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# The Jersey..... SIERRAN

Vol. 48, No. 1      Approximately 22,000 Members in New Jersey      January-March 2019

## Annual Sierra Club Awards



Our Award Ceremony this year was held at the Paca Club in New Providence (Union Co), on Nov 11 (as usual, the Sunday after Election Day, when politicians can wind down, and dress down – to meet Club members who dress up!). We honored the following:

**Assemblyman Daniel R. Benson (D, 14:** some of Mercer and Middlesex Cos): Benson chairs the Assembly Transportation Committee, and has promoted the use of electric vehicles and school buses, and increasing the availability of electric vehicle charging stations. He leads efforts to address climate change, and promote clean energy and energy efficiency.

**West Jersey Group Chair Gina Carola:** Gina is also vice-chair of our Conservation Committee (and its Minute-taker!), and Delaware River issues coordinator, in which role she has opposed the deepening of the Delaware River (and dumping of the dredge-spoils along the New Jersey shore). She has worked to beautify Camden with street trees and community gardens.

**Newsman Tom Johnson:** For 35 years we have appreciated his in-depth and unbiased environmental reporting, which has shaped environmental and energy policy in New Jersey. Tom covered the environment and energy for the

Star-Ledger, and co-founded NJ Spotlight, where he serves as its Energy and Environment spokesman.

**Public Environmental Citizen Elizabeth Meyer.** She was lead organizer of the highly successful 2017 Women's March on New Jersey, as well as the 2018 Women's March, the 2017 New Jersey March for Science and the 2018 People's Climate March. We also celebrate her contributions to Senator Bob Menendez's recent campaign for re-election.

**Assemblywoman Nancy J. Pinkin (D, 18:** some of Middlesex Co). Pinkin chairs the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee, charged with protecting and preserving our natural environment. She works to prevent climate change, promoting clean energy and energy efficiency, and the use of electric vehicles and school buses, including the availability of vehicle charging stations. A particular interest is regulating the transport of hazardous substances by rail.

Here are some photographs of the event, courtesy of its organizer, Leona Fluck, and Wynn Johanson. Ken Johanson and Jeff Tittel provided the primary text. The large photo show our award winners: left to right: Rich Isaac, Asm. Benson, Asw. Pinkin, Jeff Tittel, Eliz. Meyer, Gina Carola and Tom Johnson.

## Gov. Murphy Vetoes Plastic Bag Fee Bill

From a Press Release issued on Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>

Last August, Governor Murphy vetoed A3267 (Vainieri Huttler) /S2600 (Ruiz). The legislation would have required a 5¢ fee to be paid for single-use carryout bags supplied by certain stores, dedicating the money to a "Healthy Schools and Community Lead Abatement Fund."

The Sierra Club opposed the bill, instead supporting S2776 (Smith), which would impose a full ban on plastic bags, single-use straws, and polystyrene.

Plastic bag fees don't work as well as a ban: they become a hidden tax on the environment. Plastic is a serious public health and environmental risk, and we should be making the strongest efforts possible to get rid of it. Another effect the vetoed bill would have had is prevention of towns from moving forward with their own bans. So we thank Governor Murphy.

Discarded plastic breaks down into micro-fragments, which are ingested by fish, birds, and many microorganisms, entering the food chain. The end of the food chain is us (!), as well as many other large organisms. There's a human health risk, because there are toxins in plastic. A whale found in Thailand had 17 lbs of plastic. Some animals, especially birds, are strangled and suffocated by plastic bags. It can take up to 1,000 years for plastic to decompose. Plastic bags also clog storm drains, damage detention basins, and affect our water quality.

Murphy's veto supports towns that have already imposed plastic bag restrictions (e.g. Jersey City, Hoboken and Longport), and those in the process of doing so: Long Beach Twp, Monmouth Beach, and Edison.

Another reason we oppose a fee is that people get used to paying them, so that plastic reduction backslides. For example, Montgomery County saw an initial reduction in plastic waste after the fee, but discarded plastic has since increased by 2-3% each year. Washington, D.C. imposed a 7-cent fee in 2010 but plastic reduction was only 30 percent.

Bans on plastic have proven to be effective. Los Angeles County accomplished a 94% reduction in single-use bags after implementing a ban. This included a 30% reduction in paper bag use with a 10-cent fee on other bags. San Jose saw an 89% decrease of bags in storm drains, 60% in creeks, and 59% in streets.

(Continued on page 3)

## Solar Home Finance Issues Coordinator's Report

# Is Solar Electricity in Your Home's Future?

By Jim Adreano (Jim.Adreano@gmail.com)

I like to think that Sierra Club members continually engage in advocacy efforts to protect our earth. Such behaviors include our own consumer choices – such as fitting our homes for solar electricity.

Our Chapter has reached a preliminary agreement with Green Power Energy, an NJ-based solar energy firm, to provide solar electricity for its members. While the Chapter will benefit financially from this arrangement, the primary purpose is to provide our members and supporters with a tangible way to "walk the talk". The homeowner will own the panels.

Many details remain to be resolved, but we envision the following process: (1) the prospective customer (must be a homeowner) will respond to a joint Sierra Club / Green Power marketing initiative, expressing interest. (2) A Green Power representative will visit the home to determine suitability. (3) If the home is found to be suitable, Green Power will set up a meeting with the homeowner. The Chapter will receive a commission for each meeting. (4) If the homeowner decides to proceed with solar panel

installation, the Chapter will receive an additional commission.

The purchase price of the system is expected to average about \$25,000. The days of solar electricity being "too expensive" are long gone! Advantages of solar power ownership include:

- The purchaser may qualify for a zero-interest loan.
- Solar panels will likely increase home value.
- If, as is usual, the system at times generates more electricity than is needed in the home, the homeowner can sell the excess at a profit. Green Power will facilitate that process.
- The homeowner will save on electricity bills.

A leasing option, known as a Power Purchase Agreement or PPA, will also be available. The lessee can also expect to accrue significant cost savings. Rates may vary from month to month.

Our agreement with Green Power has not yet been signed. The Club's National organization must approve the contract. But we anticipate that in early 2019 our

members and supporters will be able to take advantage of the opportunity.

For more information please contact Kristen Andrada, Sierra Club NJ Solar Homes Coordinator, at kvandrada@gmail.com.

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**More Articles in the Electronic Edition (pp. 13 & 14):** Closing B. L. England Power Plant, More on Pipelines, Tree Irony, Bear Hunt, More on Plastic. (Click "Newsroom" on the Chapter website)

## Conservation Chair's Report

# Problem Solving: We Can Do It Too

By Greg Gorman (ggorman07419@embarqmail.com)



In the colonial era, European ships often visited the Galapagos Islands to gather the massive tortoises to feed their crews. In a period of no refrigeration, the tortoises' ability to live with little water or food, for an extended time, ensured the crews an excellent supply of fresh meat for their long voyages. In the late 1800's, black rats slipped out of the ships' holds, infesting the islands. This invasive species would root out bird and reptile nests, preying on eggs and eating the young. The combination of rats, man's predation, and other factors decimated the tortoise population. In the mid 1960's, Ecuador (which now owns the Islands) began a program to remove eggs from tortoise nests, rear the offspring, and release them back into the wild. On the 18-square-mile island of Pinzon, Galapagos park rangers successfully eradicated the rat population in 2012 – and in 2014, for the first time in more than 100 years, young, naturally hatched fledglings were found on the island.

Before 1974, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), used in refrigeration and air-conditioning systems, were considered harmless. During that year, scientists suspected that CFCs were responsible for stratospheric ozone depletion – the ozone layer protects us from harmful solar radiation. Scientists and countries organized to study the problem and discovered other substances that also deplete the ozone layer; many of them also contribute to the radiative forcing of climate change. So, in 1987, a global agreement was signed – the Montreal Protocol – which successfully reduced the global production, consumption, and emission of ozone-depleting substances. The UN recently reported that the ozone layer is finally beginning to heal. The Northern Hemisphere's upper ozone layer should be completely restored by 2030, and the Southern Hemisphere's by 2060.

These success stories have a common theme: environmental problem caused by humans is solved by eliminating the source of the problem and allowing nature to recover.

Climate change is now affecting every country on every continent – disrupting lives, environs, and economies. An October, 2018, report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommends urgent and unprecedented action to avoid the most catastrophic effects of global warming. And a U.S. Global Change Research

Program report, released in November, states, "Based on extensive evidence... it is extremely likely that human activities, especially emissions of greenhouse gases, are the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century." (This despite statements by President Trump and other climate-change-denying ostriches.)

New Jersey is in a favorable position to lead the way. Governor Murphy via executive order has adopted the goal of 100% clean energy sources by January 1, 2050. He has moved to reenter us into the Northeastern States' Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and to develop wind energy off our coast to meet a goal of 3,500 megawatts by 2030. Legislation has been introduced to try for 330,000 plug-in electric vehicles by 2025. Yet more can be done.

First, turn off the gas. The North Bergen (Meadowlands) Liberty Generation Plant and Holland Township Phoenix Energy Generation Plant are two proposed natural gas burners to be sited on environmentally sensitive areas, and that would threaten the health of local communities, many with low income and minority neighborhoods. They should never be built. A moratorium should be imposed on all fossil fuel power plants so we can concentrate on solar and wind electricity.

Second, protect our natural lands. Former Gov. Christie relaxed a number of regulations which encouraged destruction of environmentally sensitive areas, many of which serve as carbon sinks. These foolish regulations should be rescinded.

Third, clean the nest. In an era of advanced telecommunications, technological breakthroughs, mass transportation and infrastructure woes compounded by present and future budget constraints, NJ and its communities need to seriously rethink our approach to local and regional planning. We have the academic think tanks poised to bring innovative ideas to optimize our community and building designs – to mitigate climate change impacts. We can do it!

*Note: During the winter, work groups are drafting a 2019 Energy Master Plan for presentation to the public for feedback in the Spring, with final presentation to Governor Murphy by June.*

## EJ Committee Report

# Environmental Justice Committee Needs Your Help

By Gary Frederick, Chair of our Raritan Valley Group (gary.frederick3@gmail.com)

It is an unfortunate truth that global warming, air and water contamination, the use of harmful chemicals and pesticides, and building on contaminated sites disproportionately affect the less fortunate: people of color, and those living in poverty. These communities not only tend to live near contaminated environments; they also tend to have fewer advocates to fight for their environmental rights and for social justice.

As part of our mission, the Sierra Club seeks to "foster the growth of the environmental justice movement so that oppressed communities will find justice and everyone can experience the benefits of a healthy and sustainable future." Thus our New Jersey Chapter asks all

members to bring to our Committee's attention any injustices you think are relevant to the mission. Examples include lead contamination in schools, air pollution from inner-city diesel trucking routes, urban crowding from over-development, and lack of public transportation to get to and from jobs.

Along with other EJ organizations, we do our best to highlight and fight as many injustices as possible. We obtain grant money when we can, meet with political and community leaders, write letters and organize rallies. But we need all our members' help to identify the most serious injustices. If you know of such an issue, please email our committee chairperson: Howard Steinberg (howz1648@hotmail.com).

## Political Chair's Report on the Elections

# Big Wins for the Environment on Election Day

By John Kashwick (jkashwick@gmail.com)

A green wave washed over New Jersey on November 6. Our endorsed candidates prevailed in 12 of the 13 federal races! Senator Bob Menendez, after some concern, was easily re-elected in his race against Bob Hugin. All seven Democratic House incumbents (Norcross, Gottheimer, Pallone, Sires, Pascrell, Payne and Watson-Coleman) won re-election by more than ten percentage points. But the best news is that we will have four new representatives in Congress, replacing Republicans with mediocre to poor records. Jeff Van Drew, Andy Kim, Tom Malinowski, and Mikie Sherrill will be joining our congressional delegation. Our only loss was in the 4th District where Rep. Chris Smith (R) had his worst showing since 1982, running against Josh Welle. On the local level, our endorsed candidates for Flemington's Mayor and Council, Betsy Driver and Caitlin Giles-McCormick, also prevailed.

We also had a good year for the environment nationally – with environmentally-friendlier Democrats taking control of the House. Losses in the Senate were kept to a minimum in what was a very difficult year in terms of the geographic distribution of seats that were being defended. Congressional committees will

now be chaired by environmentally-friendly Democrats who should serve as a buffer to the Trump Administration.

Now our work really begins. Our four new members of Congress, while each pledged to protect the environment, need to be held accountable. Issues that will concern New Jersey include off-shore drilling, pipelines, and improving our public transportation infrastructure. There are also national and global issues: America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, The Eisenhower-Udall Arctic Wilderness Act, and renewal of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We will ask them to sign-on as co-sponsors. There will also be fights to defend our national monuments and the Endangered Species Act, and over ways to mitigate climate change. Our newly elected officials will have many competing priorities when they take office, and we need to make sure that the environment is one of them.

This was a busy year for the Chapter as our political activists worked on many campaigns throughout the state. We arranged Meet and Greet events for several candidates, participated in phone banking and canvassing, kept a presence on social media, and wrote letters to newspaper editors. Thank you to all who participated!

## Report from the National Council of Sierra Club Leaders (CCL) Annual Meeting

From our Chapter Delegate, Joe Testa (Testa-J@Live.com)

The Sierra Club holds an annual meeting of representatives from each of our 63 Chapters across the country (and in Canada). I attended this year's meeting, held in September, in Denver.

The Board of Directors, which meets at the same time, is the official policy-setting body of the national Sierra Club. One of its major duties is to consider requests from Chapters, via the CCL.

This year, our Chapter was concerned about an incident in which the national Sierra Club contributed to a newspaper ad praising a member of Congress from New Jersey who we were in the process of opposing in the 2018 election. The CCL voted to endorse our resolution asking that the Board set a policy that ads like this be run past the local Chapter – to hopefully avoid future such problems. When I presented our resolution to the Board, its members seemed supportive of our position.

Other CCL resolutions presented to the Board included requests for increased support for smaller chapters, asking that the "Clean Air for All" campaign support clean transportation options which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and urging that the role of forests be made more prominent in considering ways to address climate change.

The CCL heard an overview of the Club's membership and fundraising status. After the 2016 election, the "Trump bump" greatly increased recruitment of

new members spurred to join by the anti-environment rhetoric and actions taken by the new Administration. The number of monthly donors to the Club has also increased significantly. A steady stream enables the Club to do long-term budgeting for its programs. (To set up a greatly-appreciated online monthly donation directly to the New Jersey Chapter, go to <http://scnj.convio.net/supportus> where you can specify a monthly donation of any amount, using your credit card.)

The Club desires to provide a welcoming environment for volunteers from all backgrounds. The National Club is thus providing training and tools to help Chapters recognize the challenges of recruiting volunteers and members from communities that are often underrepresented in environmental organizations such as ours – in fact, many of these communities bear the highest burden of dirty air and water, which of course we oppose. So the Club is developing new digital tools to recruit and engage new volunteers, making it easy to match volunteers with roles within the Club. One new tool is Volunteer Connection, where you can create a profile and search for opportunities that match your skills and interests: see <https://clubvolunteer.org/volunteer>. You can search for in-person opportunities based on your zip code, or "virtual" openings – offering projects which you can do from home.

I'd be happy to take questions.

## Annual Reorganization Meeting: January 12

All Sierra Club members are welcome to attend the January meeting of our Executive Committee (and, indeed, ALL of its monthly meetings), to be held, tentatively, at 1pm at the Hamilton Twp (Mercer Co) Public Library: 1 Justice Samuel Alito Jr. Way. We will elect our Chapter Chair, and make other officer appointments, as well as decide on campaign priorities for 2019. Jeff Tittel, our Chapter Director, will report on happenings in State government.

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

## Editorial

# Psychology of Environmental Responsibility, and Other Needs

By Dick Colby ([dick.colby@stockton.edu](mailto:dick.colby@stockton.edu))

One of my Stockton University psychology colleagues, David Burdick, teaches a course in the Psychology of Environmental Behavior, meant for majors in Environmental Studies, Sustainability, and Psychology, and I guest-lecture annually on the Sierra Club - which I did recently. (Mostly blank faces, I'm sorry to say.)

Got me thinking that the NJ Chapter would benefit from having an Issue Coordinator on that subject. Might you be an interested psychologist, or might you know of one? Interesting topics include the psychology of getting people to recycle, avoid plastic, switch to EVs, move away from the shore, vote, use public transportation, live in walkable communities, exercise more (lose weight, eat less meat), write LTE's, use less energy and water, adopt "causes," etc.

There's an entire scientific journal titled *Environment and Behavior*, and a chapter on environmental behavior in the *McGraw Hill Encyclopedia of the Environmental Sciences* that will get you started and give you ideas.

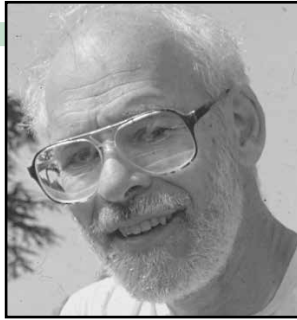
Another New Jersey environmental need, about which I rail frequently, and about which I dream of engaging the Sierra Club, is for enlightened environmental reporting in our media. I remember the glory days of Joe Donahue, Mark Magyar and Tom Johnson, who (I like to think) followed in the footsteps of Lincoln Steffens, America's greatest muckraker, active in the Progressive Era (1903-1914), and author of three collections of magazine exposés of the corrupt politicians, business (and labor union) leaders, and other political bosses of his day. (Most well-known is his book *Shame of the Cities*.) He accomplished real change, at least for a time. Where is his like today? All it would take is one rare gifted reporter. (And would anyone employ her or him?) Is there anyone out there?

Perhaps our closest approximation to such a person is Jeff Tittel, our Chapter Director. Jeff knows everything about how the system works and doesn't work, but I think it takes much more than that. (For one thing he lacks Steffens' christian sympathy for his villains. I urge you to read Steffens' autobiography!) So the best I can do is supply, below, Jeff's latest exposé of environmental malfeasance in Trenton: from an Op-Ed article written for the *Newark Star-Ledger*:

## Murphy's Environmental Promises

By Jeff Tittel (with my substantial editing)

In November of 2017 we elected Philip Murphy to be Governor because he promised clean energy and environmen-



tal protections for New Jersey, and clearing away of the policies of his predecessor, Chris Christie. Now, a year later, almost all of Christie's rules and regulations are still in place. Christie's DEP appointees are still calling the shots, and Christie's political appointees to the Pinelands Commission and the Highlands Council are still in charge.

There have been Executive Orders, but no implementation of them. Not a single new rule, regulation, or standard has been proposed. A new Governor's first year is usually when the most is accomplished; for this one, not a peep!

I served on Murphy's Transition Team; we called for immediate action on climate change. Where is it? (Ten months in and they've just started a stakeholder process.) Murphy broke his commitment to stop the bear hunt; he's continuing Christie's raids on the Clean Energy Fund, and even backing away from a full ban on fracking the Delaware Basin. He has failed to protect our schools and communities from lead contamination and Bakken oil trains. With great fanfare he signed an EO for us to rejoin RGGI, but it hasn't happened, and the DEP wants to allow new power plants fired by natural gas, and new pipelines to fuel them.

Christie's political DEP (and other environmental) appointees are all still in place. By this time in office, Gov. McGreevey had protected C1 streams, Corzine produced Flood Hazard and Beach Access Rules, and Gov. Codey had established the Highlands Rules.

We wait in vain for rollback of Christie's gifts to developers: Highlands Septic Density, Wetlands and Flood Hazard Rules. Some of these have been voided by the Legislature so there is no excuse for keeping them on the books. If the DEP is still implementing Christie's policies, it's because it's led by the same people working under the same Rules.

Even more frustrating: Murphy has been defending the Christie Administration on many environmental lawsuits brought by our Club and other environmental organizations. These include challenges to pipeline approvals and stormwater rollbacks, as well as developments in the Highlands Preservation Area. Then there's the Exxon settlement, a Murphy sell-out rather than a challenge. It was the biggest pollution lawsuit in state history.

Murphy has not instructed the DEP to look at the Water Supply Master Plan, which desperately needs an update. The Drinking Water Quality Institute needs to recommend standards for dozens of water contaminants including lead and chromium, and the DEP should enforce those standards. Etc.

So why? Muckraker needed, please apply!

## PLASTIC BAGS

(Continued from page 1)

In New Jersey, 20 towns have bans or are working on banning plastic. Waterfront cities like Hoboken and Jersey City have banned single use plastics. Jersey City took a step further and banned polystyrene. Lambertville recently introduced an ordinance to ban plastic bags, Styrofoam, polystyrene, and single use plastic straws. Businesses and restaurants in New Jersey are already working

to reduce their plastic waste by using paper bags and paper straws.

California, Boston, Chicago, and San Francisco have banned plastic bags. Seattle, Miami Beach, and St. Petersburg have banned plastic straws. Inner Harbor Baltimore has two full time skimmers that pick up plastics. France, Kenya, Taiwan, and 12 other countries have banned single use plastics. Disney World and Starbucks are phasing out single use plastic straws. The numbers keep growing.

## Chair's Message

# Chapter Welcomes New Volunteers!

By Richard Isaac ([risaacx@aol.com](mailto:risaacx@aol.com))



Our Chapter extends our appreciation to new volunteers and to those now helping us even more!

**Mark Fukayama, PhD, DABT – Toxicology Advisor.** A resident of Marlboro (Monmouth Co), Mark thought he could just enjoy himself after he retired just a few years ago. But then came the 2016 elections, and that had him reconsider. After joining the Jersey Shore Group, he now offers his expertise in the formation, identification and genotoxicity of chlorinated organic compounds, various (other) carcinogens, and as an author of many articles on toxicity. Mark's assistance will be greatly appreciated in a state with more Superfund sites per capita than any other, including a wide array of soil, water, and air contaminants.

**Maria Santiago – Vice-Chair of our Environmental and Social Justice Committee.** An original member of our E&SJ Committee when it formed in 2016, Maria is a person of unlimited compassion: active in her local community, founder of a climate coalition, and

experienced in helping the victims of Hurricane Maria. Maria is currently reaching out to new Club members and forging links with New Jersey's other social and environmental justice organizations.

**Adrienne Novack – Student Coordinator for the Mikie Sherrill campaign.** Adrienne is a senior at Montclair State University: majoring in Earth and Environmental Science and minoring in Environmental Justice. She learned about us in an Environmental Law class. Her interests range from outdoor adventuring, to utilizing social media, to political activism. In the 11<sup>th</sup> CD Sherrill campaign she joined me in door-to-door canvassing, and also helped with voter registration on her campus, followed by actually encouraging students to exercise their right to vote. She intends an environmental career!

A warm welcome and our appreciation to our new volunteers – as well as an invitation to others who may be interested in volunteering! E.g. see Dick Colby's editorial at left!

## Resolutions:

### Approved by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in October and November, 2018

(We didn't meet in September.)

The **new officers** welcomed in Rich Isaac's Chair's Message, above on this page, were approved.

We deliberated on some of the **CCL resolutions** discussed in Joe Testa's article on the page opposite this one, that he then took to the Club's national leaders' meeting for consideration by the Board of Directors. Many of the resolutions attempt to assign relative priorities to Club campaigns. (Sept)

**Solar Panels:** Agreement was reached to support a contract with Green Power Energy, to offer the services described in Jim Adreano's article on p.1 of this Newsletter. (Nov)

**George Washington Bridge:** We approved recommending that the bicycle path across the bridge be substantially widened and modernized, and kept separate from the pedestrian walkway. (Nov)

**Environmental Justice Projects:** We urged each of our 12 geographic Groups in New Jersey to identify local projects, and to designate an officer to lead those campaigns. (Nov)

All our resolutions are now available online: [www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/chapter-resolutions](http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/chapter-resolutions).

## YOU HAVE MORE TO GIVE THAN YOU KNOW

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

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

## JERSEY SIERRAN AVAILABLE BY EMAIL

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

More on this topic, with documentation from peer-reviewed scientific journals, is on p. 14 in the Electronic Supplement to this Newsletter. (It is sent automatically to members who have followed the instructions in the box just above this box, and can also be clicked from the Chapter website.)

## Conservation Report

# NESE Pipeline Update: Opposition Digs In

By Gary Frederick, Chair of our Raritan Valley Group (gfredsiera@gmail.com)

It began as a small community protest. When major pipeline builder Williams announced in 2015 its intention to extend its Transco gas pipeline across Raritan Bay to New York City, and build a new 32,000 hp gas compressor station in Franklin Township (Somerset Co), residents in and around Franklin began mobilizing to stop it. Known as the Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE), the new pipe would extend from Williams' existing pipeline to snake across Somerset and Middlesex Counties, exit into Raritan Bay by Old Bridge, and then trench 23.5 miles across the seabed to a distribution facility off Queens. The compressor will raise the pressure in the line to about 800 psi – to propel the gas to its final destination. Williams wants to start construction in 2019.

The NESE pipeline has become a major environmental issue. Thousands of petitions, dozens of rallies and hearings, involvement by many environmental groups including the Sierra Club, opposition by state politicians, and major media coverage – all have taken the fight to Governor Murphy and his Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), which must decide whether to issue the necessary water permits for Williams to proceed. Last September, NJDEP rejected Williams' first set of water permits, and the company was forced to resubmit its applications.

On Nov 5, NJDEP held a public hearing that was attended by more than 300 people. (As of this writing - Nov 15 - a promised second hearing has not yet been scheduled.) Dozens spoke, and many more submitted written comments. Jeff Tittel, our Chapter Director (pictured above), said in a statement to NJ12 TV, "DEP has to look at beneficial use. There is no beneficial use of this compressor station for the people of New Jersey. The gas from this compressor station is going to go through a pipeline that's also going to cause damage going to New York to bring the gas there. So the gas companies make the money, New York gets the gas and New Jersey gets the pollution. It's just not fair."

NESE and its compressor station (known as CS 206) would encroach on vital wetlands, produce contaminated runoff during rains, and cause flooding. The station would emit harmful air pollutants such as methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and ground water will be threatened. The noise made by such stations has been described as sounding like jet engines. Franklin residents have described their fire-fighting capability as



(Photo courtesy of Minister Erik McGregor)

insufficient to handle an explosion at the station, so an accident could be a disaster. And Williams already has a spotty safety record at its other compressor stations.

According to Assemblyman Joe Daniels (17<sup>th</sup> District), a vocal critic of the planned station, "This issue has basically presented catastrophic implications to our town by outside people and corporations. This has all the moral callings of the Boston Tea Party. They brought the fight to us, and we're going to fight."

Barry Kutch is one of the passionate residents fighting NESE. Now retired, he lives near the proposed site of the compressor station, just off the intersection of State Rte 27 and County Rte 518. The proposed 52-acre site is near Trap Rock Quarry, an active blasting site. Alarmed at the thought of a compressor almost in his backyard, he helped organize one of the key groups fighting NESE, the Central Jersey Safe Energy Coalition (CJSEC).

Kutch is CJSEC president and one of several of its influential leaders. He said, "I have been in this fight since June, 2016. I have seen the opposition grow among residents, politicians, and environmental groups. We all recognize how much pollution and danger for the community that NESE will create, and we are determined to stop it."

As with much pipeline and power plant development planned or being built in New Jersey, NESE would take us another step away from a future of 100% renewable energy. Many officials in New Jersey and New York doubt that NESE is necessary for the energy grid.

Your voice is critical to stopping this unnecessary and dangerous project, and we urge you to write to Governor Murphy and the NJDEP – telling them to reject NESE. You can check with the CJSEC ([www.safer-nj.org](http://www.safer-nj.org)) for the latest news and next steps. And please be sure to follow the Raritan Valley Group on Facebook for continuing coverage of this issue: [www.facebook.com/RaritanGroupNJSC](http://www.facebook.com/RaritanGroupNJSC).

## Report from Trenton

# New Jersey's New Coastal Resilience Plan

## "Rutgers predicts a one-foot increase in sea-level by 2050"

From a press release issued on Oct 9, edited by Sylvia Kay

At a conference on Coastal Resilience, just held at Monmouth University, NJ-DEP Commissioner McCabe presented her Coastal Resilience Plan – a blueprint for protecting the properties, people and habitats of New Jersey. The DEP also launched a Coastal Resilience Website, and announced grants of up to \$200,000 to each of four regional planning teams – Jersey City, Middlesex County, Long

Beach Island and Ventnor.

We think this is a good first step, but the State must be more proactive. New Jersey is the only state in the Northeast without a Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan, and it is still laboring under many Christie-era regulations. The need for immediate and effective regulation is clear: Sea-level rise combined with sinking lands and aquifer depletion has

## Clean Air Issues Coordinator's Report

# Update on a New Era for Air Pollution Control: Indoor Air Pollution

by Paul Ehrlich, (pkehrlich-nj@outlook.com)

In the April-June 2018 issue of this Newsletter I wrote about a recent *Science* article\* (summarized in *The Changing Face of Urban Air Pollution*\*\*). The authors announced, and provided extensive evidence for, the increased presence of volatile organic compounds in polluted urban air such that that they are now the major source of toxic compounds. Many products used in the home, as well as in commercial buildings, contain volatile organics, including cleaning agents, personal care products, paint, pesticides, inks, and adhesives. They have outpaced industrial pollution as well as pollutants from mobile vehicles for two reasons: 1) most emissions from these sources are generated by the burning of fossil fuels, so carbon dioxide is the major pollutant generated, and 2) efforts aimed at reducing emissions of other toxic compounds have succeeded to a large extent. So there's some good news here. The bad news is that volatile organic compounds are to a large extent used indoors. In this article I will summarize several recent studies of indoor air pollution.

## Air Pollution Inside Schools and Day Care Centers

Children are more susceptible to toxic chemicals than adults because of the ongoing division of cells that contributes to their growth, the immaturity of major organ systems (including the immune system), and a higher metabolic rate. In addition, exposure to toxic compounds in childhood will add to the total burden of toxic substances that can result in adverse effects years, or even decades, later. Many studies have provided evidence of higher concentrations of pollutants in the classroom than in air outside the school. For example, an Australian study of 41 classrooms (20 heated by electric heaters, 21 by unflued natural gas heaters) showed that peak concentrations of nitrogen dioxide were 4-fold higher in the gas-heated rooms. Children in those rooms were more likely to be absent as well as to experience more sore throats and colds during the monitoring period. More serious consequences are expected from high long-term nitrogen dioxide exposure. Researchers in Portugal showed that in four day care centers (children aged 1 to 5 years) carbon dioxide levels (which are correlated with the concentrations of other pollutants) increased as much as eight-fold above background. Of course, air pollution will vary quite a lot in different schools due to geographical location, placement of a classroom relative to school facilities and nearby pollution

sources, number of open windows, number of students in a classroom (especially relative to its size), chemicals in cleaning products, etc.

The Environmental Protection Agency website has an excellent summary of many aspects of indoor school conditions with links from the webpage *Creating Healthy Indoor Air Quality in Schools*. Many references are provided on webpages such as: *Improve Academic Performance through Better Indoor Air Quality in Schools*, *Adopting Indoor Air Quality Best Practices*, and *Take Action to Improve Indoor Air Quality in Schools*.

## Air Pollution in Homes and Offices

Indoor pollution in homes is generated mostly by fossil-fueled appliances (stoves, etc.), personal care products, and smoking. Of course, pollution from outdoors leaks inside and depending on conditions, such as air pollution severity and number of open windows, can make a major contribution. While indoor pollution is generated from the sources mentioned above many complex reactions occur that affect air quality at time scales from seconds to months and distances from nanometers to the whole house. Some reactions result in pollutants similar to those found outside, such as particulate matter (called secondary organic aerosols) that is formed from ozone and other gaseous pollutants. However, indoor pollutant complexity also arises from reactions at surfaces, which are chemically quite distinct from the outdoor gas-phase reactions. Adding to the complexity of pollutant mixtures are the great variety of surfaces, including furniture, clothing, and human and pet skin. An example of the latter is ozone reacting with skin oils.

Offices differ from houses in the same way that houses vary: heating and cooling system design, types of furniture and appliances, number of people per square foot, etc. For example, the great majority of pollutants in one crowded university lecture hall was derived from the personal care products worn by students.

Given the difficulty in measuring and quantifying these reactions it will only be possible to predict what will happen in an individual structure when accurate and detailed computational models are developed. Using model houses built specifically to help generate relevant data scientists hope to have usable computer models within several years.

\*McDonald et al., *Science*, 359, 760 (2018)

\*\*Lewis, AC, *Science*, 359, 744 (2018)

caused the intrusion of salt water into ground water, most seriously in Cape May County. Rutgers predicts a one-foot increase in sea level by 2050, with tidal surge increases of three feet. Storm surges are 17 times more likely over the next century.

The Murphy Administration must act quickly. While longer-term planning is ongoing, some immediate measures should be taken. We urge a Cabinet-level committee to coordinate all agencies in coastal resiliency and the reduction of greenhouse gases. Many current regulations need updating; flood-prone properties need to be bought out. Flood hazard maps need revision, and coastal development planning needs to be improved with the latest technologies and scientific data.

The Christie Administration's weak-

ened Coastal Zone Management Rules urgently need revision and strengthening. These include Flood Hazard Rules, Water Quality Management and Planning Rules, CAFRA, Wetlands, and Stormwater Management Planning Rules – that currently permit high density development and sewer extensions into flood-prone areas such as Mystic Island, Manahawkin, Perth Amboy and Jersey City. The upgrades should encourage regional planning, address climate and sea-level changes, and include programs for adaptation or mitigation.

A holistic approach should include flood water storage, multi-state cooperation, green building codes, and measures to reduce greenhouse gases. It should promote healthy ecosystems for both coastal and inland regions.

*Reports from Trenton*

## Margate Commission Blocks Hotel Ordinance

From a press release issued on Sept 21, edited by Irene Gnarra

More than 200 concerned residents attended the September meeting of the Margate Commission (Atlantic Co) to oppose an ordinance that would have amended their city's zoning laws. They opposed creating a Resort Hotel District in the area currently zoned for Multi-family Residential and Commercial Business. They also rejected any action that would threaten the integrity of Lucy the Elephant, their beloved landmark. Ultimately, the residents prevailed, and the Commission rejected the zoning change to high-rise hotel resorts.

Jeff Tittel, our Senior Chapter Director, summarized the major concerns: the Margate shorefront is already overdeveloped, so additional construction would exacerbate pollution, traffic, and flooding. High-rise buildings would block residents' and vacationers' views of the beach and oceanfront. Tourists should continue to be able to enjoy visiting Lucy the Elephant, a monument listed on the National Registry of Historical Landmarks.

As advocates for the protection and preservation of New Jersey's open spaces, the Sierra Club applauds the citizens of Margate for safeguarding our shore.

## DEP Rejects Pinelands Heritage Mineral Site Devt.

From a press release issued on Oct 19, edited by Joe Testa

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection rejected Hovson Inc's massive proposal to build 4,000 new homes in Manchester (Ocean Co). In March, the DEP deemed the project deficient and incomplete; in October, they rejected the application altogether. The plan would have resulted in 40,000 square feet of new homes being built at Heritage Minerals, a former mining quarry.

For over 20 years, Hovson has been trying to build a massive development in this area. Their proposal was a giant sprawl project in the middle of the Pinelands, essentially building a new town with 10,000 people which would have added more than 100,000 cars to the roads. It was rejected in 1998 as not meeting environmental standards, but the developer came back over and over for approval for 800 units, then 2450, and now 4000. The Pinelands Act was passed over 40 years ago to prevent development like this.

There would have been huge environmental impacts on Manchester Township, resulting in water pollution, over-pumping the aquifer, and the destruction of open space and air pollution. This type of development violates land-use regulations of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan and the Coastal Area Facility Review Act.

This project would have required a major extension of sewer lines in the Pinelands, and created at least another 2 million gallons of sewage a day discharged. The DEP also said the former mining site contamination was not completely removed. The site has 45 acres contaminated with concentrations of radioactive uranium and thorium.

The DEP rejected the application because the nearly 4,000 homes would exceed the state's density and impervious coverage rules and increase traffic in the area. By adding residential, commercial, and industrial development, based on traffic studies, there would be 150,000 more truck and car trips a day in the area. This would increase air pollution and lead to taxpayers spending tens of millions of dollars to upgrade and fix roads. Since this is not an age-restricted project, we could have up to 2,000 new school children added to the development, causing the need to build even more schools and raise taxes even further.

## Beaches Closed in 2018 Due to Stormwater

From a press release issued on Aug 15, edited by Joe Testa

As of mid-August, 33 New Jersey beaches had been closed due to high levels of fecal bacteria. Heavy summer rains led to flooding, wreaking havoc on coastal communities where 5 counties were in a state of emergency. One might think that when it rains our water would be cleaner, but the reality is that polluted stormwater runoff makes waterways dirtier, ruining people's vacations and damaging the region's economy.

The DEP sent out advisory after advisory that are beaches were unsafe, but did nothing to fix their failed policies to prevent this chronic pollution from happening in the first place. These beaches were closed because of the failure of New Jersey to protect our bays and coast from chronic pollution. We should be using testing that will take only hours rather than days. We also need at least \$14 billion to fix our combined sewer overflow systems, and billions more to fix our water systems that are outdated and breaking.

This was one of the rainiest and warmest summers on record. These extreme weather events are happening way with increased frequency thanks to climate change. Trump may call climate change a "Chinese hoax", but residents compared some of the floods resulting from this "hoax" to the ones experienced under Hurricanes Irene and Floyd. As New Jersey faces forecasts of more rain, we must consider how to protect our waterways and water quality to reverse of the damage done under the Trump and Christie administrations.

Our inability to address climate change, as well as the state not doing enough testing, has led to these beach closings. Not only do we need to adapt to climate change and sea level rise as we rebuild from Sandy, but we need clean up our storm water by retrofitting storm basins, restoring natural systems and wetlands that will also protect water quality. When rebuilding we need to incorporate protecting our storm water systems and water quality not only for tourism and our economy, but for the people of New Jersey who deserve a clean coast for to enjoy for future generations.

## Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant: a Historic Goodbye and Hello

From a press release issued on Sept 17, edited by Sylvia Kay

The early closing of the Oyster Creek Generating Station, in Lacey Twp (Ocean Co), is a sweet win for environmentalists. It was the oldest nuclear plant in the U.S., in questionable physical condition, and it has threatened the health of the Barnegat Bay ecosystem for decades. Its closing opens the door for more renewable energy in New Jersey and allows revitalization of the Bay's plant and animal life. Holtec International, a Camden based company, plans to buy the Station and clean up the site.

The Station has operated for fifty years, and the Sierra Club has lobbied against it for fifteen of them. Its cooling system, which dumped warm water intermittently into the Bay, has been linked to the death of thousands to millions of fish per year. During Hurricane Sandy, the ambient water level came dangerously close to submerging the Station, which would have created a Fukushima-style disaster. The Station has leaked radioactive tritium, and been cited for many inspection violations. Its containment vessels and drywall liners are eroded, it has had compressor and pump problems, and it lacks cooling towers and even a sound evacuation plan.

We hope that Holtec's dismantling of the Station will be overseen by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, with public updates. It will be Holtec's first decommissioning, and there is concern over the methods to be used and the large number of sub-contractors to be employed. These subsidiaries will not be regulated by the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), so it will be difficult to hold them accountable the way Exelon, the last operator, was.

Holtec has not disclosed the design details for its radiation-proof casks, which they claim are proprietary. Holtec proposes to transfer still-hot nuclear waste from water pools into dry casks in half the usual time - 2.5 years instead of the usual 5. Until the uranium fuel rods are safely in dry cask storage, the Station will be vulnerable to power outages and storm surges which could trigger a melt-down. Holtec proposes to create a wholly owned subsidiary - Oyster Creek Environmental Protection LLC - which will own the site and control the money from the Nuclear Plant Closure Fund. A second wholly owned subsidiary - Holtec Decommissioning International - would control operations, and contract work further to another company called Comprehensive Decommissioning International, and to Atkins - a subsidiary of SNC-Lavalin. This multitude of ownership and contractors will make accountability difficult.

Hopefully, the former Exelon employees will be assisted in finding new work, retrained or hired for the clean-up. On the same day that the Oyster Creek Plant closed, the BPU made a very welcome step forward into wind power.

### Group Committee Report

## Divest Fossil Fuel Firms from NJ Pension Funds!

Prepared by the Jersey Shore Group's Letter Writing Committee, and supplied by Mark Fukuyama (MarkExams@aol.com)

The dire climate change predictions in the latest IPCC report<sup>1</sup> should scare the public into action, but investors in fossil fuel companies should be especially worried. Hopefully, Governor Murphy and the State Investment Council are also worried and looking into divesting the New Jersey pension fund, valued at over \$78 billion, from all fossil fuel interests.

Such divestment is not new. More than 900 institutions representing \$7 trillion in portfolios worldwide are divesting from fossil fuels<sup>2</sup>, including the World Bank, the World Council of Churches, the Republic of Ireland, New York City, and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

The ethics should be obvious: New Jersey should not financially support an industry that threatens the future of mankind. The IPCC report tells us that the greenhouse gas emission targets of the Paris Agreement are just not enough. By 2050 we must decarbonize electricity generation by transitioning to renewable energy sources, along with many other tough actions. So much of the fossil fuel in the ground must not be burned.<sup>3</sup> These stranded assets will result in overvalued fossil fuel stocks, resulting in a much worse carbon bubble that will be difficult to deflate.<sup>4</sup> The economic damage from a bubble burst could lead to a global wealth loss of trillions of dollars.<sup>5</sup>

We have known for some time that the world has been moving to low carbon economies, and fossil fuel companies can help minimize economic disruptions by adapting and preparing for this transition. However, these companies appear to continue in a 'business as usual' mode. Here in New Jersey, energy consortiums continue to invest in the expansion of fossil fuel pipelines and fossil fuel-generated electrical plants. ExxonMobil, in their 2018 Energy and Carbon report<sup>6</sup>, anticipates no significant disruption of their business of extracting, refining, and marketing fossil fuels with use and emissions peaking in 2040, does not address what might happen if countries agree to more aggressive cuts, and fails to acknowledge the rise of climate liability litigation as a potential risk to its business.<sup>7, 8, 9, 10</sup> Continued attempts to build more pipelines and plants, and Exxon's report reflects an industry that seems to be in denial or is deliberately obtuse about the potential impact of climate change to their bottom line.

In addition, several states, cities and counties are suing major fossil fuel companies seeking compensation for climate change damages or defrauding investors.<sup>11, 12</sup> Although the outcome of these lawsuits has not yet been resolved, the number of lawsuits in the US and globally are anticipated to grow and will contribute to the adverse reputation of this industry, like the stigma associated with the tobacco industry. The revelation that Exxon's scientists were aware 40 years ago of fossil fuel generated climate change, and the fossil fuel industries' subsequent campaign to sow public doubt and confusion will fuel this stigma in the court of public opinion.<sup>13, 14</sup>

We encourage you to write to Governor Murphy (Office of the Governor, PO Box 001, Trenton, New Jersey 08625) and let him know about your concerns and for him

(Continued on page 6)

## Issue Coordinator's Report

# Local Activism Rectifies a Failure of Green Acres Protection

By Kathy O'Leary, Upper Passaic River Issues Coordinator (LHforRD@gmail.com)

When properties acquire environmental protection through New Jersey's Green Acres program, either by acquisition using grant money or municipal assignment to an open space inventory (ROSI list), there is the presumption that the land will be protected from development – in perpetuity. That isn't quite true. Partly, this is because Green Acres protects land both for conservation and recreation, so certain types of recreational development are permitted. Also, Green Acres regulations provide much latitude in interpretation, and little in the way of enforcement or oversight.

Such is the case of the Millington Green Acres Tract, donated to the Township of Long Hill (Morris Co) in 1992 by Sharon and Russell White – with the expressed intention, though not in writing, of it being preserved as parkland. A quarter-mile of dirt road, 10-12 feet wide, that had been the driveway to Mr. White's home, bisects the five-acre property, with steep wooded slopes on either side. It also has the potential to provide access to nearby Millington Gorge. There's a train station at one end of the dirt road, and a county road at the other end – with easy access to I-287.

In 2013, Long Hill added the five-acre parcel to its Recreation & Open Space Inventory (ROSI) list. One might think this would have been enough to ensure that the Whites' intentions were honored. But the listing included a condition: maintaining a 20-foot easement, presumably for paving the road.

In 2015 the Township applied for a DOT grant to widen and pave the road and add drainage. The cost of the quarter-mile of road improvements was estimated at \$400,000, of which the DOT agreed to contribute \$245,000; the rest would come from the Township.

Long Hill residents, who were largely unaware of these plans, began attending meetings in 2016 asking for the road to be closed to vehicular traffic so that the property could be better enjoyed as a park. By this time the grant to widen and pave the dirt road had been approved by the DOT and accepted by the Township.

It wasn't until 2017 that the Township's engineer contacted Green Acres to inquire about the plans for the Millington tract. The engineer assured Green Acres that the road construction would be contained within the 20-foot easement. But no plans had yet been drawn up.

The plans, which were submitted to the DOT in the spring of 2018, were very different from what had previously been discussed with Green Acres. The construction would include a guard rail, modification of slopes, installation of drainage, and removal of dozens of trees outside the 20-foot easement.

The plans were not copied to Green Acres, nor were they made readily available to the public. Enter a township resident named Lynda Panetta, who herself

was unaware of the pending construction until the spring of 2018, but soon after got right to work making OPRA requests for plans and other relevant documents. She provided the plans to Green Acres, contacted the DOT questioning the use of public funds on what the tax maps show as a private road, and also contacted NJ Transit with concerns that the storm-water would be directed onto the railbed of NJ Transit's Gladstone train line. The DEP's Division of Water Quality was also notified of concerns for the impact of this polluted runoff on the Passaic River.

Ms. Panetta also reached out to the NJ Sierra Club and the Passaic River Coalition, which offered support in the way of statements and letters to Long Hill's mayor, Guy Piserchia. Finally, Ms. Panetta rallied her neighbors starting a petition that garnered over 1,000 signatures.

Prior to receiving final approval from Green Acres, the Township issued a Notice to Proceed letter to the contractor. But Ms. Panetta and her neighbors stopped the construction by filing suit against the Township and the DOT, alleging that this was an illegal diversion of Green Acres property, and that the DOT had no business providing public money for improvements to a private road. The residents were awarded a temporary restraining order.

Sadly, Green Acres, under pressure from the Township, gave consent to the project with certain caveats regarding the trees, but with no enforcement mechanism. But as a result of Ms. Panetta's and her neighbors' efforts, Green Acres insisted on modifications: removal of the guide rail and a mitigation plan for the trees which would be felled. Sadly, the slope modification and drainage are still being permitted as "park improvements." The lawsuit has since been withdrawn and the residents are wondering when they will awake to the sound of chainsaws.

There is still hope! NJ Transit has expressed concern about the increased storm-water. It may require permits and ongoing maintenance agreements from the Township.

So why all this fuss for ¼ mile of road that no one lives on? I've written before about the Millington Asbestos Dump which is set to become a Transit-Oriented Development, with more than 130 apartments and tens of thousands of square feet of retail. It sits a few yards from the end of this road, and would supply a plague of trucks and cars trying to reach and return from I-287. Long Hill residents are probably right in thinking that the two are related.

As with so many other land use concerns, it takes stronger regulations and their bureaucracy to protect our parklands and open space from schemes that benefit developers, other profiteers, and private interests to the detriment of the public good.

## DIVEST FROM PENSION FUNDS

(Continued from page 5)

to act now to divest fossil fuels. Because total divestment may take several years, we must start now. These investment risks will only get worse with the already vast and growing scientific evidence of man-made climate change and our own experience in New Jersey with increased floods, rising seas, torrential thunderstorms, and searing heat waves.

The State Investment Council has the fiduciary responsibility to invest prudently. They must divest as soon as possible as dependence on fossil fuel investments puts pensioners, their families, and all New Jerseyans at great financial risk.

\*Footnotes can be found on page 14 in the Electronic Supplement of this newsletter



# Group News

FROM  
AROUND  
THE  
STATE

## HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

**Skylands Group:** Sussex & northern Warren  
**South Highlands Group:** Hunterdon & southern Warren  
**North Jersey Group:** Bergen & Passaic  
**Gateway Group:** Essex  
**Hudson County Group:** Hudson  
**Loantaka Group:** Morris & Union  
**Central Jersey Group:** Mercer  
**Raritan Valley Group:** Somerset & Middlesex  
**Jersey Shore Group:** Monmouth  
**Ocean County Group:** Ocean  
**West Jersey Group:** Burlington, Camden & Gloucester  
**South Jersey Group:** Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland & Salem

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

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

### Skylands Group

(Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

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

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/SkylandsNJSC>

**E-mail:** [ggorman07419@embarqmail.com](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> (12/31/18)	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> (12/31/18)	Norene Haberski	<a href="mailto:habersn@yahoo.com">habersn@yahoo.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>
	(12/31/18) Nicole Guerrieri	<a href="mailto:sierraclubnicole@gmail.com">sierraclubnicole@gmail.com</a>
	(12/31/19) Mindy Geary	<a href="mailto:mwillimas@yahoo.com">mwillimas@yahoo.com</a>
	(12/31/19) Joanne Mogan	<a href="mailto:jojommorgan@yahoo.com">jojommorgan@yahoo.com</a>
	(12/31/19) Anthony Riccardi	<a href="mailto:anthony.j.riccardi@gmail.com">anthony.j.riccardi@gmail.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>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>Programs Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position</i>	
<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:</b>	<b>Membership Chair</b> – please contact Greg!	

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

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

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

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

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

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

Forests throughout NJ have been and will be logged. Many of these forests are High Conservation Forests with closed canopies. They provide water to millions of New Jerseyans. Clear cutting can adversely impact water quality, biodiversity and threaten rare and endangered species' habitat.

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

### South Highlands Group

(Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties)

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

MEETUP: <http://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/>  
 FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/53817136187/>

**OFFICERS:**

**Chair:** Jonathan Wall \* jonwall@jonwall.com  
**Vice Chair:** Celeste Martin \* onecentral@mac.com  
**Secretary:** Amy Weeder \* aweeder@comcast.net  
**Treasurer:** John Kashwick jkashwick@gmail.com  
**Political Chair:** Karen Becker\* karbecker@gmail.com  
**Conservation Chair:** Debbie Young\* debyoung31@comcast.net  
**Children's Program Coor:** Kimberly Borin\* storiesofourown@mac.com  
**Biologist:** Angela De Sapio\* angela.desapio@gmail.com  
**Outings Coordinator:** Jonathan Wall\* jonwall@jonwall.com  
**Webmaster/Listmaster:** John Kashwick jkashwick@gmail.com  
**Native Plant Coordinator:** Cinny MacGonagle cmacgonagle@yahoo.com  
 (\* Group Executive Committee Member)

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** All our general meetings are held at the North County Library, 65 Halstead St, Clinton, 08809, on the first Wednesday of each month. Meet and Greet at 7pm followed by program at 7:15 pm. Meetings are free but donations are gladly accepted.

**Jan 2 (Wed):** Yellowstone! Ray Martin and Joey Gaffney, both adventurous college students, will share tales of their grand adventure hiking and camping in Yellowstone. These are our future environmental leaders and stewards so please come and hear their views about our park's future!

**Feb 6 (Wed):** Cause and Effect, Changing Climate in NJ: Dr. Krassi Lazarova of Centenary College, a physicist, will present her research on creating different "virtual scenarios" using models of pollution, air quality to forecast all sorts of different futures that we can create for ourselves if we do something or nothing or a little something in-between to address climate change.

**Mar 6 (Wed):** David Boyle from Citizens Climate Lobby, a grassroots advocacy, will discuss how their nonpartisan group is advocating for a "Carbon Fee and Dividend Proposal" in the effort to empower communities to adopt fair, effective and sustainable climate change solutions.

**OTHER EVENTS:**

**Jan 8 (Wed):** Executive Committee/Planning Meeting, 7:30 pm, at the offices of Dr. Jonathan D. Wall, 21 Water Street, Clinton. The meeting is casual and informative. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about the Club, hear about and discuss issues, plan future events, and become more active. (Please contact jonwall@jonwall.com or sign-up on Meetup)

**Jan 26 (Sat):** 1pm: The Great Swamp Strut: Celebrate the Winter with a walk starting at the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Inclement weather cancels. (Please contact Celeste Martin onecentral@mac.com for details and sign up on Meetup.com)

**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/northjersseysierraclub>

**Officers:**

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

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

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

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

**MEETINGS AND EVENTS:**

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

**Gateway Group**

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

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

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

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

**OFFICERS:**

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

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

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

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

**Hudson County Group**

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

**OFFICERS: (\*=ExCom)**

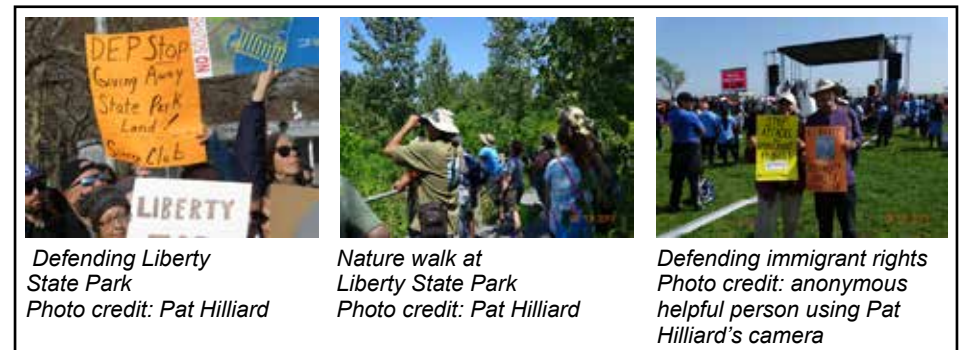
**Chair:** David 'Ace' Case\* acecase88@gmail.com  
**Vice-Chair:** *Open position! Email Ace to volunteer!*  
**Secretary:** Patricia Hilliard\* hilliard\_patricia@hotmail.com  
**Treasurer:** *Open position! Email Ace to volunteer!*  
**Political Chair:** *Open position! Email Ace to volunteer!*  
**Conservation Chair:** *Open position! Email Ace to volunteer!*  
**Ready for 100:** Allyson Samuel Allyson.samuell@sierraclub.org  
**Delegate to ExCom:** *Open position! Email Ace to volunteer!*  
**Publicity Chair:** John Ottomanelli\* otto.pittsburgh@gmail.com  
**Membership Chair:** Andrea Rodriguez aarodriguez87@gmail.com  
**Events:** Steve Krinsky stevekrinsky@comcast.net  
**ExCom-at-Large:** Nancy Booth\* boothnancy2011@hotmail.com  
**Webmaster:** John Ottomanelli\* otto.pittsburgh@gmail.com

**MEETINGS AND EVENTS:**

**Third Annual Holiday Party. Sun, Dec 16: 1-4pm.** South House, 149 Newark Ave, Jersey City. Come out to meet New Jersey's urban conservationists, to socialize over Sunday Brunch, and to discuss the environmental concerns facing Hudson County, New Jersey, and beyond. Visit the NJ Sierra Club website and the Hudson County Sierra Club facebook page to find out more and to RSVP.

**Winter Nature Walk. Sun, Jan 5: 10am-Noon.** Lefante Walkway (AKA Bayonne Golf Course Walkway), South Cove Commons Mall, Bayonne NJ. Meet behind Otaiko Restaurant at the first green bridge. We often see Harrier Hawks, wintering ducks, if we're lucky, a Snowy Owl. Free and open to the public. RSVP to hudsonsierraclub@gmail.com. Meet and Greet is possible afterward at nearby Houlihans if anyone is interested.

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



*Defending Liberty State Park Photo credit: Pat Hilliard*      *Nature walk at Liberty State Park Photo credit: Pat Hilliard*      *Defending immigrant rights helpful person using Pat Hilliard's camera*

**Loantaka Group**

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

(Continued on page 8)

## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

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

### OFFICERS:

**Group Chair (Acting):** Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com  
**Treasurer:** Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com  
**Secretary:** *Open Position!*  
**Conservation Chairs:**  
**Morris County:** Len Fariello len@wildlifepreserves.org  
**Union County:** *Open Position!*  
**Political Chair:** Clea Carchia 908-892-7229 info@cleacarchia.com  
**Programs:** Ahlia Bethea 908-884-5017 ahlia.bethea@gmail.com  
**Fundraising Chair:** Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com  
**Outings Chair:** *Open Position!*  
**Publicity Chair:** Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442 johansons@comcast.net  
**Membership:** Bruce Ostrow 973-625-0792 ostrowb@gmail.com  
**Webmaster:** Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442 johansons@comcast.net  
**Upper Passaic River Coor:** Kathy O'Leary 908-647-2870 kolearypcnj@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

### MEETING SCHEDULE:

**Jan 9:** Groundwork Elizabeth will discuss environmental justice issues and involvement in sustainable agriculture, environmental youth activities and green careers, especially those related to brownfield re-use. They will also discuss green development in the state of New Jersey and the future of sustainable infrastructure.

**Feb13:** The Cora Hartshorn Arboretum and Bird Sanctuary, a historic woodlands garden and educational institution located in Short Hills, will give a presentation on the environmental opportunities that they offer to the public.

**Mar 13:** To be announced

**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.

We held our 14th auction and brought in nearly \$700, a portion of which, as always, was donated to the Trenton office. The following businesses contributed auction items for the first time:

Vaccaro's Bakery (Clark NJ)	Short Stories Bookshop (Madison NJ)
Villa Stefano's Pizzeria (Clark NJ)	Sanctuary Hair Salon (Chatham NJ)
Alfred's Sports Shop (Madison NJ)	Hair by Pierre Salon (Summit NJ)
Fratelli's Delicatessan (Madison NJ)	Linwyck Garden Supply (Westfield NJ)

In addition, our old standbys still are helping us:  
NJ Dog Grooming School NJ Festival Orchestra Dreyer Farms Williams Nursery  
Village Hardware Winberie's Morris Museum Charley's Aunt

Please patronize them if possible, and thank them for supporting the Sierra Club!

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

## Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

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

### OFFICERS:

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

Please join the Central Jersey Group of the NJ Sierra Club on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month, at 6pm, at Mercer County Community College. Pizza and snacks are provided before each presentation.

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

We have much to talk about - current events, environmental policies, Climate Change, work with other community-based organizations to discuss our strategies - all to keep the momentum going to stop pipelines, polluting sources such as incinerators, generating plants, factories, LNG plants, landfills, power plants, airports, over-development, and pollution causing degradation to our air and water quality. We lobby for legislative changes to protect Mother Earth. We welcome your ideas and participation. Please RSVP to Kipatthesierraclub@gmail.com.

### MEETING SCHEDULE:

**Dec 12:** 6 pm: Carl Pellegrino, US Environmental Protection Agency - Region 2, shares his experiences in Puerto Rico, the enchanted Island since the devastation.

**Jan 9:** 6pm: Assemblyman and Nuclear Scientist Andrew Zwicker

**Feb 13:** 6pm: Kenneth Miller: "Should I sell my shore house?" (Sea level rise)

**Mar 13:** 6pm: D. Moskowitz, Moths are pollinators too

Our schedule of meetings is also posted on the website and the Central Group's Facebook Page.

## Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

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

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

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

### OFFICERS:

#### Chair and Conservation

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

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

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

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

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

## Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

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

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

### OFFICERS:

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



**High School Coordinator:** Open Position!  
**Letter-writing Committee:** Mark Fukayama, Steve Miller and Stan Greberis

**Jersey Shore Group Happenings:**

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

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

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

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

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

To get to Brookdale, take GSP Exit 109 to Rte 520 West (Newman Springs Rd, which becomes E Main St at the Lincroft campus). Exit the traffic circle into the campus and follow the signs to the Warner Student Life Center (SLC), where the meeting usually is in the Twin Lights Rooms I and II. Use parking lot 7. As you walk towards the building complex, Warner will be down the slope on your left. If lot 7 is full, use parking lots 5 or 6. A campus map is at [http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP\\_04\\_08.pdf](http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP_04_08.pdf).

**Jan 28:** Dr. Richard Veit, Professor of Anthropology at Monmouth University, will discuss one of his popular “digs,” the area around the lighthouse at Sandy Hook. During the American Revolution, the British converted the lighthouse into a fort, while loyalists to the Crown, many of African descent, built a refugee “town” near the light that served as a base of operations for British raiding parties along the Jersey shore

**Feb 25:** Jan and Lynn Dash, early opponents of climate change, will go into the details and science of a recent IPCC/UN report that argues that climate changes, including coastal flooding, is accelerating at a faster rate than previously reported.

**Mar 25:** While many Jerseyans travel to Cape May to see whales, few are aware that NY harbor abounds in whales as well. An invitation to speak has been extended to a dedicated advocate for the protection of whales, since 7 out of the 13 great whale species are endangered or vulnerable. Details will be on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JerseyShoreNJSJC/>

**Ocean County Group**

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

**OFFICERS:**

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

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

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

**West Jersey Group**

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

**OFFICERS:**

**Group Chair:** Gina Carola 856-848-8831 ginacee@verizon.net  
**Vice-Chair:** Frank Zinni efzin4@aol.com  
**Secretary:** Ellen Zinni efzin4@aol.com  
**Treasurer:** Trish Clements patri3210@gmail.com  
**Publicity Chair:** Anne Caridi annecaridi@yahoo.com  
**Political Chair:** Linda Rubiano Linda\_Maritz@yahoo.com  
**Pinelands Rep:** Lee Snyder pinelands1@hotmail.com  
**Greenways Coord's:** Frank and Ellen Zinni efzin4@aol.com  
**Conservation Chair:** Stacey Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com

**Delegate at Large:** Aida Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com  
**Membership Chair:** Mike Brown 856-547-9221 eyebrown@verizon.net  
**Fundraising Chair:** *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer . 856-848-8831  
**Smart Growth Chair:** *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer . 856-848-8831  
**Programs Chair:** *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer . 856-848-8831  
**Outings Chair:** *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer . 856-848-8831  
**Social Media Coord's:** Evan Kostka evan.kostka@gmail.com  
 and Dayna Hovern dayna.hovern@gmail.com



The West Jersey Group held its annual Thanksgiving Food Drive at the November General Meeting. The food was delivered to the Food Bank of South Jersey.

**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.

**Dec 12:** Join us for our Year-End Wrap Up and holiday party! Bring a favorite munchie to share as we discuss our successes and ongoing efforts from 2018 and plan for 2019. Door prizes and great camaraderie.

**Jan 9:** Project Drawdown - Marty Levin of Pachamama Alliance will explain how Project Drawdown can help us explore new possibilities around global warming – to get more educated, inspired, empowered – and, collaborating with others, to get into action.

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

**South Jersey Group**

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

**OFFICERS:**

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

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

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

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

**Some Possibly Relevant Activities of Allied Organizations:**

**Jan 2, Feb 6 and Mar 6:** (first Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Atlantic County Friends of the

(continued on page 10)

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

## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

**Parks (FoP):** Monthly meetings of a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Park System. All are welcome. Warren Fox Nature Center (WFNC\*), Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor, Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 3½ miles south of Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280. The December FoP meeting will be a pot-luck holiday feast, starting at 6pm.

**Feb 13 & Apr 10:** (alternate second Wednesdays), 7pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries (another "Partnership River" under federal protection): Meeting place: George Luciano Center, Cumberland County College. Cumberland County development issues are commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Karla Rossini (CU) at 609-774-5853 or karla.rossini@cumauriceriver.org. Website: www.cumauriceriver.org.

**Feb 20 & Apr 17:** (alternate third Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss river management strategies. Open to the public. WFNC\*. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

**Jan 23, Feb 27 and Mar 27:** (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.

**Jan 22 & Mar 26:** (alternate fourth Tuesdays) 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: get yourself onto the electronic mailing list by contacting Lynn Maun, 856-649-2792 or email lynnkmaun@comcast.net.

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

## Singles Section

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

Please join us! The NJ Singles Section was specifically created to offer a variety of singles-oriented activities to NJ Sierra Club members and those who would like to know more about us. We are not a local group; we are a statewide additional "layer" of Club involvement. Everyone is welcome to attend our events. Come out and meet fellow Club members and others who care about the environment. We can only offer as many activities as we have volunteers to run them - if you have the slightest urge to get involved, please contact one of our officers!

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

**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 at the Chapter's web site: [sierraclub.org/new-jersey](http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey).

You can now also "like" us on Facebook: "Singles Group New Jersey Sierra Club".

### OFFICERS:

<b>Interim Chair:</b>	Ron Pate	ronpate31@verizon.net
<b>Outings Chair:</b>	Joyce Haddad	jkhaddad@juno.com
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	<i>Position Open - Contact us! We need you!</i>	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Joyce White	joyce.white.exec@gmail.com
<b>Social Chair:</b>	Joe Prebish	Joe.Prebish@kraft.com
<b>Vice Social Chair:</b>	Jeff Sovelove	Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com
<b>Programs:</b>	<i>Position Open - Contact us! We need you!</i>	
<b>Publicity:</b>	<i>Position Open - Contact us! We need you!</i>	
<b>Membership:</b>	<i>Position Open - Contact us! We need you!</i>	
<b>Nominations:</b>	Nancy Sullivan	nancysullivan@comcast.net

**2015 Executive Committee members:** Rozanna Fanelli, Joyce Haddad, Ron Pate, Joe Prebish, Jeff Sovelove, Daphne Speck Bartynski, Joyce White.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** We need volunteers in all areas of the state to run events. Volunteers needed as hike leaders, Fundraising Chair/Co-Chairs, and members of all committees, including planning social events and conservation activities. Please attend an executive committee meeting or email any of the officers if you are interested. You may co-chair any position with a friend, if desired. We're happy to help you learn the ropes.

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** Casual pizza gathering, introduction to club issues and activities, speakers, and letter-writing at the Chatham Library. Dates and topics will be announced on our listserv; see above for subscription information.

ExCom meetings take place as needed at various locations. All welcome. Contact any officer for information.

### SOCIAL GATHERINGS:

**SOCIAL DINNER:** THIRD TUESDAY of each month at 7pm. Join us for dinner at a variety of Montclair restaurants. Location will be announced 2 weeks before each social. RSVP is required as described in the announcement.

**SOCIAL DINNERS with MOVIE SHOWINGS** are scheduled approximately monthly in New Brunswick. Join us for thought-provoking films and conversation over casual dinners. Topics and locations will be announced on our listserv and on the Chapter's online calendar (see above).

### HIKES AND OTHER OUTINGS:

The Singles Section sponsors many outings, ranging from beginners' level to advanced difficulty. Some of these are listed in this newsletter; others are announced only on our listserv and the Chapter's online calendar. See the Outings section of this Newsletter for

singles outings led by Jimi Oleksiak and Jeff Sovelove. Please join the listserv to receive notification of all of our outings (see above for instructions on how to subscribe).

**Sierra Silver Singles** is a subgroup that organizes hikes and other social events to appeal to Singles over 50. Most events are scheduled followed by an optional meal at a location determined by the leader. See the Outings section of this Newsletter for Silver Singles outings. Check the Singles listserv for announcements of more Silver Singles outings.

## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Section

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

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

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

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

### OFFICERS:

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

(\* Section Executive Committee Member)

### MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Check Meetup.com/njsierraclub or [www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/](http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/) for outings listings. You can also receive updated information by joining our email list. Please contact John at [jkashwick@gmail.com](mailto:jkashwick@gmail.com) to be included in the list.

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

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

## Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

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

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

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

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

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

## Sierra Student Coalition

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

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

## Introducing Children to the Outdoors Section

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

### OFFICERS:

**Chair:** Marty Cohen [peh4191@gmail.com](mailto:peh4191@gmail.com)

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

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

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



# Outings

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

## GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS (roughly north to south)

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

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

**Note:** Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your April-May 2019 trip write-ups by Feb 10.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## JANUARY

**Jan 1 (Tues): New Year's Day Paddle on the Wading River (Burlington Co).** 10am. Ring in the New Year with the NJ Sierra Club. The section we paddle will depend on river conditions. Experienced cold weather paddlers only. Enjoy a tailgate get together after the trip. Bring something to share. Hikers are welcome to join us after the paddle! Please contact leaders to confirm participation and details: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com). (W)

**Jan 5 (Sat): Hike at Veterans Park (Mercer Co).** 10am, 4-5 miles, easy pace. Leashed dogs are welcome! Meet by the tank and helicopter in the parking lot off Yardville-Hamilton Square Road. Paved trail meanders through woods along Pond Run. Bring snack and drink. Tables and rest rooms are available. Lunch at Fame Restaurant, 1071 White Horse Ave. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Please RSVP and put "Sierra" in the subject: Joanne Pannone: 609-443-6992 or [jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com](mailto:jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com). (C)

**Jan 6 (Sun): Walk at Sandy Hook, near Highlands (Monmouth Co).** 9:30 am. The wonder of the beach in winter, with views of the city. This walk is mostly in a mixed dwarf forest (just behind the dunes) with lots of holly, juniper, and cedar, all within the National Recreation Area. Mostly flat, a short portion is on the sandy ocean beach. Approx. 4 miles, easy pace, bring plenty of water, beginners welcome. (Extreme cold winds will cause rerouting, to Hartshorne County Park. If participants agree, part of the hike will be conversation-free.) Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com.

**Jan 12 (Sat): D&R Canal Hike (Burlington Co).** 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. We'll hike over the Lock 1 "swinging bridge" as we walk along the towpath; perhaps see the resident Bald Eagles. Meet at the RiverLINE parking lot in Bordentown City. Option for late lunch at Heart of Bordentown (HOB) Tavern. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Contact leaders to confirm hike: Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com). (C)

**Jan 12 (Sat): South Mountain Reservation Hike, Milburn (Essex Co):** 10am. 7 miles in 4 hr. Hilly terrain. Moderate difficulty. <https://www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/south-mountain-reservation>. Features: Lookout over Milburn. Facilities: Port-A-John in the parking lot. Requirement: No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch. If there is snow or ice on the ground then traction devices such as Cat Tracks or Stabilicers are required. Registration required via Web: <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey>; then click on the South Mountain Reservation Hike; then click RSVP. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: <The\_Hikist@mac.com>.

**Jan 17 (Thur): New Jersey State Museum (Mercer Co).** 10am. Let's enjoy an "indoor outing" to the NJ State Museum. There are many Collection Exhibitions on long-term view. Interested in dinosaurs? The Museum has added two NJ life-size fossil casts from the Written in the Rocks exhibition! Check the website [www.state.nj.us/state/museum/](http://www.state.nj.us/state/museum/) Limited parking is available in the State House Garage or metered parking on West State St. Please register to confirm participation: Co-Leaders: Leona F: 609-259-3734 or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com); Joanne P: [jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com](mailto:jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com). (C)

**Jan 21 (Mon): Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service at Mercer County Park (Mercer Co).** 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. We'll pick up trash as we walk along Lake Mercer and the wooded trails throughout the park. Meet at the Grandparents Grove at Mercer County Park. The address is 334 S. Post Rd, West Windsor. We'll provide trash bags. Bring hot beverage and snacks. Co-Leaders: Leona F: 609-259-3734 or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com); Joanne P: [jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com](mailto:jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com). (C)

**Jan 26 (Sat): Jockey Hollow Leader's Choice (Morris Co).** 10am. Leader's choice of trails depending on conditions at Jockey Hollow National Park in Morristown. See <http://www.nps.gov/morr/planyourvisit/directions.htm> for directions and information. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Meet at the visitors' center. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footwear required (stabilicers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. Optional lunch at a local eatery if we get done in time. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: [Hiker\\_Dood@yahoo.com](mailto:Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com). Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

**Jan 26 (Sat): Tallman Mountain State Park (Rockland Co, NY).** 11:15 am. 7 miles. We will hike through the Park and view the berms and salt marsh. We will then walk the mile-long Piermont pier half-way across the Hudson! Trails include the Long Path. Bring lunch and water. Adverse conditions will alter the route. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural, on the corner of Tate & Piermont Aves.) in Piermont NY. Park down Gair St in parking lot D. Leader: John P. Jurasek: 845-519-4247 (no calls after 10pm) or [Jurasek@optonline.net](mailto:Jurasek@optonline.net). (ACOC)

**Jan 26 (Sat): Hike the Franklin Parker Preserve (Burlington Co).** 10am. 5-6 miles, easy pace on the Yellow Trail. The acquisition of the Franklin Parker Preserve in 2003 by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation was a momentous occasion in conservation. This 9400-acre preserve is a keystone piece of land, linking the expanses of Brendan Byrne, Wharton, and Penn State Forests and creating a more contiguous Pinelands National Reserve. Meeting at Speedwell entrance off Rte 563, Woodland Twp. Leashed dogs are welcome. Bring lunch and water. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Contact leaders to confirm hike: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com). (W)

## FEBRUARY

**Feb 2 (Sat): Patriots Path Stroll (Morris Co).** 10am. Come take an easy stroll on Patriots Path in Morristown. This 3-5 mile stroll will start out from the Speedwell Lake parking lot, across the street from Historic Speedwell. See the Morris County Parks website: (<http://www.morrisparks.org/>) for directions. The path is wide, partly paved, partly crushed stabilized gravel with very little in the way of elevation gains. We will be strolling at a very moderate pace. Please bring plenty of water and a light snack. Great for beginners. No pets please. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footwear required (stabilicers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. Optional lunch afterwards. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: [Hiker\\_Dood@yahoo.com](mailto:Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com). Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

**Feb 2 (Sat): Groundhog Day: Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co).** The section we paddle will depend on river conditions. Experienced cold weather paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and details: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com). (W)

**Feb 9 (Sat): Hike at Jakes Branch County Park (Ocean Co).** 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. Jakes Branch has a nature center with interesting hands-on exhibits and an observation deck that offers a 360 deg. view of the Pinelands. Meet at Jakes Branch Park, 1100 Double Trouble Rd, Beechwood. Option for late lunch at Shady Rest Restaurant. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Contact leaders to confirm hike: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com). (W)

**Feb 9 (Sat): High Point State Park Cross Country Ski (Sussex Co).** 10am. We expect to take 4-5 hours for fun in the snow. <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/highpoint.html>. There is a full service cross country ski center at the park with rentals and a ski lodge: <http://www.xcskihighpoint.com/>. Email the leader for the up-to-the-minute details. Features: Excellent views all around. Facilities: ski lodge with rentals and restrooms. No pets. XC skis and boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. Registration required via Web: from <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey>, click on the High Point Ski, then click RSVP. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: <The\_Hikist@mac.com>.

**Feb 14 (Thurs): Valentine's Day Hike at Smithville Park (Burlington Co).** 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace at Historic Smithville Park in Vincentown. The Park features a diverse collection of habitats and terrain and also offers Rancocas Creek vistas. Meet at the Smith's Woods access parking lot, East Railroad Ave. Option for late lunch at Vincentown Diner after the hike. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com). (W)

**Feb 17 (Sun): Whitesbog Village Winter Hike (Burlington Co).** 10am. 4-5 miles. Easy pace. Whitesbog is a NJ historic site and was a village built to house workers in the local cranberry bogs. Perhaps we'll see wintering Tundra Swans as we hike around the bogs. Directions [www.whitesbog.org](http://www.whitesbog.org) Blueberry Music Jam. Bring beverage and lunch. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com). (C)

**Feb 23 (Sat): Clausland Mountain (Rockland Co, NY).** 11:15am. 6 miles. We will climb 700 ft through historic Rockland Cemetery to an old Nike missile base. Bring hiking boots, lunch, 2 quarts of water. Adverse conditions will alter the route. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural, on the corner of Tate & Piermont Aves.) in Piermont NY. Park down Gair St in parking lot D. Leader: John P. Jurasek: 845-519-4247 (no calls after 10pm), or [Jurasek@optonline.net](mailto:Jurasek@optonline.net). (ACOC)

**Feb 24 (Sun): Hike at the Jamesburg Park Conservation Area (Middlesex Co).** 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. The Jamesburg Park Conservation Area was some of the first lands that Middlesex County acquired using Green Acres funding for open space protection in the early 1970's. This area is the Spotswood Outlier of the New Jersey Pinelands and there's no doubt as we hike through mixed hardwood and Pitch Pine forests. Meet at Helme Mill Park at 17 Maple St in Helmetta. Bring water and snacks. Option for late lunch at "The Diner". Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Contact leaders to confirm hike: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com). (RV)

## MARCH

**Mar 1 (Fri): National Peanut Butter Lover's Day Hike at Perrineville Lake Park (Monmouth Co).** 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. Beautiful woodlands, natural fields and a picturesque lake meet here in the heart of quiet Millstone. Bring water; leaders will have Peanut Butter snacks and Mr. Peanut may make an appearance! Meet at 23 Agress Rd, Millstone parking lot. Leashed dogs are welcome. Option for lunch at Albivi's Restaurant. Inclement weather cancels. Leona and George F.: 609-259-3734 or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com). (C)

**Mar 3 (Sun): World Wildlife Day Hike at Estell Manor (Atlantic Co).** 10am. 5-6 miles, easy pace. In 2013 the United Nations proclaimed March 3 as World Wildlife Day. Our hike will celebrate wildlife and the need to protect our environment. Meet at the Warren E. Fox Nature Center on 109 Boulevard Rte 50, Estell Manor, and see the displays before we hike. Bring lunch, water, snacks for our lunch break during the hike. Leashed dogs are welcome! Inclement weather cancels. Please contact leaders to confirm hike: Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com). (W)

**Mar 9 (Sat): Explore the Unique History, Ecology and Culture of the Pinelands (Atlantic Co).** Join me for a daylong event at Stockton University for the 29th Annual Pinelands Short Course. There will be options for a guided van tour of the Mullica River Watershed, "virtual field trips" of the Barnegat Bay and Maurice River and many new presentations as well as popular ones from past years. For further information and registration, etc. please contact: Joanne P: [jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com](mailto:jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com). (C)

**Mar 9 (Sat): Apschawa Preserve Hike, West Milford (Passaic Co).** 10am. 6 miles in 4 hours in moderately hilly terrain around the former Butler Reservoir. <http://www.njconservation.org/apschawapreserve.htm>. Features: Views of pond, waterfall and reservoir. Facilities: none in this preserve. Requirements: No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch required. Registration required via web: Start with <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey>; then click on the Apschawa Hike, then click RSVP. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: <The\_Hikist@mac.com>.

**Mar 10 (Sun): DST Hike at the Thompson Park Conservation Area (Middlesex Co).** 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. A highlight of our hike is the Natural Spring located in the Park; one of 12 in NJ. [www.findspring.com/](http://www.findspring.com/). Thompson Park is dominated by heavily wooded forests and lowland swamps along the Manalapan Brook. We will meet at the Thompson Park Trailhead near the Off-Leash Dog Area on Fir Drive, Monroe Twp. GPS Coordinates: N 40° 20' 3.753", W 74° 26' 8.556". Inclement weather cancels. Option for late lunch at a local restaurant. Leashed dogs are welcome. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com). (RV)

**Mar 10 (Sun): Hike Shark River Park, Wall (Monmouth Co).** 1 pm. After a circuit through the outer reaches of the park, we will enjoy the babbling brook that's Shark River in this area. About 5 miles at an easy pace, some short climbs, mostly flat. Beginners welcome, supportive footwear recommended, bring plenty of water. If participants agree, part of the hike will be conversation-free. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com.

**Mar 16 (Sat): Lewis Morris Park Hike (Morris Co).** 10am. We start at Sunrise Lake, then hike to the parking upper lot and back down to the lake using a combination of the Yellow and Red trails. The pace will be a moderate to slow one. See the Morris County Parks Commission website: <http://www.morrisparks.org/asparks/lmdir.asp> for directions. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Meet in parking lot. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footwear required (stabilicers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: [Hiker\\_Dood@yahoo.com](mailto:Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com). Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

**Mar 17 (Sun): St. Patrick's Day Hike at the NJAS Plainsboro Preserve (Middlesex Co).** 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. The Preserve has wildlife exhibits, a reference library and the Nature Store is a great source for field guides, optics, etc. Bring water and snacks. Meet at the Nature Center, 80 Scotts Corner Rd, Cranbury. Directions: [www.njadubon.org/Centers/Plainsboro/](http://www.njadubon.org/Centers/Plainsboro/) Option for late lunch at Romeo's Restaurant. Inclement weather cancels. Dogs are not permitted. Co-Leaders: Leona F: 609-259-3734 or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com); Joanne P: [jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com](mailto:jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com). (RV)

(continued on page 12)

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



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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.

\* Indicates Chapter-wide elected ExCom members.  
\*\* Indicates committee chair or co-chair

**OUTINGS**

(Continued from page 11)

**Mar 20 (Wed): Vernal Equinox Hike at the Manasquan Reservoir (Monmouth Co).** 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. We'll meet at the Visitor Center on 311 Windeler Rd, Howell. A Bald Eagle pair are longtime residents and have been spotted at the reservoir. Bring water, snacks and lunch on the hike since we'll take a lunch break during the hike. Inclement weather cancels. Leashed dogs are welcome. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

**Mar 22 (Fri): World Day for Water: Canoe/Kayak Lake Oswego (Burlington Co).** 10am. Join us as we enjoy a day on Lake Oswego and explore the upstream reaches too. World Water Day is held annually on March 22 as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. New Jersey's 17-trillion gallon Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer is a vast reservoir of fresh water that underlies South Jersey and all of the Pinelands. On October 27, 2017 the NJ Sierra Club filed its second challenge to a controversial plan for a 30-mile pipeline, known as the SRL, through the ecologically sensitive Pinelands Reserve region. Along with the Sierra Club, Pinelands Preservation Alliance and other environmental groups have raised concerns that the project will impact clean water and contribute to climate change and urban sprawl. Bring lunch and beverage and snacks. Please contact leaders to confirm the trip and participation. Experienced cold weather paddlers only. Rental boats are not available. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**Mar 24 (Sun): Hike at Maurice River Bluffs Preserve (Cumberland Co).** 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. The Nature Conservancy prides itself on protecting great places like the Maurice River Bluffs, a majestic preserve overlooking the river. Directions: Take Rte 55 south to Rte 49 exit. Turn right onto Rte 49 West. After you cross the Maurice River in Millville, turn left onto Cedar St/Rte 555 for 0.2 miles. Then bear left onto Rte 627/Silver Run Rd and continue for 1.7 miles. Look for The Nature Conservancy sign on the left side of the road. www.njhiking.com/maurice-river-bluffs/ Bring binoculars, water and snacks. Dogs are not permitted in the Preserve. Option for late lunch at the Maurice River Diner. Inclement weather cancels. Contact leaders to confirm hike: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**Mar 30 (Sat): Hook Mountain Hike (Rockland Co, NY).** 10:30 am. 7 miles, with excellent views of the Hudson River and Croton Point. Meet in the Rockland Lake South Parking Lot number 4 near the entrance booth. Rockland Lake is in Congers, NY, off Rte 9W. Bring lunch, hiking boots, and water. Adverse conditions will alter the route. Leader: John P. Jurasek: 845-519-4247 (no calls after 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

**Mar 30 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co).** 10am. The section we paddle will depend on weather conditions. Experienced cold weather/water paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and details. Option for early breakfast at the Vincentown Diner. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**APRIL**

**Apr 1 (Mon): A Lighthearted Day No Franks – Bicycle the Edgar Felix Bikeway (Monmouth Co).** 10am. 10-12 miles, easy pace. The Bikeway extends from Manasquan to Allaire State Park and there are additional biking trails. Bicycle helmets must be worn. Bring water and snacks. Lunch break at the Allenwood General Store – buy or bring lunch. Contact leaders to confirm the ride and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

**Upcoming ExCom Meetings:**

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

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

**January 12, February 9, and March 9, all at the Hamilton Township (Mercer Co.) Public Library, 1 Justice Samuel Alito Jr. Way**



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

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

**Thank you to all who contributed to this issue!**  
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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

*Reports from Trenton*

## B. L. England Closing in May: Must NOT Be Repowered with Gas

*From a press release issued by our Trenton-based staff on Oct 17*

Latest news is that the B.L. England Electric Power Plant in South Jersey (Beesley's Point, Cape May Co) will close by May of 2019. Crews are apparently decommissioning two of the plant's three generating units. The Sierra Club has been trying to close B.L. England for more than 20 years. It emits thousands of tons of sulfur dioxide, mercury, fine particulates and other pollutants each year. It violates the Clean Air Act by continuing to burn dirty coal. Until recently, the owner, RC Cape May Holdings, wanted to convert the furnaces to natural gas, an action we urged the Murphy Administration to deny.

No doubt the change of heart, from natural gas to closure, has to do with local, regional, and Sierra Club opposition to a new pipeline to bring natural gas across the Pinelands from the Millville area (Cumberland Co). Also, the regional electric grid operator, PJM, believes that an upgraded plant at the site is not needed. The evidence against keeping this plant open is overwhelming. The South Jersey Gas pipeline is currently in litigation.

There's another argument: we will soon have 1100 MW of offshore wind power off the coast of Cape May and Atlantic Counties, probably built by the Danish company Ørsted, which has proposed bringing its power ashore at Beesley's Point, using B.L. England's electrical switchyard to connect it to the PJM Regional Grid.

In 2016, the Christie Administration's DEP issued a draft air permit for a rebuilt 447-megawatt natural-gas power plant at the B.L. England site, using the proposed South Jersey Gas pipeline. We argued that the re-powering of B.L. England would absolve it from meeting the most up-to-date standards for air quality. Despite switching from coal to natural gas, its pollution would actually increase five times, since it would operate 24/7/365, rather than as a peaker plant for 60 days/yr. In addition, methane (natural gas) is 70 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.

Yet another argument: Gov. Murphy is pledged to a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2050. This not the time for sidelining that goal.

In early 2017, B.L. England officially filed for deactivation with PJM Grid Operator. A few months later, a status update report by PJM allowed two of the three units to run for two more years, awaiting grid upgrades. But PJM did not call for the plant to be repowered. Projects to update the grid are ongoing through 2019. These include upgrades to existing transmission lines and substations in many counties of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland (hence PJM!).

Since Christie took office, New Jersey has built four new natural gas power plants and five more are proposed. We should be focusing on renewable energy (solar and wind). Let's abandon B.L. England.

## DEP Rejects Permits for NESE Gas Pipeline

*From a press release issued on Sept 13, edited by Irene Gnarra*

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJ-DEP) has rejected the permit applications submitted by the Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Co. (Transco) for a compressor station and pipeline project in Franklin Township (Hunterdon Co). Transco had applied for approval for a proposed Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE) under the rules governing the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act, Flood Hazard Area Control Act, Coastal Wetlands Act, and Waterfront Development Act. In June, 2018, Transco withdrew parts of its application and then re-applied. With this latest rejection, the company has another year to modify its proposal and reapply.

Like New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation, the NJ-DEP has found Transco's application for the water quality certification required by the federal Clean Water Act incomplete. The project is ill-conceived. The Sierra Club will try to block all future proposals, for the pipeline would destroy Franklin Township, Raritan Bay, as well as New York Bay.

At least 15 pipelines have been proposed to bring shale gas to market in New Jersey; NESE would transport gas from Pennsylvania to Long Island. Transco proposes 3.5 miles of new pipe in Old Bridge and Sayreville, as well as 22 miles under the Raritan Bay, and a new compressor station in Trap Rock Quarry, Franklin Twp.

It is well documented that compressor stations have experienced blowdowns. Also, "fugitive emissions" from leaks release toxic chemicals, polluting both air and water. Some of the pollutants from compressor stations include formaldehyde, propane, isobutene, cyclohexane, benzene, toluene, and other greenhouse gasses. High levels of these chemicals directly affect public health.

The Raritan Bay is already polluted, and we cannot risk contaminating it further with the NESE project. Natural gas is highly flammable: a pipeline explosion would endanger people in this densely populated area of the state. An accident could harm the entire waterway, and we must assure the preservation of our environment. As Jeff Tittel has explained, "When you cut through a bay like the Raritan, it has an impact on the fisheries as well as the ecology of the Bay. The fish, plants and other living creatures in the Bay would be threatened by this pipeline." In no way would New Jersey profit from Transco's project.

The Sierra Club supports Governor Murphy's 100% renewable clean energy goals. Thus, we cannot support projects like natural gas power plants or pipelines that undermine our goals. Instead, we must focus on less dangerous technology, such as harvesting wind power off our coasts.

## NJ-DEP: Tree Irony

*From a press release issued on Sept 20, edited by Sylvia Kay*

While New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection is promoting the stewardship of urban and community trees with a grants program, it is simultaneously proposing to clear cut sensitive forest areas in the Pinelands at Bass River, and allowing private industry to denude the Highlands at Sparta Mountain. Adding irony to insult and injury, a Vegetation Management Response Act (A2242) was recently approved by the State Assembly Telecommunications Committee: giving electric public utilities the right to clear vegetation with few restrictions.

The grants for urban and community tree planting are welcome environmental initiatives. Nearly \$400,000 will go to 20 municipalities and two counties - to manage tree inventories, plan for hazard mitigation, and for reforestation. Administered by the NJ Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program, and the Community Stewardship Incentive Program, they will promote ground water absorption and healthier air quality.

Now the bad news: DEP has requested clear-cutting 16 acres of forest at Bass River in the Pinelands, destroying habitat for native species and a public recreational area. The purpose is to create a clearer view from an 86-foot fire tower. The Pinelands Commission has just granted an extension to the application. We think the DEP should consider alternate technologies: drones, night-vision and heat-sensing technologies, and remote cameras and other sensors attached perhaps to an extension of the tower itself.

The DEP has also proposed to clear cut Sparta Mountain - 35.5 acres of the 700-acre Highland forest. So far, Governor Murphy has blocked the project. We think the Mountain is a vital canopy area helping to maintain healthy drinking water for six million people. Sparta Mountain has been designated a "High Conservation Value Forest" and is tax-payer owned. The proposal would allow private logging firms to profit from this public asset.

The State needs to treasure all its green areas. Removing vegetation decreases the environment's capacity for water storage, and promotes flooding and pollution. Vague phrasing in the current regulations needs to be replaced with a clarity of wording and intent that promote tree-planting and maintenance in all of New Jersey's urban, suburban, rural and wilderness habitats.

## Bear Hunters Sue to Reverse Hunting Ban

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

Three hunting groups—the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, Safari Club International, and Sportsmen's Alliance - have filed a motion challenging Governor Murphy's order that prohibits bear hunting on state lands. As a candidate for Governor, Murphy promised to curtail the bear hunt until a management plan could be prepared. Instead, fearing lawsuits, he blocked hunting just on state-owned lands. Hence the six-day hunt in October, 2018, that ended the lives of 140 bears, the same number as in 2017. Now his Administration faces a legal challenge.

We believe that the Governor has the authority to stop all bear hunting in New Jersey, and we support his effort to do so. His Executive Order bans bear hunting on about 700,000 acres. But there is also about that much acreage in county parklands, private lands, water company lands, non-profit lands, and municipal lands where bears have been killed.

We think that the Christie Administration overestimated the number of bears in New Jersey when they determined that 30% of tagged bears could be killed each year. This year the policy has become especially confusing because the tagged bears could be living and roaming on either public or DEP-managed lands.

This is not a new problem: three former governors - Whitman, McGreevey, and Corzine - stopped the Fish and Game Council from going forward with hunts. A 2005 court decision supported Gov. Corzine.

The bear hunt was initiated to get rid of aggressive and nuisance bears, and the statistics show that their number has diminished. According to the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's Bear Activity Report, the number of bears in New Jersey dropped by 87% between 2009 and 2018. Sightings have dropped by 83% and Damage and Nuisance Reports by 86%. In 2017 there were only two encounters with aggressive bears, the lowest since 2010; four were reported through June 20, 2018. These figures show that the original purpose of the hunt has been accomplished. Since 2010, more than 4,000 bears have been lost - in the hunts, in car accidents, and by officials dealing with aggressive bears. The state bear population is small, current hunt limits are unsustainable and unethical, and they are not backed by sound science.

New Jersey once spent more than \$2 million a year on bear management, but that fund has been reduced by 90%. Ten years ago, wardens were employed to manage bears and educate the public, but that program has been eliminated. Now, conservation officers do that work, but there are 40% fewer of them than there were ten years ago. Their duties include dealing with all wildlife, including poaching and all other problems.

Murphy seems to be following Christie's failed method of hunting bears - without a realistic plan. In order to manage bears successfully, we should protect and preserve both their habitat and ours. We must educate the public about living in bear country. All trail heads should display warning signs with the Do's and Don'ts of bear country. Residents should be taught how to bear-proof their property, including proper use of garbage containers. These precautions will do a lot more to manage the bear population than an unnecessary hunt. Of course, if we continue to build houses in the middle of the woods where bears live, we will continue to see conflict between bears and humans.

More From our Jersey Shore Group's Letter-Writing Committee

# Support NJ Bills S2776/A4330: Ban on Single-Use Carryout Plastic Bags, Styrofoam Food Containers and Plastic Straws

Communicated by Mark Fukuyama (MarkExams@aol.com)

Plastics, in all the forms listed above, are an urgent solid waste problem that can no longer be ignored. Below are the many reasons we need to support two identical legislative initiatives that will prohibit the use by food stores or food service businesses of these throw-away plastics. The legislation will also assess a 10¢ fee on paper carryout bags, half of which would enable the State's Treasury Dept. to establish a Plastic Pollution Prevention Fund, and half would be kept by the business. The Fund would help develop the State's plastic recycling industry, and support public education and outreach.

Here are some quick facts about plastic waste:

- Plastic or foam plastic pieces made up 84% of debris collected on New Jersey shorelines.
- Single-use plastics including plastic bags and straws were amongst the 'dirty dozen' commonly found items.<sup>1</sup>
- 8 million metric tons (18 billion pounds) of plastic trash enters the ocean

each year. This is equivalent to five large trash bags full of plastic trash, for every foot of coastline in the world.<sup>2</sup>

- Polyethylene plastic bags, straws, and polystyrene food containers do not biodegrade. These plastic polymers will break-down into increasingly smaller pieces (micro-plastic) that do not break down further on a human time-scale.<sup>3</sup>
- Without intervention, there may be more plastic than fish in the ocean, by weight, by 2050.<sup>4</sup>
- Shoppers in the United States use almost one plastic bag per resident per day. Shoppers in Denmark (with a plastic bag tax since 1993) use about four plastic bags a year.<sup>5</sup>
- The United States recycles just 9 percent of its plastic trash (Europe recycles 30%, China 25%).<sup>6</sup>
- A conservative estimate of the economic impact of plastics to marine ecosystems is ~\$13 billion/year.<sup>7</sup>
- Plastic bags, straws, and expanded polystyrene food containers pose a serious threat to wildlife:

Adverse impacts of plastic marine debris have been reported for 663 species.<sup>8</sup>

- Plastic bags are a major ingestion risk for seabirds, turtles and marine mammals, and a major entanglement threat to marine fauna.<sup>9</sup>
- By 2050, nearly all seabirds will have plastic in their stomachs. Already, 9 out of 10 seabirds have some plastic in their digestive tracts.<sup>10</sup>
- Sea turtle mortality has been positively linked to plastic debris ingestion. Globally, 52% of sea turtles have ingested plastic debris.<sup>11</sup>
- Floating plastic debris mimic natural foods for some marine species and seabirds.<sup>12,13</sup>
- When corals are in contact with plastic, the likelihood of disease increases from 4% to 89%.<sup>14</sup>
- Ingested plastics by fish can cause physiological stress and toxicity due to the plastic and chemical pollutants adsorbed to the plastic.<sup>15</sup>
- Plastic bags are made from non-renewable fossil fuels. By some estimates,

12 million barrels of oil are used to make the 100 billion plastic bags used annually in the U.S.<sup>16</sup>

- A fee for paper bags is essential to a successful sustainable policy: Without a fee, banning plastic bags will likely increase the use of paper bags.<sup>17</sup>
  - Because the production of paper bags is more resource intense than plastic, the carbon footprint of paper bags is much higher, requiring 3 re-uses of paper bags to be equivalent in global warming potential to a single-use plastic bag.<sup>18</sup>
  - "This fee is essential to drive the behavioral change we need - and that's to use reusable bags," according to Ed Postonak, Executive Director of New Jersey League of Conservation Voters.<sup>19</sup>
- We have become a throw-away nation, and our oceans, waterways, and land are filling up with these wastes. This bill is an excellent start to changing our behavior and to practice the 3 R's - reduce, reuse, and recycle. Please write to your district Senator and Assembly members asking them to support S2776/A4330.

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