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Approximately 21,000 Members in New Jersey

October-December 2021

POLITICAL CHAIR'S REPORT

Additional Candidates Endorsed for NJ's General Election

By Karen Becker (political.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org)

In our July-September issue of *The Jersey Sierran*, we announced the endorsements of several incumbents who are seeking reelection to their State Senate and Assembly seats. We have since examined additional noteworthy races and endorsed 14 more candidates.

Endorsements are primarily based on the candidate's environmental record, specifically those who support and promote legislation that protects the environment and mitigates climate change in a just and equitable way. Sponsorships and co-sponsorships are especially important, beyond just the voting record. We also give weight to candidates who champion environmental justice issues and who address the concerns of marginalized communities.

Note: Our endorsement in the Governor's race will be announced soon. Please check our website: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/press-releases.

The general election will take place on Tuesday, November 2nd. This year there will be additional options for in-person early voting, as well as Vote-By-Mail. Visit your County Clerk's website for information and then make a plan to vote. Please consider voting for the candidates we have endorsed.

Incumbents running for NJ State Senate:

- (Dist. 5) Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez
- (Dist. 11) Senator Vin Gopal
- (Dist. 19) Senator Joseph F. Vitale
- (Dist. 20) Senator Joseph P. Cryan

NJ State Assemblyman running for NJ State Senate:

- (Dist. 37) Assemblyman Gordon Johnson

Incumbents running for NJ State Assembly:

- (Dist. 7) Assemblywoman Carol A. Murphy
- (Dist. 12) Assemblyman Robert D. Clifton
- (Dist. 15) Assemblyman Anthony Verrelli
- (Dist. 16) Assemblyman Roy Freiman
- (Dist. 17) Assemblyman Joe Danielsen
- (Dist. 18) Assemblyman Sterley Stanley
- (Dist. 32) Assemblywoman Angelica M. Jimenez
- (Dist. 35) Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter
- (Dist. 38) Assemblywoman Lisa Swain

CONSERVATION CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Out of the Box

By Greg Gorman (ggorman@embarqmail.com)

Perusing the internet for home improvement ideas, I came across an article on Bob Villa's website with the opening line, "While the coronavirus pandemic is rightly occupying the world's attention now, the climate change crisis remains ongoing." (1) The article highlighted climate change impacts of America's most vulnerable cities. For Bob Villa, the article may have subliminally suggested that the best home additions may be worthless if we don't address climate change. We need to step **out of the box**, and accelerate the clean energy transition before things get too hot.

For example, greenhouses rely on passive solar heating concepts much like our current global warming event. The heat-trapping effects of the glass are desirable to produce a healthy environment for plants and to extend the growing season. Traditional glassmaking involves melting silica in batches by natural gas- or oil-fueled furnaces, which contributes to the undesirable climate crisis. If you plan on building a greenhouse, replacing your windows, or building a passive solar heated residence: step **out of the box** and ask if the glass manufacture uses concentrated

solar or electric furnaces powered by renewables. These nontraditional heat processes offer better thermal efficiency, lower emissions, and lower operating costs resulting in a cost-effective and quality product for the consumer.

The global number of electric vehicles (EVs) is expected to jump more than 14 times to 145 million by 2030, according to the International Energy Agency's (IEA's) Stated Policies Scenario. This incorporates existing government policies. The IEA also produced a "Sustainable Development Scenario" that is fully compatible with the climate goals of the Paris Agreement, and incorporates the targets of the EV30@30 Campaign (3) to collectively reach a 30% market share by 2030 for electric vehicles in all modes except two-wheelers. The Sustainable Development Scenario would require 245 million EVs by 2020. (2) President Biden has just announced a goal of making half of all new cars, trucks and SUVs sold in the U.S. zero-emission vehicles by 2030: primarily lithium battery-powered electric vehicles.



>continued on page 3

Legislative Committee Takes Shape

By John Kashwick, Chapter Vice Chair and Chapter Legislative Committee Chair

The Legislative Committee of the Club's New Jersey Chapter was recently reestablished after a lapse of many years. The members now include Laura Lynch, Sylvia Kay, Allen Swanson, Kip Cherry, Allie Horn, our Acting Director Taylor MacFarland, and me. The Committee is charged primarily with taking positions on pending State legislation, based on its conformance with policies established both by national Sierra Club and the policy-making committees of the New Jersey Chapter.



One group of bills that are currently in the "hopper" of the state Legislature would allow logging on public and some private lands – in the guise of "forest stewardship." The Committee opposes these bills, and is working

"The Committee is charged primarily with taking positions on pending State legislation..."

with the New Jersey Highlands Coalition and other groups to draft a bill that would prevent commercial logging on our public lands.

There is also a pending bill to increase funding for beach replenishment on our shores. While we understand that having broad beaches is good for tourism in our shore towns, beach protection should include sustainable practices such as the creation of permanent dunes. Simple beach replenishment can be destructive to wildlife and is likely to wash away in the next storm. We are opposing this bill unless it is revised to adopt more sustainable means of shore protection.

We support a bill to ban certain uses of neonics. These are chemicals which kill honeybees and other pollinators. According to the NRDC, "A2070/S1016 provides a science-based, narrowly tailored approach to tackle this biggest and most harmful source of neonic contamination in New Jersey, by prohibiting outdoor, non-agricultural neonic uses. The bill would give the DEP broad and flexible authority to permit certified applicators to use neonics to control invasive pests like the emerald ash borer and spotted lanternfly."

For a complete list of environmental bills that the New Jersey Chapter has taken a position on, please visit <https://www.quorum.us/spreadsheet/external/FCPJxfbxtfhTcrqRuCd/>.

SIERRA CLUB BALLOT: 2021 Election of Officers of the New Jersey Chapter and Its Groups

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

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

ExCom consists of nine at-large members serving three-year terms, three of whom are elected each year, plus one representative sent by each of our twelve active regional Groups, usually the Group Chair. Please vote for the three at-large ExCom members and for the leadership of your regional Group.

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

If the Sierra Club has your email address in its records, you will receive in October a ballot by email, and you may vote EITHER online, as described below, OR by this paper ballot. If you cast an online ballot, any paper ballot you mail in will not be counted. Online votes must be cast by November 15, 2021.

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

>continued on page 2

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

Inside this Issue

Ballot Statements, Transportation
Committee Report..... p.2
Chair's Message: Offshore Wind..... p.3
A National Park for NJ & PA p.3
NJ's Green Amendment..... p.3
ExCom's Resolutions p.3
Member Reports: Truck Emissions, Pipelines
Never Die, Sustainable Food Practices.. p.4
Group and Section Newspp.5-10
On the Trail in Coloradop.10
Fall Outingspp.11-12
Leader List, Membership Coupon, Credits...p.12
Electronic Supplement
(available from the Chapter website):
Managing Plastic Waste, Leaf-Blowers,
Green Acres, Gov. Murphy's Clean Energy
Package, Advanced Truck Rule, Gateway
Train Project, NJ Budget, Lead Levels,
Solvay's Toxics, EJ Communities - Especially
Newarkpp. 13-15

ballot below to cast your vote.

· To vote online: click on the link in the email you receive and follow the instructions.

· To vote by paper ballot: Please vote the ballot below; then clip the ENTIRE ballot on the heavy-dashed line, and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Nov 15, to **Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618**. PAIRs of boxes are to enable two members of family memberships to cast separate votes. Note that a properly-clipped ballot will include the mailing label above. This is to verify your membership; it will be removed or otherwise obliterated before ballots are counted.

Chapter ExCom Ballot: Candidates for three-year terms. They were invited to submit portraits and 100-word statements, which are on p. 2. Name-order has been randomized. Please vote for maximum 3 candidates to serve three year terms until December 2024.

- Kip Cherry
- Stan Greberis
- Allie Horn
- Sylvia Kay
- Judy Minot

Group Ballots: You may vote for your regional group ExCom ballot, below. Since Club rules require two more candidates than the number of positions to be filled, some ballots include those "extra" candidates as write-in spaces. Candidates that are written in must be Club members and we must be able to contact them.

Groups are organized mainly by County; see the assignments under the Group News heading on p. 6 of this Newsletter. Or you can learn your Group from your Membership Number on the top line of your address label on p.1 of this Newsletter: four digits following the hyphen: 4001=Central Jersey Group, 4002=Jersey Shore Group, 4003=Loantaka Group, 4004=North Jersey Group, 4005=Skylands Group, 4006=West Jersey Group, 4007=South Jersey Group, 4008=Raritan Valley Group, 4009=Hudson County Group, 4010=Gateway Group, 4011=Hunterdon Warren Group, 4012=Ocean County Group. The arrangement below is generally North-to-South. Please locate and vote for your Group below:

Skylands Group (4005): Vote for maximum six candidates. The top 5 leading candidates will serve 2-year terms, i.e. until December 2023. The 6th candidate will serve until December 2022.

- Susan Williams
- Jeri Doherty
- David Alcock
- Joanne Morgan
- Chris Dunbar
- Write-in 1 _____
- Write-in 2 _____
- Write-in 3 _____

Hunterdon Warren Group (4011): Vote for maximum 5 candidates to serve two year terms, i.e. until December 2023.

- Matthew Avallone
- Celeste Martin
- Jonathan Wall
- Patrick Banas
- Christopher Runion
- Write-in 1 _____
- Write-in 2 _____

North Jersey Group (4004): Vote for maximum 5 candidates to serve two year terms, i.e. until December 2023.

- Diane Scarangella
- Erica Cowper
- Jeff Rapaport
- Mary Walsh
- Hanna Atlas
- Write-in 1 _____
- Write-in 2 _____

Gateway Group (4010): Vote for maximum seven candidates. The top 5 candidates will serve 2-year terms, i.e. until December 2023. The next 2 leading candidates will serve until December 2022.

- Bill Beren
- Suzanne Trimel
- Steve Yafet
- Write-in 1 _____
- Write-in 2 _____
- Write-in 3 _____
- Write-in 4 _____
- Write-in 5 _____
- Write-in 6 _____

Candidate statement: **Suzanne Trimel** has led communications and media relations at multiple global human rights NGOs and at academic institutions based in New York City. She currently works as a communications consultant on social impact campaigns related to health, the environment, human rights and women's advancement. A Montclair resident, she is a volunteer leader for Montclair Democrats, and a certified Rutgers environmental steward and master gardener.

Candidate statement: **Steven Yafet** has served on the Gateway ExCom for the past several years, and represents the Group before the Passaic River Citizens Advisory Group. His parents were AMC hike leaders, and all of the kids had to go along. It was rain or shine, and hikes in heavy rain could be wonderful.

Candidate statement: **Bill Beren** has been Group Chair for the past year, and also serves as the State Transportation Chair. He is retired from the NYC Transit Authority, where he was a manager responsible for budgets, data networks and communications. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Montclair Bird Club.

Hudson County Group (4009): Vote for maximum three candidates to serve two-year terms, i.e. until December 2023.

- Steve Krinsky
- Nancy Booth
- Dave Case
- Write-in 1 _____
- Write-in 2 _____

Loantaka Group (4003): Vote for maximum six candidates. The top 5 candidates will serve 2 year terms, i.e. until December 2023. The 6th candidate will serve until December 2022.

- Paul Sanderson
- Jonathan Connor
- Bob Zega
- Write-in 1 _____
- Write-in 2 _____
- Write-in 3 _____
- Write-in 4 _____
- Write-in 5 _____

Central Jersey Group (4001): Vote for a maximum of seven candidates. The top 5 candidates will serve 2 year terms, i.e. until December 2023. The next 2 leading candidates will serve until December 2022.

- Xiaoping Du
- Dave Mattek
- Write-in 1 _____
- Write-in 2 _____
- Write-in 3 _____
- Write-in 4 _____
- Write-in 5 _____
- Write-in 6 _____
- Write-in 7 _____

Raritan Valley Group (4008): Vote for maximum two candidates to serve two-year terms, i.e. until December 2023.

- Teresa Callahan
- Kevin Corcoran
- Write-in 1 _____
- Write-in 2 _____

Jersey Shore Group (4002): Vote for maximum five candidates to serve two year terms, i.e. until December 2023.

- Faith Teitelbaum
- Stan Greberis
- Wael Kanj
- George Moffatt
- Robin Zullo
- Write-in 1 _____
- Write-in 2 _____

Ocean County Group (4012): Vote for maximum four candidates to serve two year terms, i.e. until December 2023.

- Margit Meissner-Jackson
- William Rodgers
- Terrence Brown
- Peter Leighton
- Write-in 1 _____
- Write-in 2 _____

West Jersey Group (4006): Vote for maximum two candidates to serve two year terms, i.e. until December 2023.

- Trish Sebastiano
- Gina Carola
- Write-in 1 _____
- Write-in 2 _____

South Jersey Group (4007): Vote for maximum three candidates to serve two year terms, i.e. until December 2023.

- Julie Akers
- Allie Horn
- Write-in 1 _____
- Write-in 2 _____
- Write-in 3 _____

Ballot Statements by Candidates for Chapter ExCom

(Randomly arranged)

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



Judy Minot (Hunterdon-Warren Group): Judy's focus is combating the effects of catastrophic climate change. By using communication and writing skills honed over 35+ years in television and marketing, she is helping "supercharge" the Chapter's already energetic and experienced organizers. In only 20 months volunteering with the SC she has done a great deal at the State level: Serves as Chapter Secretary; Was appointed to a vacant slot on the Executive Committee; Grant Writing Coordinator – helped secure 3 grants for over \$43,000; Co-chair of Communications Committee; helped form that committee and the Green Infrastructure Com-



mittee; Serving on Search Committee to hire a new Chapter Director.

Allie Horn (South Jersey Group): No materials submitted at press time.

Kip Cherry (Central Jersey Group): I'm a licensed NJ Professional Land Use Planner with almost 50 years' experience in environmental and urban planning, historic preservation, and architecture issues. Raised in Princeton. Recent Club activities: electric school bus legislation, saving migratory bird habitat at the Mercer Corporate Center, defeating the ELCON hazardous waste facility proposed near Trenton, educating local people on the impact on fruit-growing of the Spotted Lantern Fly, and supporting mass transit and the Dinky short line. I'm Conservation Chair for my Group, and on the statewide Conservation, Transportation, Political Endorsements, and Legislative Committees.



Sylvia Kay (Central Jersey Group): My professional background is in business, including research and marketing at The New York Times and NBC. I help edit the Jersey Sierran Newsletter. My academic background includes an undergraduate degree from New York University and graduate degrees from Columbia University and The College of New Jersey. I've also been involved in K-12 education for the last fifteen years.



REPORT FROM OUR TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Transportation Committee Advocates for Better Public Transit

By Bill Beren, Committee Chair (Beren1@verizon.net)

In Feb 2020 we released two reports that urged NJ Transit to improve how it promoted bus and rail service. The reports were prepared by two interns, Matthew Bewley and Jordan Rosenbloom, under the guidance and direction of Sierra Club member Steve Lax. In the intervening year and a half we have had three virtual meetings with NJ Transit's senior managers to discuss our recommendations.

Both NJ Transit and our Committee members have characterized these meetings as "very productive," in the words of one of the managers at NJ Transit. Many of our suggestions have been incorporated into NJ Transit's web pages and mobile apps. These include eliminating duplicative and redundant trip planning apps on the sites, making sure service disruption alerts are updated in real time, and using the same icons and link descriptions across the

website and mobile apps for the same functions.

Still on the table are major recommendations that NJ Transit consolidate trip status and planning functions for all transportation services, including private bus carriers, publish online transportation maps for all of NJ's 21 counties, and promote "frequent service corridors" (defined as having no more than 15-minute waits) as a way to increase bus ridership.

This last item is particularly important, as NJ Transit is proposing a major redesign of bus service in Essex County. The Club has actively participated in NJ Transit's "stakeholder" meetings. Sad to say, the consultants hired by NJ Transit to perform the redesign are not currently incorporating Frequent Service guidelines into their recommendations. But the Club will continue to

>continued on page 4

A National Park for New Jersey and Pennsylvania

By John Donahue, Former Superintendent, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and John Kashwick, Vice Chair and Wildlands Issues, New Jersey Chapter

The Delaware Water Gap (DEWA) unit of the National Park System is designated by the United States Congress as nationally significant for its scenic and natural wonder, scientific value, and cultural heritage. Millions have experienced this beloved recreation area. But it's not a national park. Well, at least not in name. Recreation areas before DEWA tend to be slim strips of land surrounding a man-made lake behind a dam. Those Recreation Areas provided camping, boating, and a minimal amount of hunting, usually just waterfowl. In the case of DEWA, the Tocks Island Dam was never built, the lake was never created. To paraphrase Pennsylvania DCNR Secretary Dunn who pointed out the obvious—we have a National Park that is referred to as a Recreation Area but should be re-designated as a National Park.

Why should you care about this congressional error? What's in a name? In our metropolitan area, three of our most populated states do not have a single designated national park in their midst. Certainly, there are national seashores, historic parks, military parks, and recreation areas. But National Park Units lack prestige. The DEWA is not 2nd class. Why deprive us of the lucrative economic benefits of having a National Park next door?

But if we re-designate it as a National Park will fishermen and hunters be forced out? Nope. Not if we create both a National Park & Preserve. National Parks do not allow hunting, but National Parks & Preserves provide both the park for inspiration and the park for recreational hunting. We can have the best of all worlds, bringing in the national and international tourists who wish to visit a national park, yet keep

hunting, fishing, hiking, boating, and birding enthusiasts happy as well.

When Congress created the national recreation area without a dam as its centerpiece, new ground was plowed in the public land arena. The movement to stop the Tocks Island Project from damming the only free-flowing river in the Eastern United States is one of the few events with a direct nexus to the creation of the modern environmental movement in this country.

DEWA can be re-designated as a National Park and Preserve by Congress and the traditional uses, including hunting and farming, can continue without interruption. Sportsmen, environmentalists, elected officials and commercial recreation businesses should make it their mission to create this honor and financial boon for this place. DEWA is already at the center of hundreds of thousands of acres of protected lands created by the joint efforts of the states, federal government and private hunting clubs and land trusts. From the Pennsylvania state lands at the top of the mountain on the edge of the Pocono Plateau, across the private hunting clubs that have ensured their lands will continue to host water and wildlife in perpetuity, to the NPS lands at DEWA, the Delaware River and all of the contiguous lands in the State of New Jersey's half-million acres of watershed, wildlife corridors, and spectacular vistas are linked. And all of this is only 80 miles from Manhattan.

If this sounds like a good idea to you, please reach out to John Kashwick, your chapter's Wildlands Issues Coordinator at john.kashwick@newjersey.sierraclub.org to find out more and help make this a reality!

REPORT FROM TRENTON

NJ's Green Amendment Gains Momentum

From a July 1 Press Release initiated by Chapter Chair Rich Isaac

We are delighted that the Green Amendment, **SCR 30/ACR 80**, is gaining ground in the New Jersey Senate. The resolution now has 19 Senate sponsors: Senators Lagana, Kean, Rice, and Schepisi are the latest to add their names onto the measure. It also currently has 43 sponsors in the Assembly. In order to pass, it would require 24 votes in the Senate, and 48 in the Assembly.

If placed on the ballot and passed in a referendum by New Jersey's voters, the Green Amendment would empower the State Constitution to grant every person in New Jersey the right to a clean and healthy environment, and also require the State to protect public natural resources.

We think it one of the most important pieces of legislation in our State. One consequence would be to ensure that no community bear disproportionate risk of environmental harm because of its demographic characteristics or economic conditions.

The amendment would also require the State to preserve public natural resources and prevent them from destruction or damage.

OUT OF THE BOX

continued from page 1

Major auto companies broke their reliance on fossil fuels and stepped **out of the box** to support this aspiration, and have committed to keep us on track to achieve the global commitments of the Paris Climate Agreement. ⁽³⁾

Maximizing the benefits of these renewable energy sources requires grid-scale energy storage. Presently, energy storage is provided primarily by lithium battery units. But if we are to achieve success, we need to step **out of**

the box and deploy alternative energy technologies. Sodium ion batteries offer a safe, low-cost solution for data centers, telecoms, and home and grid storage. ^(4,5)

Ørsted, is building a renewable hydrogen production facility in the Netherlands. The project connects the GW electrolyser directly to an offshore wind farm in the Dutch North Sea. This will enable the large-scale supply of renewable electricity required for production

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Our Chapter's New Offshore Wind Committee

By Richard Isaac • Richard.Isaac@Sierraclub.org



The climate crisis is real and clearly needs to be addressed. The World Meteorological Organization, in its decadal survey released this May, reported that the average global temperature in 2020 was about 2.2 degrees F. above pre-industrial levels. At least eight of next-generation global climate models developed by leading centers in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and France for the United Nation's assessment of global warming are now predicting that the warming could very likely accelerate. And according to the authoritative report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, just released, the recent warming changes in the climate are widespread, rapid and intensifying.

Here in New Jersey, the temperature is up about 3 degrees in the last century. And, as everyone knows, as the temperature rises, so does the sea level. In fact, sea level rise is happening more rapidly in New Jersey than any anywhere else in the US. According to the NJDEP's most recent report, sea level is expected to rise by 1.5 feet by 2030, and possibly 6.3 feet by 2100.

To address the climate crisis, New Jersey passed the Global Warming Response Act in 2007 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 2006 levels by 2050. This is a laudable goal, but New Jersey has a long way to go to accomplish it.

As of March, 2020, NJ's two fossil fuel power plants generated about 2,200 MW of electricity: 1,783 MW by the Linden gas plant and 1,400 MW by the Bergen gas plant.

By contrast, the largest renewable generators in New Jersey are quite small: the Ben Morell Solar Farm, Tinton Falls Solar Farm, Pilesgrove Solar Farm, and Atlantic City Wind Farm produce 28.5 MW, 19.9 MW, 19.9 MW, and 7.4 MW, respectively.

Offshore wind will create substantially more electricity than solar, and it's desperately needed to stop the exist-

tential threat we're facing. Ørsted's offshore project, which has already been approved, will provide 1,100 MW, and several other proposed projects will provide several thousand more MW off of the New Jersey and Long Island coasts, with 7,500 MW projected by 2035. An additional benefit of offshore wind as a renewable energy source is that it is reliable: the wind where the turbines will be placed blows pretty much all the time.

Accordingly, in an important move that will help address the climate crises, our NJ Chapter recently created an Offshore Wind Committee. Its mission will be to support offshore wind energy in New Jersey as an essential part of moving away from a reliance on fossil fuel energy. It will provide grassroots support for offshore wind projects in New Jersey, and inform the public and our members on the importance of offshore wind, using scientific facts and highlighting green economic benefits, hopefully addressing existing misinformation and opposition to this form of clean energy.

The Offshore Wind Committee is Co-Chaired by Allie Horn and Faris Jebara. I invite others who may be interested in helping our efforts to contact me at richard.isaac@sierraclub.org.

To begin the process of educating our members and the public about the benefits of offshore wind, I'd like to mention that Anglers for Offshore Wind Power has a video showing the new marine habitat created by the Block Island Wind Farm off Rhode Island, the first and currently the only offshore wind farm in the US. Recreational anglers fish right underneath the turbines, with each turbine creating 80-90 vertical feet of new fish habitat on each pylon for species including fluke, mahi mahi, and striped bass.

The video can be seen at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYbEUGZOYmw>.

Resolutions and Highlights, Chapter Executive Committee Meetings in June, July and August

June: An **Offshore Wind Committee** was formed within the Conservation Committee, with Farris Jebara as Chair. The **Mission Statement for the Legislative Committee** (chaired by John Kashwick) was approved. As the Club's national organization prepares to assume greater oversight in Chapter administration, we passed a **resolution** that will be sent to the SC leadership, to **require National representatives to attend some Chapter meetings**.

July: A **vacancy on our Executive Committee** (ExCom) due to a resignation, was filled by Karen Becker, who is also our Chapter Political Chair. **New co-chairs of Inspiring Connections Outdoors** (ICO) were approved: Oscar Nazar and Zachary Rose. We have a **new Student Liaison**: Raghav Akula.

August: Additional appointments were made to our **Offshore Wind Committee** including Allie Horn as Co-Chair. We heard from Ken Johanson that our much-anticipated **annual Appreciation Day** event (which was to be held in November, in person) will be canceled due to COVID issues.

(Wording credited to Judy Minot, Chapter Secretary)

of renewable hydrogen. ⁽⁶⁾ The "green" hydrogen is used to support industrial heat processes or to supply fuel cell parks. Why shouldn't New Jersey step **out of the box** and promote a similar endeavour?

The one thing we don't want to do is

to remain in the fossil fuel box. Based on the latest price of carbon emissions at \$51 per ton, retiring the coal-powered electricity generation plants in Logan Township and Carneys Point would save New Jersey \$200 million in avoided

>continued on page 5

TRANSPORTATION

continued from page 2

advocate the development and advertisement of Frequent Service corridors as the best way to move residents out of their cars and into public transit.

Club Receives Grant to Promote Electrification of Trucks and School Buses

At the end of July, we were awarded a \$15,000 grant by the National Sierra Club's Clean Transportation for All campaign (CTFA) — to build support for electrifying NJ's fleets of school buses and medium- and heavy duty trucks.

Transportation Committee member Kip Cherry and others were instrumental earlier this year in getting the State Assembly to pass A1971 (sponsored by Asm Stanley, LD 18), which directs the BPU to provide \$10 million/year for three years from the Clean Energy Fund to school districts to purchase zero-emission, electric battery school buses. This bill had been languishing for the past two legislative sessions. Our Committee is now working with Sen. Diegnan and his staff to move companion bill S1819 through the State Senate, with amendments that would extend the grant program to five years, and require grantees to report on how well the buses perform — to establish a baseline for making the needed \$3-5 billion investment to convert the state's 16,000 diesel powered school buses to zero-emission electric school buses in the next decade.

Our grant will be used by the Transportation Committee to participate in the NJ School Board Association's annual convention this October. We intend to present a virtual panel discussion on the topic of purchasing electric school buses, and to have an exhibitor booth where we can distribute informational pamphlets on electric school buses and answer attendee's questions.

The grant will also fund public information sessions across the State regarding the NJDEP's proposed rules to

implement California's Advanced Clean Truck rules (ACT) here in New Jersey. We would be the first state outside of California to adopt these rules. The ACT Rule would require truck manufacturers to increase sales of zero-emission trucks; a companion Heavy Duty Omnibus (HDO) Rule would require manufacturers of remaining combustion-engine trucks to meet stricter emission limits for oxides of nitrogen, major contributors to smog.

These rules are expected to have a major impact on children and adults. The report found that cumulative benefits of the ACT and HDO Rules for the State of New Jersey from 2024 through 2050 would include:

- Avoiding nearly 230 premature deaths, 250 hospital admissions and emergency room visits, and 136,000 respiratory-related illnesses and reduced activity and workdays, especially in Environmental Justice communities, where elevated incidences of asthma and other lung diseases are associated with heavy truck traffic serving ports, industrial facilities and warehouses;
- Reductions of 245 metric tons of particulate matter, as well as 144,000 metric tons of smog-forming nitrogen;
- Cutting greenhouse gas emissions by over 19 million metric tons (carbon dioxide equivalents);
- Saving fleet owners nearly \$420 million annually by 2050 from operational savings on fuel and maintenance together with the incremental technology costs;
- Delivering net societal benefits of \$11.6 billion, including public health benefits, avoided social costs of carbon, and fleet-owner and utility-customer savings;
- Producing net increases in jobs and the annual gross domestic product in 2035, with large wage increases in the number of jobs gained; and
- Attracting nearly \$24 million per year in investments in public EV charging infrastructure.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

Trucks Are Spewing Filth in Our Neighborhood

Adapted from an Op-Ed column published in the Newark Star-Ledger on July 24, written by Maria Lopez-Nuñez of the Ironbound Community Corporation and Renée Pollard, Chair of our Environmental and Social Justice Committee

States across the nation have serious problems with pollution, including exhaust from vehicle traffic impacting communities of color more harshly than white communities, and New Jersey is no exception. Most of the people we know have respiratory issues due to poor air quality.

During our annual truck count, we watch thousands of trucks rumble through Newark's Ironbound, a vibrant multi-ethnic community sandwiched between the Airport and the Passaic River. All of this pollution means that neighbors here have trouble breathing, struggle with asthma and other respiratory issues and are at higher risk of heart disease.

This isn't a problem for Montclair or Summit. These wealthier, predominantly white communities have green lawns, little truck traffic, and relatively cleaner air. Meanwhile, Newark includes the largest seaport on the East Coast, and is littered with warehouses attended by dirty diesel trucks — making more than 1.4 million trips a year. These trucks may comprise only a small portion of all the vehicles on our roads, but their diesel engines emit disproportionate amounts

of dangerous pollutants like smog-generating nitrogen oxides (NOx), particulate matter that stays in human lungs (PM2.5), and black carbon.

That's why, in Newark, one in every four children has asthma, which is three times higher than the national average. The New York-Newark metropolitan area is the 12th worst in the world for ozone smog.

So what to do? Gov. Phil Murphy signed a historic multi-state truck and bus Memorandum of Understanding that commits New Jersey to phase out dirty trucks and buses, prioritizing reductions of emissions in environmental justice communities. It commits us to policies that will eventually replace all heavy trucks and buses with zero-emission vehicles, in line with California's **Advanced Clean Trucks rule (ACT)**.

We should **improve** on California's rule. Public health should come first, which is why NJ DEP should lower the proposed reporting requirement, i.e. applying zero-emission to all trucks and buses, not just heavy ones. The California model requires only one-time reporting. We should make the reporting annual.

CONSERVATION REPORT

Despite Supreme Court Ruling, the Fight Against PennEast Goes On

By Gary Frederick (Conservation Chair of our Raritan Valley Group)

This past summer, as fires raged across the western United States and devastating heat waves shattered records in many areas, the US Supreme Court decided a case that will promote fossil fuel infrastructure and increase the release of methane and other greenhouse gases. By a 5-4 majority, the Court ruled that PennEast can build its pipeline by using eminent domain to seize both state and private property.

The 116-mile, \$1 billion pipeline would conduct fracked gas from the Marcellus Shale in Luzerne County, PA, to a Transco refinery near Pennington in Mercer County, NJ. A third of the pipeline would wind through New Jersey, mostly through Hunterdon County after crossing the Delaware River. From New Jersey, the gas would then likely find its way overseas to be burned in Europe and elsewhere.

The suit against PennEast was brought by the State of New Jersey, which argued that state sovereignty, as provided by the US Constitution, prohibits a private company from claiming state-owned lands. The Court of Appeals had agreed with New Jersey, but on appeal, the Supreme Court overturned that ruling, saying that private pipeline developers can use the federal government's eminent domain authority to take state lands. Unfortunately, the Biden Administration took the side of PennEast, saying that the federal government has the right to extend its eminent domain authority to private companies working on projects deemed to be in the public interest.

Kelly Sheehan Martin, director of the national Sierra Club's Dirty Fuels Campaign, said, "The science is clear: more fracked gas means more heat waves, stronger hurricanes and more unnecessary deaths from fossil fuel pollution. This disappointing decision allows a fossil fuel pipeline to proceed that will harm communities and public health. But the fight against PennEast

is far from over...Governor Murphy can and must say no to this disastrous project."

Taylor McFarland, Acting Director of the Club's NJ Chapter, added, "PennEast is trying to use every option they have to destroy preserved land, farmland, and state parks. The pipeline would threaten more than 88 waterways, 44 wetlands, 30 parks, and 33 conservation easements with leaks, explosions and pollution. It would cross over important waterways including the Delaware River and Delaware & Raritan Canal. Now that PennEast can use eminent domain to take state land, it's more important than ever that Governor Murphy steps up and stops this pipeline by denying its 401 Water Quality Permit."

7th District NJ Congressman Tom Malinowski (D-Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Union, Warren) has also introduced the Fairness for Landowners Facing Eminent Domain Act, which would reform the Natural Gas Act of 1938 to protect property owners from eminent domain. "Property owners in Hunterdon County and throughout the country deserve to feel secure in their home and on their land," he said. And in July the Hunterdon County Board of County Commissioners approved a resolution in support of Rep. Malinowski's proposed legislation.

The fight goes on. Before the pipeline can move forward, it still must be approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Delaware River Basin Commission and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. Governor Murphy has opposed PennEast, but needs to be pressured in this election year to finally end this project, since he faces opposition from unions who say the pipeline will bring jobs. You can help by adding your name to a Sierra Club petition at <https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/stop-the-penn-east-pipeline> telling the governor to stop PennEast once and for all.

SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE

How to Become Engaged in Sustainable Food Practices

By Prof. Charles Feldman, Dept. of Nutrition and Food Studies, Montclair State Univ, and member of our North Jersey Group (feldmanc@mail.montclair.edu)

Food production and consumption account for much of the world's diminishing environmental resources. Perhaps most importantly, it is responsible for a substantial proportion of planet-warming greenhouse gases.

Food issues include: food waste; global hunger and poverty; growing demand for animal products in developing countries; the availability of food during conflicts, pandemics, disasters and other crises, the ethicality and sustainability of raising food animals in confined spaces; and the conversion of forests and arable land into grazing areas for ruminant cattle.

Now is a defining moment! Never before has there been such a need for saving the planet. Fundamental changes are needed in the food industry. Today's food, agribusiness and food technology companies are under increasing pres-

sure to be more sustainably integrated.

The public is becoming aware and the industry is taking notice.

Almost every food business is adopting sustainable practices that revise, agricultural, manufacturing, distribution, foodservice and nutrition considerations.

Examples: the Dole Food Company, Whole Foods and Coca Cola all prioritize sustainability in their mission statements; the Compass Group places the Environment First; and Cargil, the biggest food company in the world, promises to be a leader in a responsible and sustainable way.

But more is needed to move sustainable food production beyond marketing opportunities to viable action models. Your support of food programs and companies that genuinely advocate

>continued on page 5

OUT OF THE BOX

continued from page 3

costs.⁽⁷⁾ With NJ Offshore wind and solar program ramping, planned natural gas power-generating facilities and infrastructure will become stranded assets. Rate-payers will soon be paying both for their construction and decommissioning, in addition to paying to close the coal plants.⁽⁸⁾ The New Jersey State Pension Fund has invested \$300 million in climate-friendly funds, so why aren't they divesting an estimated \$4 billion in publicly traded fossil-fuel companies?⁽⁹⁾ Time to step **out of the box** toward a clean energy future.

Footnotes

1) Malkin, Nina "These 15 American Cities Are Experiencing the Effects of Climate Change" <https://www.bobvila.com/slideshow/these-15-american-cities-are-experiencing-the-effects-of-climate-change-53405>

2) IEA, "Global EV Outlook 2020: Entering the decade of electric drive?" June 2020 <https://www.iea.org/reports/global-ev-outlook-2020#prospects-for-electrification-in-transport-in-the-coming-decade>

3) McCandless, James "U.S. Automakers React to Biden Administration's EV Push, New CAFE Standards" Newsweek August 5, 2021. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/companies/us-automakers-react-to-biden-ad>

[ministrations-ev-push-new-cale-standards/ar-AAMYdpZ](https://www.spectrum.ieee.org/sodium-ion-batteries)

4) Patel, Prachi "Sodium-Ion Batteries Poised to Pick Off Large-Scale Lithium-Ion Applications" IEEE Spectrum March 10, 2021 <https://spectrum.ieee.org/sodium-ion-battery>

5) Hayley S. Hirsh, Yixuan Li, Darren H. S. Tan, Minghao Zhang, Enyue Zhao, and Y. Shirley Meng "Sodium-Ion Batteries Paving the Way for Grid Energy Storage" <http://smeng.ucsd.edu/wp-content/uploads/aenm.202001274.pdf>

6) "Ørsted to develop one of the world's largest renewable hydrogen plants to be linked to industrial demand in the Netherlands and Belgium" March 31, 2021 <https://orsted.com/en/media/newsroom/news/2021/03/451073134270788>

7) Gordon, Jim "New Jersey can shelve its last 2 coal power plants - at no additional cost" Star Ledger, April 9, 2021 <https://www.nj.com/opinion/2021/04/new-jersey-can-shelve-its-last-2-coal-power-plants-at-no-additional-cost-opinion.html>

8) Wolfe, Bill "Get Ready For A \$100 Billion Coal Power Bailout", July 15, 2021 <http://www.wolfenotes.com/2021/07/get-ready-for-a-100-billion-coal-power-bailout/>

9) Weishaus, Tina "Op-Ed: Why we must say goodbye to fossil fuels now" NJ Spotlight August 6, 2021 <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/08/fossil-fuel-divest-greenhouse-gases-global-warming-tip-point/>

SUSTAINABLE FOOD

continued from page 4

sustainability is greatly needed. I urge members of the Sierra Club to ally with food justice coalitions, indigenous food and food sovereignty alliances, farmers groups, local and urban agricultural alliances and sustainable food programs offered by academic institutions.

What else can you do? Know and engage with your local food organizations. Know and engage with your local farmers and markets. Know and engage with your political action groups. Engage community members by starting your own food action group or local co-op. Take action in the public sector: go to public forums and political meetings. Take action in the private sector: purchase sustainable food products, support sustainable food company start-ups and help promote local agriculture. Reduce food waste in your home and

your community. Research and promote the sustainable up-cycling (or other uses) for food waste in your community. Advocate locally for sustainable food packaging. Investigate sustainable food programs, policies and practices and new ideas; and promote eco-labeling for food products. While there are confounding issues, there are also exciting opportunities to recommend foods that could sustain and enhance lives. This includes plant-based ingredients, sea greens, aero- and vertical farming and alternative proteins.

Both consumer and professional awareness are needed to steer the food system in a better direction. Montclair State University offers a 4-course graduate-level certificate program in Sustainable Food Practices. Students confront all of the issues described above.



HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

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

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

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

SKYLANDS GROUP

(Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

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

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

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

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

Chair: (12/31/22) Greg Gorman ggorman07419@embarqmail.com
Vice Chair: (12/31/21) Susan Williams SkylandsGroup@gmail.com

Secretary: (12/31/22) Norene Haberski norenehaberski2@gmail.com
Treasurer: (12/31/21) Jeri Doherty bjd8974@gmail.com
ExCom at large: (12/31/21) Dave Alcock dwhoob@hotmail.com
 (12/31/22) Nicole Guerrieri SierraClubNicole@gmail.com
 (12/31/21) Scott Dieman
 (12/31/21) Chris Dunbar chrisdunbar458@gmail.com
 (12/31/21) Joanne Morgan jojommorgan@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair: Greg Gorman ggorman07419@embarqmail.com
Outings Chair: Dave Alcock dwhoob@hotmail.com
Outreach Chair: Joanne Morgan jojommorgan@yahoo.com
Environmental Justice: Susan Williams SkylandsGroup@gmail.com
Political Co-Chairs: Nicole Guerrieri SierraClubNicole@gmail.com
 and: Susan Williams SkylandsGroup@gmail.com
Co-Publicity Chairs: Jeri Doherty bjd8974@gmail.com
 and: Joanne Morgan jojommorgan@yahoo.com
Webmaster: Nicole Guerrieri SierraClubNicole@gmail.com
Open position available: Membership Chair – please contact Greg!

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Skylands Group supports Green New Deal, Sunrise Movement, Sierra Club's Ready for 100 Campaign, and projects to move toward a Clean Energy Economy.

The Skylands Group supports the residents opposing ill-conceived dump sites such as those found in Wantage and Vernon.

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

HUNTERDON WARREN GROUP

(Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties)

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

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

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

OFFICERS:

Chair: Jonathan Wall * jonwall@jonwall.com
Vice Chair: Celeste Martin * onecentral@mac.com
Conservation Co-Chairs: Nancy Carringer * ncarringer@yahoo.com
 and: Chris Runion * runionc3@gmail.com
Political Co-Chairs: Karen Becker * karbecker@gmail.com
 and: Amy Weeder * aweeder@comcast.net
Highlands Issues Coordinator: Canny MacGonagle * cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Outings: Jonathan Wall * jonwall@jonwall.com
Social Media Coordinator: Matthew Avallone * mattavallone@ymail.com
Treasurer, Secretary: John Kashwick John.Kashwick@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Warren County Issues: Pat Baner * patrick_baner@comcast.net
Webmaster/Listmaster: John Kashwick John.Kashwick@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Fundraising Chair: Open Position!—please contact Jonathan if interested
 (* Group Executive Committee Member)

GENERAL MEETINGS: Meetings are virtual for the time being. Please check <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/hunterdonwarren> for updates or to register for events. Registered participants will receive Zoom meeting information. There is no meeting in August.

Oct 6 (Wed): 7:30 p.m. Climate Change and Our Coastal Parks: Matt Avallone, Social Media Coordinator, present a program about the science in New Jersey's coastal national parks. Based on research completed while working with the National Parks Conservation Association, his presentation sits at the convergence of environmental science, statistics, and policy. The presentation will focus on the effects of climate change on the 88 coastal national park units across America. Matt will examine broad trends across all parks, the specific threats to NJ's coastal national parks, and the role of science in conservation.

Nov 3 (Wed): 7:30 p.m. The Waterfront Alliance: The Waterfront Alliance is a regional leadership nonprofit that brings together a broad range of New York and New Jersey community groups, businesses, individuals, nonprofits in a diverse coalition of more than 1,100 Alliance Partners. Founded in 2007, its mission is to inspire and work for resilient, revitalized, and accessible coastlines for all communities. Presented by Cortney Worrall, President, Waterfront Alliance.

>continued on page 6

Dec 1 (Wed): 7:30 p.m. A National Park for New Jersey (and Pennsylvania and New York): The residents of Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey have never had a National Park in their states. Yet the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (a unit of the national parks system) has almost as many annual visitors as Yellowstone or Yosemite and is within a 3-hour drive of over 60 million people. Please join the immediate past Superintendent of the DWGNRA, John Donahue for a discussion of how (and why) we should upgrade DWGNRA to full National Park status.

OTHER EVENTS:

Oct. 20 (Wed.): 7:30 p.m. Virtual Online Executive Committee/Planning Meeting. 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.

CURRENT ISSUES:

Oppose Mega-Warehouses: There are several massive warehouse projects that are proposed for Hunterdon and Warren Counties. We had some good news in January when the state rejected a plan for Franklin Township in Warren County to declare active farmland in need of “redevelopment” in order to give tax incentives for Safavieh to build a furniture warehouse. However Safavieh is appealing and the property is still threatened. We are working with other groups to oppose these projects that threaten to spread industrial sprawl to our farms and natural areas. For more information, please contact Canny MacGonagle at cmacgonagle@yahoo.com.

Dark Skies: Voorhees State Park in Hunterdon County is home to the NJAA Observatory which relies on dark skies. The Hunterdon Warren Group is initiating a campaign to have our county and local municipalities adopt stricter ordinances to reduce excessive light pollution which not only conflicts our view of the night sky but also wastes energy and harms wildlife and human health. Please contact John at jkashwick@gmail.com if you are interested in this issue.

Logging on Public Lands: There are several ill-conceived bills in the New Jersey state legislature that would impact the health for forests throughout the state. These regulations would require additional expense for municipality to create management plans for their open space and effectively log their forests under the guise of “forest stewardship.”

NORTH JERSEY GROUP

(Bergen and Passaic Counties)

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

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/northjerseysierraclub>

Twitter: @sierraclub_nj

Instagram: sierraclubnorth_nj

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

OFFICERS

Co-Chair:	Diane Scarangella*	diascat@hotmail.com
Co-Chair:	Buddy Jenssen*	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Buddy Jenssen*	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Secretary:	Laura Troy*	ltroy1019@gmail.com
Political Co-Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Outings Chair:	Mary Walsh*	north.outings.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Conservation Chair:	Mary Walsh*	north.outings.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Member:	Judy Greene*	jugreen547@gmail.com
Climate Change Chair:	Jeff Rapaport*	jefrap@optonline.net
Marketing/ Social Media Co-Chairs:	Marie Mannino and Louis Discepola	mmannino@yahoo.com loudny@yahoo.com
Inner City Outings Chairs:	Sophia Neuendorff and Erica Cowper	sophianeue@gmail.com ecowper@drew.edu
Youth Outreach Chair:	Erica Cowper and Sophia Neuendorff	ecowper@drew.edu Sophia.N.njico.sierraclub@gmail.com

**Event Planning/
Membership Chair:** Hanna Atlas h.atlas.425@gmail.com

Diversity/Environmental

Justice Chair/Co-Chairs: *Open Positions!*

Contact: Diane Scarangella* diascat@hotmail.com

ExCom Member: Bob Weiss* bobweiss1967@gmail.com

**North Jersey Group Executive Committee Members.*

INITIATIVES: The North Jersey Group is committed to coalition building through outreach and planning with other Sierran Groups and with local and state non-profit organizations. Our collaborative initiatives focus upon (1) encouraging municipal resolutions that support town-level adoption of renewable energy strategies and the environmentally friendly development of affordable housing; (2) opposing gas-fueled plants and the construction of pipelines, transport terminals and the use of tankers and trains to transport Bakken oil, liquid natural gas and other dirty fuels; (3) advocating for renewable energy sources; (4) opposing commercialization and development of county, state and local parkland and open spaces; (5) advocating for removal not capping of contaminated soil on undeveloped public land and the restoration of that land to its natural state; (6) advocating for the clean-up of polluted waterways and for the transition to non-polluting sources of transport on the Hudson and other NJ/NYC waterways; (7) supporting access to affordable health care to address the harm done to the health of residents in environmental justice communities; (8) increasing group diversity, and (9) supporting the efforts of organizations who are “on the ground” in environmental justice communities.

We continue to focus our existing efforts upon fighting climate change; creating more opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy and appreciate nature; and collaborating with coalitions, such as Empower NJ and Don’t Gas the Meadowlands, and with other New Jersey Groups to advocate for renewable energy and a moratorium

on fossil fuel usage, preserve our waterways and protect our parklands.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Unless otherwise noted, meetings and outings are free, open to the general public. Events are announced via email and on our social media. Due to the virus, we have been forced to cancel our in-person events. We are in process of planning virtual events so, please check our Meetup page, Facebook page, or website for newly posted meetings and events. Please email our Co-Chairs or contact one of the committee chairs listed above, if you have suggestions for events or if you would like to be added to our email list.

The North Jersey Group seeks members for the following volunteer committees and welcomes collaboration with other Groups. Please contact the Committee Contacts listed below if you are interested in joining dedicated people taking meaningful action in Bergen and Passaic Counties and throughout the state.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Webmaster Wanted: We are seeking a dedicated webmaster to work with our Marketing/Social Media Committee. We need someone to develop, monitor and update our webpage and to outreach to Group members to obtain/prepare copy for the website. If interested, please contact Marie at mmannino@yahoo.com or Diane at diascat@hotmail.com.

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

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

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

Event Planning and Membership Committee: Committee Co-Chair position open. Interested in conducting an event on a particular topic? Like speaking with other people about environmental issues and concerns? This committee is for you! We seek someone who is dedicated to the environment, believes in the Sierra Club, is enthused about the actions our North Jersey Group is taking and wants to help us move forward through program planning and the recruitment of new members. If interested, contact Hanna at h.atlas.425@gmail.com.

Marketing/Social Media Committee: Are you creative? Do you love graphic design, writing press releases and short stories, contacting newspapers and radio and using social media? We need you! Contact Marie at mmannino@yahoo.com or Louis at loudny@yahoo.com.

Outings Committee: Organize and lead hikes, snowshoeing, kayaking and other of your favorite outdoor activities on trails and locations of your choice. Trips can vary in length, level of difficulty and location. If interested, contact Mary at north.outings.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org or Buddy at buddy.jenssen@gmail.com.

Youth Outreach/Inner City Outings: These Committees work together to outreach to youth, high school and college students and to plan nature walks in local parks for elementary and middle school youth. It outreaches to high schools and youth organizations to encourage local teenagers to become organizers of these events, so that all can appreciate the value of the outdoors. The committee creates liaisons with local schools, parents, other youth groups, and Sierra Club certified hike leaders to help young people learn to appreciate and protect the planet as they explore the natural world. The Committee uses social media to expand participation, as the group conforms to the goals of the national Sierra Club. If interested, Sophia at Sophia.N.njico.sierraclub@gmail.com or Erica at ecowper@drew.edu.

Diversity, Inclusion, and Environmental Justice Committee: CO-CHAIR POSITIONS OPEN! Do you want to act to support social, racial, economic and environmental justice? Do you believe that the Sierra Club must become more diverse and that our effectiveness is tied to increased inclusivity? If yes, then our new Diversity, Inclusion and Environmental Justice Committee is the place for you! The North Jersey Chapter promotes awareness of state, national, and international-level efforts addressing environmental justice and inequality at large. If you are interested in participating in the activities of this committee contact Diane at diascat@hotmail.com.

GATEWAY GROUP

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

Please contact any of the leaders below if you are interested in joining our campaigns to protect the environment. There are several Group officer positions open.

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:

Chair: Bill Beren* 862-283-8754 Beren1@verizon.net

Vice-Chair: *Open Position!*
Conserv'n Chr: Caroline Kane* 646-961-9003 ckane678@verizon.net
Secretary: *Open Position!*
Treasurer: Rachel Tarzia* 908-531-2168 Rtarzia6@outlook.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: Claire Ciliotta 973-746-0438 ccili279@gmail.com
Fundraising Chair: Rachel Tarzia 908-531-2168 Rtarzia6@outlook.com
Membership Chair: Steven Yafet* 908-354-2537 syafet@gmail.com
Newark Issues Chair: Jamie Bruno 973-393-2154 jjjjebruno@gmail.com
Elizabeth Issues: *Open Position!*
Recycling: *Open Position!*
Passaic River Issues: Steven Yafet (see above)
Outings Chair: Dionne Howe 206-430-0288 dionnelhowe@gmail.com
Webmaster: Christy Morganstein 732-718-4343 christy@medartsweb.com
 *Group Executive Committee

The Executive Committee made a number of new appointments in the last quarter. We welcome Rachel Tarzia as a new member of the Executive Committee, and Claire Ciliotta as the new Political Chair.

The Program Committee is planning a members' meeting for the Fall. We will notify our group members of the topic and date when those plans have been finalized. Please contact the program co-chairs if you have ideas or suggestions for a meeting-topic or program, or conservation project.

FUNDRAISING: Our first effort at fundraising last year raised \$350 despite the impact of the pandemic on people's ability to shop and dine. We are in the process of organizing our second annual silent auction for this fall, and we look forward to having more members participate. Funds raised will support new and expanded membership programs and outings.

CONSERVATION NEWS: The Gateway Group has been active on a number of fronts. Our members have responded to an alert put out by the staff to urge Governor Murphy to allocate funds to purchase the rail right-of-way from Norfolk Southern as the first step in building the Essex Hudson Greenway along the old Montclair Boonton line between Jersey City and Montclair. We have also participated in the stakeholder meetings sponsored by NJ Transit regarding its plans to re-imagine bus service to and from Newark. Our comments have supported the development of Frequent Service corridors along major routes where bus service will have consistent headways of 15 minutes or less. Such corridors have proved to increase ridership in almost every city where Frequent Service Corridors have been established and actively promoted by the local transportation agency.

We are also actively involved in the fight to stop the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission from building a new, fracked gas power plant at its Newark facility. The power plant was designed in the wake of an extended power outage after Superstorm Sandy that threatened to send millions of gallons of untreated sewage into Newark Bay. Recognizing the impact such an event would have on the ecology of Newark Bay, the Sierra Club and other local and statewide environmental groups are proposing that the gas plant be replaced by renewable energy sources such as solar or tidal power.

Continuing our involvement with plans to expand the Turtle Back Zoo, the Group has also commented on plans to expand the Wild Asia exhibit at the Zoo. It appears that the County's plans to build a new 500 seat amphitheater on wetlands outside of the current zoo's footprint have been halted, but we remain vigilant in the event that the county submits a new application for its construction.

HUDSON COUNTY GROUP

Website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/hudson-county>
E-mail: HUDSONSIERRACLUB@gmail.com
Facebook: @HCSierraClub
Instagram: @HCSierraClub
Twitter: @HCSierraClub

OFFICERS: (*=ExCom)
Chair: Pramod Raju* modisone@gmail.com
Secretary, Treasurer, Conservation Chair: Patricia Hilliard* hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com
Political Chair: Ricardo Pereira* rh.pereira.1995@gmail.com
Delegate to Chapter: *Open Position!*
Membership: *Open Position!*
Publicity: Alec Hilton* alechilton1@gmail.com
Outings / Events: Steve Krinsky* stevekrinsky@comcast.net
At-Large: Nancy Booth* boothnancy2011@hotmail.com

SCHEDULE: The Hudson Group will continue to meet remotely for now. General meetings are held five times a year, usually on Sundays from 12:30-2pm. Members are still welcome and encouraged to join the meetings. Contact any of the officers for details about how to join the meeting.

Outings: We are planning a number of activities in the near future: nature walks, shoreline clean-ups and public forums in the fall. Check the calendar for details.

Hudson County Group Goals/Projects for 2021

1. Sustainability/Youth/Education. Sustainability includes recycling, composting, green infrastructure, mass transportation and renewable energy. We want to create a task force to educate/promote these issues in our schools, and in our municipalities. Let us know if you would like to help build this task force.

2. Environmental Justice: Because pollution and environmental degradation tend to harm low-income communities and people of color, we include social justice issues in all of our work. We want to create an Environmental Justice committee to connect with social justice groups in Hudson County to plan actions on this issue. Let us know if you would like to be part of this planning.

3. Political Action. In addition to preparing for upcoming election in NJ, we hope to meet with sympathetic public officials to discuss strategies to show support for a number of environmental bills now in Trenton. These include the Liberty State Park Protection Act, the Essex Hudson Greenway, the Clean Energy Equity Act and more. We will also continue to push Governor Murphy— and the state legislature— to oppose fossil fuel infrastructure. We also support the efforts of the Don't Gas The Meadowlands coalition in support of renewable energy for NJ Transit. Let us know if you would like to join our campaigns.

4. Communications/Social Media. We have created a team of social media activists who can utilize a number of formats to promote environmental issues and campaigns as well as email and the Sierra Club website. More traditional press will be included as well. Join us if you'd like to help.

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

Liberty State Park – The Liberty State Park Protection Act would end efforts to privatize the park once and for all! A rally will be held in support of this Act on September 25 at 11:00 am at the south flag pole plaza near the Admin Bldg. Join us to show your support for protecting the park. We also support the work that will begin soon on the interior of the park, creating 180 acres of wildlife habitat and 50 acres of active recreation for the community.

Climate Change: New studies show that Hudson County will be harder hit by sea-level rise and catastrophic flooding than any other NJ county. The NJ Sierra Club has joined with other leading environmental groups to form the Hudson Climate Coalition. We are working to build awareness and grass roots support as we transition to 100% renewable energy locally by the year 2050, or sooner. Please get involved and be part of the solution.

Environmental Justice: Low-income communities and black and brown communities suffer the most from environmental destruction: elevated levels of cancer, respiratory disease, lead poisoning, and a host of other problems. Hudson County has had more than its share of environmental poisoning for generations. We must stand up for social justice in these communities! Join us to take action.

Parks and Greenways: The Hudson County Group of the NJ Sierra Club is working to support and expand green spaces in Hudson County. We want to connect existing parks and trails, as part of the Crossroads Campaign. This includes **Skyway Park** on the Hackensack River, the newly proposed **Essex-Hudson Greenway**, the **Bergen Arches**, the 6th Street **Embankment** and more. We want to see the shoreline along the Hackensack River become Hudson County's "Green Coast." Learn how you can help.

LOANTAKA GROUP

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

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

OFFICERS:
Group Chair: Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 loantakachair@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Treasurer: Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com
Secretary: Jonathan Connor 201-463-7636 Jon78921@outlook.com
Conser. Chair: Allen Swanson 201-715-7780 afswanson@hotmail.com
Political Chair: Priti Thakker 973-752-1100 thakkerp@icloud.com
Programs: Bob Zega 973-349-8001 rjzega@yahoo.com
Fundraising Chair: *Open Position!*
Outings Chair: Kevin O'Brien 908-403-0900 kbkob@aol.com
Publicity Chair: *Open Position!*
Membership: *Open Position!*
Webmaster: *Open Position!*
Upper Passaic River Coordinator: *Open Position!*

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

More of our activities are at: <http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>

To join our emailing list, go to:
<http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/nj-loantaka-news.html>

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: are held on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month: 7pm, by Zoom technology. All members are welcome. There are currently some open positions on it! If you would like to find out more, please contact Paul Sanderson.

GENERAL MEETINGS: are held on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month — 7:30 pm by Zoom. Learn something new and make some new friends. We'd welcome the chance to meet you and to introduce ourselves, even by Zoom. Please see the schedule, below, and join us! Instructions for access are posted on our website: <http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Currently, all Executive Committee and General Meetings are being held safely by Zoom technology; however, in-person meetings at the Chatham Library may resume in September or shortly thereafter.

Sept 8: Please check the Loantaka website.

Oct 13: Please check the Loantaka website.

Nov 10: Please check the Loantaka website.

Dec 8: Please check the Loantaka website.

>continued on page 8

ACTIVITIES: The Loantaka Group is working with concerned citizens and local environmental organizations to protect open space and wildlife habitat in Morris and Union Counties, and to safeguard the water resources on which we all depend. In addition, the Group is actively involved in State-wide initiatives involving air quality, transportation, and environmental legislation. Volunteers are always welcome. Call Paul at 908-233-2414. Consult our website (<http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>) for more information.

CENTRAL JERSEY GROUP

(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

Website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/central-jersey>. Or click from the NJ Chapter's website. In normal times we would offer a variety of outings! Not now — until the pandemic is over!

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Joanne Pannone	jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
Group Vice Chair:	Xiaoping Duxiaping	du@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Leona Fluck	leona@pineypaddlers.com
Outings Coordinators:	George and Leona Fluck	leona@pineypaddlers.com
Treasurer:	Arlene Ceterskiva	2c2015@gmail.com
Programs:	Joanne Pannone	jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
Conservation Chair:	Kip Cherry	KipAtTheSierraClub@gmail.com
Recycling/Zero Waste:	Sylvia Kay	Sylviakay222@gmail.com
Trails:	Dave Mattek	MattekDC@aol.com

We look forward to in-person get-togethers but until then our monthly lecture series will remain virtual. The Central Jersey Group will post any future activities on the New Jersey Sierra Club website, Central Group Facebook page, and Pineypaddlers.com. Stay home, be patient, stay safe! And don't stop lobbying for our environment!

Here are the issues we are working on currently:

1. Against the Gibbstown LNG terminal.
2. Against the Hughes Warehouse development on Rte 1 and Quakerbridge Rd.
3. Against Synergy Solar in Hamilton: Sweetbriar Ave which threatens the community in the already flood-prone Lower Assunpink Creek area.
4. Monitoring the new Quickcheck in the Miry Run Watershed - for flooding potential.
5. Against Tennessee Gas Company's compressor station proposed for the Highlands Preservation Area.
6. For NJ's Endangered and Threatened Plant Protection Act.
7. Against the Mercer Corporate Park Warehouse development.
8. Opposing gas pipelines and compressor stations generally.
9. For the park at Miry Run - dam site 21.
10. Opposing logging public lands because we don't have 80 years to grow new tree canopy.
11. Promoting electric school buses.
12. Opposing NJ Transit's gas-powered electric plants.

We are always ready to lobby at the State House for laws to fight polluters and climate change. We need a moratorium on pipelines and fossil fuel projects.

To save the planet, support Empower New Jersey!

Get our news by joining the Sierra Club and signing up to receive our our email.

RARITAN VALLEY GROUP

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	S. Pasricha	spjersey@gmail.com
Conservation Chair:	Gary Frederick	609-203-3382 garyfrederick@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Membership Chair:	John Miraglia	johnworks3@aol.com
Political Co-Chairs:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Publicity Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Treasurer:	S. Pasricha	spjersey@gmail.com
Webmaster:	Paul Ehrlich	p.w.ehrlich-nj@outlook.com
Outings/Events Co-Chairs:	S. Pasricha, Brianna Cerione and Bernadette Maher	
Student Liaison:	Varin Dharia	
Bee affairs:	Brenda Bradley	
Group Executive Committee Members:	Gary Frederick, S. Pasricha, Teresa Callahan, Kevin Corcoran, and Paul Ehrlich	

Our monthly membership meetings are typically held on the FOURTH WEDNESDAY of each month in New Brunswick. We discuss environmental news impacting Middlesex & Somerset Counties, plus discuss upcoming events, speakers, volunteer efforts, etc. To confirm please contact the RVG Chair.

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

1. Opposition to gas and oil pipelines and new fossil fuel infrastructure that threaten the air, water and our health.
2. Conservation and protection of the Raritan River basin area.
3. Passage of and responsible enforcement of environmentally friendly ordinances.
4. Land conservation, preservation of open space and protection of Green Acres.

News from the Raritan Valley area:

- **Williams Transco** applied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend their NESE project application for two more years. The pipeline permits were previously rejected by the NJDEP.
- **Williams Transco** applied to FERC for another fracked gas expansion project - the Regional Energy Access Expansion Project (REAE). Additional volatile compressors spewing harmful toxins are proposed for Old Bridge CS 207 & Neshanic Station CS 505. An explosion in 2013 injured 2 workers at CS 505 (Branchburg Township). The Sierra Club filed a motion to intervene in opposition to Williams Transco's REAE project. <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2021/05/sierra-club-fights-new-williams-transco-pipeline>

- NJ Transit's **Kearny** fracked gas power plant plans were withdrawn.
- Thank you to the **Somerset County Board of Commissioners** for leading the state in passing a resolution opposing Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's dangerous proposal to build compressor stations that threaten our health and environment. <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2021/02/somerset-county-opposes-tennessee-gas-compressor-station>
- Alfieri has removed trees at the **Hidden Oak Woods development** in the northernmost Pine Barrens outlier of East Brunswick, an area once known as Hickory Swamp. Thank you to our friends from the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership in New Brunswick & the Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership in Milltown for filing an amicus brief in the township's lawsuit.
- **Spotted lantern flies** have been spotted in Somerset County and don't need to be reported. However, please continue to destroy them, plus remove their egg sacs from tree bark. Middlesex County invasions can be reported to the NJ DOA.
- **The Bedminster Trump National Golf Course** situated in the Highlands Preservation Area needs new water permits from the NJ Water Supply Authority. www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2020/10/trump-s-bedminster-golf-course-water-hearing-delayed-again
- The NJDEP upgraded regulations for Category 1 waterways to protect water supplies for NJ residents.
- **Flemington and Raritan Township MUA** have sued the NJDEP to downgrade C1 protections for the South Branch Raritan River in Somerset County, which would allow the continued dumping of chemically treated sewage into the river.
- **A storage facility** is proposed at 850 Main Street in Sayreville. The owner previously had been fined for illegally removing trees on the property.
- Branchburg passed an ordinance to prohibit standalone warehouses.
- **A mega-warehouse** on a 10-acre site along the Raritan River is proposed at 41 Glendale Road in Edison. The town is in negotiation with the developer to purchase the property and convert it to open space.
- **Warehouse Solar-Ready Bill** - S3504/A3352 sponsored by Senator Bob Smith and Assemblyman James Kennedy, has been passed and is awaiting Governor Murphy's signature. The bill requires all newly constructed warehouses to be solar-ready buildings.
- **The Clean Ocean and Safe Tourism (COAST) Anti-Drilling Act** has been reintroduced by Congressman Frank Pallone. If enacted, this legislation will protect our coasts from oil/gas exploration, development and production. <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2021/05/rep-pallone-reintroduces-coast-anti-drilling-act>
- **Electric School Bus Bill** - A1971 sponsored by Assemblyman Sterley Stanley seeks to establish a 5-year pilot program to demonstrate the advantages of electric school buses. It has been passed in the Assembly and is now in the Senate S1819, sponsored by Senator Patrick Diegnan. <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2021/05/electric-school-bus-bill-released-cmt>
- **Kearny & Edison** - Polluters held accountable in Environmental Justice communities. Attorney General Grewal and DEP Acting Commissioner LaTourette have announced the filing of new environmental enforcement actions. <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2021/05/ag-dep-holds-polluters-accountable-ej-communities>

We encourage you to get involved by attending your town's planning and zoning board meetings. If you are aware of development proposals in your town that may have a negative environmental impact, please contact us and join our meetings. We are also interested in any environmental news or events affecting Middlesex and Somerset counties and invite you to submit those items as well.

Like us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/RaritanGroupNJSC
 Tweet with us - <https://twitter.com/RaritanSierra>

JERSEY SHORE GROUP

(Monmouth County, approximately)

Website: <http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/Jersey-Shore/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JerseyShoreNJSC/>
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/sierraclub_jerseyshore/?hl=en

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Dennis Anderson	732-970-4327	dennisaza@aol.com
	6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747		
Vice Chair:	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445	faithtei@aol.com
Secretary:	John Luard	732-708-9221	John.Luard@gmail.com
Conservation Co-Chairs:	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445	faithtei@aol.com
	and:	Bob Sandberg	732-241-7757
	and:	Stan Greberis	732-431-0882
Treasurer:	Jim Baye		jimbaye@optonline.net
Political Co-Chairs:	Robin & Harold Zullo		
Outings Chair:	John Luard	732-708-9221	John.Luard@gmail.com
Outings Leaders:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Membership Chair:	Wael Kanj		
Program Chair:	Mary Reilly	908-731-2466	Mary@reillygreen.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
Communications Chair:	Wael Kanj		
Education Chair:	George Moffatt	732-544-1726	gmoffattgt@aol.com
High School Coordin:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Letter-writing Committee:	Mark Fukayama, Steve Miller and Stan Greberis		

CLIMATE UPDATE: We created a "50 x 30 Team" to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions 50% by 2030.

THE PROBLEM: The State authorized report "NJ Global Warming Response Act 80 x 20", October 15, 2020, concludes that New Jersey's current "Business-as-Usual" results in HIGHER 2050 GHG emissions than today.

THE TEAM: The NJ-wide Sierra Club "50 x 30 Team" advocates at household, com-

munity, state, and federal levels to set detailed goals to reduce the major sources of GHG.

EXAMPLE ACTION: In August, 2021, the “50 x 30 Team” drafted recommendations for Governor-level actions, for review by Gov Murphy’s Environment/Energy Policy Advisor. Her recommendations will be incorporated, and the recommendations forwarded to Gov. Murphy.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO “Save the World”: Each “50 x 30 Team” member will be encouraged to engage in “Climate Action Now” educational and activist events.

SIGN UP NOW for the “50 x 30 Team”. You will receive agendas and Zoom info to attend “50 x 30 Team” meetings (typically 7PM, the 3rd Thursday of each month). For more information or to sign up, see article elsewhere in this issue (paper or electronic), or contact stevemiller@comcast.net (Climate Chair, Jersey Shore Group)

MEMBER MEETINGS: We are presenting Zoom webinars, usually on the fourth Monday of every month at 7pm. Currently scheduled Webinars:

September 27: Water Issues in New Jersey: Daniel J. Van Abs, PhD, FAICP/PP, Associate Professor of Professional Practice for Water, Society and Environment, Rutgers University. Details and registration will be on our website.

Speakers Contact: Mary Reilly, 908-731-2466 or Mary@reillygreen.com

If you are not getting emails announcing our webinars, please send one to waelkanj@gmail.com, or sign up at our website.

OCEAN COUNTY GROUP

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

OFFICERS:

Acting Chair & Conservation Chair:	Margit Meissner-Jackson	sylviaj1910@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair & Treasurer:	Laura Stone	LauraS36@yahoo.com
Outings & Envl Ed'n:	Terrance Brown	terrybrown@comcast.net
Recording Secretary:	Nancy Brown	nancybrown624@comcast.net
Political Chair:	Margaret Mary Piccolo	gogreenp1@yahoo.com
Membership Chairs:	Ray & Cathy Kozakerich	raykozak@comcast.net
Group ExCom Members:	William Rodgers	
	and: Peter Leighton	JPLeighton1@verizon.net
	and: Joyce Isaza	realtymstr@aol.com

Hospitality, Fundraising, Publicity, Webmaster: *all open positions!*

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

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

WEST JERSEY GROUP

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

Website: <http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/West-Jersey/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseyGroupNJSC> Log on and Like Us!

Follow us on Twitter @WJsierraclub and Instagram @wjsierraclub

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Gina Carola	856-848-8831	ginaceee@verizon.net
Vice-Chair:	Frank Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Secretary:	Ellen Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Treasurer:	Trish Clements		patri3210@gmail.com
Publicity Chair:	Anne Caridi		annecaridi@yahoo.com
Political Chair:	Linda Rubiano		Linda_Maritza@yahoo.com
Pinelands Rep:			<i>Open Position!</i>
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:			<i>Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8831</i>
Smart Growth Chair:			<i>Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8831</i>
Programs Chair:			<i>Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8831</i>
Outings Chair:			<i>Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8831</i>
Media & Communications:	Tony Hagen		hagenajohn@verizon.net
Social Media Coord's:			<i>Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8831</i>

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

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

Special Notice: Meetings will resume September 8. Please watch our Facebook page for info on the presentation. Or sign up to receive email reminders. Send your email request to ginaceee@verizon.net or annecaridi@yahoo.com and we will add you to our

email list. And please note, MASK ARE REQUIRED if we are able to meet in person.

Sept 8: Horseshoe Crabs, Oyster Reefs and Wetlands. Zach Nickerson, Education Outreach Coordinator for the Littoral Society will tell us about his work on the coast to protect horseshoe crabs, oyster reefs and the wetlands. This presentation may be presented in person at the Friends Meeting House if the room is available. If not, it will be a zoom presentation. Please check our Facebook page for updates. Or send an email to ginaceee@verizon.net for an update.

Nov 10: Urban Airshed Reforestation Program-Camden. Meredith Brown of the New Jersey Tree Foundation will update the group on efforts over the last 18 months. This presentation may be presented in person at the Friends Meeting House if the room is available. If not, it will be a zoom presentation. Please check our Facebook page for updates. Or send an email to ginaceee@verizon.net for an update.

Dec 8: To be announced.

Please check the West Group’s Facebook page for updates:

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

In the meantime, please wear your mask, continue to physically distance and stay safe and well. Contact Gina at 856-848-8831, ginaceee@verizon.net to get involved in any of our many initiatives on climate change.

SOUTH JERSEY GROUP

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

OFFICERS:

Group, Outings Chair:	Tom Boghosian	267-930-8583	boghosian1@verizon.net
Vice-Chair:			<i>Open Position!</i>
Conservation Chair:			<i>Open Position!</i>
Political Chair, Calendars:	Dick Colby	609-965-4453	dick.colby@stockton.edu
Membership Chair:			<i>Open Position!</i>
Secretary/Treasurer:	Julie Akers	609-432-3280	julieakers56@gmail.com

The officers listed above are wearing out (at least with respect to the Club), and would more than welcome new blood, with ideas and energy for local projects. One alternative is to fold back into the West Jersey Group (from which we originated in the mid-1970s). Please contact Dick Colby for a discussion. Otherwise, our consuming conservation issue, adopted just after the Group was founded, continues to be protection of the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continues to demand the energies of those few officers who remain active both within the Sierra Club and in the Watershed Association (GEHWA) that spun off from the South Jersey Group. Very few of our local members seem interested in the meetings we once scheduled (monthly, from the early 1980s until 2005). For now, we’ll continue to be listed in this Newsletter, and offer a point of contact for Club members in South Jersey who want help with local issues. We strongly recommend GEHWA’s website for keeping up with local issues, and for links to many other local, regional, state and national environmental organizations: www.gehwa.org. If you have topics (and places) for meetings, please let the officers know about them. We welcome general comments from Club members in South Jersey. To be placed on a carefully guarded distribution list for local issues and meetings, please email 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, but currently held on-line.

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 also works with Atlantic County Friends of the Parks, and is President 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. Detailed maps and route descriptions are now available on the Chapter’s website. Dick has also produced a brochure describing 15 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, to be operated by the Atlantic County Utilities Authority, fueled by new legislation that prods the BPU, and a new president of Atlantic City Electric Co. (3) With the passage of Statewide plastic- and paper-bag-restricting legislation, there’s educational work to be done! (4 etc.) Many other South Jersey issues are described in previous issues of this Newsletter, available on the Chapter website.

Some Allied Organizations, likely meeting by Zoom:

Sept 21 & Nov 23: (alternating fourth Tuesdays), 6:30pm: **Great Egg Harbor Watershed Assn.** Activities centered on protecting the Wild & Scenic Recreational River. All are welcome. If a physical meeting takes place, it would be at the Warren Fox Nature Center (WFNC*), Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor, Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 3½ miles south of Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

Sept 1, Oct 6, Nov 3 & Dec 1: (first Wednesdays), 6:30pm: **Atlantic County Friends of the Parks:** Monthly meetings of a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Park System. All are welcome. WFNC* if the meeting would be physical. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280. Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Atlantic-County-Friends-of-the-Parks>.

Oct 13 & Dec 8: (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 (if physical): 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.

Oct 20 & Dec 15: (alternate third Wednesdays), 6:30pm: **Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council:** Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss and implement river management strategies. Open to the public. By Zoom or at the WFNC*. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

>continued on page 10

Aug 25, Sept 22, Oct 27 & Nov 24: (fourth Wednesdays), 7pm: **Atlantic Audubon Society** is a lively member-organization with strong environmental programs and an excellent monthly on-line newsletter. Membership is free. Meetings (if physical) are in the Galloway Twp Library, 306 E Jimmie Leeds Rd. www.AtlanticAudubon.org.

SINGLES SECTION

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

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

OFFICERS:

Interim Co-Chairs: Ron Pate and Jimi Oleksiak
Outings Chair: Joyce Haddad
Conservation Chair: Position Open!
Treasurer: Position Open!
Social Chair: Position Open!
Vice Social Chair: Jeff Sovelove
Programs: Position Open!
Publicity: Position Open!
Membership: Position Open!
Nominations: Position Open!
Executive committee members: Rozanna Fanelli, Joyce Haddad, Ron Pate, and Jeff Sovelove.

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

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

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

SOCIAL GATHERINGS:

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

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

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER (LGBTQ+) SECTION

Our mission is to support Sierra Club goals, and to promote environmental activism and social equity. We are an inclusive group and all are welcome to join our events.

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

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

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

OFFICERS:

Chair: William Parish * whparishiv@gmail.com
Secretary: John Kashwick * John.Kashwick@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Treasurer: Jonathan Wall * docjdwall@gmail.com
Outings Chair: Robert Zitzman * robertmzi@yahoo.com
Fundraising: Matthew Lang * matthewjlang58@gmail.com
Webmaster/Listmaster: John Kashwick * John.Kashwick@newjersey.sierraclub.org
 (* Section Executive Committee Member)

Please check web site for further meetings and events.

SENIOR SECTION / FIFTY-PLUS SECTION

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

In addition, a monthly Buy & Sell newsletter is sent out to members free of charge, in which they can list items they are searching for or want to buy.

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

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

Arline Zatz is the editor and Chair of the Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section. She can be

reached at azatz@funtravels.com, and invites members to check her web site at www.funtravels.com for trips, tips, and travel information regarding New Jersey and other states.

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

SIERRA STUDENT COALITION

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

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

ICO: INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS

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

Co-Chairs: Zachary Rose & Oscar Nazar chair.njico.sierraclub@gmail.com

Other Officers: Amanda Gaglio, mike Depardieu

New Jersey Inspiring Connections Outdoors - (NJ ICO) provides safe and fun wilderness trips for children and teenagers with limited access to the outdoors. Volunteer leaders collaborate with community partners to facilitate, lead and promote events that will educate and foster a love of nature and the outdoors for youth in New Jersey who may not otherwise have the opportunity or the means. The program works to reduce barriers by providing gear, transportation, trip fees and leaders to create opportunities to explore, enjoy and advocate for nature. The Chair welcomes inquiries from leaders of schools and other community organizations.



Winter Expedition in Colorado

By Vittoria Socolof, a 17 yr. old member of our Loantaka Group

I stared at the black speckles forming under the surface of my red and raw thumb. I prayed this wasn't the beginning of frostbite. I blew hot air on my fingers and continued to flick the wheel of the lighter over and over again, but no flame. There wasn't even a measly spark. I forced the tears to remain behind my eyes. Crying would do nothing except make my eyelashes crystallize and hinder my vision. To my surprise, attempting to prep the stove for dinner and light the fuel cup was always the hardest part of my day.

During the spring semester of my junior year, I spent four months at the High Mountain Institute in Leadville, Colorado. Over the course of the program, I embarked on three expeditions. Hauling my 100-liter backpack for the first time on the first expedition was scary, but it was the second expedition that I was unprepared for. Winter trip consisted of ten days on telemark skis, dragging a sled bound to my waist, and digging out quigloos to sleep in.

After a three mile climb uphill to the next campground and excavating a new home in the snow for my tarp mates and I, it was my turn to cook dinner. The sweaty long underwear that clung to my body during shoveling and ski packing the quigloo only made me colder now. Everything that got wet always froze. I was constantly cold and overworking my body. My only salvation was encouragement from my friends: "Pain is temporary", we repeated to each other while shielding our faces from the incoming blizzard. Compared to reaching and building camp, boiling a pot of pas-

ta and melting cheese in the fry bake did not seem like a daunting task. Like me though, when a lighter is cold it ceases to work.

To warm the lighter up, I placed it directly on my skin underneath my puffy jacket, fleece, and long underwear. I



kept the lighter close, and ten minutes later when I flicked the wheel, a blue and orange flame emerged from the nozzle. Each one of my tarp mates held a lighter against their skin. If one

wasn't working, we held it on our skin even longer and tried a different lighter in the meantime.

I realized the lighters braved the cold the same way my tarp group did. When our toes were cold for longer than 45 minutes, we reheated them on a willing stomach. When temperatures dropped below freezing during the night, we huddled even closer and borrowed each other's body heat until we fell asleep. When I saw tears well up in my tarp mate's eyes on her day to take the sled, I took it for her. My tarp group never argued, even though we rarely split work evenly. There were days when some of us had to be held closer a little longer than others to survive. For our tarp group of four to function, we learned to rely on each other.

The biggest lesson I learned from every single expedition is that taking care and supporting others is important for a positive group dynamic. Yes, expeditions were immensely difficult, but the outdoor environment is what brings people closer together and makes the whole experience worthwhile.

Guidance for Sierra Club Activities in a Time of Covid Plague

Issued to all Club entities by Club President Ramon Cruz on August 2nd, 2021:

Effective immediately, the Sierra Club is reinstating our mask mandate at all indoor activities and events regardless of vaccination status. The [Activities & Events guidance](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1C1E-vP2LyVehDKhIMbLXaoN2BwWcdjZBHSjm8FAJWks/edit) has been updated to reflect this change. [<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1C1E-vP2LyVehDKhIMbLXaoN2BwWcdjZBHSjm8FAJWks/edit>]

As a reminder, our guidance strongly recommends masking at Outdoor events—especially when social distancing cannot be maintained. **Unvaccinated persons are required to wear a mask at both indoor and outdoor activities.** The Sierra Club strongly recommends all eligible staff and volunteers get vaccinated as quickly as possible as the best defense against Covid-19.



GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS (roughly north to south)

Skylands: Dave Alcock, dwhooob@hotmail.com

South Highlands: Jonathan Wall
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North Jersey: Co-Chairs: Ellen Blumenkrantz
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Gateway: Vacant

Hudson Co: Natalya DeRobertis-Theye
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ICO: chair.njico.sierraclub@gmail.com

River Touring: Fred Tocce, 908-453-2205 (H)
RD-1, Box 277, Washington 07882

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

Outing Leaders: Please send write-ups for January-March 2022 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 Nov 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 to Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your Jan-Mar 2022 trip write-ups by November 10.

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

Sierra Club outings are arranged by volunteer leaders who are in charge of the trip and responsible for the safety, welfare and enjoyment of all participants. Leaders determine qualifications to participate, adequacy of

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

Please arrive early at the meeting place so that the outing can start on time. For day hikes, lunch, water (at least a liter), extra clothing, rain gear, and emergency equipment should be carried in a small daypack. For all except easy hikes, sturdy over-the-ankle shoes or boots should be worn. For most trips, you are expected to have your own equipment. In some cases, it may be rented from outdoor/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.

Registration is required for all outings, and all outings are limited to 10-12 people at the discretion of the trip leader. Face masks are not required for adults, but are suggested. Face masks are required for all children. Please keep appropriate space (6 ft) between you and other participants on all outings. If you have any cold/flu symptoms, or loss of taste or smell do not attend the outing.

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 • (G) Gateway • (JS) Jersey Shore (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

Oct 10 (Sun): Walk at Sandy Hook, near Highlands (Monmouth Co). 3pm. Early fall at the beach. 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 portion (ocean views) is on the soft-sand ocean beach. Approx. 4 miles, easy pace, bring plenty of water. Leader: John Luard. Group size is limited to 12 participants. Please register online at: Jersey Shore Group | Sierra Club

Oct 11 (Mon): Indigenous People's Day Hike at the Thompson Park Conservation Area (Middlesex Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. On the hike a favorite stop is the "natural spring". The Park is dominated by heavily wooded forests and lowland swamps along the Manalapan Brook. Meet at the Thompson Park Trailhead near the Off-Leash Dog Area on Fir Drive, Monroe Twp. GPS Coordinates: N 40° 20' 3.753", W 74° 26' 8.556". Rain cancels. Bring water, snacks and lunch. Hiking poles recommended. Leashed dogs are welcome. Pre-registration is Required; Group size is limited 10 participants. Co-Leaders: Sindhu P: spjersey@gmail.com, and Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

Oct 13 (Wed): Richard J. Coffee Mercer County Park Hike (Mercer Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. We'll hike along Mercer Lake and walk the woods trails. Bring beverage, lunch, and snacks. Leashed dogs are welcome. Meet at the Parking Lot next to Grandparents Grove. Pre-registration is Required; Group size is limited 10 participants. Leona F. 609-259-3734 Leona@pineypaddlers.com, or Joanne Pannone 609-443-6992 jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (C)

Oct 17 (Sun): National Pasta Day Hike at Smith's Woods (Burlington Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace at Historic Smith's Woods and 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 Av. Option for late lunch at Vincentown Diner after the hike. Leashed dogs are welcome. Hiking poles recommended. Rain cancels. Pre-registration is Required; Group size is limited 10 participants. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct 23 (Sat): Mahlon Dickerson Reservation Hike, (Morris Co). 10am. 4.7 miles, moderate pace. The route includes swampland, forests, and abandoned iron mines. Bring plenty of water and a lunch. Hiking boots recommended. I-80 West, Exit 34B to NJ Rte 15 North. Go about 5 miles to Weldon Rd. Turn right. Go about 4 miles on Weldon Rd to lot on left (past trailer & camping areas) to Picnic Area. Coordinates N41° 0.75'; W74° 33.88'. Jefferson. Rain cancels. Group size is limited 10 participants. Contact leader to register for hike: Kevin O'Brien, 908-403-0900, kbkob@aol.com. (L)

Oct 28 (Thu): Pinelands Month - National Chocolate Day Hike at the Franklin Parker Preserve (Burlington Co). 10am. 5-6 miles, easy pace on the Yellow Trail. 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, snacks, and water. Hiking poles recommended. Leaders will bring Chocolates! Rain cancels. Preregistration is Required; Group size is limited 10 participants. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct 31 (Sun): Halloween Hike at Estell Manor (Atlantic Co). 10am. 5-6 miles, easy pace. Meet at the Warren E. Fox Nature Center at 109 Rte 50, Mays Landing, and see the displays before we hike. Bring lunch, water, snacks for our lunch break during the hike. Leashed dogs are welcome! Rain cancels. Pre-registration is Required; Group size is limited 10 participants. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

NOVEMBER

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

Nov 7 (Sun): Hike Huber Woods Park, Middletown (Monmouth Co). 3pm. We will walk the hickory and oak forest with occasional distant views of the Navesink River - listen and look for pileated woodpeckers. About 4 miles at an easy pace, some ups and downs. Beginners welcome, supportive footwear recommended, bring plenty of water. Leader: John Luard. Group size is limited to 12 participants. Please register online at: Jersey Shore Group | Sierra Club

Nov 7 (Sun): Hike at the Davidson's Mill Pond Park (Middlesex Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. Reminder to set your clocks back one hour! This Park is passive and primarily undeveloped. The pond and the waterfall, where the mill was once located, is one of the most picturesque areas of the County. www.njhiking.com/davidsons-millpond-park/. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. Hiking poles recommended. Leashed dogs are welcome. Rain cancels. Pre-registration is Required; Group size is limited 10 participants. Meeting location will be sent with confirming email. Co-Leaders: Sindhu P: spjersey@gmail.com, and Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

Nov 11 (Thu): Hike for Veterans Day at Hamilton Township 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 Rd. Paved trail meanders through woods along Pond Run. Bring snack and drink. Tables and rest rooms are available. Rain cancels. Pre-registration is Required; Group size is limited 10 participants. Joanne Pannone (609)443-6992, jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (C)

Nov 13 (Sat): Stephens State Park, Hackettstown (Warren Co). 10am. Singles Hike, 7 miles in hilly terrain. There will also be a shorter version of the route, 4-5 miles, easy hills with a second leader. Features: The Musconetcong River, Mount Stevens, picnic shelter facilities: There is a bathroom building near the parking lot. Requirement: Hiking boots for longer hike; Boots or sneakers for the shorter route. Bring a day-pack with water and lunch. Group size is limited to 12 participants Registration required via Web: Start with the calendar at <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey> and click on the Stephens State Park Hike, then click on RSVP Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: The_Hikist@mac.com.

Nov 17 (Wed): Fall Foliage Hike at Monmouth Battlefield State Park (Monmouth Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. It's National Take a Hike Day! So, let's "hit the trails"! The Monmouth Battlefield State Park is located within the Lower Raritan Watershed. Meet at the Visitors Center, 16 Business Rte 33, Manalapan. Bring lunch, snacks, and water. Hiking poles are recommended. Leashed dogs are welcome! Inclement weather cancels. Preregistration is Required; Group size is limited 10 participants. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Nov 28 (Sun): Hike at Duke Island Park (Somerset Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. Let's burn some of those Thanksgiving calories! Duke Island Park includes trails, which are part of the Raritan River Greenway. We'll meet at the Visitors Center which is located near the main parking area and houses the Park Ranger office and the rest room facilities - Old York Rd., Bridgewater. Inclement weather cancels. Bring snacks, water, and lunch. Leashed dogs are welcome. Pre-registration is Required; Group size is limited 10 participants. Co-Leaders: Sindhu P: spjersey@gmail.com, and Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

DECEMBER

Dec 8 (Wed): Hike at Jakes Branch County Park (Ocean Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. Jakes

>continued on page 12

Branch has a nature center with hands-on exhibits and an observation deck that offers a 360° view of the Pinelands. Leashed dogs are welcome. Meet at Jakes Branch Park, 1100 Double Trouble Rd, Beechwood. Bring water and snacks. Hiking poles recommended. Inclement weather/icy trails cancels. Pre-registration is Required; Group size is limited 10 participants. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 11 (Sat): Watchung Reservation, New Providence (Union Co). 10am. Singles Hike. 7 miles in moderately hilly terrain. There will also be a shorter version of the route, 4-5 miles, easy hills with a second leader. Features: The deserted village of Feltsville. Facilities: There is a bathroom building near the parking lot and a heated bathroom in the middle of the hike. Requirement: Hiking boots. Traction Devices, e.g. crampons or cat-tracks, if the trails are icy. Bring a day-pack with water and lunch. Group size is limited 12 participants. Registration required via Web: Start with the calendar at <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey> and click on the Watchung Reservation Hike, then click on RSVP Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: The_Hikist@mac.com.

Dec 11 (Sun): Whitesbog Village Holiday Hike (Burlington Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace on sandy trails. Join us for a celebration of the holidays and explore the historic buildings of Whitesbog! Handmade Arts & Crafts exhibitors will be spread throughout the village, and a special visit from you know who! Wagon rides into the bogs, hot cocoa and warm apple cider, live music and even more! Last December the Tundra Swans were on the bogs. Bring lunch and beverage. Leashed dogs are welcome. Directions and information: www.whitesbog.org Inclement weather/icy trails cancels. Pre-registration is Required; Group size is limited 10 participants. George & Leona F: 609- 259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 12 (Sun): Hike Cheesequake State Park, Old Bridge (Middlesex Co). 10am. We'll use a couple of trails to create about 5 miles of walking in uplands near salt marsh. The pace will be easy, but there are some ups and downs, bring plenty of water, supportive footwear recommended.

Leader: John Luard. Group size is limited to 12 participants. Please register online at: Jersey Shore Group Sierra Club.

Dec 21 (Tue): First Day of Winter Hike on the D&R Canal (Mercer Co). 10am. 4 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. Bring water and snacks. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather cancels. Pre-registration is Required; Group size is limited 10 participants. Co-leaders: Joanne Pannone (609) 443- 6992; jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com, or Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

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

Upcoming ExCom Meetings
 All members are welcome to attend these monthly policy deliberations, held on **SECOND SATURDAYS**, almost certainly by Zoom, which accepts access from a computer, smartphone or telephone. 10am for the Conservation Committee; 1pm for ExCom. Details on access from our secretary: secretary@newjersey.sierraclub.org.
Dates: Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13 & Jan. 8



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CONSERVATION REPORT

Managing Plastic Waste: Two Current Bills

By Sylvia Kay, our Zero Waste Issues Coordinator

In the last six months, two pieces of legislation have emerged in New Jersey: **S2515** and **A5803**. The Club currently endorses Bob Smith's S2515, but not McKeon's A5803. The two Bills offer an interesting snapshot of the challenges facing lawmakers and industry. Projections for the increased use of plastics over the coming decades are huge, so the management of plastic waste is vital. The US is already the world's greatest producer of plastic trash – although neck and neck with China. Many new petrochemical factories are planned for Louisiana, Appalachia, Texas and other parts of our country.

In 2015, the world produced more than 448 million tons of plastic. That is expected to double by 2050. Estimates suggest that only 9% of plastic trash is “recycled” and perhaps 3% has been repurposed to new products. “Recycled” is a variable misnomer. Much of “recycled” plastic has been placed in landfills and/or washed out to sea. When China stopped buying plastic trash from the US in early 2019, the cost of handling this waste fell on local municipalities. There is a keen need to reduce use of plastics and to repurpose post-consumer plastics.

Bill S2515 passed in the Senate and moved to the Assembly in late Spring. This landmark Bill establishes rates for the amount of recycled content material to be used in plastic and glass containers, carry-out paper bags and certain plastic bags. It also bans all polystyrene (Styrofoam/foam) loose packaging. This very important Bill is intended to create Extended Producer Responsibility and a cyclical economy. It attempts to reduce plastic virgin stock. It attempts to force a larger role onto industry for solving a growing waste management and pollution crisis, lessening this burden for municipalities. If this bill proceeds to become law, it makes New Jersey

one of the leading states for plastic recycling.

Bill A5803 is problematic. This bill promotes the construction of Advanced Recycling Facilities in New Jersey, and exempts them from NJ DEP regulation and oversight. The Sierra Club and other environmental organizations do not support “Advanced Recycling” – which is the current term used by the American Chemical Council for various forms of chemical recycling. These techniques generally include extreme heat, pressure and/or low or no oxygen to break down plastic polymers in order to reformulate them. All plastic is made from fossil (carbon-based) fuel: natural gas or petroleum. “Advanced Recycling” creates high carbon footprints and produces toxins – including dioxin, hormone disruptors, and metal particulates. These procedures can repurpose some plastics, but they also produce “waste” that must be burned. Bill 5803 clearly allows heating oil and other fossil fuel oils to be the end products made at the proposed NJ Advanced Recycling Facilities. There is great concern that these facilities will become “waste to burn” incinerators, and that they will be sited in lower income areas where environmental justice is a pressing issue.

In the coming months, state lawmakers will approve, reshape and terminate various waste management and recycling bills. With the passage of S864 in November 2020, New Jersey became a leader in single use plastic waste/usage legislation. S864 banned single use carry out thin plastic bags, carry out paper bags, plastic straws (except on special request) and specific foam food containers. These bans will go into effect over the coming year. It is hoped our New Jersey legislators will continue to grow innovative recycling regulations with their support of S2515.

REPORT FROM TRENTON

Report Finds High Plastic Pollution in Delaware River - We Need Strong Action

From a press release issued on May 18, and edited by Tony Hagen

From Trenton on down to the Delaware Bay, the banks of the Delaware River are lined with plastic bottles and other plastic trash. This is not just an eyesore but evidence of a larger problem.

An April 2021 report published in the journal *Science Advances* has found that the Delaware River is one of 1000 global rivers that spew as much as 2.7 million metric tons of plastic waste each year into the world's oceans. According to the study, the Delaware River accounts for 283,000 pounds of this plastic material.

It is alarming that the Delaware River is so highly polluted by plastic waste. Even though Governor Phil Murphy signed a statewide plastic ban last year, it won't go into effect for another year.

Much of this river trash comes right back to us. Beach sweeps in New Jersey conducted last fall found 134,272 pieces of plastic, according to the 2020 Beach Sweeps Report. Some of the rest ends up in the “great Pacific garbage patch,” which now measures 618,000 square miles, or two-and-a-half times the size of France.

It's not just the plastic you can see that's the problem. Rutgers scientists found densities of about 28,000 to more than 3 million plastic particles per square kilometer in the Passaic and Raritan Rivers.

We need to be taking swift action to protect our environment, our beaches, and our oceans from plastic pollution. We have the plastic bag ban, but we should also be getting plastic that isn't covered by the bill out of the waste stream. This includes establishing recycled content standards and passing a bottle bill.

CONSERVATION REPORT

Ban Gas Leaf Blowers... and More!

By Lara Zullo and Mark Fukayama, of our Jersey Shore Group

Incessantly shrill gas-powered leaf blowers (GLBs) are not only bad for our ears, but also a danger to our mental and physical health and our environment.

GLBs can generate over 105 decibels (dB) of noise at the operator's ears⁽¹⁾ and low frequency noise-polluting sound waves that travel long distances and penetrate the walls of nearby homes.⁽²⁾ According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, hearing loss occurs after two hours exposure at 85 dB⁽³⁾, and even continuous sound at 70 dB can harm people's hearing.⁽⁴⁾ In addition to hearing impairment, the noise pollution from GLBs can adversely affect our health and well-being by contributing to annoyance, stress, sleep disturbance, cognitive impairment, and hypertension.⁽⁵⁾

In addition to their piercing noise, GLBs emit unburned fuel, hydrocarbons, and carbon monoxide.⁽⁶⁾ The unburned fuel consists of multiple toxic chemicals, including benzene, a carcinogen and central nervous system depressant, and formaldehyde, another carcinogen and an eye and respiratory irritant that can induce or worsen asthma.

Furthermore, the hydrocarbon emissions react in sunlight with nitrogen oxides from other sources to form ozone, a respiratory irritant of smog and a significant greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

Gas leaf blowers also push 300 to 700 cubic feet of air per minute at 150 to 280 MPH.⁽⁷⁾ The resulting dust can contain fine particulate matter (PM) including inhalable blower emissions, pollen, mold, animal feces, heavy metals, and chemicals from herbicides and pesticides. PM becomes deeply and permanently lodged in the lungs, heightening vulnerability to health risks such as cardiovascular disease, dementia, and stroke.⁽⁸⁾

The volume of pollutants emitted from GLBs is substantial. A gas leaf blower operating for one hour can produce smog-forming pollution comparable to driving a 2017 Camry 1100 miles⁽⁹⁾, and can emit carbon monoxide (CO) comparable to the CO emissions from a 2016 vehicle's tailpipe operating for over 8 hours.⁽¹⁰⁾

Given these urgent health risks, more

than 100 municipalities across 15 states including NJ restrict GLBs⁽¹¹⁾. City officials in Montclair, Maplewood, Summit and Spring Lake (in a pilot program) have suspended the use of GLBs during summer months.^(12,13)

But it's not just GLBs that are a health and environmental problem. Other small gas-powered landscape equipment such as lawnmowers, chainsaws, and string trimmers emit high levels of these pollutants. The California Air Resources Board predicts that emissions from these small engine tools will be more than twice those from passenger cars by 2031.⁽¹⁴⁾ As a result, California Assembly members introduced a bill (AB 1346) earlier this year to ban all of these small off-road engines, the earliest by 2024.⁽¹⁵⁾

As New Jerseyans become more familiar with the dangers of this outdoor power equipment and as cleaner alternatives become more commonplace, we may someday adopt a similar ban. Until then, you can act now by signing onto the Jersey Shore Group's letter-writing campaign at www.bit.ly/jismowers that calls for your mayor to ban GLBs. In the meantime, if you are in good physical health, grab a rake!

Footnotes:

- (1) <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/109428.html>
- (2) <http://dx.doi.org/10.16966/2576-6430.106>
- (3) https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hearing_loss/what_noises_cause_hearing_loss.html
- (4) https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hearing_loss/toolkit/world_hearing_loss_day.html
- (5) Op. cit.
- (6) <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/health-and-environmental-impacts-leaf-blowers>, 13, 42-43.
- (7) <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/109428.html>
- (8) Op. cit., 41.
- (9) https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/msprog/of-froad/sm_en_fs.pdf
- (10) Op. cit.
- (11) <https://hdsupplysolutions.com/s/leaf-blower-noise-regulation>
- (12) <https://starnewsgroup.com/2021/07/08/quieting-those-leaf-blowers-for-the-summer>
- (13) <https://unionnewsdaily.com/news/summit/55938>
- (14) Op. cit., N8
- (15) https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1346

REPORT FROM TRENTON

Putting the Green Back in Green Acres

From a press release issued by our Trenton staff on June 3

The Green Acres program in New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has just celebrated its 60th anniversary. A ceremony took place at the Holly Farm tract of the Menantico Ponds Wildlife Management Area, which was acquired by the State in 2019.

In 2010, during the Christie Administration, the state Board of Public Utilities narrowly authorized the sale of the 1,350-acre tract in Millville, owned by Atlantic City Electric, to a developer who wanted to put a golf course and senior housing on the parcel. The Sierra Club and other groups strongly objected to that proposed sale, and fought to preserve the land until the state acquired it in 2019. The site had once been a world-renowned private arboretum for rare varieties of Holly trees.

Green Acres has helped preserve many environmentally-sensitive properties like Holly Farms. But we think the program needs more funding and more resources. Applications for new acquisitions are currently being accepted only every other year, due to lack of staff.

REPORT FROM TRENTON

Gov. Murphy Signs Clean Energy Bill Package

From a Press Release written by Taylor McFarland, our Acting Director, and released on July 9

Governor Murphy used a public appearance in Seaside Heights (Ocean Co) to sign a package of Clean Energy Bills in the presence of selected politicians and corporate executives.

The following bills were signed into law:

S3484 (Smith/Dancer): Increases the permitted amount of solar energy generation on lands eligible for farmland assessment under certain conditions; revises the law concerning solar energy generation on preserved farmland; directs the BPU to provide certain incentives to “dual-use” solar projects on unreserved farmland.

This bill supports both solar energy and preserving farmland. It will provide farmers with stable revenue and reduce the pressure for them to sell their properties to developers. It supports the State’s clean energy goals.

S2605 (Smith/Karabinchak): Essentially rescues the expired renewable solar energy certificate program in the BPU, including a solicitation process for certain solar power generation facilities.

This bill will help provide locations for large-scale solar. We need to go beyond brownfields and rooftops: toward farm fields and other appropriate sites. By raising them up, solar panels on farm fields can be compatible with grass growth, sheep grazing, or pollinator plants. This law will help produce green jobs and help New Jersey meet its clean energy goals.

S3223 (Smith/Swain/Benson): Sets zoning standards and thus promotes installation of chargers for electric vehicles and Make-Ready parking spaces.

Although we generally support this law, it is important that the locations of charging stations should not create the need for bulk variances. The stations should not encroach into buffers, rights-of-way, or setbacks. As New Jersey acquires more EV’s on its roads, we must have the infrastructure to do so. This law will expedite the building of charging stations at gas stations, reducing “range anxiety.”

A1653 (Quijano/Smith): Encourages redevelopment projects to include zero-emission vehicle fueling and charging infrastructure.

We do not support this law. Sadly, it was amended to not focus on electric vehicles. Instead, it deals with other, hydrogen fuel cell, zero-emission vehicles, and will thwart the State’s effort to move forward with EV’s. The problem with hydrogen is that it is made from natural gas.

REPORT FROM TRENTON

Sierra Club Supports Proposed Advanced Truck Rule

From a press release issued on May 20, credited to Bill Beren, Chair of our Chapter Transportation Committee, and edited by Tony Hagen

The big, diesel-belching trucks you see all over NJ’s highways contribute to emissions, climate warming, and ozone pollution, but there’s hope.

The DEP is weighing truck sales requirements that would require increasing percentages of trucks sold from 2024 to 2035 to be zero emission vehicles. By 2035, 55% of trucks weighing 8,500 lbs to 14,000 lbs would have to be zero emission vehicles. Also by that date, 75% of “straight trucks” over that weight listing and 40% of “tractor trucks” would need to be emissions free. A tractor truck pulls detachable trailers, and a straight truck is a fused, non-detachable engine and storage compartment vehicle.

Imposing these regulations makes sense as more warehouses are built and more trucks flow onto NJ roads. New Jersey residents are facing increasing health impacts from diesel emissions from heavy duty truck traffic. These emissions also contribute to the high levels of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere and the destructive impact that they play as climate change continues to harm New Jersey’s residents in many, many ways.

The outcome of a DEP hearing this spring on the Advanced Clean Truck Program and Fleet Reporting Requirements is not yet known, although this would be precedent-setting policy that mirrors California legislation.

Large employers including retailers, manufacturers, brokers and others would be required to report information about shipments and shuttle services. Fleet owners with 50 or more trucks would be required to report about their existing fleet operations. This information would help identify future strategies to ensure that fleets purchase available zero-emission trucks and place them in service where suitable to meet their needs.

New Jersey’s economy continues to experience a shift away from manufacturing and towards warehousing and shipping. The growth of this traffic will increase harmful particulate and greenhouse gas emissions, undoing efforts by the DEP and the state to meet climate change goals.

It is critical that the DEP adopts these resolutions. Although the California regulations don’t go far enough to fully mitigate the impacts of climate change, adopting these standards is the only avenue available to New Jersey regulators in the short term. Therefore the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club strongly endorses these regulations and urges their adoption.

REPORT FROM TRENTON

Gateway Project Finally Approved: Win for Environment & Economy

From a June 1 press release with contributions from Bill Beren, Chair of our Transportation Committee

The Biden Administration recently approved plans for the Gateway Tunnel Project: replacement of the rotting Northeast Corridor rail tunnels under the Hudson River that connect New Jersey with New York’s Penn Station. The \$11.6 billion project will also repair the existing Amtrak-owned tunnels.

We expect that completion will convince many commuters to abandon their cars. Since one train can take hundreds of cars off the road, we expect a major reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The existing tunnel is more than 110 years old and was inundated with seawater during Superstorm Sandy in 2012. We regret that the project was delayed by the four years of the Trump Administration, which refused to give the necessary approvals. We applaud the Biden Administration’s quick action to get the needed approvals, and thank our Congressional delegation, including New Jersey’s two Senators, which continues to advocate for federal funding.

REPORT FROM TRENTON

Senate Passes Budget That Still Raids Clean Energy Fund, NJ Transit Capital \$ - Shameful

From a press release issued on June 24

The Senate has passed the state budget (S2022 / A5870) for FY22. This latest budget would take \$360 million from NJ Transit capital funds for operations and maintenance. It also takes \$82 million from the Clean Energy Fund for NJ Transit.

“The Senate just passed a budget that will rob \$360 million from NJ Transit capital funds for operations. This takes away the chance for NJ Transit to expand routes or transition to electric buses and trains, hurting commuters and the environment,” said Taylor McFarland, Acting Director, Sierra Club New Jersey Chapter. “What’s worse is that the budget also raids \$82 million from the Clean Energy Fund for NJ Transit. This is downright shameful. The Governor committed to stopping these raids when he ran for office four years ago, but they have continued. Over \$2 billion has been taken from the Clean Energy Fund since 2010, and Murphy has done nothing to stop it.”

The Clean Energy Fund is supposed to support projects that make our homes more resilient, such as weatherization, along with energy efficiency and green jobs. However, since 2010 the fund has been raided by over \$2 billion total.

“Given the extraordinary surplus in the state budget this year, it is inconceivable that the legislature and Governor Murphy would not fully fund NJ Transit’s operating budget. After four years, his promises to rebuild NJ Transit have fallen flat. But the legislative leaders share equal blame in this fiasco,” said Bill Beren, Transportation Chair, Sierra Club New Jersey Chapter. “The budget for NJ Transit is built on one shot revenues, and leaves NJ Transit in a bad way for fiscal year 2022/23 and in the future. It is past time to establish a stable funding source for such an important foundation of NJ’s economy.”

REPORT FROM TRENTON

Murphy Signs Bill to Notify Customers of Elevated Lead Levels

From a press release issued by Acting Chapter Director Taylor McFarland on May 12

Governor Murphy has signed A2863 (Moen) / S968 (Singleton) into law. The bill requires public water systems to provide notice of elevated lead levels in drinking water to customers and local officials. It also requires landlords to notify tenants of elevated lead levels.

We have a serious problem with lead in New Jersey. Our hope is that if people are educated to know about the problem, they will demand that it be fixed by government and water companies. Drinkable water should be a basic human right.

Lead causes serious health problems, especially including diminished learning abilities in children. In urban areas it enters the body not only by drinking: as much as 25% of municipal water supplies leak out of corroded water mains, polluting soil and everything else underfoot. Newark, Paterson and Trenton have open-air (unfenced) “finishing” reservoirs that contribute to the lead problems.

This law is a step in the right direction, but we have much more to do. Our lead standards need to be lowered from 15 ppb (parts per billion = micrograms per liter) to at least 5 ppb. California’s limit is 1 ppb, because any lead in drinking water is unsafe.

REPORT FROM TRENTON

NJ Sierra Club Joins NJDEP to Hold Solvay Accountable for Gloucester Toxic Mess

From a press release issued on May 28, with contributions from Gina Carola (our Delaware River Issues Coordinator) and Taylor McFarland (our Chapter Coordinator), and edited by Tony Hagen

The Columbia Law School Environment Law Clinic recently filed an amicus brief on behalf of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club — in support of New Jersey’s lawsuit against Solvay Specialty Polymers USA. Solvay is responsible for widespread release of toxic per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from its facility in West Deptford (Gloucester Co), which has contaminated regional public drinking water and created ongoing public health risks for the surrounding communities. The lawsuit asks that Solvay be compelled to clean up the mess and pay for damages to natural resources.

For 19 years until 2010, the brief states, Solvay dispersed PFNA (Surflon-111), a type of PFAS, into the air and water near the plant. It later used a replacement PFAS chemical with significant potential toxicities that it also allowed to escape into the environment in huge quantities. For years Solvay did not disclose its own findings that this chemical was potentially harmful to humans, according to the brief.

West Deptford is considered an “overburdened community” because of its high proportion of lower-income, minority households. It therefore is entitled to protection from environmental contamination under New Jersey’s Environmental Justice Law. West Deptford has become a toxic nightmare with some of the highest levels of PFNA in the United States. Recent testing around New Jersey have found PFNA in concentrations far above the new standard in municipal water systems (e.g., 96 parts per trillion [ppt] cf 13 ppt), according to NJDEP. Of those, 11 occurrences have been tied to the Solvay pollution.

PFAS chemicals are an ongoing threat to the community and environment. Research shows that high levels of PFAS may result in liver and kidney problems in humans and developmental defects in children and pregnant women. The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club is standing with NJDEP and Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal to hold this company accountable and make it clean up the mess.

Until recently, Solvay has kept mum on the chemicals that it produces, on the ground that they are a proprietary and trade secret. This concealment has endangered the health not only of West Deptford residents but all residents of New Jersey. This site must be cleaned up now and Solvay must be stopped from dispersing these toxins into the environment.

REPORT FROM TRENTON

AG & DEP Hold Polluters Accountable in EJ Communities

From a press release issued on May 11, and edited by Tony Hagen

Environmental Justice Communities (EJCs) take the brunt of pollution from years of development and heavy concentrations of vehicle traffic. There was some relief promised for seven New Jersey EJCs in recent filings by the State’s Attorney General and DEP against nine businesses and individuals.

The overburdened communities are Camden, Trenton, Kearny, Secaucus, Edison, Bridgeton and Egg Harbor City. Two additional communities are under study: Butler and Vineland. The pollution is from leaking underground fuel storage tanks, and polluted waterways and sewer systems contaminated by uncovered waste and toxic byproducts.

State officials are seeking cleanup of the contaminated properties, compliance with DEP administrative orders and other DEP requirements, payment of civil penalties, and reimbursement to the State for the cost of site investigation, remediation, monitoring, and other related work.

While legal actions continue, activists for EJCs are pushing for earlier and broader adoption of zero emission vehicle (ZEV) regulations. Last year the state signaled its intent to cooperate with 14 other states including California in promoting sales of ZEVs. The goal is to ensure that 100 percent of all new medium- and heavy-duty vehicle sales be ZEVs by 2050, with an interim target of 30 percent ZEV sales by 2030.

Maria Lopez-Nuñez of the Ironbound Community Corporation, Newark, and Renée Pollard of the Sierra Club’s New Jersey Chapter wrote a guest editorial in the Star-Ledger [reprinted here, p. 4] calling attention to the need for improved air quality standards in EJCs, and noting that the New York-Newark metropolitan area is the 12th worst in the world for ozone smog. In Newark, one in every four children has asthma, which is three times the national average, they said.

California’s ZEV heavy-duty vehicle program is a model for other states but it doesn’t go far enough, Lopez-Nuñez and Pollard said. More frequent reporting requirements concerning truck fleet activity would ensure that our most vulnerable communities are protected from these major sources of pollution. New Jersey needs to adopt and strengthen California’s Advanced Clean Trucks rule quickly, they said.

REPORT FROM TRENTON

PVSC Will Reevaluate Construction of a Dirty Power Plant in Newark

From a press release issued on June 10th, and edited by Irene Gnarra

We are delighted that the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) has announced plans to reevaluate its proposal for a 34MW natural gas-fired electric power plant at the border of the Ironbound District of Newark, and has agreed to expand stakeholder engagement and start a public process to explore the use of renewable energy alternatives, including solar, tidal, hydro and wind power. It has withdrawn its application to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for an air permit, but it has done little yet to revise its project.

The plant would provide backup power to keep a sewage treatment plant running during disasters. The original proposal for the Standby Power Generation Facility would have emitted hundreds of tons of CO₂, NO_x, SO₂, suspended particulate matter, and volatile organic compounds per year. Renee Pollard, Chair of our Environmental and Social Justice Committee, welcomes the decision to reexamine the proposal that would threaten additional pollution in an area that already suffers from some of the worst air pollution in the country.

Another of the activists who has opposed the gas plant is Kim Gaddy, environmental justice director for the NJ Chapter of Clean Water Action. But Sam Di Falco, an organizer for that advocacy group, reports that the first open meeting, on July 22, was not fruitful. The PVSC attempted to “greenwash” its proposal, and failed to present alternative designs that might incorporate renewables. Instead, it argued that because the facility would be constructed near the Newark Liberty International Airport, wind turbines would not be feasible. It also claimed that no feasible amount of solar power would be adequate for the size of the sewage treatment plant. Di Falco and members of Food and Water Watch hope to work with renewable energy experts to propose possible solutions to these problems before the stakeholder meeting on August 12. Several pieces of legislation are also relevant to this project: see A2190, A3931, and S864.

Governor Murphy can halt the construction of the power plant. We note that the PVSC would be violating the Environmental Justice Cumulative Impact Law, which will go into effect in late 2021. The State Environmental Justice Law (NJSA 13:1D-157) requires the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to “evaluate the public health impacts of facilities on overburdened communities when reviewing certain permit applications.” We hope that the Ironbound never again experiences damages caused by the PVSC’s discharges of raw sewage in a storm surge, as it did during Superstorm Sandy.

(See related article below.)

REPORT FROM TRENTON

Hoboken Supports PVSC Alternative

From a July 8 press release written by Acting Chapter Director Taylor McFarland

There is much concern that the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) has applied to build a 34 MW backup gas-fired power plant in the Ironbound community of Newark, near its Sewage Treatment Plant that lost power during Hurricane Sandy (in 2012). Hoboken City Council has just passed a first city resolution in opposition.

A similar resolution is moving forward in Newark, originated by the Newark Environmental Commission. We await disposition by Newark’s Municipal Council on August 3.

The Sierra Club welcomes clean energy alternatives to a dirty gas plant will add hundreds of thousands of tons of CO₂ into an area that is already choking from pollution. Governor Murphy should consider this opposition as an alarm bell going off.