



DATED MATERIAL DO NOT DELAY

Nonprofit Organization-Sierra Club  
U.S. Postage PAID

# The Jersey..... SIERRAN

Vol. 49, No. 4      Approximately 21,000 Members in New Jersey      October-December 2020

## Political Chair's Report

# Our 2020 Political Endorsements

By John Kashwick, (Political.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org)

All of our endorsed candidates for federal offices won in their respective primaries in July. Now they face Republican Party opponents in the General Election on November 3rd, which is likely to take place by mail ballot. The New Jersey Sierra Club congratulates the following endorsed candidates:

- U.S. Senate: Cory Booker (D)
- House, District 1: Donald Norcross (D)
- House, District 3: Andy Kim (D)
- House, District 5: Josh Gottheimer (D)
- House, District 6: Frank Pallone Jr. (D)
- House, District 7: Tom Malinowski (D)
- House, District 8: Albio Sires (D)
- House, District 9: William Pascrell (D)
- House, District 10: Donald Payne, Jr. (D)
- House, District 11: Mikie Sherrill (D)
- House, District 12: Bonnie Watson Coleman (D)

Chapter Director Jeff Tittel offers the following comment: "We believe they will stand up for the environment and for public health in their Districts and across the country. We are confident that they will put the best interests of the public first. They will stand up to President Trump and fight his rollbacks on climate change."

Climate change has become a powerful issue in motivating younger voters, and these candidates are all committed to doing what we can. According to an article earlier this year in *The Hill*, 80%

of voters aged 18 to 29 say climate change is a major threat to humanity. It is not just the young—in 2020, 60% of voters overall feel climate change is a major threat. While Democrats take this issue more seriously, despite the wealth of misinformation that is spread across social media claiming climate change is a hoax, 31% of Republicans now feel climate change is a major threat compared to just 24% in 2016.

It's a sad fact that Sierra Club members turn out for elections at the same low rate as the general population, so we need to remind you to vote. Every registered voter will receive by mail a mail-in ballot. Vote early to be sure your ballot arrives by Election Day!

We ask our members to do something extra this year to help our endorsed candidates. Please consider participating in a phone-banking initiative this fall if your congressional district is competitive. You can make calls from the comfort of your home. We will be targeting the tightest races: those of Andy Kim in District 3 and Tom Malinowski in District 7. We may expand into other races if resources allow. The Club will also be organizing canvassing on the presidential level in battleground states. If interested in getting involved in either of these efforts, please contact me at political.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org.

We have also made endorsements in a number of local campaigns. We are

pleased to announce the endorsement of the following candidates:

For Franklin Township Committee (Warren County): Tracey Heisler (I) Tracey was the president of S k y l a n d s



Preservation Alliance, a non-profit whose mission is preserving the open space in Warren County. Tracey, along with a few of her neighbors, have fought battles with developers on prevent the loss of our farms. Now she is running for township committee on a preservation platform.

For Raritan Township Committee (Hunterdon County): Kent Davis (D). Kent is a proponent of connectivity between open space with the township. He wants to readdress the township's approach to open space funding by adhering to the Township's Master Plan. He also wants to take a proactive- rather than reactive - approach to the anticipated growth of renters, older adults and income challenged residents.

We congratulate both of these candidates and encourage members to support and get involved in their campaigns.

Please check our website for further updates on additional local races!

# Sierra Club Ballot

## 2020 Election of Officers of the New Jersey Chapter, and its Groups and Sections

All Sierra Club members in the New Jersey Chapter are invited to vote for Club officers, both Chapter-wide and in our Groups and Sections. Club members have the **choice** of voting **electronically or by this paper ballot**.

The **Chapter's Executive Committee (ExCom)** meets monthly for discussion of State, regional and other environmental issues, to take policy positions (including initiation of legal actions), make political endorsements, hear reports from staff and volunteer officers, elect the Chapter Chair, socialize, and consider matters arising.

ExCom consists of nine at-large members serving three-year terms, three of whom are elected each year, plus one representative sent by each of our twelve active regional Groups, usually the Group Chair. Please vote for the **three at-large ExCom members** and for the **leadership of your regional Group**. If you participate in our LGBT Section, you may also vote that ballot. (Other optional specialty Sections are for Seniors and for Singles.)

This year's five Chapter ExCom candidates were selected by a Nominating Committee consisting of Dennis Anderson (Chair), Joanne Pannone, John Kashwick, and Renée Pollard. (There is a mechanism for additional nominations by petition, but no such petitions were received this year.)

If the Sierra Club has your e-mail address in its records, you will receive in October a ballot by e-mail, and you may vote EITHER online, as described below, OR by this paper ballot. If you cast an online ballot, any paper ballot you mail in **will not be counted**. Online votes must be cast by November 16, 2020.

If the Sierra Club doesn't have your email address, you must use the paper ballot below to cast your vote.

**To vote online:** click on the link in the e-mail you receive and follow the instructions.

**To vote by paper ballot:** Please vote the ballot on p. 2; then clip the ENTIRE ballot on the heavy-dashed line, and return it in your own envelope, to arrive **by Nov 16, to Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618**. PAIRs of boxes are to enable two members of family memberships to cast separate votes.

(continued on page 2)

## Report from Trenton

# Win for Liberty State Park - Fireman Gives Up on Golf Course

From one of Chapter Director Jeff Tittel's press releases, dated July 15; edited by Joe Testa



Paul Fireman has bowed to public pressure and halted his effort to expand Liberty National Golf Course into Liberty State Park. He was been pushing legislators and lobbying to get his ultra-exclusive golf course expansion

onto the Caven's Point area of the park. This is a win for the protection of Liberty State Park. Fireman has finally learned that the word 'no' means no.

Liberty State Park represents the gateway to our country. This is a victory for the protection of this park and all our state parks, but we have to stay vigilant. We need to make sure that no one else swoops in to try to privatize Liberty State Park, especially with the park privatization language that was added to this year's state budget bill, which has language that explicitly directs the DEP to issue a solicitation to engage the private for-profit and nonprofit sectors in reducing backlogs for state parks through leaseholds. The NJ Sierra Club found the budget language, and that public outcry may

have helped lead to Fireman finally giving up.

Fireman finally realized that no one supports what he wanted to do despite all his arrogance and bullying. However, we need to keep fighting to make sure that this park belongs to all of us. Over the years we have fought against a hotel, millionaire's golf course, private marina, shopping malls, a 25,000-seat amphitheater, water parks, and more.

There is currently legislation in the Legislature that would protect Liberty State Park from privatization. The Liberty State Park Protection Act, or A2189 (Mukherji), would prohibit the DEP from considering any proposal to commercialize, develop, or privatize Liberty State Park, except as provided in the bill. The bill would prohibit any concession, conveyance, or lease within the 235-acre natural restoration area in the interior of the park, and at Caven Point Peninsula. The bill would require the DEP to develop a management plan for the park in consultation with the established committee within three years.

We need to make sure that the Liberty State Park Protection Act is passed because it will help protect the park

from inappropriate privatization. This land is held in the public trust and belongs to all of us. We must make sure that the park that is named after the Statue of Liberty belongs to all of us and stays open to all of us. Vigilance is the price of stewardship.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

|  |   |                                     |      |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|------|
| Sierra Club Ballot.....  | 2 | Pensions, Toll Hike .....           | 6    |
| Conservation Chair's Report:                                     |   | Member Commentary on Covid-19 ..... | 6    |
| Clean Energy.....  | 2 | Group News.....                     | 7-11 |
| Chair's Message: New Volunteers .....                            | 3 | Leader List, Outings, Meetings,     |      |
| Editorial: Plastics Alas .....                                   | 3 | Membership Form .....               | 12   |
| ExCom's Resolutions (June-Aug).....                              | 3 |                                     |      |
| Rpt. from Trenton: Toxic Waste Victory ...                       | 3 |                                     |      |
| Presidential Election Commentary .....                           | 4 |                                     |      |
| Intersectionality (reported by our High School Liaison).....     | 4 |                                     |      |
| Rpts. From Trenton: Wind Power, Recovery from Covid.....         | 4 |                                     |      |
| Member commentary: PFAS Cpd, Volt Economics, Ticks.....          | 5 |                                     |      |
| Rpts. From Trenton: Environmental Justice, Recycling Grants..... | 5 |                                     |      |
| More Reports from Trenton: Fossil Fueled                         |   |                                     |      |

**More in our Electronic Supplement (pp. 13-14):** From our High School Liaison on Back to School! Book Review Bird Behavior, Reports from Trenton: Power Plant for Hoboken? Fire in the Pines; Closure of Wildlife Management Areas; Natural Gas Pipeline Victory (The supplement is part of the Newsletter posted on the Chapter Website, and is sent to all of our electronic-subscribing members.)



## BALLOT

(Continued from page 1)

Note that a properly-clipped ballot will include the mailing label overleaf. This is to verify your membership; it will be removed or otherwise obliterated before ballots are counted.

### Chapter ExCom Ballot

Candidates for three-year terms. They were invited to submit portraits and 100-word statements, which are on this page. Name-order has been randomized. Please vote for UP TO THREE:

- Stan Greberis       Ken Johanson  
 Pramod Raju       Renee Pollard  
 Joe Testa  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

### Group and Section Ballots

Please vote your GROUP ExCom ballot, below, and the LGBT SECTION ballot if you are active in it. Since Club rules require two more candidates than the number of positions to be filled, some ballots include those “extra” candidates as write-in spaces. Groups are organized mainly by County: see the assignments under the Group News heading on p. 6 of this Newsletter. Or you can learn your group from your Membership Number on the top line of the address label on this Newsletter: four digits following the

hyphen: 4001=Central Jersey Group, 4002=Jersey Shore Group, 4003=Loantaka Group, 4004=North Jersey Group, 4005=Skylands Group, 4006=West Jersey Group, 4007=South Jersey Group, 4008=Raritan Valley Group, 4009=Hudson County Group, 4010=Gateway Group, 4011=Hunterdon Warren Group, 4012=Ocean County Group. The arrangement below is generally North-to-South.

**Skylands Group:** Candidates for three positions on the Group ExCom, who will serve for two years. Please vote for UP TO THREE:

- Greg Gorman       Norene Haberski  
 Nicole Guerrieri  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Hunterdon Warren Group:** Candidates for four positions on the Group ExCom, who will serve for two years. Please vote for UP TO FOUR:

- Karen Becker       Nancy Carringer  
 Canny MacGonagle       Amy Weeder  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**North Jersey Group:** Candidates for four positions on the Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO FOUR. Name order has been randomized.

- Judy Green       Buddy Jenssen  
 Laura Troy       Bob Weiss  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gateway Group:** Candidates for 2-year terms on Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO SIX:

- David Yennior       Caroline Kane  
 Kason Little  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Hudson County Group:** Please vote for UP TO FOUR candidates for two-year seats:

- Pat Hilliard       Pramod Raju  
 Andrea Rodriguez  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Loantaka Group:** Candidates for Group ExCom, 2-year terms: Please vote for UP TO FIVE:

- Kathy O'Leary       Allen Swanson  
 Priti Thakker       Kevin O'Brien  
 Wynn Johanson  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Central Jersey Group:** Candidates for Group ExCom, 2-year terms: Please vote for UP TO TWO:

- Joanne Pannone       Leona Fluck  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Raritan Valley Group:** Candidates for Group ExCom, 2-year terms: Please vote for UP TO THREE:

- Gary Frederick       S. Pasricha  
 Paul Ehrlich  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Jersey Shore Group:** Candidates for Group ExCom, 2-year terms: Please vote for UP TO FOUR, (name order has been randomized):

- Wael Kanj       Steve Miller  
 Jim Baye       Dennis Anderson  
 John Luard  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ocean County Group:** Candidates for Group ExCom: Vote for either FIVE candidates or UP TO NINE candidates. Please note that the top 5 vote-getters will serve 2-year terms. Name order has been randomized.

- Ray Kozakiewicz       Nancy Brown  
 Margaret Mary Piccolo  
 William Rodgers       Laura Stone  
 Terrence Brown       Peter Leighton  
 Kathy Kozakiewicz  
 Margit Meissner-Jackson  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**West Jersey Group:** Candidates for two positions on the Group ExCom. 2-year terms. Please vote for UP TO TWO.

- Ellen Zinni       Frank Zinni  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**South Jersey Group:** Candidates for four positions on the Group ExCom. 2-year terms. Please vote for UP TO FOUR.

- Tom Boghosian       Dick Colby  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**LGBTQ+ Section:** Candidates for five positions on the Section ExCom. 1-year terms. Please vote for UP TO FIVE.

- William Parish       Matthew Lang  
 John Kashwick       Jonathan Wall  
 Robert Zitzman  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

## Conservation Chair's Report

# Transitioning to Clean Energy

By Greg Gorman (ggorman07419@embarqmail.com)

NJ Spotlight writer Ron Johnson observed that, “For decades, Environmental Justice communities burdened with power plants, trash incinerators and sewage-treatment plants within their borders have all but begged policymakers to prevent new facilities from being built that would worsen pollution problems there.”<sup>1</sup> The “New Jersey 2020 Scientific Report on Climate Change” describes how global warming has already hurt us and what to expect if we allow the climate catastrophe to continue.<sup>2</sup> The American Lung Association’s 2020 “State of the Air” report found that air quality in the state’s major metropolitan areas continues to rank among the worst in the nation for ozone smog, and fine-particle pollution levels remain poor.<sup>3</sup> Socio-economic factors in overburdened communities multiply the adverse impact of polluting activities, but everyone in the State suffers.

The case for quick and decisive climate action is compelling. In the past, the call for action required sacrifice for the better good. Today, the market tells us that the fossil fuel energy sector, the worst performing S&P sector during the past decade, is in decline. Renewable power has reached grid parity in many energy markets. Electric Vehicles are price competitive. Now is the time to seek opportunities to lead.

Business provides technology and material to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy. We are already seeing benefits of offshore wind as Ørsted develops the logistic system to support construction providing 1100MW. The second RFP for offshore wind was initially planned for 1200MW, but the draft solicitation released this July calls for a range from 1200 to 2400MW or more. The new solicitation takes advantage of the accumulating preparation including a trained workforce.

Many power markets utilizing wind experience times when production of power exceeds demand. So prices are cut; in Texas, customers are actually paid to use more power! In Germany, a hydrolysis facility is being built to store energy as hydrogen.<sup>4,5</sup> (Imagine a NJ Jersey Transit Grid relying on stored hydrogen to generate electric power during an

emergency – instead of a polluting natural gas plant.)

Offshore wind and solar power provide an opportunity to replace fossil fueled Combined Heat & Power (CHP) facilities and manufactured heat processes. The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy’s “Beneficial Electrification in Industry,” July 2020, examines pathways for industrial de-carbonization using technology to replace fossil fuel heat processing units required to operate in a variety of temperature ranges. The electrification of these heat processes provides “Non-energy benefits (e.g. improved productivity, quality, environmental compliance, capacity, safety, waste reduction, etc.) that can often justify equipment replacement.”<sup>6</sup>

The integration of renewable energy, the increase in electric power users, and the development of microgrids to enhance resiliency will take a lot of planning and labor to rebuild our energy pathways. An ACEEE report recommends that stakeholders and policymakers focus on developing manufacturing clusters. The NJ Sierra Club believes that a business opportunity exists to build an equitable and sustainable future. Once again, we can demonstrate that “Trenton Makes – The World Takes.”

To achieve the decarbonization objectives of New Jersey’s Energy Master Plan, an aggressive electrification on the demand side will be required. Increased transmission capacity is required as we replace fossil fueled CHP facilities and commercial/industrial/ heat processes with green technology. Once the power comes to shore, another challenge for the BPU and grid managers is designing and building a grid architecture that integrates and distributes the energy.

#### Footnotes:

- <https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/02/environmental-justice-bill-would-curb-pollution-in-burdened-communities/>
- <https://www.nj.gov/dep/climatechange/docs/nj-scientific-report-2020.pdf>
- <http://www.stateoftheair.org/city-rankings/states/new-jersey/>
- <https://www.chemengonline.com/green-hydrogen-production-plant-inaugurated-in-germany/>
- <https://www.cleanenergywire.org/factsheets/germanys-national-hydrogen-strategy>
- <https://www.aceee.org/research-report/ie2002>

## Ballot Statements Submitted by Candidates for Chapter ExCom

(Name-order has been randomized)

### Stan Greberis

**(Jersey Shore Group):** Shore Group ExCom member, Co-Conservation Chair, Environmental Adviser, Letter Writing, Fund Raising Committee & Life Time Club Member. Past Shore Group Political Committee & lead person for Endangered Species. (Retired): Fortune 100 Corporation. 425,000 square feet site with 550 employees. Led efforts to reduce energy consumption, adding solar, LED lighting, energy efficient refrigeration, hybrid trucks & implemented recycling program. Wrote multiple company newsletter articles on the financial & environmental benefits of energy efficient homes. Solar home, modulating boiler, LED lighting, high efficiency pool (75% less energy) & waste water fountain re-purposes 4,000 gallons for irrigation. Other Organizations: SCORE business mentor.



### Ken Johanson

**(Loantaka Group):** I served as chair of the New Jersey Chapter for eleven years and currently serve as a member of the executive committee, chair of the fundraising committee and a member of the finance and personnel committees. I was awarded the Chapter’s Volunteer of the Year award in 2016, for which I am most thankful. The New Jersey Chapter has been an effective advocate for the environment over the years. I am proud to have been a part of this effort and I look forward to continuing to work on advancing our agenda in the years to come.



### Renée Pollard:

Renée has been a Club member for seven years. She Chairs the Chapter’s Environmental & Social Justice Committee, having for many years advocated around education, environment, homelessness, and racial, social, and systemic injustices. She restructured the Committee to increase its diversity, inclusiveness and effectiveness, recently crafting a policy on Affordable Housing that was adopted by ExCom. She offers a voice to those marginalized communities which otherwise would not have one. She wants there to be fair representation and equal opportunities for all people who live on this earth. She likes peaceful walks and scenic drives, and she loves to sing.



### Joe Testa

**(Loantaka Group):** Currently an ExCom member, Chapter Secretary, Information Technology Chair. As our state’s delegate to the national Council of Club Leaders, I’m responsible for communicating concerns between our Chapter and the Club’s national leadership. I’ve worked with coalition partners fighting new fossil fuel projects. An avid hiker, I joined the Club to participate in outings and to support a pro-environment agenda. In these challenging times, it’s more important than ever to work together with our terrific Trenton staff, volunteers, members, and the general public. I’d appreciate your vote so I can continue to put my experience to work for the Chapter.



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



## Chair's Message Our Chapter Welcomes More 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!

• **Leah Sinisi, Chair of the Chapter's Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) Committee**

Leah is a public elementary school teacher and aspiring principal, summer day camp director, and a single mom to the best ten-year-old daughter. She spends her free time hiking, trail running, cycling, and kayaking. She would very much like to get involved with conservation and teaching wellness through connection with the outdoors and is quite willing to chair and revive over the next several months the Chapter's ICO program.

• **Amanda Gaglio, ICO Committee member.** Amanda is a 23-year-old NJ native who is passionate about environmental stewardship, sustainability, and environmental education. An AmeriCorps and Rutgers University alum, she has a BS in Exercise Science, Environmental Policy, and Sustainability and she loves to volunteer and serve her community.

• **Oscar Nazar, ICO Committee member.** Oscar is 25 years old and a current resident of North Bergen working as a Data Analyst for a creative media agency. After graduating from The College of New Jersey he took some time to travel across the northeast hiking and climbing through various national and state parks and became an avid hiker. Through these experiences grew the desire to protect these locations and educate others on their value. Upon reflection, he realized that all his understanding on the value of nature has come later in life and that during his childhood he had no interest or understanding of what hiking and nature have to offer, and that is why he volunteered to be an ICO volunteer.

• **Samantha Terwilliger, ICO Committee member.** Samantha is a recent graduate from the University of Vermont, where she studied Environmental Studies. She currently lives in Sea Girt.

• **Leila Marcovici, ICO Committee member and Toxics Legal Advisor.** Leila loves the outdoors – hiking, boating, and beaches – and is passionate about fostering the same in others. She has three little children (ages 8, 5, 2) who also love nature and want to protect our natural environment. Leila also is an attorney and scientist with a strong chemistry background, and she will be helping our Chapter with our work regarding toxic substances.

• **Wael Kanj, Chapter Political Data Analyst.** An active member of the Jersey Shore Group since 2018, when he moved back to his home state after some years away, Wael has completed Sierra Club training on most of the digital tools we use, including Salesforce/CORE, Campfire, SmartVAN, and Marketing

Cloud. Wael will be helping in our outreach efforts in two key Congressional races this year – supporting Reps. Malinowski and Kim.

• **Pramod Raju, Chapter Membership Chair.** Both Co-Chair and Political Chair of the Hudson County Group, Pramod has a wide range of interests, ranging from composting to politics. Pramod is also fervently determined to increase the number of activists, both within Hudson County and within our state, which is why he's taking on the new responsibilities of Chapter Membership Chair.

• **Faris Jebara, Chapter Clean Energy Coordinator.** Faris has 15 years experience as an activist supporting civic, social, and environmental campaigns. Professionally, Faris has worked as Project Manager for five years in Supply Chain and Procurement and as Customer Success Account Manager for an additional seven years. Faris also has extensive experience as an entrepreneur starting several companies that have ranged from distribution of CPG and Marketing Services.

• **Farhan Nuruzzaman, Env't. & Social Justice Committee member.** Farhan has a broad background, with both an M.B.A. and a M.A. in Geosciences. While serving at the EPA, Farhan managed federal grant funds for three environmental agencies, resulting in 3000 inspections and an annual clean-up of 400 contaminated facilities, and led an interdisciplinary team of scientists, policy analysts, and attorneys to revise state storage tank regulations, establishing standards for inspections of 9,800 industrial facilities.

• **Matt Bewley, Transportation Outreach Coordinator.** A graduate student in Urban Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers, Matt got involved with our NJ Chapter as an Urban Transit Analyst Intern, helping to produce two reports on New Jersey's bus system. His main interests are transportation and mass transit, motivated by the belief that sustainable transportation can be a tool for social justice. He's excited to continue working with the Transportation Committee to advocate for a truly sustainable transportation system in New Jersey. Matt is originally from Texas, but has been riding trains and buses in the northeast for the last 10 years.

• **Jordan Rosenbloom, Transportation Outreach Coordinator.** A senior at Rutgers University's Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy studying Urban Planning and Design, Jordan used his knowledge in transportation policy, spatial analysis, and geographical information system software (ArcGIS) to help our Transportation Committee when he was one of our Chapter's Urban Transit Analyst Interns. We are glad to have Jordan continuing to help us, now as a volunteer activist.

## Editorial Dark Thoughts on Plastics

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



Can you remember your first plastic (polyethylene) shopping bag? I remember mine, issued at a supermarket in Sweden during two years when I lived in Europe (1969-1971), and thinking it one of the most clever inventions of all time, and wondering whether such things were available in the US.

I also remember the Bohack's and A&P supermarkets of the 1940s, with four sizes of brown paper bags available for the fruits and vegetables you picked from bins on open tables.

Today I buy most of my fruits and vegetables in specialty discount produce outlets, all prepackaged to standard weights in clear polyethylene bags. It's hard to imagine a return to paper bags, and the complication at checkout of weighing each item in my shopping cart. (Of course I bring my own reusable outer bags – plastic still, but not polyethylene.)

What are the alternatives? Paper, cloth, glass and metals: all products of the environment, all produced from raw materials, all costing energy in their manufacture, leaving toxic byproducts, and needing eventual disposal. Mr and Ms Green, the Sierra Club's consultants writing in our *Sierra* magazine, have answered many a question on the comparative environmental impacts of alternatives to plastics. Paper hot-drink cups, for example, are reportedly comparable in environmental impact to Styrofoam (polystyrene) cups, requiring far more water and fuel for their manufacture, leaving hazardous acid wastes that require disposal, and costing much more in the supermarket.

I ask you to consider a quantitative argument: What are the relative quantities of plastic inside a shopping bag – compared to the amount in the bag itself? A single tub for margarine or cottage cheese, or yogurt, or a gallon jug for milk, or a bottle of salad dressing or soft drink, contains more plastic than a shopping bag. All these containers are discarded into recycling or waste bins, and have similar chances of ending up in the oceans. And what's the proportion of plastic that goes into food containers, relative to that which has replaced metal, wood and plant fiber in furniture, automobiles, household appliances, buildings and fences, children's toys, clothing, electronic equipment, etc?

I remember milk being delivered in reusable glass bottles, which were water-washed and heat-sterilized before refilling, no doubt a far more expensive and resource-draining process than that needed for the current high-density polyethylene and waxed cardboard alternatives. Likewise for Coke and Pepsi bottles, replaced now by plastic (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles and by aluminum cans. Totally new since my boyhood days are the vast numbers of throwaway plastic water bottles. Three issues here: a pervasive recent fear of drinking tap-water, their low cost, and people's unwillingness to dispose properly of waste.

Much of South Jersey's inland economy was once based on the manufacture of glass bottles: in Vineland and Millville; Wheaton Glass Co. is a tiny remnant, along with a few manufacturers of scientific (Pyrex) glassware. It's hard for me to imagine resurrection of that industry, which required the steady delivery of boxcar-loads of phosphate flux from Wyoming.

Polyethylene, polypropylene, polycarbonate and polystyrene, four of the most common plastics, have the virtue of being composed elementally of just carbon, hydrogen and oxygen, which means that they burn cleanly (in incinerators) to produce just water, CO<sub>2</sub> and useful heat.

Yes, plastics end up in the oceans, fragmenting into smaller and smaller particles consumed by fish which reappear on our dinner plates, or which should have their own rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of aquatic happiness. I haven't done the math, but it seems likely that the worldwide demise of single-use plastic shopping bags would result in a negligible decline of ocean plastic. I should ask Mr and Ms Green.

One always wants to be positive and helpful, but the scale of planetary plastic pollution is so vast (like that of climate change), that I cringe. I think incineration is better than landfilling. The European Union's imposition – requiring that the cost price of all consumer appliances and household goods (e.g. mattresses) include the provision for proper disposal at the end of the item's useful lifetime – wouldn't stand a chance in our more-populist political process.

## Resolutions:

### Approved by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in June, July and August, 2020

**June: Appointments:** Leah Sinisi as Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) Chair; Leila Marcovici, Amanda Gaglio, Oscar Nazar, and Samantha Terwilliger as ICO Committee members; Pramod Raju as Chapter Membership Chair; Judy Minot to the Personnel Committee;

Farhan Nuruzzaman to the Environmental & Social Justice Committee; Jordan Rosenbloom and Matthew Bewley as Transportation Outreach Coordinators.

**July:** Wael Kanj, of our Jersey Shore Group, was approved as Chapter Political Data Analyst. We signed on to a letter circulated by Trout Unlimited asking for removal of a dam at Bear Swamp Lake (Ringwood State Park, Bergen Co). Another Resolution addressed to the Club's national Council of Leaders: on establishing a Renewable Energy-Construction Union Taskforce.

**August:** More new officers were appointed and ratified. See Chair's Message on this page.

## Report from Trenton

# Elcon Withdraws Proposal to Treat Toxic Waste

From a press release issued on July 27, and edited by Irene Gnarra

Good news: Elcon Recycling Services Co. has withdrawn its application to build a liquid storage and hazardous waste treatment facility in Falls Township, Bucks County PA (just

upwind from Trenton). Many groups have been opposing this project since 2014.

Elcon boasted that it had the technology to treat a variety of commercial wastes,

including oils, herbicides and other toxics. The site was a 22-acre portion of the Keystone Industrial Port Complex, located a half mile from the Delaware River. It anticipated collecting 150,000 to 210,000 tons of chemical and pharmaceutical waste annually in ten states on the Eastern seaboard, in truckloads.

Sadly, the fight is not yet over. Elcon still foresees expanding its business in the US, perhaps processing waste from the production of vaccines and other pharmaceuticals used to combat the Covid-19 virus. Doubtless it is not alone. The New Jersey Sierra Club will remain watchful.



Commentary from our Toxics Advisor

## If Trump is Re-Elected, Will We Survive?

By Mark Fukayama (markexams@aol.com)

If the political landscape does not change in November, what will happen to our environmental and public health safeguards? Will we survive? What kind of trouble will we be in?

We may be in BIG TROUBLE given the administration's actions to date, as it has already instigated the rollback of over 150 environmental regulations or rules as tracked by Columbia<sup>1</sup> and Harvard<sup>2</sup> Law Schools. Many of these rollbacks are being litigated, but almost 70 regulations have been officially reversed or revoked (as of July 2020).<sup>3</sup>

For example, the 2017 withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement has already had a devastating impact on the world-wide attempt (minus the U.S.) to limit climate change to 2°C, but if ignored another 4 years, the likelihood of limiting this change will be near zero and meeting the Agreement's carbon emission targets will be delayed a decade based on a recent peer-reviewed study.<sup>4</sup> This computer-simulated study considered many different future scenarios including other countries having to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to a much greater extent due to negligent U.S. emissions.

If dismantling of GHG mitigation controls and promotion of fossil fuels continues, especially if other countries join in these actions, the consequences would more closely correspond to the worst-case emission scenario described in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) June 2020 Climate Change Report.<sup>5</sup> Under this scenario, our environmental nightmares become reality such as a global temperature increase as high as 7.2°C by the end of the century, a sea level rise as high as 4.4 ft by 2050 and 8.8 ft by 2100 (above 2000 levels), a 55% increase in summer related mortalities within this decade and a doubling of mortality by 2050, loss of vital NJ agricultural crops along with the fishing and clamming industries, and an increased frequency of cyclonic weather events resulting in the historical 100-year flood occurring on an annual basis by 2100.

If Trump is re-elected, our health will be especially at risk given that this administration has done the opposite of protecting our health, as reported by the New York University (NYU) School of Law.<sup>6</sup> The oxymoronic Affordable Clean Energy plan that replaced the Obama-era Clean Power Plan will increase fossil fuel combustion pollutants that, by 2030, would annually cause 1,630 more incidences of premature deaths, 120,000 additional asthma attacks, 140,000 missed school days and 48,000 lost work days.

Rollback of efforts to limit methane emissions from natural gas exploitation will result in an estimated 1,900 premature deaths, 1.1 million asthma attacks, and 3,600 emergency room visits by 2030.

A loophole reinstated to allow sales of glider trucks with non-compliant engines will result in emissions of thousands of tons of pollutants annually, causing 9,000 to 21,000 premature deaths and untold numbers of asthma attacks, emergency visits and lost workdays every year.

Fortunately, many of the attempted rollbacks have failed when challenged in court, according to the NYU School of Law<sup>7</sup> and Earth Justice<sup>8</sup>. But with another 4 years and the ability to pack the judiciary, the legal protections of these safeguards are far from guaranteed.

Perhaps the most destructive consequence of another term is the continued demonization of science and scientists<sup>9</sup> and their valuable learnings replaced with misinformation, fake news, and conspiracy theories<sup>10,11</sup> that propagate public mistrust, anti-vaxxers, and climate change denial.<sup>12</sup> From the Covid-19 pandemic, we have learned all too well the deadly outcome of lies and misdirections<sup>13</sup>.

To answer the question – will we survive? – in addition to the rollbacks of health and environmental safeguards, we must also consider the administration's position on Obamacare, relationships with allies and dictators, treatment of our rule of law and of minority and LGBTQ communities, the economic gap between the rich and poor, the current state of the economy, and other consequential issues.

Will we survive? Nobody knows the answer, but we all have opinions; mine is that November's vote will tip a balance.

### Footnotes:

1. <https://climate.law.columbia.edu/climate-deregulation-tracker>
2. <https://eelp.law.harvard.edu/regulatory-rollback-tracker/>
3. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/climate/trump-environment-rollbacks.html>
4. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2020.03.011>
5. <https://www.nj.gov/dep/climatechange/docs/nj-scientific-report-2020.pdf>
6. <https://www.law.nyu.edu/sites/default/files/climate-and-health-showdown-in-the-courts.pdf>
7. <https://policyintegrity.org/trump-court-roundup>
8. <https://earthjustice.org/features/two-years-overruling-trump>
9. <https://time.com/4646085/donald-trump-science-denial/>
10. <https://doi.org/10.1177/20563305118776010>
11. <https://time.com/5860215/domestic-disinformation-growing-menace-america/>
12. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-020-0884-z>
13. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13669877.2020.1756385>

Report from Trenton

## Wind Power: State Bets Big

From a Letter to an Editor submitted by Chapter Director Jeff Tittel, and edited by Tony Hagen

In late July, the state Board of Public Utilities announced the second round of bidding for offshore wind energy development. The BPU would award contracts for up to 2.4 gigawatts (GW) of wind power in June 2021 and the projects would be operational by 2027.

In addition, the state announced plans for a wind power “marshalling” and manufacturing port on 180 acres next to the former Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Station in Lower Alloways Creek Township, Salem Co. This is where wind turbine parts would be loaded onto ocean vessels for transportation to installation sites. This port would be capable of servicing offshore wind projects all along the East Coast.

Led by the state Economic Development Authority, the NJ Wind Port would cost up to \$400 million and create up to 1,500 permanent manufacturing, assembly, and operations jobs—a boon for the nascent green economy.

The state is targeting installation of 7.5 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2035. In 2019, the Danish company Ørsted won the initial contract and will install 1.1 GW 15 miles out to sea from Atlantic City. It will be able to power the equivalent of 500,000 homes. According to an Ørsted spokesman, the project remains on schedule and is in the planning, engineering, and permitting phase. Completion is scheduled for the “early 2020s.”

Report from our High School Liaison

## Intersectionality within Environmentalism

By Allison Fabrizio (alisonl.f1190@gmail.com)

Our nation as a whole has been dealing with the harsh realities of how this land was built. Activism and movements have been sparked across our state and our country to combat hatred and ignorance. From systems that need to be systematically changed, to policies that only benefit certain groups of people, the injustices and policies across our state and our nation are finally being brought to light. These activities also call for us to recognize the importance of intersectionality.

In the 1980's Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw developed the theory of intersectionality while explaining oppression against black women within our society. She refers to the urgency of intersectionality and how that lack of representation also leads to the lack of policies being created to benefit marginalized communities. Before Ms. Crenshaw coined this term, in 1977 the Combahee River Collective (a group of Black lesbian feminists) stated in their manifesto, “We... find it difficult to separate race from class from sex oppression because in our lives they are most often experiences simultaneously.”

[https://americanstudies.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/Keyword%20Coalition\\_Readings.pdf](https://americanstudies.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/Keyword%20Coalition_Readings.pdf)

In terms of environmental advocacy and justice, intersectionality means the bringing together of community activists with policymakers. Race, gender, socioeconomic class, sexual orientation, age,

ability, and many more factors all need to be combined and recognized. These identifiers need to be taken into account, especially when one is seen as a minority within our society. In order to develop and help all walks of life, we have to be comfortable having nuanced conversations surrounding eco activism.

With respect to environmental issues, many underserved and underrepresented communities come to mind. An example is the coronavirus pandemic: ten New Jersey counties are among the 50 hotspot counties nationwide. Essex, which includes the city of Newark, is one of those counties, with almost 50% African Americans, and approximately 36% Latinx. Newark is also home to heavy polluting industries, from large incinerators to plastic fabricators.

Whether air and water pollution or climate change, communities, whose residents consist mostly of minority populations, tend to have to pay the price. Worse than this, when examining environmental issues, many of these voices tend to be left out of the conversation. Within our own state, predominantly black/minority communities tend to suffer more from air and water pollution when compared to many other areas. Intersectionality calls for a diverse group of people who are able to speak not for, but with people whose experiences are different, and carry their own unique identity and story.

Report from Trenton

## Sierra Club Proposes Green Reopening Plan to Murphy Administration

From a press release issued on June 20

The New Jersey Sierra Club has sent a green reopening proposal to Governor Murphy's Restart and Recovery Commission. The plan highlights needs in New Jersey to expand mass transit, expand wind and solar renewable energy, create green jobs, and reduce pollution. The blueprint also includes smart growth, and implementing environmental, equity, and labor standards. We urge the need to use the Covid-19 pandemic to force major changes on business practices and on how we protect our environment.

More than a million people in New Jersey are unemployed. But we have seen the clean air benefits from less use of motor vehicles, and less use of energy for manufacturing. To preserve those benefits, the Governor's Commission should promote mass transit, non-polluting sources of electricity, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency. We also need a strong equity component to reopening our businesses and industries.

New Jersey's re-opening plan should start with the retraction of Murphy's Executive Orders that block public participation in the review processes for major state and local projects. EO 136 extends timeframes for the DEP's provision of public notice, review, and decisions on permits and other approvals for the duration of the public health emergency, including those which would allow applications to be approved without conditions deemed necessary by DEP to ensure protection of public health, safety, and the environment.

Automobiles are the biggest source of air pollution and greenhouse gases in New Jersey, so it is critical to move quickly to electrify our transit system including buses, rail, private cars, garbage trucks, school buses and port-related vehicles. Instead of spending billions of dollars on widening turnpikes and parkways, we should invest in mass transit. Expand the Bergen Light Rail into Bergen County. Build the Monmouth-Ocean-Middlesex rail line.

Remediating air pollution is perhaps the best way we can relieve the environmental injustice that falls on our EJ communities, which have long suffered disproportionate health impacts, along with reduced access to healthcare and education. It's no surprise that the Covid pandemic had a bigger impact on these low-income, minority, and overburdened communities.

New Jersey's parks have reached capacity during this pandemic, which shows how much people love our parks, but they need funding for maintenance and expanding. We should encourage biking, walking, and enjoying nature. Local parks promote a sense of community.

During the pandemic people have become more involved in their communities, including helping others. We can expand upon that with community service programs, especially with federal funds. Programs like the 1930s' Civilian Conservation Corps Camps, and more recent AmeriCorps and VISTA, would help get young people involved in healthcare, education, and helping the less fortunate.



## Commentary

# Substitute PFAS Compounds Are Blowing Across New Jersey

By Tony Hagen: Assistant Editor; Member of our West Jersey Group

Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), used in firefighting foam and nonstick surfaces for cooking pots, are highly toxic and dispersed throughout New Jersey. In April the Department of Environmental Protection approved some of the strictest standards in the nation for the presence of PFAS in drinking water, and that proposed rule is currently under review by the Office of Administrative Law. Meanwhile, disturbing news has emerged in a journal Science report about chemical compounds that manufacturers are now using instead.

Solvay Specialty Polymers USA of West Deptford Township in Gloucester County has a legacy of PFAS contamination and was among eight corporate signatories to a 2006 deal with the US Environmental Protection Agency to phase out use of a category of PFAS, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), by 2015. This was the PFOA Stewardship Program. However, many manufacturers developed substitute compounds for PFAS and treated those compounds as proprietary, making it difficult to identify them and understand their toxicities, according to the Science report.

Environmental chemists, including two from the DEP, identified the presence of PFAS-like compounds, or congeners, in soils around the Solvay plant. By checking Solvay product literature filed with the European Food Safety Authority, they linked the congeners to Solvay. The compounds turned up again in an analysis of a water sample from nearby the Solvay Specialty Polymers Italy plant in Alessandria, Italy, “bolstering confidence still further in our identification of these compounds as Solvay’s product,” the investigators wrote.

They analyzed soil samples nearby the plant and from remote locations around New Jersey and found that the suspect compounds were present around the

West Deptford plant, but also extended, in diminishing concentrations, to remote locations in New Jersey. This was strong evidence that the congeners came from the Solvay plant. They found also that the lighter compounds were dispersed more widely than heavier ones, supporting a theory that air currents were carrying them across the state. “These soil samples chiefly are from positions that are not hydraulically downgradient in the watershed of any Solvay wastewater discharge, [and] aqueous discharge cannot explain these observations,” the investigators wrote.

The lightest of the compounds were so widely dispersed across New Jersey that the investigators suspected other states were getting a whiff of them, too. They decided to check soil samples from Merrimack, New Hampshire, and Conyers, Georgia, as well. No traces of the suspect compounds were found in the Georgia sample, but the New Hampshire sample was positive for one compound. This was not conclusive evidence that it came from Solvay in West Deptford, but the investigators found it noteworthy.

They concluded that further study is needed to understand the presence and movement of these compounds in soil profiles; groundwater; vegetation, such as crops; and in humans and animals. Also, it needs to be determined how toxic these PFAS replacement compounds are and whether they degrade in the environment, they said.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network wrote to the DEP recently asking them to disclose more of what they know about substitute PFAS in New Jersey and what actions they are taking. They also requested that the DEP stay on top of the issue. The NJ Sierra Club chapter has signed aboard that request.

## Report from Trenton

# Environmental Justice for Overburdened Communities

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

New Jersey could have one of the strongest Environmental Justice laws in the nation. S232 (Singleton)/A2212 (McKeon) promises access to clean air and clean water.

The Bill would establish procedures for granting environmental permits in overburdened communities, defined as areas comprised of minorities with poor education, English language deficiency, and low income. It has wide support from the Murphy Administration and hundreds of organizations. The Senate passed S232 on June 29, by a vote of 22-14. On July 20, the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee added amendments and approved it by a vote of 4 yes, 1 no, and 1 abstention. But the fight is not yet over: although scheduled for consideration on July 30, the full Assembly did not act on it.

The Bill would apply to permitting for either the construction of a new industrial facility or the expansion of an existing one

in an overburdened community. The applicant would have to submit an “Environmental Justice Impact Statement” showing that the facility would not contribute to adverse cumulative environment or public health stressors that would be higher than those in any other community.

We see this bill as a tribute to John Lewis and his fortitude in fighting against racism and for justice. New Jersey is one of the most segregated states in the country, with a history of discriminative housing practices and patterns of racial profiling. Our highways segregate cities deliberately. Disadvantaged communities have been the dumping grounds for facilities that no one wants. Toxic sites, incinerators, power plants, airports, and other major polluting facilities are concentrated in our overburdened communities. The current pandemic is just one example of the increased risk we relegate to our EJ communities by the air pollution we concentrate there.

## Conservation Comments

# “Volt” Economics

By Joanne Pannone, Chair of our Central Jersey Group (jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com)

Pictured is my 2017 Chevy “Volt” and its computer screen. My dealer’s website states, “With a 240-volt charging station you can fully charge an empty “Volt” battery in 4.5 hours. That full charge permits an average of 53 miles of all-electric driving.” The car is a plug-in electric hybrid that saves you money and decreases your carbon foot print – at a reasonable price. It runs initially on electric power (60 miles today), after which it runs on gasoline, for a total driving range of up to 420 miles. The battery is covered by an eight-year, 100,000 mile warranty. You are unaware of the transition from battery to internal combustion.

More than 130,000 Chevy “Volts” have been sold since 2010. Mine has more than enough charge for my driving needs. The convenience of gasoline when needed has helped many people switch to electric. Charging a plug-in hybrid doesn’t require an electrician, just a regular wall outlet. It still requires maintenance every 7500 miles: rotate tires, inspect brake pads, change the oil and oil filter.

An added plus is that my home electricity comes from my own rooftop solar panels! I wish I could win everyone over to mostly electric driving: reducing tail-pipe pollution and global warming. Climate change is real and it’s our responsibility to reverse it.



## Member's Commentary

# Ticks, My Deer!

By Joanne Pannone, Chair of our Central Jersey Group (jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com)

As the hurricane blew through New Jersey on August 4th, my oak trees left a carpet of acorns which are “deer magnets.” Deer love these large nuts because they can consume them quickly and they’re packed with nutrition. I am reminded as we are cleaning up fallen trees to be on guard for ticks. While deer are lovely to look at,



they carry ticks and the ticks are known to carry diseases. Even though I spray my arms and legs and clothing, I often find them on my body. The tick moves really fast until it latches on. Some are quite tiny and you only find them when they are engorged with your blood. When you find a tick on your body, remove it as soon as possible using tweezers, or your fingers. Do not use nail polish, Vaseline or anything that will traumatize the tick and cause it to regurgitate: a sure way to transmit disease. Rutgers’ Cooperative Extension Service provides free tick species identification if you bring a tick sample to your County office.

The most common tick-borne disease is Lyme disease, spread through the bite of an infected tick. Once the Lyme microorganisms get into your bloodstream through the tick bite, they travel throughout the body and cause problems in specific organs or locations such as joints, as well as an overall illness. A tick transmits this particular disease once it is attached for 24 to 48 hours. As long as the temperature is above freezing, ticks are hungry, ready and waiting for you. The risk of being bitten by an infected deer tick is greatest in May and June when the nymph stage is active.

I make a habit of thoroughly checking myself for ticks. While it’s impossible to prevent the deer from snacking in my yard, I do my best to clear the acorns from my driveway and house to limit my exposure to ticks. I am also known to run outside hollering for deer to get back in the woods.

You can find more information on the Rutgers website. Stay well.

## Report from Trenton

# DEP's Recycling Grants Program Needs Fixing

From a press release issued on June 12, and edited by Sylvia Kay

On June 10, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection awarded \$19.4 million in annual Clean Communities grants. The money will help municipalities and counties remove litter, improve water quality, and enhance the quality of life. \$17.3 million is being awarded to eligible municipalities and \$2.1 million to the state’s 21 counties. Efficient recycling lowers waste sent to landfills and incinerators, reduces plastic litter in communities, and lessens greenhouse gas emissions.

While New Jersey was the first state to make recycling mandatory, in 1987, current data shows a decline in recycling rates. In the early 1990s New Jersey recycled over 50% of municipal and household waste, but this number is now down to 37%. The Sierra Club is promoting new legislation: S864 (Smith/Greenstein), which would ban single-use plastic carry-out bags, plastic straws, and polystyrene foam (aka Styrofoam). The Legislature should also enact a bottle bill to incentivize the return of bottles and aluminum drink cans by means of a deposit fee. Currently, New Jersey recycles only 50% of cans and bottles. Compare with Michigan, which has a bottle bill and recycles 97%.



## Reports from Trenton

# Fossil Fuels Diminish Pension Fund Returns

From a Press Release issued on May 29, and edited by Tony Hagen

There's a need for the state to seriously consider divesting from fossil fuel energy stocks. The climate emergency is reason enough, but perhaps equally so, in the eyes of state pensioners, is how fossil fuel investments are undermining their future security. The state workers' pension funds, managed by the state Division of Investment, took a pummeling in the first part of 2020, dropping from just under \$80 billion to \$75.3 billion by the end of May, a loss of \$4.4 billion.

The state's investment in fossil fuel energy stocks has played a role in that decline. According to Bloomberg, the chief holding in the state pension fund is Exxon Mobil, which declined from \$100 a share in early 2014 to \$42 a share by August 1, a 58% decline. As of May, according to a Bloomberg report, the state invested in 148 energy stocks, many of them well-known oil companies, representing 3.7% of the state's energy equity portfolio.

Collectively, fossil fuel energy stocks have not done well the past six years. The S&P Global Oil Index also dropped 58% from mid-2014 to August 1, from \$2,540 a share to \$1,058 a share. On the other hand, renewables have done a lot better. The ISHARES TR/GLB Clean Energy Fund climbed from a low of around \$6.50 share in 2012 to \$14.40 on August 1, up 122%.

However, getting the state to transition to renewable energy is no easy task. A report provided by the state's Investment Council in 2019 expressed doubt about renewables as viable investments and maintained that fossil fuel energy stocks continued to have strong potential: "From an investment perspective, peak global demand for fossil fuels appears to be decades away," it said, adding "alternative fuel sources remain limited by the slow pace and complexity of the transition to renewable energy."

The state Treasury told Bloomberg in February that it intended to hire a sustainable investments manager, but we have not had any update since that report. "Meanwhile, clean energy stocks are moving up," said Jeff Tittel, director of the NJ Sierra Club chapter.

Unfortunately, not only has the state's intransigence on energy investments contributed to an unstable and unhealthy environment, it has interfered with the development of a clean energy supply.

### 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

# Murphy Signs Off On Toll Hike and Destructive Highway Widening Plan

From a press release issued on June 12

Governor Murphy has officially approved plans for widening the NJ Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway and the Atlantic City Expressway. On May 27 he sent confirmation letters to both highway Authorities, after both had held public hearings and approved toll increases.

New Jerseyans will be paying more money to be stuck in traffic longer. The plans call for paving over environmentally sensitive areas and bulldozing Environmental Justice Communities. They violate what Murphy has said about reducing greenhouse gases, protecting EJ communities, and remediating our dirty air.

Relatedly, the State Legislature is considering A4175 (Pintor Marin). Known as the "New Jersey Covid-19 Emergency Bond Act", it authorizes the issuance of State bonds totaling \$5 billion and authorizes additional borrowing from the federal government. Meanwhile, NJ Transit has just released a \$17 billion capital and strategic plan, of which only \$11 billion is funded so far.

Why should we be spending more than \$16 billion on highway widenings that will hurt the environment and cost us more later, when there is such a critical need for emergency relief from the costs of the Covid-19 pandemic? New Jersey would be better off closing its budget gap and helping NJ Transit.

Governor Murphy has argued that the widening projects are not inconsistent with his green energy policies. He has stated, "There's a whole lot of idling that goes on of cars and, over time, once this plan is executed, that will go down dramatically. There are untold emissions that are coming out as a result of that idling and congestion ... Secondly, the Turnpike Authority — and this is not by accident — [is] going to put a lot of electric vehicle charging infrastructure into their rest areas."

We think Governor Murphy's logic is false. When you widen roads, they will come! The increased traffic just moves the bottleneck from one place to another. These projects will add almost a million more cars to our roads and more than 100 million tons of greenhouse gases per year.

A more responsible way to reduce traffic and protect our air quality would be to expand mass transit.

One benefit of subscribing electronically is that the links (URLs) to internet sources become live (clickable). To switch to electronic delivery, just e-mail the editor, dick.colby@stockton.edu, with "Electronic JS" in the subject line and your 8-digit membership number (from the mailing label on p.1) in the text.

## Member's Commentary

# How We Unleashed a Flood of New Diseases

By George Moffat, a member of our Jersey Shore Group

Who is to blame for the Covid-19 pandemic? The quick answer is China. A more thoughtful answer would be "all of us."

Pandemics aren't new, and usually we seek a culprit, a creature that transmits a virus either directly to humans or through an intermediate host. About 60 to 75 percent of our infectious diseases – AIDS, anthrax, bubonic plague, Ebola, influenza, Lyme, mad cow, rabies, SARS, West Nile, Zika and lesser known outbreaks – can be blamed on infected animals.

One such example is the SARS epidemic in 2002 where bats infected a civet cat, which infected one human and triggered an epidemic that eventually infected 8,000 persons and caused 800 deaths. The MERS epidemic in 2012 was caused by a camel infected by a bat. That virus infected 2,500 people and caused 866 deaths.

Animals that can transmit a disease to humans are labeled zoonotic, and the process is called zoonosis. In each outbreak, we've been able to trace the disease back to a specific geographic area or suspected carrier. Today researchers are focusing on bats as the main mammalian-borne culprit in triggering the transmission of diseases by infecting humans directly or indirectly by infecting domesticated animals first.

Covid-19 researchers initially suspected the source was the horseshoe bats in a wet market near Wuhan in southwest China. But it is under study whether the virus was transmitted by an already infected individual or through one of these markets.

The nation's top infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, recently noted that Covid-19, first detected in December 2019, has an "extraordinarily wide spectrum of disease." A majority of the people

infected by Covid-19 experience mild, moderate or no symptoms, he said, and between 20 to 45 percent of all cases can be asymptomatic.

Bats have been evolving for millions of years, and during that time they may have attracted and now carry thousands of viruses to which they are immune. Fortunately, most of these viruses are not zoonotic. Bats transmit their hitch-hiker viruses by their urine, guano, and saliva.

Unfortunately, of the few to which we may be susceptible, we humans and other mammals aren't immune at all.

How can viruses in general spread so quickly?

One trigger is environmental. When bats' traditional habitats – caves and other secluded spaces to live or tropical forests for food – are disturbed, they have no recourse but to move into nearby villages for both food and shelter.

Quality of life is another factor. Covid-19, for example, is highly transmissible through the air, and anyone can catch the virus, the healthy and unhealthy, young and old. However, the ability to survive a Covid-19 virus might be determined by quality-of-life issues, such as poor diet, polluted air and water, lack of health care, lack of sanitation, arduous and low paying jobs, and other difficulties. In addition, socially oriented stress, such as educational attainment, low socioeconomic status, unemployment, discrimination and structural racism can result in greater vulnerability to Covid-19.

Another is ecological. Bats have been evolving for about 60 million years, and taxonomists count about 1,400 species in 17 families. They live in communal and crowded quarters, so they can easily

transmit their viruses to each other. Bats are the only sustained flying mammal, and evolutionary changes in their metabolism due to flight have conditioned them to resist many of their viruses.

Another is agricultural. Bat guano, highly prized as a fertilizer, is spread on farm lands in many countries. A farming community may become infected when it collects the guano in bat caves, which may shelter thousands to millions of bats. The virus may then spread throughout the rural communities by the unwitting farmers, but further research is needed to verify and understand this potential pathway.

Then we have local commerce. The bats themselves are captured alive by collectors, then taken to certain live-wildlife markets where they are sold in some regions of the world for food. There is one theory that bats' viruses could then be passed on to diners due to careless food preparation.

Worldwide, modern transportation also plays an important role. Bats have been infecting people in isolated villages for centuries, but the lack of transportation between villages contained the infections. But today, superhighways, railroads and airplanes allow people and goods to travel international distances in just hours that once took weeks or months. As one researcher pithily wrote, "...the virus discovered a new way to travel: It boarded a 747."

Population growth and concentration are other incubators. The world's population today is about 8 billion. This year, urban populations hit 4.2 billion, totaling about 55 percent of the world's population. Or consider the United States, where 50 percent of its 331 million citi-

zens are concentrated within 50 miles of an ocean.

Then we have industrialization. We have become ever more efficient in destroying habitats; gouging rivers; contaminating water supplies; spreading toxic wastes; polluting the atmosphere, rivers and streams; turning the oceans into garbage dumps; eroding the land, and concentrating animals and their wastes in "factory farms." The list goes on.

For years, environmentalists and scientists have warned us about future epidemics and pandemics. It is tragic that so many people had to die from the Covid-19 virus to drive these points home.

As of early August, more than 19 million Covid-19 cases have been reported worldwide, and more than 730,000 people have died of the viral infection, according to Johns Hopkins University. The U.S. has more than 5.13 million cases and about 165,000 deaths.

Nor is Fauci optimistic. "Covid-19 activity will likely continue for some time," he recently testified. "I do not believe it would disappear, because it is such a highly transmissible virus. It's unlikely it is going to disappear."

When we worry about pandemics, we should consider our presumption that we Homo sapiens were predestined. The late Stephen Jay Gould of Harvard University concluded in his 1989 book, "Wonderful Life," that the history of life is profoundly contingent. If the evolutionary "tape of life" were replayed again, he theorized, our chances to evolve would be so razor-thin that there would be no guarantee we would make it the second time around. His theory is commonly accepted today.

"Contingency!" A scary thought: Nothing is written, nothing is guaranteed.



# 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](mailto: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):

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

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** Meetings are virtual for the time being. Please check our web-site for updates. Normal meetings are the 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)

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

- OFFICERS:**
- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Chair:</b>                              | Jonathan Wall *                                      | <a href="mailto:jonwall@jonwall.com">jonwall@jonwall.com</a>           |
| <b>Vice Chair:</b>                         | Celeste Martin *                                     | <a href="mailto:onecentral@mac.com">onecentral@mac.com</a>             |
| <b>Conservation Co-Chairs:</b>             | Nancy Carringer *                                    | <a href="mailto:ncarringer@yahoo.com">ncarringer@yahoo.com</a>         |
|  | Chris Runion *                                       | <a href="mailto:runionc3@gmail.com">runionc3@gmail.com</a>             |
| <b>Political Co-Chairs:</b>                | Karen Becker *                                       | <a href="mailto:karbecker@gmail.com">karbecker@gmail.com</a>           |
|  | Amy Weeder *   | <a href="mailto:aweeder@comcast.net">aweeder@comcast.net</a>           |
| <b>Children's Programs:</b>                | Kimberly Borin *                                     | <a href="mailto:storiesofourown@mac.com">storiesofourown@mac.com</a>   |
| <b>Environmental &amp; Social Justice:</b> | Angela De Sapio *                                    | <a href="mailto:angela.desapio@gmail.com">angela.desapio@gmail.com</a> |
| <b>Highlands Issues Coord:</b>             | Cinny MacGonagle *                                   | <a href="mailto:cmacgonagle@yahoo.com">cmacgonagle@yahoo.com</a>       |
| <b>Outings:</b>                            | Jonathan Wall *                                      | <a href="mailto:jonwall@jonwall.com">jonwall@jonwall.com</a>           |
| <b>Treasurer, Secretary:</b>               | John Kashwick  | <a href="mailto:jkashwick@gmail.com">jkashwick@gmail.com</a>           |
| <b>Webmaster/Listmaster:</b>               | John Kashwick  | <a href="mailto:jkashwick@gmail.com">jkashwick@gmail.com</a>           |
| <b>Fundraising Chair:</b>                  | Open Position!—please contact Jonathan if interested |  |
| <b>Social Media Coord:</b>                 | Open Position!—please contact Jonathan if interested |  |
- (\* Group Executive Committee Member)

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** Meetings are virtual for the time being. Please check <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/hunterdonwarren> for updates or to register for events. Zoom meeting info will be sent to registered participants a few days before the meeting

**Sept 2 (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. Meeting may be virtual or in person depending on social distancing guidelines. Please confirm via our web site.

**Oct 6 (Wed):** —TBA. Check our web site for topic.

**Nov 4 (Wed):** —TBA. Check our web site for topic.

**Dec 2 (Wed):** Cheers! Time for a Swig of Toxic Chemicals! The New Jersey Sierra Club's State Chapter Toxicology Advisor Dr. Mark Fukayama will speak of how over 4000 "forever chemicals" (because they will never break down) specifically Per-and poly Fluoroalkyl substances (known as PFAS) have contaminated our drinking supplies and bodies. Not only can PFAS impair the functioning of your liver and thyroid but can also contribute to obesity, hormone suppression, pregnancy problems and cancer. Before the talk, Mark suggests that you watch Dark Waters starring Mark Ruffalo, a true story of how a former corporate lawyer, Rob Bilott, exposed this problem. Dark Waters is available on Prime Video.

**OTHER EVENTS:**  
**Sept 9 (Wed):** Executive Committee/Planning Meeting. 7:30 pm, via Zoom. 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 register at <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/hunterdonwarren> or email Jonathan at [docjdwall@gmail.com](mailto:docjdwall@gmail.com).

**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](mailto: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)

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/north-jersey>  
**MEETUP:** <http://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/>  
**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/northjerseysierraclub>  
**TWITTER:** @sierraclub\_nj  
**INSTAGRAM:** sierraclubnorth\_nj

The duly elected nine-member Executive Committee benefits from the assistance of volunteers. If you are interested in participating at a planning level and/or as a member or leader of one of our committees (see the Committee Descriptions below), please contact the Group Co-Chairs or the Committee Chair.

- North Jersey Executive Committee and Group Chairs**
- |                                      |                   |  |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>Co-Chairs:</b>                    | Diane Scarangella | <a href="mailto:diascat@hotmail.com">diascat@hotmail.com</a> *         |
|                                      | Buddy Jenssen     | <a href="mailto:buddy.jenssen@gmail.com">buddy.jenssen@gmail.com</a> * |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>                    | Buddy Jenssen     | <a href="mailto:buddy.jenssen@gmail.com">buddy.jenssen@gmail.com</a> * |
| <b>Secretary:</b>                    | Laura Troy        | <a href="mailto:ltroy1019@gmail.com">ltroy1019@gmail.com</a> *         |
| <b>Political Chair:</b>              | Sandi Liberti     | <a href="mailto:libertisandi@gmail.com">libertisandi@gmail.com</a> *   |
| <b>Outings Chair:</b>                | Mary Walsh        | <a href="mailto:blehlwalsh@hotmail.com">blehlwalsh@hotmail.com</a> *   |
| <b>Conservation Co-Chairs:</b>       | Judy Greene       | <a href="mailto:jugreen547@gmail.com">jugreen547@gmail.com</a> *       |
|                                      | Mary Walsh        | <a href="mailto:blehlwalsh@hotmail.com">blehlwalsh@hotmail.com</a> *   |
| <b>Climate Change Chair:</b>         | Jeff Rapaport     | <a href="mailto:jefrap@optonline.net">jefrap@optonline.net</a> *       |
| <b>Marketing/Publications Chair:</b> | Jan Barry         | <a href="mailto:janbarry61@hotmail.com">janbarry61@hotmail.com</a> *   |
| <b>Youth Outreach/ICO Co-Chairs:</b> | Leah Sinisi       | <a href="mailto:leahsinisi@gmail.com">leahsinisi@gmail.com</a>         |
|                                      | Sophia Neuendorff | <a href="mailto:sophianeuc@gmail.com">sophianeuc@gmail.com</a>         |

(Continued on page 8)



## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

### Diversity/Environmental

|                                       |                   |                           |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Justice, Co Chairs:</b>            | Diane Scarangella | diascat@hotmail.com*      |
|                                       | Ingrid Noriega    | ingridnoriega52@gmail.com |
| <b>ExCom Member:</b>                  | Bob Weiss         | bobweiss1967@gmail.com*   |
| <b>Liaison, Raritan Valley Group:</b> | Faris Jebara      | faris.jebara@gmail.com    |
| <b>Liaison, Hudson Group:</b>         | Ninad Kashyap     | ninadmashyap@gmail.com    |

\*Elected North Jersey Group Executive Committee Members.

**INITIATIVES:** The North Jersey Group is committed to coalition building through outreach and planning with other Sierran Groups and with local and state non-profit organizations. Our collaborative initiatives focus upon (1) encouraging municipal resolutions that support town-level adoption of renewable energy strategies and opposing gas-fueled plants; (2) opposing commercialization and development of county, state and local parkland and open spaces; and (3) increasing group diversity and becoming allies who support the efforts of organizations who are “on the ground” in environmental justice communities.

We also continue to focus our existing efforts upon fighting climate change; creating more opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy and appreciate nature; and collaborating with coalitions, such as Empower NJ and Don't Gas the Meadowlands, to advocate for renewable energy and a moratorium on fossil fuel usage.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Unless otherwise noted, meetings and outings are free and open to general public. Please check our Meetup page, Facebook page, or web site for newly posted meeting and events. An event list will be provided for the summer and fall months. You can also email us at northjerseysierraclub@gmail.com.

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

**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 are in need of a Committee Chair and additional members, especially those with experience and interest in setting up virtual events! 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.

**Publications/Marketing Committee:** Are you creative? Do you love graphic design, writing press releases and short stories, contacting newspapers and radio, and using social media? 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 Leah Sinisi at Leahsinisi@gmail.com or Marty at martincohen@verizon.net

**Youth Outreach/Inner City Outings (IOC) Committee:** This Committee plans nature walks in local parks for elementary and middle school youth. It outreaches to high schools and youth organizations to encourage local teenagers to become organizers of these events, so that all can appreciate the value of the outdoors. The committee creates liaisons with local schools, parents, other youth groups, and Sierra Club certified hike leaders to help young people learn to appreciate and protect the planet as they explore the natural world. The Committee uses social media to expand participation, as the group conforms to the goals of the national Sierra Club. If you are interested, please contact Leah at leahsinisi@gmail.com or Sophia at sophianeue@gmail.com.

**Diversity, Inclusion, and Environmental Justice Committee:** Do you want to act to support social, racial, economic and environmental justice? Do you believe that the Sierra Club must become more diverse and that our effectiveness is tied to increased

inclusivity? If yes, then our new Diversity, Inclusion and Environmental Justice Committee is the place for you! The North Jersey Chapter promotes awareness of state, national, and international-level efforts addressing environmental justice and inequality at large. If you are interested in participating in the activities of this committee contact Diane Scarangella, Co-Chair, at diascat@hotmail.com or Ingrid Noriega, Co-Chair, at ingridnoriega52@gmail.com.

## Gateway Group

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

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

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

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

### OFFICERS:

|                                   |   |              |                          |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Co-Chairs:</b>                 | Bill Beren  | 862-283-8754 | Beren1@verizon.net       |
| and                               | David Yennior   | 973-844-1384 | dyennior@gmail.com       |
| <b>Vice-Chair,</b>                |   |              |                          |
| <b>Conserv'n Chr:</b>             | Caroline Kane   | 646-961-9003 | ckane678@verizon.net     |
| <b>Secretary &amp; Treasurer:</b> | Anne Hirs   | 973-844-1121 | annehirs@msn.com         |
| <b>Program Co-Chairs:</b>         | Suzanne Trimel  | 973-509-8335 | suzanne.trimel@gmail.com |
| and                               | Steven Yafet  | 908-354-2537 | syafet@gmail.com         |
| <b>Publicity Chair:</b>           | <i>Open position!</i>   |              |                          |
| <b>Political Chair:</b>           | Bill Beren  |              | Beren1@verizon.net       |
| <b>Fundraising Chair:</b>         | Rachel Tarzia   | 908-531-2168 | Rtarzia6@outlook.com     |
| <b>Membership Chair:</b>          | Steven Yafet  | 908-354-2537 | syafet@gmail.com         |
| <b>Newark Issues Chair:</b>       | Jamie Bruno   | 973-393-2154 | jjjjebruno@gmail.com     |
| <b>Recycling, Passaic</b>         |   |              |                          |
| <b>River Issues:</b>              | David Yennior (see above)   |              |                          |
| <b>Elizabeth Issues, Env</b>      |   |              |                          |
| <b>Justice Chr:</b>               | Kason Little  | 908-305-7719 | kasonjamal@icloud.com    |
| <b>Outings Chair:</b>             | Dionne Howe   | 206-430-0288 | dionnelhowe@gmail.com    |
| <b>Webmaster:</b>                 | Christy Morganstein   | 732-718-4343 | christy@medartsweb.com   |
| <b>Group Executive</b>            |   |              |                          |
| <b>Committee:</b>                 | David Yennior, Bill Beren, Suzanne Trimel, Steven Yafet, and Caroline Kane. |              |                          |

A Gateway membership virtual meeting was held July 29. There were 20 people in attendance.

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:** The Gateway Group has been supporting the Coalition to Save South Mountain Reservation in their fight to defeat an Essex County plan to build a 500 seat, \$8.8M amphitheater on South Mountain Reservation property adjacent to the Turtle Back Zoo. Termed a “Conservation Pavilion”, the project is being sold as necessary to provide “interactive” conservation programs, but the County also plans for it to be rented out to outside groups. The NJ Sierra Club has opposed the pavilion on the grounds that it is not educational for children, will traumatize 30 wild animals 5X a day, is a waste of tax revenue, and is harmful to the environment.

Recently the Essex County Environmental Commission recommended in a strongly worded resolution that the “Conservation Pavilion” project be “dropped altogether” given the new realities of COVID-19 and budgetary shortfalls. Short of a complete cancellation, the Commission recommended a full and independent environmental study on the project's environmental impact on water, air, light, groundwater pollution, surface pollution, carbon absorption and open space area before proceeding. The ECEC Resolution was sent to County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo and the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

As of the beginning of May, no construction contract has been awarded to clearcut the land and build the amphitheater. Over 130 trees on the designated site within the South Mountain Reservation remain marked for destruction with green paint and the State's Department of Community Affairs has not released its promised \$4 million funding to the County. No new County funding has been approved.

Also, the Group is working with the Passaic River Coalition to investigate reports of raw sewage being dumped into the headwaters of the Peckman River in West Orange, which flows into the Passaic in Little Falls.

## 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  
**Twitter:** HCSierraClub

### OFFICERS: (\*=ExCom)

|                            |                    |                               |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Chair:</b>              | David 'Ace' Case*  | acecase88@gmail.com           |
| <b>Vice-Chair:</b>         | Pramod Raju*       | modisone@gmail.com            |
| <b>Secretary:</b>          | Patricia Hilliard* | hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>          | Patricia Hilliard* | hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com |
| <b>Conservation Chair:</b> | Patricia Hilliard* | hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com |



**Political Chair:** Pramod Raju\* modisone@gmail.com  
**Ready for 100:** Allyson Samuels allyson.samuell@sierraclub.org  
**Delegate to Chapter:** *Open position!*  
**Membership:** Andrea Rodriguez\* aarodriguez87@gmail.com  
**Publicity:** Pramod Raju\* modisone@gmail.com  
**Outings / Events:** Steve Krinsky\* stevekrinsky@comcast.net  
**At-Large:** Nancy Booth\* boothnancy2011@hotmail.com  
**Instagram:** *Open position!*  
**Web-Master:** *Open position!*

**Meeting Schedule:** Hudson group will be meeting remotely for the duration of the shutdown. Members are still welcome and encouraged to join the meetings. Contact any of the officers for details about how to join the meeting.

**Outings:** Sadly, we are forced to cancel are upcoming walks and hikes. Please stay tuned online! We can't wait to get back outside with everybody.

**Current Campaigns:** Please join in. We can use help with any of these:  
**Braddock Park** - North Bergen Residents - you're support is needed! Be part of a citizen's group protecting Braddock Park. Sierra Club has taken the first steps towards initiating a legal challenge to illegal diversion of parkland in Braddock Park. We hope to support NJ Applesseed in this effort. Twenty years ago the town of North Bergen replaced a ballfields and the adjacent parking lot with 17 "temporary" school trailers. The action violated NJ State law under the Green Acres Program. The lawsuit would require Green Acres to enforce its own regulations. North Bergen and Hudson County would be required to finally remove the trailers and create safe, permanent classrooms for the pre-school. They would also have to restore the ballfields space and to create additional parkland in compensation.

**No Gas Plant in the Meadowlands:** NJ Transit is using the distraction of the Corvid 19 crisis to move ahead with plans to build a gas-fired power plant on a toxic site on a floodplain in Kearny. We want them to power the trains with solar power combined with battery backup storage. This is being done successfully all around the world. But NJ Transit says they are "too busy" to even hear proposals from solar providers. Help us create a social media tidal wave of opposition! Follow us on twitter and facebook to see what action you can take - all while social distancing.

**#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 breathe for generations. Help make the change to renewable energy. Stop the Meadowlands Power Plants - no more Fossil Fuel Projects! www.empowernewjersey.com

**Climate Change:** You thought Hurricane Sandy was fun? New studies show that Hudson County will be harder hit by sea-level rise and catastrophic flooding than any other NJ county. Sierra has joined with other leading environmental groups to form the Hudson Climate Coalition. Together, we will demand change from politicians at each level of government. We plan to meet with state and federal legislators to demand support for the Green New Deal and related policies. The ReadyFor100 campaign is working to build awareness and grass roots support as we transition to 100% renewable energy locally by the year 2050, or sooner. Get involved and be part of the solution.

**Hackensack River Greenway:** 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. Hudson County has had more than its share of environmental poisoning for generations.

## 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:** Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 loantakachair@newjersey.sierraclub.org  
**Treasurer:** Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com  
**Secretary:** *Open position!*  
**Conservation Chairs:**  
**Morris County:** Len Fariello len@wildlifepreserves.org  
**Union County:** Allen Swanson afswanson@hotmail.com  
**Political Chair:** Priti Thakker 973-752-1100 thakkerp@icloud.com  
**Programs:** Bob Zega 973-349-8001 rzega@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:** *Open position!*  
**Webmaster:** Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442 johansons@comcast.net  
**Upper Passaic River Coord:** Kathy O'Leary 908-647-2870 kolearypcnj@gmail.com

If you might be interested in getting involved, please attend one of our Executive Committee Meetings: the first Tuesday of each month - and get to know us. Or participate in one of our General Meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. There are no obligations and there will be no pressure. Currently all meetings are being held as Zoom meetings.

More of our activities are at: <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: 7pm at the Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St, Chatham, when possible. All members are welcome. There are currently some 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 - 7:30 pm at the Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St, Chatham, when possible. 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 are posted on our website: <http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>.

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**  
 Currently all Executive Committee Meetings and General Meetings that have been scheduled are being done as Zoom meetings, and are expected to continue as Zoom meetings until further notice.

**Oct 14:** Please check the Loantaka website.

**Nov 11:** Please check the Loantaka website.

**Dec 9:** Please check the Loantaka website.

**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:** *Open Position!*  
**Education:** *Open Position!*

One recent activity was a zoom video presentation, "Pinelands National Preserve-Wilderness Remains," held on May 13th. The Central Jersey Group will post any future activities on the New Jersey Sierra Club website, Central Group FaceBook page, and Pineypaddlers.com. Stay home, be patient, stay safe! And don't stop lobbying for our environment!

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 NewJersey!

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:** S. Pasricha spjersey@gmail.com  
**Conservation Chair:** Gary Frederick garyfrederick@newjersey.sierraclub.org 609-203-3382  
**Membership:** John Miraglia johnworks3@aol.com  
**Political Chair:** Teresa Callahan terry.callahan15@gmail.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  
**Group Executive Committee Members:** Gary Frederick, S. Pasricha, Teresa Callahan, Kevin Corcoran, Paul Ehrlich

Our **monthly meetings** are typically held on the FOURTH WEDNESDAY of each month, from 7pm to 8:30, in New Brunswick. Meetings are virtual for the time being. Please check our website for updates. 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 whether a meeting is scheduled and the location, please contact Gary Frederick at [garyfrederick@newjersey.sierraclub.org](mailto:garyfrederick@newjersey.sierraclub.org).

(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)

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. **Protection 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 and 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 S. Pasricha at [spjersey@gmail.com](mailto:spjersey@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:

|                                  |   |              |                         |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Group Chair:</b>              | Dennis Anderson                               | 732-970-4327 | dennisaza@aol.com       |
|                                  | 6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747                 |              |                         |
| <b>Secretary:</b>                | John Luard                                    | 732-708-9221 | John.Luard@gmail.com    |
| <b>Conser. Co-Chairs:</b>        | 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      |
| <b>Social Media Chair:</b>       | Yazmin Sourias                                |              | yazming915@gmail.com    |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>                | Jim Baye                                      |              | jimbaye@optonline.net   |
| <b>Political Co-Chairs:</b>      | Robin & Harold Zullo                          |              | drzullo@optonline.net   |
| <b>Outings Chair:</b>            | John Luard                                    | 732-708-9221 | John.Luard@gmail.com    |
| <b>Outings Leaders:</b>          | <i>Open Position!</i>                         |              |                         |
| <b>Membership Chair:</b>         | Wael Kanj                                     |              | waelkanj@gmail.com      |
| <b>Program Co-Chairs:</b>        | George Moffatt                                | 732-544-1726 | gmoffattgt@aol.com      |
| and:                             | Mary Reilly                                   | 908-731-2466 | Mary@reillygreen.com    |
| <b>Climate Chair:</b>            | Steve Miller                                  | 732-671-5917 | SteveMiller@Comcast.net |
| <b>Fund-raising</b>              |   |              |                         |
| <b>Co-Chairs:</b>                | Mark Fukayama                                 | 908-902-1555 | markexams@aol.com       |
| and:                             | Faith Teitelbaum                              | 732-513-5445 | faithtei@aol.com        |
| <b>Communications</b>            |   |              |                         |
| <b>Chair:</b>                    | Wael Kanj                                     |              | waelkanj@gmail.com      |
| <b>High School Coor:</b>         | <i>Open Position!</i>                         |              |                         |
| <b>Letter-writing Committee:</b> | 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](mailto:Faithtei@aol.com).

**MEMBER MEETINGS:** We really, really miss you, but we must cancel our get-together programs during this stressful time for the safety of everyone. This includes our popular "Science Mondays" presentations at Brookdale Community College because we all have to avoid group activities or crowds. We probably will have to cancel our September speaker as well.

However, we intend to stay in touch with you. We are planning to use a two-way voice and video system for us to communicate with each other. With this system, we will bring to you – in the comfort and safety of your living room – knowledgeable guest speakers and interesting videos on important environmental issues. In addition, we will keep you advised of local environmental problems.

In addition, we will be sending you electronic notices about environmental issues, petitions, and alerts. In fact, let's try one now. To learn about what the White House is doing to systematically tear apart our environmental protections, please go to <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/climate/trump-environment-rollback.html>.

All in all, we aren't putting our conservation programs in mothballs. We can't, because some corporations and politicians are taking advantage of the coronavirus epidemic to secretly unravel many our hard-earned environmental laws. And we can't let them get away with it.

Stay well. An environmentalist is a terrible thing to waste.

Speakers' Contacts: George Moffatt 732-544-1726 or [gmoffattgt@aol.com](mailto:gmoffattgt@aol.com)  
Mary Reilly 908-731-2466 or [Mary@reillygreen.com](mailto:Mary@reillygreen.com)

If you are not getting Emails announcing our webinars, please send one to Wael at [waelkanj@gmail.com](mailto:waelkanj@gmail.com), or sign up at our website.

A Holiday/December Party is not being planned at this time.

Details of all activities will be on our website.

## Ocean County Group

WEBSITE: [MEETUP.COM/SIERRA-CLUB-OCEAN-GROUP](http://MEETUP.COM/SIERRA-CLUB-OCEAN-GROUP)

#### OFFICERS:

|  |                            |                           |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Acting Chair &amp; Conservation Chair:</b>          | Margit Meissner-Jackson    | sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com     |
| <b>Vice-Chair &amp; Treasurer:</b>                     | Laura Stone                | LauraS36@yahoo.com        |
| <b>Outings &amp; Envl Ed'n:</b>                        | Terrance Brown             | terrybrown@comcast.net    |
| <b>Recording Secretary:</b>                            | Nancy Brown                | nancybrown624@comcast.net |
| <b>Political Chair:</b>                                | Margaret Mary Piccolo      | gogreenp1@yahoo.com       |
| <b>Membership Chairs:</b>                              | Ray & Cathy Kozakerich     | raykozak@comcast.net      |
| <b>Group ExCom Members:</b>                            | William Rodgers            |                           |
| And:   | Peter Leighton             | JPLighton1@verizon.net    |
| And:   | Joyce Isaza                | realymstr@aol.com         |
| <b>Hospitality, Fundraising, Publicity, Webmaster:</b> | <i>All Open Positions!</i> |                           |

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:** Meetings are virtual for the time being. Please check our website for updates. Meetings normally 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:

|                                    |  |              |                             |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Group Chair:</b>                | Gina Carola  | 856-848-8831 | ginaceee@verizon.net        |
| <b>Vice-Chair:</b>                 | Frank Zinni  |              | efzin4@aol.com              |
| <b>Secretary:</b>                  | Ellen Zinni  |              | efzin4@aol.com              |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>                  | Trish Clements   |              | patri3210@gmail.com         |
| <b>Publicity Chair:</b>            | Anne Caridi  |              | annecaridi@yahoo.com        |
| <b>Political Chair:</b>            | Linda Rubiano  |              | Linda_Maritz@yahoo.com      |
| <b>Pinelands Rep:</b>              | Lee Snyder   |              | pinelands1@hotmail.com      |
| <b>Greenways Coord's:</b>          | Frank and Ellen Zinni  |              | efzin4@aol.com              |
| <b>Conservation Chair:</b>         | Stacey Ayala   |              | thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com |
| <b>Delegate at Large:</b>          | Aida Ayala   |              | thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com |
| <b>Membership Chair:</b>           | Mike Brown   | 856-547-9221 | eyebrown@verizon.net        |
| <b>Fundraising Chair:</b>          | <i>Open position!</i> Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831 |              |                             |
| <b>Smart Growth Chair:</b>         | <i>Open position!</i> Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831 |              |                             |
| <b>Programs Chair:</b>             | <i>Open position!</i> Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831 |              |                             |
| <b>Outings Chair:</b>              | <i>Open position!</i> Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831 |              |                             |
| <b>Media &amp; Communications:</b> | Tony Hagen   |              | hagenajohn@verizon.net      |
| <b>Social Media</b>                |  |              |                             |
| <b>Coordinator:</b>                | <i>Open position!</i> 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.

**Special notice:** in accordance with Sierra Club's policy in effect due to the spread of the coronavirus, all NJ Chapter and Group in-person meetings and outings are canceled until further notice. We hope to resume soon.

Please check the West Group's Facebook page for updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseyGroupNJSC>

In the meantime, please wear your mask, continue to physically distance and stay safe and well.

Contact Gina at 856-848-8831, [ginaceee@verizon.net](mailto: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:

|                               |                       |              |                         |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Group, Outings Chair:</b>  | Tom Boghosian         | 267-930-8583 | boghosian1@verizon.net  |
| <b>Vice-Chair:</b>            | <i>Open Position!</i> |              |                         |
| <b>Conservation Chair:</b>    | <i>Open Position!</i> |              |                         |
| <b>Pol. Chair, Calendars:</b> | Dick Colby            | 609-965-4453 | dick.colby@stockton.edu |
| <b>Membership Chair:</b>      | <i>Open Position!</i> |              |                         |
| <b>Secretary/Treasurer:</b>   | 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](http://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](mailto: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 Allied Organizations, some of which may be meeting by Zoom:

**Sept 22 and Nov 24:** (alternating fourth Tuesdays), 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Watershed Assn. Activities centered on protecting the Wild & Scenic Recreational River. All are welcome. Warren Fox Nature Center (WFNC\*), Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor, Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 3½ miles south of Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

**Sept 2, Oct 7, Nov 4 and Dec 2:** (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>.

**Oct 14 and Dec 9:** (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@cumauricriver.org](mailto:karla.rossini@cumauricriver.org). Website: [www.cumauricriver.org](http://www.cumauricriver.org).

**Oct 21 and Dec 16:** (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.

**Sept 23, Oct 28 and Nov 25:** (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](http://www.AtlanticAudubon.org).

## 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:

|                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Interim Co-Chairs:</b>  | Ron Pate and Jimi Oleksiak |
| <b>Outings Chair:</b>      | Joyce Haddad               |
| <b>Conservation Chair:</b> | Position open              |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>          | Position open              |
| <b>Social Chair:</b>       | Position open              |
| <b>Vice Social Chair:</b>  | Jeff Sovelove              |
| <b>Programs:</b>           | Position open              |
| <b>Publicity:</b>          | Position open              |
| <b>Membership:</b>         | Position open              |
| <b>Nominations:</b>        | 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 listed on the online calendar on the Chapter's web site: [sierraclub.org/new-jersey](http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey). You can also "like" us on Facebook: "Singles Group New Jersey Sierra Club." Activities will also be posted on Meetup.

Meetings are virtual for the time being. Please check our website for updates.

#### SOCIAL GATHERINGS:

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

**HIKES AND OTHER OUTINGS:** The Singles Section sponsors many outings, ranging from beginners' level 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 & Transgender (LGBTQ) 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:

|                              |                   |  |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>Chair:</b>                | William Parish *  | <a href="mailto:whparishiv@gmail.com">whparishiv@gmail.com</a>           |
| <b>Vice-Chair:</b>           | Andrew Bevacqua * | <a href="mailto:andrewpbevacqua@gmail.com">andrewpbevacqua@gmail.com</a> |
| <b>Secretary:</b>            | John Kashwick *   | <a href="mailto:jkashwick@gmail.com">jkashwick@gmail.com</a>             |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>            | Jonathan Wall     | <a href="mailto:docjdwall@gmail.com">docjdwall@gmail.com</a>             |
| <b>Outings Chair:</b>        | Robert Zitzman *  | <a href="mailto:robertmzi@yahoo.com">robertmzi@yahoo.com</a>             |
| <b>Fundraising:</b>          | Matthew Lang *    | <a href="mailto:matthewjlang58@gmail.com">matthewjlang58@gmail.com</a>   |
| <b>Webmaster/Listmaster:</b> | John Kashwick *   | <a href="mailto:jkashwick@gmail.com">jkashwick@gmail.com</a>             |

(\* Section Executive Committee Member)

Please check web site for meetings and events.

## 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)*

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 Website: <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](mailto:azatz@funtravels.com), and invites members to check her web site at [www.funtravels.com](http://www.funtravels.com) for trips, tips, and travel information regarding New Jersey and other states.

Paul Ehrlich is the Vice-Chair ([ph Ehrlich-NJ@outlook.com](mailto:ph Ehrlich-NJ@outlook.com)). He vice-edits the Essays Section of the Senior Section web site. 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 Paul for editing and approval and it will be posted on our web site

## Sierra Student Coalition

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

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

## ICO: 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!)*

#### OFFICERS:

|                                      |   |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Chair:</b>                        | Leah Sinisi   | <a href="mailto:leahsinisi@gmail.com">leahsinisi@gmail.com</a> |
| <b>Additional committee members:</b> | Amanda Gaglio, Oscar Nazar, Samantha Terwilliger, Leila Marcovici |  |

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.

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.





**Chapter Chair**  
 \* Rich Isaac (973) 716-0297  
 richard.isaac@sierraclub.org

**Vice-Chair and Political Chair**  
 \* John Kashwick  
 Political.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org

**Conservation Chair**  
 Greg Gorman • ggorman07419@embarqmail.com

**Conservation Vice-Chair**  
 Gina Carola (856) 848-8831  
 ginaceee@verizon.net  
 400 N. Haledon Ave. #201, Haddonfield 08033

**Political Vice-Chair**  
 Karen Becker • karbecker@gmail.com

**Secretary and Council (CCL) Delegate**  
 \* Joe Testa • Secretary@newjersey.sierraclub.org

**Treasurer**  
 \* Paul Sanderson (908) 233-2414  
 paulmsanderson@aol.com

**Co-Vice-Treasurers**  
 George Denzer (609) 799-5839  
 GDenzer73@gmail.com  
 Jim Andreano (see right column)  
 Sunil Somalwar • sunil.somalwar@gmail.com

**Membership Chair**  
 Pramod Raju • modisone@gmail.com

**Outings Chair**  
 Ellen Blumenkrantz (201) 784-8417  
 ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com  
 43 Carlson Court, Closter NJ 07624

**Newsletter Editor**  
 Dick Colby (609) 965-4453 • dick.colby@stockton.edu  
 217 Liverpool Av, Egg Harbor City NJ 08215-1319

**Parliamentarian**  
 Joe Testa

**Webmaster**  
 Loraine Terrell • webmaster@newjersey.sierraclub.org

**Other ExCom Members at Large**  
 \* Laura Lynch • njsierraclub@gmail.com  
 \* Ken Johanson (908) 464-0442 kjohan@comcast.net  
 \* Angela DeSapio • angela.desapio@gmail.com  
 \* Sylvia Kay • sylviakay222@gmail.com

**Advisors and Liaisons**

**Asbestos and Toxic Dust Advisor**  
 Francie Goldstein, M.D.  
 franciegoldstein@mindspring.com

**Faith-Based Issues Outreach Advisor**  
 Jim Andreano • JimAndreano@gmail.com

**Genetically Modified Organisms Advisor**  
 Joanne Pannone • Jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com

**GIS (Geog. Info. Systems) Advisor**  
 Abdel Alfahham • adiaa.kc@gmail.com

**Grant Writing Editor**  
 Judy Minot • jminot@newjersey.sierraclub.org

**High School Liaison**  
 Allison Fabrizio • allison.f1190@gmail.com

**Home Solar Advisor**  
 Abbas Salim • azas786@yahoo.com

**Inspiring Connections Outdoors Chair (ICO)**  
 Leah Sinisi • leahsinisi@gmail.com

**Legal Chair (Compliance Officer)**  
 Bill Singer, Esq. (908) 359-7873  
 wsinger@singerfedun.com

**Legislative Coordinator & Litigation Oversight**  
 Ken Johanson • kjohan@comcast.net

**Programs Support Facilitator**  
 George Moffat • gmoffattgt@aol.com

**Regional Issues Liaison**  
 Joan Denzer • JDenzer73@yahoo.com

**Psychology of Sustainability Advisor**  
 Claudia Mausner, PhD • c.mausner.phd@gmail.com

**Ready for 100 Campaign Liaison**  
 Juliette Bontea • julietiebontea@gmail.com

**Toxicology Advisor**  
 Mark Fukayama • markexams@aol.com

**Toxics Legal Advisor**  
 Leila Marcovici • lerazkap@aol.com

**Political Data Analyst**  
 Wael Kanj • waelkanj@gmail.com

**Transportation Outreach Coordinators**  
 Matthew Bewley • 14bewley@gmail.com  
 Jordan Rosenbloom • rosenbloomjordan@gmail.com

**Committees**

**Environmental & Social Justice Committee**  
 Renée Pollard, Chair • rpollard16@comcast.net  
 Jim Andreano, Francie Goldstein, Paul Ehrlich,  
 Gary Frederick, Suzanne Trimel

**NEW JERSEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP**

**Transportation Committee**  
 Bill Beren, Chair • Beren1@verizon.net  
 Tim Sevener, Rail, Public Transit  
 Paul Ehrlich, Transportation Air Quality Advisor  
 Angela DeSapio, Bicycle Advisor  
 Gary Frederick, Jordon Rosenbloom

**Fundraising Committee**  
 Ken Johanson, Chair  
 Joan & George Denzer, Paul Sanderson,  
 Joe Testa

**Personnel Committee**  
 Rich Isaac Chair, John Kashwick, Paul  
 Sanderson, Ken Johanson, Joan Denzer,  
 Judy Minot

**Information Technology Committee**  
 Joe Testa Chair, Loraine Terrell, Abdel Alfahham,  
 Sunil Somalwar

**Finance Committee**  
 Paul Sanderson Chair, Sunil Somalwar,  
 George Denzer, Ken Johanson

**Nominating Committee**  
 Dennis Anderson Chair, Joanne Pannone, John  
 Kashwick, Renée Pollard, Maria Santiago

**Elections Committee**  
 Sindhu Pasricha Chair, Laura Bagwell, Mark  
 Fukayama, John Kashwick

**Facilities Committee (office, meeting sites)**  
 Paul Sanderson Chair, Laura Lynch,  
 George & Joan Denzer, Sunil Somalwar

**Conservation Issue Coordinators**

**Air Quality & Clean Air Issues**  
 Paul Ehrlich • p.w.ehrlich@gmail.com

**Alaska Issues**  
 Amy Weeder • aweeder@comcast.net

**Bicycle Issues**  
 Angela DeSapio • angela.desapio@gmail.com

**Community Solar**  
 Dick Colby (see left column)

**Delaware River**  
 Gina Carola (see left column)

**Endangered Species/Wildlife Issues**  
 Angela DeSapio • angela.desapio@gmail.com

**Gender, Equity (Population) Issues**  
 Pritti Thakker • thakkerp@icloud.com

**Greenhouse Gas Issues**  
 Judy Minot

**Land Use Issues**  
 Laura Lynch (see left column)

**Marine Issues**  
 Bob Sandberg • sandberg00@gmail.com

**Lower Passaic River**  
 David Yennior (973) 844-1384 • dyennior@gmail.com

**Upper Passaic River**  
 Kathy O'Leary • kolearypcnj@gmail.com

**Pinelands Issues**  
 Lee Snyder (609) 969-7909 • pinelands1@hotmail.com

**Liaison to Pinelands Preservation Alliance**  
 Mike Galloway • M.Galloway@comcast.net

**Recycling Issues**  
 David Yennior (973) 844-1384 • dyennior@gmail.com

**Tiger Conservation**  
 Sunil Somalwar (see left column)

**Trails**  
 Dave Mattek (609) 737-1342 • MattekDC@aol.com  
 4 1/2 Park Av, Pennington NJ 08534-2313

**Utah Wilderness Issues**  
 Debbie Young (908) 797-9661  
 debyoung31@comcast.net

**Water Quality and Habitat Issues**  
 Clea Carchia (908) 892-7229 • info@CleaCarchia.com

**Watershed Issues**  
 Faith Teitelbaum (732) 513-5445 • faithtei@aol.com

**Wetlands Issues**  
 Lenny Fariello • LFariello@aol.com

**Wildlands Issues**  
 John Kashwick (see left column)

**Zero Waste Issues**  
 Sylvia Kay • sylviakay222@gmail.com

**Chapter Office 609-656-7612**  
 145 West Hanover Street, Trenton 08618  
 fax: 609-656-7618

**Senior Chapter Director: Jeff Tittel**  
 Jeff.Tittel@SierraClub.org

**Chapter Coordinator: Taylor McFarland**  
 taylor.mcfarland@SierraClub.org

**Communications Coordinator: Megan Steele**  
 Megan.Steele@SierraClub.org

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.

*On the Trail*  
**Outings**



Sierra Club outings have been discontinued for the duration of the Covid-19 viral pandemic. Members are encouraged to find their own ways of exploring and enjoying (and protecting) the natural world. Chapter and Group outings leaders, listed below, would probably welcome the opportunity to advise members on prospective locations for outdoor adventure. Most local, county, state and federal parks, forests and wildlife management areas are open for limited recreational use. We anticipate that the Chapter website will post maps and detailed descriptions of portions of the state-length NJ Long Trail, described in recent issues of this Newsletter – by the end of the calendar year. 76% of the route is now open for hiking.

**GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS (roughly north to south)**

**Skylands:** Dave Alcock: dwhoob@hotmail.com.  
**South Highlands:** Jonathan Wall: psychologist@jonwall.com.  
**North Jersey: Co-Chairs:** Ellen Blumenkrantz: ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com  
 and Mary Walsh: blehlwalsh@hotmail.com.

**Gateway:** Vacant  
**Hudson Co:** Natalya DeRobertis-Theye: natalyadt@gmail.com.  
**Loantaka:** Kevin O'Brien: kkbob@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.  
**ICO:** Leah Sinisi  
**Chapter Outings Chair:** Ellen Blumenkrantz: ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com,  
 201-784-8417

**Upcoming ExCom Meetings**

All members are welcome to attend these monthly statewide policy deliberations, held on **SECOND SATURDAYS**, either by Zoom utility on a computer, smartphone, or ordinary telephone, or at the Reformed Church of Highland Park (19-21 S Second Av), depending on the kinetics of the viral pandemic. Our website will provide reliable information: <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey#NJCalendar>. For details of the Zoom connection, contact Joe Testa: secretary@newjersey.sierraclub.org.

**Dates: Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Jan. 9**  
 (no meeting in Dec.)



**Dick Colby** (dick.colby@stockton.edu).....Editor  
 Assisted by Irene Gnarra, Tony Hagen, Sylvia Kay  
 and Joe Testa  
**Karen Crosby** (karonna@yahoo.com) ..... Designer  
**Paul Sanderson** (paulmsanderson@aol.com) ..... Publisher

**Editorial Board:** George and Joan Denzer, Tony Hagen,  
 Rich Isaac, Sylvia Kay, Laura Lynch,  
 Paul Sanderson, Sunil Somalwar, Joe Testa,  
 Bonnie Tillery, Jeff Tittel and John Kashwick.

*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.

**Members please send address changes:**  
 To [address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org), or  
 Sierra Club Membership  
 2101 Webster St.  
 Oakland, CA 94612  
 or 415-977-5653, and  
 NJ Sierra Club, 145 West Hanover St.  
 Trenton NJ 08618

**Prospective advertisers:** See instructions:  
<http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/jersey-sierran-information-advertisers>

Primary typeface: Garamond, 9.5 point  
 Printed by Witherspoon Media, Kingston  
 Addressed by Digital Dog Direct, Princeton  
 Periodical postage paid at Princeton NJ.

*The Jersey Sierran* is published quarterly by  
 the Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter,  
 145 West Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618

Copyright 2020  
 Permission to reprint (with source acknowledgement)  
 is granted to other Sierra Club entities.

**MEMBERSHIP COUPON**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

Mastercard  Visa  American Express

Exp Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not  
 tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based  
 advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50  
 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your  
 Chapter newsletter.

Enclose check and mail to:  
**Sierra Club,**  
**P.O. Box 421041,**  
**Palm Coast,**  
**FL 32142-6417**

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

|                       | INDIVIDUAL                      | JOINT                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>INTRODUCTORY</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25   |
| <b>REGULAR</b>        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$39   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$49   |
| <b>SUPPORTING</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100  |
| <b>CONTRIBUTING</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$175  |
| <b>LIFE</b>           | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1250 |
| <b>SENIOR</b>         | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35   |
| <b>STUDENT</b>        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35   |
| <b>LIMITED INCOME</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35   |

**F94Q** **W 4000** -1

**Explore, enjoy and protect the planet**



## Another Report from our High School Liaison

# No Return to Normalcy

By Allison Fabrizio (allisonl.f1190@gmail.com)

As we head into a new school year, many people are craving the sense of normalcy that we experienced before Covid-19 struck our towns. However, our idea of normalcy has led us to this point, and to be able to make substantial change, a new normal has to be created.

Coronaviruses have affected the world much before 2019, but with time and mutations, they have become more powerful and more harmful to societies across the world. This year, Covid-19 exposed other infections that have plagued our society here in the United States – where institutions are driven by profit instead of the well-being of people, and where structural racism and inequalities lead to lack of information and lack of trust. Where we leave those most vulnerable seeking help that is not given.

In the United States, only 2.5% of the healthcare budget is spent on public health.

Our “bloated inefficient health-care system left hospitals ill-prepared for the ensuing wave of sickness” Around a fourth of our healthcare is wasted on unnecessary treatments and a deceptive administration that leads America to have

the highest rate of chronic diseases in relation to comparable OECD countries. A profit-driven system is one for those in power, and not for the people.

Many populations within our society are also at a disadvantage solely due to systematic and structural racism and inequity. The Latinx population constitutes around 18.5% of the U.S population however has accounted for 33% of confirmed covid-19 cases. As science journalist Ed Yong stated, “never overestimate knowledge, but never underestimate intelligence.” Translations available are lacking, which leads non-English speaking people to be led by misinformation or mistrust into what is necessary to protect themselves.

As we continue to try to fight this virus, it is important to change the factors that harm communities instead of helping them. As a community in total, we also must take a stand when those in power do not. By continuously wearing masks, keeping distance, and making proper hygiene available to all, we are able to at least protect ourselves and those around us.

## Report from Trenton

# DEP Suspends Work Permits for SRL Natural Gas Pipeline

From a press release issued on July 9, and edited by George Moffat

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection has ordered suspension of work on the New Jersey Natural Gas Company’s Southern Reliability Link (SRL) pipeline, because of reported problems with the construction. The action includes a suspension of permits for the SRL, a stop-work order, and a re-evaluation of the project’s general permits.

In its letter ordering the suspension of NJNG’s general permit, the DEP cited the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act as having been violated by three separate “inadvertent return” events that occurred during the horizontal drilling for the new natural gas pipeline. The DEP didn’t define “inadvertent events,” but said the problems impacted freshwater wetlands, transition areas, and headwater streams.

The construction also caused damage to a private home in Upper Freehold. On

## Book Review

# Understanding Bird Behavior by Wenfei Tong, PhD

By Bill Beren, Co-Chair of our Gateway Group

Some birds are monogamous for life. Some only for a mating season. Some practice polyandry (one female mating with multiple males.) Others are polygynous (one male mating with multiple females.) Some offspring enjoy the luxury of two parent households, while others have absentee fathers, and yet still others have absentee mothers. But regardless of how different bird species mate, they all successfully reproduce and maintain their populations in the face of intra-species competition, predation, and environmental changes, while mirroring many of the variety of behaviors familiar to humans.

In “Understanding Bird Behavior: An Illustrated Guide to What Birds Do and Why”, Wenfei Tong (a research associate in the Dept. of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard and an assistant professor at the University of Alaska) provides a comprehensive, wide-ranging guide to the different ways birds navigate their place in the world. In simple, layman’s terms, she describes the many ways that birds find and protect their food sources, interact with their rel-

atives and peers, find and keep mates, raise their young, and deal with predators and climate change.

In her encyclopedic review of bird behavior, Tong presents intriguing examples of how birds have adapted to life in urbanized environments. Japanese crows have been observed placing nuts on crosswalks to be cracked by passing autos. When the light changes, the crows safely take their time to eat the nut meat. In America, house finches and house sparrows line their nests with scavenged cigarette butts, which discourage lice from taking up residence.

Tong also looks at how nature and nurture work together to help species adapt to environmental challenges and changes. Western crossbills have evolved into various “clans” or subspecies based on their bill size. This in turn is influenced by the presence or absence of red squirrels, which share a taste for the cones of lodgepole pines. In the Rocky Mountains where the squirrels are prevalent, the lodgepole pines grow smaller cones, which the squirrels have a harder time cracking to

## Report from Trenton

# Hoboken First to Pass Resolution against NJ Transit Power Plant

From a Press Release issued on July 27, and edited by Joe Testa

In July, Hoboken became the first city to pass a resolution opposing “NJ TRANSITGRID”, NJ Transit’s proposed 140 MW natural gas-fired power generating plant in Kearny. Transmission lines and associated infrastructure would extend to substations in Kearny, Jersey City, Bayonne, Hoboken, Weehawken, Union City, and North Bergen. This plant is being touted by NJ Transit as promoting resiliency, but it is an unneeded fossil fuel project.

The city would get the impacts from this power plant of both air pollution and climate change, counteracting the work the city is doing to fight these problems. South Kearny and the areas around the plant already have some of the worst air quality in the nation, and this project will add hundreds of thousands of tons of pollution. This plant will mean more air pollution and cause an increase of harmful chemicals like fine particulates PM2.5, NOx and SOx.

We are in the middle of a health emergency - we don’t need more pollution and bad-air days from another fossil fuel power plant. According to a recent nationwide Harvard study, coronavirus patients in areas that had high levels of air pollution before the pandemic are more likely to die from the infection than patients in cleaner parts of the country. 3,080 counties in the US were studied. Death rates from the pandemic were found to correlate with higher levels of PM2.5 soot particles, such as are emitted by power plants using fossil fuels.

NJ Transit’s proposed site is in a flood area, and the fill for the plant would create even more flooding. It is at the former Koppers Seaboard Coke and By-Products plant site. Contamination from past operations produced toxic chemicals left benzene, lead, mercury and other harmful metals in the ground; it has been capped, but building a power plant there could have serious safety and environmental implications.

They say that this project will be cleaner than using the electricity that they’re currently getting, but that is wrong. The NJ grid is about 50% air pollution free. It is made up of about 31% nuclear, 14% renewable RPS, 5% solar, and a small amount of hydro. Almost all of the other half is natural gas. There are renewable alternatives that NJ Transit could use instead of fossil fuels. In Europe, trains are being run with solar power. We could be the first place in the nation to use solar power for trains. They could also use other renewable alternatives like tidal, hydro, or wind power as well as battery storage and flywheels. There are plenty of brownfields that can be linked and used for solar panels, as well as railyards and parking lots at train stations. Since microgrids would be distributed, there would be less chance of a catastrophic power failure, say from flooding of a single natural gas plant.

The plant is only supposed to be running 14 days a year, but then it doesn’t make sense to build a giant, dirty plant instead of buying electricity from the grid. It’s good that Hoboken sent a clear message to NJ Transit and Governor Murphy. The city should be a model for other municipalities to follow, and the Governor should look at Hoboken’s opposition as an alarm bell going off. If he wants to deal with environmental justice, clean air, and reducing greenhouse gases, this power plant is just the opposite of what he should be approving.

June 19, the resident had to run out of her house because of a drilling blowout which cracked the foundation of her home. The resident has been fighting the pipeline since its beginning, as a founding member of a group called “People over Pipelines.”

There have been reports of damage all along the pipeline route through Monmouth, Ocean, and Burlington Counties, including spills, potential sinkholes, and pollution of streams and ditches.

get at the seeds. As a result, the crossbills there have smaller bills. Absent red squirrels, the lodgepole pines in the South Hills of Idaho grow larger cones, and to compensate the crossbills in that area have evolved larger bills. The larger billed South Hills crossbills are now considered a distinct species: the cassia crossbill.

Language in birds is also explored. Bird songs serve multiple purposes. They are important in courtship and territorial control. They create an important bond between parents and chicks, and in some instances help parents differentiate between their own nestlings and imposters. Female superb fairywrens have a special incubation call which is learned by the chicks when they are in the shell. If a cuckoo lays eggs in the same nest a few days later, they fail to learn the call, and this allows the fairywren to distinguish between its own progeny and the invasive cuckoos after they hatch.

Urban birds sing at a higher pitch than birds in desert or open prairies. A similar divergence is also seen in human language - linguists have determined that

languages spoken in dry, open landscapes tend to have more consonants than those spoken in dense tropical forests, where consonant sounds don’t carry as far.

The final chapter of the book addresses the response of migrating birds to climate change and light pollution. Tong presents examples both of species that are successfully adapting, and of others that are at risk. She also discusses the many ways that new technology is providing scientists with tools to understand when and how birds migrate. However, in one questionable supposition, Tong postulates that the precipitous decline in the red knot population occurred “because the Arctic spring has advanced by about two weeks”, ignoring the disastrous impact that overfishing of horseshoe crabs in Delaware Bay had on the red knots. Nevertheless, the book is an authoritative look at the similar ways that humans and birds have evolved similar solutions to meet our common survival needs.

The book will be published by Princeton University Press in late September.

*Reports from Trenton*

## DEP Closes Some Wildlife Management Areas; Slippery Slope to Privatization?

*From a press release issued by our Trenton staff on July 9; rewritten by Sylvia Kay*

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection is restricting access to some New Jersey Wildlife Management Areas throughout July – due to temporary state-mandated employee furloughs. Our WMAs comprise about 354,000 acres of protected wetland and land habitat managed by the DEP’s Division of Fish and Wildlife. It is possible that these restrictions are early steps toward the privatization of public properties.

Privatization language was recently inserted into state budget documents to be voted on later this year. This language would allow the DEP to grant leaseholds to specific nonprofit as well as private for-profit organizations in order to reduce a backlog of maintenance costs in state parks and other state properties. Governor Murphy should not be giving away public lands to reduce budget deficits.

More than 17 million people visit our parks and other state lands annually. But the DEP is dealing with a \$500 million maintenance backlog. The privatization of public land is not a new idea: it was considered by the Corzine and Christie administrations. It is possible that Murphy and the NJ Legislature view leasehold funds as a way to pay for the state pension system.

Despite the challenges that the state currently faces, it is important that our Wildlife Management Areas remain open and staffed. Murphy could issue an Executive Order to suspend the budget language which threatens public lands, or he could ask the Legislature to change the new language before October when the final budget is voted on. Starting with the Green Acres preservation programs of the early 1960s, it is clear that New Jersey’s taxpayers do value the preservation of public lands under public ownership and management.

## Fires in the Pinelands

*From a press release issued on July 10, and edited by Irene Gnarra*

The Pinelands ecosystem is particularly susceptible to wildfires, and fires are a natural part of that ecosystem. In New Jersey, the forest fire season is getting longer and worse, an effect of climate change as well as the over-pumping of aquifers, which dry out our wetlands and forests.

Already this year there have been several fires in the Pinelands. On May 17, a fire in Manchester (Ocean Co) burned 99 acres. On May 19, a fire in Winslow (Camden Co) burned 2,100 acres. On July 9, a fire in Jackson Township (Ocean Co) burned at least 204 acres of the Colliers Mill Wildlife Management Area before Tropical Storm Fay extinguished the blaze completely. Fortunately, no structures or people were affected in any of these fires.

In April, five young men were charged with causing one of the largest forest fires in recent years: On March 31, 2019, sparks from their illegal bonfire, built on private property, ignited a fire in the Woodland Township (Burlington Co) section of the Penn State Forest. Fanned by high winds, the “Spring Hill Fire” raged for over a month and destroyed 11,000 acres of the Pinelands.

New Jersey’s Forest Service professionals have identified high-risk areas for forest fires. Now we need to prevent unnecessary building in and around these places. Even pipeline developments threaten a catastrophic fire. Thankfully, the DEP recently suspended permits for horizontal direction drilling of NJ Natural Gas Company’s Southern Reliability Link pipeline.

These forest fires should be a wake-up call for the Pinelands Commission. We call on the Commission to devise regulations governing development in and around high-risk fire areas so as to protect the thousands of people who live in the Pinelands, and the additional hundreds of thousands who visit to enjoy their natural beauty, wildlife and solitude.