan 14, and edited by Tony Hagen

In his State of the State address, Gov. Phil Murphy described many initiatives to move us forward on environmental and mass transit issues, but these fall short of the goal posts. We need less talk and more action. The state government needs to accept the realities of the climate crisis and pursue a much more rapid, comprehensive plan of action.

In his speech, the governor talked about incorporation of climate change education into the K-12 school curriculum. It is good to see educators and our youth embracing this critical issue.

Murphy mentioned that the state set an ambitious goal of 7,500 megawatts of wind powered energy generation by 2035—more than double the previous goal. However, to make this happen, funding and incentive programs must be robust.

Further, an immediate moratorium is needed on new fossil fuel infrastructure and generation development, and the Murphy administration hasn't acknowledged this.

The New Jersey Energy Master Plan must emphasize renewable energy development, and the definition of renewable must not be diluted by nuclear energy or energy produced from incineration. The current definition specifies that meeting targets for emissions reduction includes the use of incinerators, biogas, biomass, natural gas projects, and carbon sequestration.

Lead in drinking water is a scourge in our cities and towns that requires stricter drinking water standards. Murphy's initiatives to remove lead lines and fund the process with a bond act do not fully address the need for prompt or comprehensive action.

Murphy talked about reforming NJ Transit to get trains on time, reduce breakdowns, and improve capacity for commuter crowds. Still, NJ Transit funding has been reduced over the past decade, and the agency continues to invest in dirty fuel buses and trains. These will worsen conditions in environmental justice communities, as well as contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

New Law on "Dirty Dirt"

From a press release issued on Jan 21st, and edited by Tony Hagen

The state Department of Environmental Protection has not always had the muscle it needs to address improper recycling and environmentally dangerous disposal of contaminated soil and debris. To remedy this, Gov. Phil Murphy has signed into law a "dirty dirt" bill that gives the DEP power to oversee and regulate these activities more closely.

Multiple reports by the Special Commission of Investigation exposed a rampant illegal dumping trade. The report detailed illegal disposal of contaminated soil and construction debris near waterways, residential developments and other inappropriate venues across the state. The report noted organized crime intrusion and other unscrupulous activity in New Jersey's solid waste and recycling industries.

The new law will require extensive background checks across the solid waste and recycling industries and prohibit the involvement of people with unsuitable backgrounds or questionable character. The law also provides for the creation of an interstate information sharing system that would facilitate enforcement of solid waste and recycling industries.

Examples of abuse abound. Last year, after months of court battles, Joseph Wallace was fined and jailed in connection with accepting large quantities of debris of all kinds at a Vernon site without regard for the types of contaminants involved. Samples showed the presence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls, and the pesticide chemical chlordane, all at levels above the state's standard.

In Kearny, a landfill owned by the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority was cited for illegally accepting liquid sewage sludge material from a local wastewater treatment plant. The town was overwhelmed with the odor of this material.

Big Win: Keegan Landfill Will Permanently Close

From a press release issued on Dec 20th, and edited by Joe Testa

Governor Murphy announced in December that the NJ Sports and Exposition Authority (NJSEA) and Kearny were working toward a settlement that will result in the permanent closing and capping of the Keegan Landfill (Hudson Co). According Kearny Mayor Santos, tons of soil will be applied; the west side will be capped within a year, and the east side within two years.

This is a big win for the environment and for the people who have been fighting this horrible nightmare in Kearny. People living nearby have had trouble breathing because of the hydrogen sulfide coming from the sewage sludge dumped illegally by the NJSEA. The NJSEA must be held accountable for cleaning up its mess.

The NJSEA has already been fined for the hydrogen sulfide emissions. (Rotting dry-wall is also a major contributor to those emissions.)

A Hudson County judge ruled that the landfill must close permanently, because it presents a "clear and immediate danger," but the NJSEA then appealed to reopen it. Taxpayers should not have had to sue a government agency that was polluting their town.

In another landfill proceeding - in Roxbury (Morris Co) - after hundreds of complaints about noxious sulfur odors from homeowners whose properties surrounded the Fenimore landfill, the DEP declared a health emergency and seized control. The DEP should have done the same to the Keegan landfill. The two cases are similar, but the DEP did not treat them the same. The DEP shouldn't make that mistake again.

GAO Report: Alarm Bell on Superfund Sites & Climate

From a press release issued on Nov 19th, and edited by Joe Testa

In November, the US Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported that at least 60 percent of Superfund sites in the US are vulnerable to climate change impacts. There are 118 such sites in New Jersey, including the Cornell Dubilier site in South Plainfield (Middlesex Co), Crown Vantage (Hunterdon Co), and Diamond Alkali in Newark (Essex Co). The independent, non-partisan GAO used mapping software to identify areas that may be impacted by flooding, storm surge, wildfires, and sea level rise within a 0.2-mile radius of each Superfund site.

This report should ring an alarm. New Jersey has more Superfund sites than any other state, and we are one of the states most impacted by climate change and sea-level rise. Many of our Superfund sites are near the coast or on streams, rivers, and bays. Most of them are being capped instead of being cleaned up properly. Capping in flood-prone areas is dangerous because flooding undermines the cap and leaches toxins into ground- and surface water.

So when these sites flood, caps will fail, and toxic chemicals will escape into groundwater, streams, rivers, and basements of homes and other buildings. Storm surges will produce disasters. We should ask the EPA for clean-ups, not capping, even though it will cost much more. We ask for the protection of human health as well as of the environment.

The EPA's "pave and wave" strategy is designed to get Superfund sites off the list without actually cleaning them up.

Sea-level rise is happening at an alarming rate in New Jersey. Hurricanes Sandy, Irene, and other major flood events have directly impacted our Superfund sites. The American Cyanamid site, located in the floodplain of the Raritan River (Middlesex Co), flooded during Hurricane Irene. That storm surge released contaminated water; eight years later we haven't learned from that lesson.

NJ Congressmen Frank Pallone (D-6) and Bill Pascrell (D-9) have reintroduced legislation to require the EPA to act on sites listed on the Superfund's National Priorities List. The Superfund Polluter Act would reinstate the Superfund Tax, which expired in the 1990s, to ensure that polluters, not taxpayers, pay for the cleanup of Superfund sites. The Tax would ask oil and chemical companies to pay their fair share for the messes that they have created.

A third of New Jersey's Superfund sites are orphans: without responsible parties to pay for the cleanups. Currently, these can only get cleaned up with taxpayer money - and there is very little of it. A reinstated Superfund Tax would hold the polluters of other sites accountable to fund those orphan cleanups. President Trump has cut funding to clean up toxic sites and rolled back environment protections and oversight, leaving the taxpayers with the cleanup bill. That is why it is so important that Congress work to reinstate the Superfund Tax to make polluters fund orphan sites.

Holly Farm Preserved After 20 Year Battle

From a press release issued on Nov 25, and edited by Sylvia Kay

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is buying the Holly Farm site in South Jersey from Atlantic City Electric Co. This nearly 1,400-acre site is located in Millville, Cumberland Co, in the watershed of the Maurice Wild and Scenic River - between Menantico and Manumuskin Creeks. This represents a major victory for the preservation of open space and the protection of varied habitats and species in New Jersey.

In 2010, the Christie Administration's Board of Public Utilities narrowly authorized its sale to a developer, for a golf course and senior housing. The Sierra Club strongly objected. The property is near the southern edge of the Pinelands, in biodiverse habitat for threatened and endangered species including the Pine Barrens Treefrog, Southern Gray Treefrog, Northern Pine Snake, Cooper's Hawk, Barred Owl, Bald Eagle, Dotted Skipper and Red-Headed Woodpecker.

Reports from Trenton

The Sierra Club's Failures and Successes in 2019, and its Priorities for 2020

By Chapter Director Jeff Tittel, as reported to the Chapter Executive Committee at its January 11th reorganization meeting.



2019 was a year of many accomplishments and disappointments at the state, local, and national levels. In New Jersey, the Murphy Administration has been frustratingly weak on climate change and sea level rise. He supports new fossil fuel projects, and has failed to repeal a single Christie-era rule.

After January's lame duck Legislative session, he pocket-vetoed S2252 (Smith/Greenstein), a bill that would set up charging stations for electric vehicles (EVs). We lost on S2776 (Smith/Greenstein), a bill that would have comprehensively banned plastic across the state. Also on S3357 (Cunningham/Weinberg), the "Liberty State Park Protection Act", and A3783 (Eustace), which would have protected NJ from spills and derailments of bomb trains: freight trains carrying petroleum tanker cars. Other disappointments:

• The Board of Public Utilities' final Energy Master Plan fails to address our climate emergency.

• The Club is suing the BPU and the Pinelands Commission for approving the Southern Reliability Link pipeline, and the Murphy Administration has refused to issue a stay. This means the pipeline could be built before we have a chance to stop it in court.

• Murphy has made three nominations to the Highlands Council and five nominations to the Pinelands Commission, but the Senate has yet to approve them.

• The DEP has denied permits for Williams Transco's Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE) three times without prejudice, which means that Transco can (and does) keep reapplying.

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2019 Environmental Wins

• New Jersey's new smoking ban, which prohibits smoking on public beaches and state parks, went into effect at the beginning of the year.

• B.L. England, the last major coal-powered plant in New Jersey, closed after more than 50 years of burning fossil fuels.

• The DEP purchased Holly Farm, near Vineland (Cumberland Co), an ecologically important area in the Pine Barrens and Delaware Bayshore forest region – a 20-year effort.

• The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit ruled that the PennEast Pipeline cannot use state lands. This will delay the project for at least two years and could possibly stop it or cause it to be rerouted.

• The BPU awarded the state's first offshore wind project – for 1,100 Megawatts – to Ørsted, setting the record for the single largest award for offshore wind in the U.S.

• Murphy raised New Jersey's offshore wind goal to 7,500 Megawatts by 2035.

• He came out against the Meadowlands Natural Gas Power Plant, although he has yet to take any action to stop it.

• Keegan Landfill in Kearny, and Silver Spruce Drive in Vernon, will be finally closed and cleaned up after illegal dumping of materials by NJSEA in Kearny and Joseph Wallace in Vernon.

2019 Environmental Losses

• The Murphy Administration has failed to repeal a single Christie-era rule.

• Lead levels in Newark's drinking water were at record highs this year, reaching 52 parts per billion between January and June.

• The Drinking Water Quality Institute (DWQI), the agency responsible for setting standards of acceptable limits for toxins and carcinogens in our water, did not meet, even once, in 2019.

• The summer saw a record number of algal blooms due to climate change and water pollution.

• A new DEP Stormwater Rule failed to properly manage certain contaminants, and will lead to more flooding and pollution. Even Trump's FEMA criticized the rule.

• Several Legislative bills were weakened by last-minute amendments that came from the DEP and the Governor's Office, including the Beach Access Bill S1074 (Smith), the Carbon Bill S3207 (Smith), the Plastic Bag Ban Bill S2776 (Smith/Greenstein) and the Environmental Justice bill S1700 (Singleton/Weinberg).

• The DEP granted permits for the Roseland Compressor Station even though the station is unneeded and will create more pollution and flooding in the region.

• Governor Murphy's Energy Master Plan changes the definition of clean energy to include dirty energy: natural gas, fossil fuel plants with carbon sequestration, and incinerators.

• The DEP has fewer employees now than under Christie, and New Jersey is 10th in the nation for the reduction of environmental staff.

• NJ Transit is rated the worst in the nation. It needs to move forward with electric buses.

• The Pinelands Commission failed to rescind approval for the South Jersey Gas Pipeline.

Here are what I think should be our 2020 Legislative Priorities

• Statewide net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

• 100% renewable electric energy by 2035: no nuclear, no petroleum, no natural gas, no biogas.

• Immediate moratorium on new fossil fuel electricity.

• Legislation incentivizing electric buses and trucks.

• Environmental Justice legislation, to include affordable housing.

• No limit on Community Solar.

• Getting rid of Solar Cost Cap.

• NJ Green New Deal.

• Returnable Bottle Bill: deposits on glass and plastic bottles.

• Prevent Backsliding to State Environmental Protections.

• Chlorpyrifos Ban.

• Shore Protection: Coastal Commission; fix Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA).

• Legislation to strengthen beach access.

• Legislation to protect our drinking water.

• Urban park funding.

• Bear management that reduces the "need" for hunting.

100% Renewable by 2035, Zero Carbon by 2050, Moratorium on Fossil Fuels: Climate change is happening and happening faster than ever. In order to fight climate change by reducing greenhouse gasses, we must take bold action against fossil fuels. That is why Governor Murphy must put in place a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects. There are over a dozen fossil fuel projects proposed in New Jersey that would increase GHGs by over 32%. We need to be focusing on renewable energy, such as solar and wind power, that does not release harmful pollution that exacerbate the effects of climate change. In order for New Jersey to combat climate change, we need to focus on goals of 100% renewable energy by 2035 and zero carbon by 2050.

Electric Buses and Trucks: NJ Transit should be moving toward 100% electric by 2030, but instead they are planning to purchase gas-guzzling trains and buses that will remain in the fleet for another 20 years. New Jersey needs to be moving forward on electrifying our transportation to reduce costs and help our lungs. Electric buses and trains are 70% cheaper to operate, and would help move New Jersey toward 100% clean energy by 2050.

Environmental Justice Legislation: Environmental Justice language needs to be much stronger in legislation and, more importantly, the Energy Master Plan. Communities in New Jersey continue to choke on dirty emissions and are seeing more asthma and health impacts because of air pollution. That is why it is critical that environmental justice language should be included in all of the program areas of energy legislation. We need to focus on reducing harmful air pollution in areas that receive a disproportionate amount.

Community Solar: Community solar is important for our environment and economy because it allows any ratepayer to subscribe to an off-site solar installation. This allows people who are unable to install solar panels on their own property benefit from solar energy. Towns or non-profits could qualify as well, helping whole areas go off the grid, saving money and reducing air pollution. For years, New Jersey has been blocking it from happening and now that it finally is, we need to do it right. We should be creating a full community solar program such as the ones in Massachusetts or Maryland, so we can advance solar power for everyone in this state.

Getting Rid of the Solar Cost Cap: We are heading into a crisis for solar energy. We need to do something about the cost cap before the cap is exceeded and the solar program ends. We should be completely getting rid of the cap. We don't have caps on energy from coal, nuclear, oil, or gas. Having a cap on solar energy makes no sense. We also have to factor in legacy SRECs as well as transition SRECs. We need to focus on creating a robust solar program that will help us reach our clean energy goals.

Green New Deal: Climate change impacts are worse and happening faster. New Jersey is seeing more flooding and more health impacts from climate change. Our state is also battling damaging fossil fuel projects like offshore drilling, natural gas power plants, pipelines, and fracking. Enough is enough already. The Green New Deal resolution is the first comprehensive step towards creating policies and programs in place to reduce our climate impact. We need to transition our economy to a greener and cleaner economy.

Bottle Bill: Every year we pick up 6 million pounds of cans and bottles and other floatables along our roadways. A Bottle Bill is a critical step that provides incentives for people to reduce our bottle waste and increase recycling rates. New Jersey only recycles 50% of cans and bottles while Michigan, with a Bottle Bill, recycles 97%.

Prevent Backsliding to State Environmental Protections: The Trump Administration has continuously rolled back critical rules and regulations that protect our clean water, clean air, open space, endangered animals and more. We need to build a green wall around our state to make sure New Jersey will not succumb to those weakened rollbacks. Legislation like A5033 (Pinkin) is important because it will help keep our state's standards protected. It will authorize DEP rulemaking to prevent backsliding of certain state environmental regulations due to changes in federal laws or regulations. New Jersey must prevent the federal government from weakening and rolling back environmental regulations that public health. New Jersey must stand up to Trump by making sure to keep strict standards in place.

Chlorpyrifos Ban: The state legislature and Governor Murphy should be moving to ban chlorpyrifos so that our health, especially our children's health is protected. Dangerous insecticides like chlorpyrifos are destroying our bee population and are also harmful to human health. Chlorpyrifos was originally created as a nerve agent, and children and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to its damaging effects.

Coastal Commission and Fixing CAFRA Rules: Climate impacts are getting worse but what is even more alarming is that the Murphy Administration has shown no sense of urgency to strengthen mitigation programs that will protect this state from climate change, or even the next storm. Instead of action, the state is still building in flood prone areas, they have failed to fix CAFRA rules, and are proposing to build a sewer plant in Fortescue. We must start taking real actions to fight climate change now. We are still the only state in the region without a Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan. We need to move forward with a Coastal Commission, and DEP needs to use the latest science to put climate and sea level rise in their rules.

Strengthening Public Beach Access Rule: People of New Jersey have a right to beaches and waterfront that belong to them. But those rights are too often violated by towns in NJ. Towns are denying people from getting to their beaches by failing to provide things like bathrooms and parking lots. We are concerned the rules in the Public Beach Access Rule can be subject to challenge by towns who want to keep us out. Towns that have been denying access or making it difficult for people to access beaches will continue to do so. Too many communities want our money, but they don't want us on their beaches. We need to make sure that DEP requires towns to not only provide public access to their beaches, but amenities like bathrooms and parking lots.

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Reports from Trenton

FAILURE AND SUCCESS

(Continued from page 15)

Protecting Our Drinking Water: There are too many problems in New Jersey from one county to the next. Whether it is PFOAs, volatile organic chemicals, cyanobacteria in our reservoirs, or lead. For too long, New Jersey has failed to adequately protect its drinking water and is putting the public at risk. Our Water Supply Master Plan is still outdated, and DEP has yet to adopt strict standards for hazardous chemicals in our drinking water. The Drinking Water Quality Institute, the agency that is responsible for setting standards and protecting public health, has not met in over a year. Water quality standards for dangerous chemicals like PFOAs, PFOs, lead, 1,2,3-TCP, need to be adopted. We also need to work on fixing our lead problem.

Urban Park Funding: For years, state parks and parks in urban areas have been significantly underfunded. It is critical that the Murphy Administration and the state legislature find a more equitable way to fund our parks and open spaces. Fast-growing places like Jersey City and New Brunswick need more funding for their parks. We need money to open new parks and plant trees and restore natural habitats in the parks we have. We need more money for capital improvements in all of our parks. That will require a more stable source of funding.

Bear Management: The 2019 NJ Black Bear hunt killed a total of 315 bears. The bear hunt was initially created to get rid of aggressive and nuisance bears, but bear sightings and nuisance numbers have dropped by 12.5%. New Jersey needs to transition to a real management plan, one that includes strong education and uses warning signs in the region, education materials at trail heads, enforcing not feeding bears, and garbage management. There needs to be warning signs in bear country with post at all trailheads with Do's and Don'ts in bear country. We also need to teach people how to bear-proof their property, including the importance of having no garbage at night and bear proof containers. These will do a lot more to manage the bear population than having an unnecessary hunt.

Here's my Regulatory Agenda for 2020:

- Gov. Murphy needs to reverse Christie's rollbacks, such as the Waiver Rule, Flood Hazard Rules, Stream Encroachment Rules, Stormwater Rules, Wetlands Rules and CAFRA rules.
- The Administration needs to introduce rules to address climate impacts and cli-

mate change:

- Update rule for adaptation and mitigation.
- Introduce rules to implement renewable energy programs.
- Start regulating CO₂, greenhouse gases, and black carbon.
- DEP needs to move forward on designating C1 streams for drinking water and recreation.
- DEP needs to set stricter standards for offshore air pollution and standards for lead in our drinking water instead of following federal rules.
- DEP needs to adopt the PFAS standards that they set last year.

Reverse Christie's Rollbacks: So far, Murphy's DEP has failed to reverse Christie's rollbacks that weaken protections for clean air, clean water, and climate change. The Christie rollbacks weakened NJ's Flood Hazard Rules, Waiver Rule, Stormwater Rules, Wetlands Rules, Stream Encroachment Rules, CAFRA Rules, and Coastal Zone Management Rules. Given our environmental problems, not being Christie is just not enough anymore.

Climate Change: New Jersey is already seeing the impacts of climate change – with chronic flooding, storm surges, and sea level rise. We are still the only state in the region without a Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan. Instead of promoting more fossil fuel projects, we need renewable energy such as solar and wind. The DEP has had the authority to set standards for CO₂ and greenhouse gases since 2005. It needs to move immediately to set these standards, including regulating the Air Pollution Control Act and Title V permits to stop new electric plants and reduce existing pollution.

The DEP Needs to Set Standards to Protect Our Environment: Last year, it designated 749 miles of waterways as C1 streams for ecological value and fishery resources. However, it failed to designate C1 streams for drinking water and recreational value. It has also defaulted to federal rules on offshore air pollution, and standards for lead in our drinking water at 15ppb. Our lead standards need to be lowered to at least 5ppb, or ideally 1ppb. The DEP has set strong standards for PFAS in our drinking water, but it has yet to adopt them.