



DATED MATERIAL DO NOT DELAY

Nonprofit Organization-Sierra Club  
U.S. Postage PAID

# The Jersey..... SIERRAN

Vol. 49, No. 1      Approximately 21,000 Members in New Jersey      January-March 2020

## Political Chair's Report

### Successful Election – and the Year Ahead

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

2019 was a great year for our endorsed incumbents in Assembly races—all were victorious. It was a “so-so” year for our endorsed challengers in Assembly races: none were successful – but their average vote in their four districts improved from 39 to 44% relative to 2015 (the previous state-level mid-term election). In other races, our endorsed candidate Linda Hynes won her freeholder race in Burlington County and Melanie Marano has won her tight race for Somerset County freeholder.

#### Let's move on to 2020—year of the Big Bang.

We've survived three years of the Trump Administration, despite his efforts to foul our clean water and poison our air, shrink National Monuments, and endanger animals on the brink of extinction – all the while denying climate change. There's hope, at least, thanks to an environmentally-friendly House of Representatives which is now taking action to arrest the slide into environmental chaos.

A “green wave” swept across the nation in 2018, sprouting in New Jersey. Four Congressional seats were flipped in our state that year, adding to the seven seats already held by our environmental endorsees. Andy Kim, one of them, won election in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District by just under 4000 votes. This District (which includes Burlington and Ocean counties) is rated a toss-up in 2020, and will be targeted for pickup by Republicans. Other newcomers were Jeff Van Drew in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District (southern New Jersey) and Tom Malinowski in the 7<sup>th</sup> (Hunterdon and parts of five other counties) – both of these races are expected to be competitive. Malinowski already has a well-known opponent and Van Drew a well-funded opponent. The other – safer – pick-up in 2018 was Mikie Sherrill in the 11<sup>th</sup> District.

Each of these Representatives towers over her or his Republican predecessor. Rather than turn a blind eye to reality, they legislate to expand wilderness, fund

(Continued on page 2)

## Report from Trenton

### Gov. Murphy Praises Climate Activists, But Doesn't Listen to Them

Adapted from an op-ed article by Jeff Tittel, Director of the NJ Sierra Club



The last week of September saw international demands for action on Climate Change. At the UN, Greta Thunberg challenged world leaders and people across the globe. In New Jersey there were marches in Highland Park, Lambertville, Montclair, Morristown, New Brunswick, Princeton, Red Bank and Teaneck, with thousands of citizens demanding a moratorium on the use of fossil fuels. Other states are moving forward. But the slight progress in NJ is not nearly strong enough or quick enough.

We asked the Governor for a moratorium and for quicker action, Murphy responded that he supports the climate strikers, and he praised Thunberg's courage. But perhaps he doesn't understand what they are protesting for, or what Thunberg is speaking about. He may have called himself the greenest governor in the nation, but he is not. His boasting diverts attention away from his policies. Hawaii, Maine, California, Washington, and New York have committed to 100% renewable energy by 2050 or sooner. New Jersey's DEP has the authority to regulate greenhouse gases (GHG) but they have chosen not to.

Governor Murphy may be committed to 100% Clean Energy, but he now

defines it to include natural gas electricity with carbon sequestration, incinerators, and biomass. He may be inching forward on offshore wind, but it is not happening fast enough. His \$300 million nuclear subsidy takes money away from renewable energy, electric vehicles and energy efficiency programs. NJ's solar program is on the verge of collapse. The RGGI cap is too high, does not target benefits to EJ-overburdened communities, and the money can be spent subsidizing new natural gas power plants. Our state pension program has divested from guns but is still investing in fossil fuel. NJ should be suing fossil fuel companies on climate impacts, as other states are doing.

Greta Thunberg called for 80% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 worldwide; Murphy is not. Greta calls for an immediate halt to fossil fuel projects; the Murphy Administration will not stay the SRL Pipeline, and has approved four gas pipelines, two gas power plants, and an LNG terminal, and permits are pending for 15 other fossil fuel projects.

Gov. Murphy claims to support the climate strikers, but he doesn't support the Green New Deal, 100% renewable energy, zero carbon, or a moratorium. He wrongly claims not to have the power to order a moratorium on fossil fuels. In the last 40 years, six NJ Governors have imposed moratoriums. Governor Byrne put one on development in the Pinelands until the Pinelands act was passed, Kean did similarly on wetlands before the Wetlands Act was passed, and Whitman froze development to improve water quality planning.

The NJ Sierra Club calls for 100% renewable energy by 2035, zero carbon by 2050, and reopening the Office of Climate Change and Adaptation.

## Welcoming Megan Steele, the Chapter's new Administrative Assistant – with the usual interview:

#### What's your environmental background?

I earned a BS in Ecology and Evolution from The Ohio State University and an MS in Environmental Science from Trinity College, Dublin (Irish Republic). I grew up on a small farm near Cincinnati, Ohio, exploring its 200 acres of forests and pastures while my parents worked the fields. My family hiked and explored many state and national parks in the Midwest, including Cumberland Gap, Mammoth Cave, the Great Smoky Mountains, and Hocking Hills. Later, in Dublin, I got to the Burren and Wicklow Mountains, to Krka National Park in Croatia and Nikkō National Park in Japan. I worked as Information and Communications Assistant for a music nonprofit in Dublin, and later as a GIS Technician for the Irish Department of Agriculture.

#### What environmental issues concern you the most?

My graduate study was on sustainable urban development, and included a literature review of nature-based solutions in European cities; my dissertation was on quantifying and increasing urban biodiversity in North Dublin. Land preservation has also been important to me, probably because I grew up on a farm that was on protected land. I am also interested in habitat conservation and clean energy technologies.

#### What does your Sierra Club job consist of?

I am excited to be working with Jeff Tittel and Taylor McFarland in the Club's Trenton office! I hope to bring my experience in communications and my environmental science education to this posi-

tion. I will be improving our social media presence, creating media material, scheduling events, and lobbying for environmental legislation in the Statehouse. I am enjoying learning more about New Jersey's environmental prospects and gaining experience in environmental policy. And, of course, I can't wait to explore the wide variety of beautiful natural areas that New Jersey has to offer!

#### Might you have a personal success story to tell?

When I started as an undergraduate, I wanted to become a veterinarian. I love animals, and I thought a veterinary degree would make me feel (and look) like I had my life together. Then in 2015 I traveled to Costa Rica with a group of other vet and pre-vet students – to volunteer in spay and neuter clinics. This trip was one of the best (and most stressful) of my life to date: complete mayhem: eight or nine hours of examining animals, inserting IV catheters, assisting surgeons, and cleaning equipment. I was so overwhelmed I wanted to quit at first. But I persisted, and I am so glad I did. In those short weeks I made life-long friends, and proved to myself that I can survive high pressure and stress. Ultimately I decided that impressing people with a vet degree wasn't enough reason to drown in student debt, but I remain grateful that I had the opportunity to experience Costa Rica. It taught me what I can handle, a lesson I will never forget.



## Our Heroes Feted at Annual "Appreciation Day" Party, Nov 17

Supplied by Ken Johanson

Our awardees in 2019 were Freshman Congressman **Tom Malinowski** (D, 7) for opposing pipelines and offshore drilling, **Kevin Brown**, a union leader who promotes green jobs and lead pipe removal, **Ananya Singh**, a 16-year-old environmental activist, and **Paul Sanderson**, our volunteer of the year: Chapter Treasurer, Group Chair, Publisher of this newsletter, and much else. Photos will be in our April-June issue.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Special Club Ballot . . . . .	2	On the Trail with Inner City Children . . .	10
Report on National Sierra Club . . . . .	2	Winter Outings . . . . .	11-12
Conservation Chair: Renewables . . .	2	Leaders, Meetings, Membership Form .	12
Chair's Message: Inner City Outings . . .	3		
Editorial: Highway Rockfall . . . . .	3		
Legislation for Plant Protection . . . . .	3		
ExCom's Fall Resolutions . . . . .	3		
Psychologist's Column: EcoAnxiety . . . .	4		
Utah and the Environment . . . . .	4		
Lifestyle: Raingarden Project . . . . .	4		
Reports from Trenton: American Dream Mall, Hurricane Sandy, Climate Risk (Zillow), Solar Farm for Toms River, Plastics Ban . . . . .	5		
Group News . . . . .	6-10		

**More in our Electronic Supplement (pp. 13-16): Contributions from Members:** Fossil Fuel, Voting, Lobby Request, Chevy Volt, Fitness Clubs Muckraked, Swimming Pool Wastewater. **Reports from Trenton:** Endangered Species Act, EPA Water Protections, Swimming in NJ State Parks, Algal Blooms in NJ Lakes, Climate Data, RGGI, Ocean Co. Dump Atrocity, PennEast Pipeline, Pollution in EJ Communities.

# Special Sierra Club Election Ballot

Members of three of our twelve regional Groups are invited to participate in a Special Election for their Group. If you don't know your Group, and are reading a print subscription copy of this newsletter, you can identify your Group by the 4-digit code after the hyphen at the end of the top line of your mailing label:

Central Jersey Group (code 4001)  
Raritan Valley Group (code 4008)  
Hunterdon Warren (formerly South Highlands) Group (code 4011)

Proposed bylaw changes below have been approved by the respective Group Executive Committees (ExComs), by the NJ Chapter ExCom, and by the Club's National Office of Chapter Support. Group members have the final say regarding the proposed bylaw changes.

Please vote a Group ballot only if you are a member of that Group, as shown on your mailing label, or as deduced otherwise. You must choose between voting online and voting by this paper ballot.

**To vote online:** If the Sierra Club has your email address and has permission to send you emails, Group members will receive an email containing a link to an electronic ballot. Click on the link; in the form that it is displayed, select your Group and enter your name. If you have a joint membership, the second member can vote by repeating the process but entering the second member's name on the form.

**To vote by this paper ballot:** please vote your Group's portion of the ballot below, then clip the ENTIRE ballot on the heavy-dashed line, and return it your own envelope, to arrive by Feb 1, 2020, to **Sierra Club Ballot, 143 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618**. Pairs of boxes are to enable both members of a joint membership to cast separate votes. Note that a properly-clipped ballot will include the mailing label overleaf. This is to verify your Group and membership; it will be removed before ballots are counted.

If you vote by both paper and electronic ballots, the paper ballot will not be counted.

## Ballot for Central Jersey Group members:

The Group ExCom has proposed changing the number of members on the Group ExCom from nine to five. Do you approve this change?

Yes  No

## Candidates for positions on the Group ExCom:

If the bylaw amendment above is approved, then the top 3 vote-getters will be elected to two-year terms. If the bylaw amendment is not approved, then 7 will be elected: the top 4 vote-getters will be elected to two-year terms, and the next 3 vote-getters elected to one-year terms.

Vote for UP TO SEVEN.

Joanne Pannone  
 Kip Cherry  
 Arlene Ceterski  
 Leona Fluck

George Fluck  
 Write-in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write-in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write-in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

**Statement by Candidate:** (Of the five candidates, only one has submitted a statement.)

**Joanne Pannone:** I joined Sierra Club in 1992 and am proud to be a member of conservationists who want clean air and clean water, and a healthy environment. I am a Rutgers Master Gardener, a Rutgers Environmental Steward, and a Grandmother who has hope for winning the climate-change battles to come.

## Ballot for Raritan Valley Group members

The Group ExCom has proposed changing the number of members on the Group ExCom from nine to five. Do you approve this change?

Yes  No

## Candidates for positions on the Group ExCom:

If the bylaw amendment above is approved, then the top 2 vote-getters will be elected to two-year terms. If the bylaw amendment is not approved, then 6 will be elected: the top 5 vote-getters to two-year terms, and the next vote-getter to a one-year term.

Vote for UP TO SIX.

Kevin Corcoran  
 Teresa Callahan  
 Barry Kutch  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

## Statements by candidates:

**Kevin Corcoran:** I co-founded the Central Jersey Safe Energy Coalition in 2016 to fight the proposed Williams/Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) pipeline. Our organization has partnered with several other environmentally concerned groups, and to date, we have succeeded in delaying it. Now I'd like to help the RVG in its efforts.

**Teresa Callahan:** I am Political Chair of the group and live in Somerset County. Most of my life I've worked to protect wildlife and uphold the Endangered Species Act. This year, I helped organize an important group speaking event on threats to pollinating insects. I think my knowledge of national environmental issues and politics would make a valuable contribution to the group.

**Barry Kutch:** Focus, commitment and accomplishment predict success. My environmental involvement began in 2016. Determined to stop Williams' NESE pipeline project, I have devoted thousands of hours co-founding Central Jersey Safe Energy Coalition, addressing hundreds on NESE's dangers, working with attorneys, elected officials, and environmental organizations. NESE has been delayed 1+ year.

## Ballot for Hunterdon Warren (formerly South Highlands) Group members

The Group ExCom has proposed changing the required frequency of Group ExCom meetings from monthly to four times per year. Do you approve this change?

Yes  No

## Report from California

# The Big Picture: Report from the Council of Club Leaders

By Joe Testa, our delegate ([secretary@newjersey.sierraclub.org](mailto:secretary@newjersey.sierraclub.org))



The Council of Club Leaders (CCL) consists of one representative from each of the 63 Sierra Club chapters across the country. I am your representative from the NJ Chapter and attended this year's meeting in September at Sierra Club HQ. The Board of Directors is the official national policy-setting body of the Sierra Club; it meets over the same long weekend, so there can be interaction.

These meetings are a major forum for National leadership to share information with the Chapters, and for Chapters to share their local concerns with the Board. This year, the CCL adopted resolutions asking the Board to:

- Discontinue the use of plastic packaging for Sierra Club calendars and other products.

- Support establishing the "Range of Light" National Monument in California to protect federal land between Yosemite and Kings Canyon National Parks.

- Oppose the European Energy Security and Diversification Act of 2019 (H.R. 1616), or any similar legislation that supports the fossil fuel industry and impacts global climate policies.

- Establish an Environmental Justice campaign that addresses social, economic and structural issues impacting residents living beside hyper-polluters, by supporting a community-science network of PM-2.5 air pollution sensors to capture real-time local data for effective emissions enforcement, and apply pressure on regulatory agencies to address air pollution not captured by traditional modeling methods.

- Elevate the status of the Club's local outings program by moving its oversight to a more influential place in the Club bureaucracy. There are more than 250,000 participants in Club outings each year.

- Actively support gray wolf restoration to Colorado through financial support for the passage of a Colorado ballot initiative on the subject.

- Recognize the critical intersection between climate and human migration issues, and endorse policies that support dignity for migrants, including abolishing Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE), decriminalizing migration, reuniting all separated families, and halting the deportation of people not convicted of serious crimes.

- Update the Club's policy on light pollution, since the current policy does not address the negative impact of light pollution on flora and fauna, does not consider that light pollution is becoming a problem in rural areas as well as in urban and suburban areas, and does not take into account the availability of new technologies to provide cost-effective ways to decrease the impact of light pollution. (This resolution was sponsored by the NJ Chapter.)

- Develop and support a national "Climate Change Education Day" for kindergarten through high school students.

- Expand the Nuclear Free Campaign with a full-time paid organizer to support activities that focus on civilian and military nuclear power-related issues, including uranium mining and processing, energy fuel usage and/or weaponization, and waste disposal.

The Board will respond to these requests over the course of the next year.

We learned that the Club's national strategic plan is guided by the objective of reducing the use of petroleum products 50% by 2030, and achieving 100% clean energy by 2050. Club campaigns

## Conservation Chair's Report

# The Rise of Renewables

By Greg Gorman ([ggorman07419@embarqmail.com](mailto:ggorman07419@embarqmail.com))

The adoption of solar and wind sources of electricity, and energy storage technologies, will disrupt energy markets as prices drop. Indeed, recent data shows the disruption is already taking place. Competitive energy auctions to replace coal plants resulted in awards to renewable and energy storage over new natural gas plants in Indiana. Rhode Island denied a new gas-fired power plant, pointing to lengthy delays in the proceedings that allowed market changes and the growth of renewable energy to overtake any need for the project. (<https://ieefa.org/shifting-markets-renewables-put-the-kibosh-on-a-1000mw-rhode-island-gas-plant/>). Exponential price reduction trends for Clean Energy Technologies are expected to continue.

In response to the Polar Vortex of 2014, when 22% of our regional (PJM) electricity generation was unexpectedly shut down, PJM changed the regulations to improve reliability by incentivizing capacity resources to be available whenever they are needed. This rule encourages Distributed Energy Resources and grid-scale energy storage. Wind power generation will be the major beneficiary of grid-scale energy storage – which modulates power demands during peak periods and compensates for the effects of intermittent service.

The PJM rule-change also expands the opportunity for industrial and commercial entities to participate in Demand Response – a tool to reduce or shift electricity usage during peak periods by means of time-based rates or other financial incentives. On-site Distributed Energy Resources, optimized by combining solar and energy storage, allows customers to curtail grid energy sources

are being considered for tackling each of these aspects of the climate crisis:

- Climate change adaptation, planning, funding
- Extreme weather and climate disaster preparation, recovery, and relocation
- Forest protection and restoration, including urban forests

without interrupting operations or services. This turns energy from a cost to a revenue stream.

Political and community preferences are also driving the growth of renewables. NJ's draft Energy Master Plan places a priority on energy efficiency and electrification of the transportation system. Piscataway's voters approved a "Community Aggregation" program that will provide 100% renewable power by 2035. Sussex Rural Electric Association, a Federal chartered electric provider, has connected Sussex Solar Gardens, New Jersey's first community solar project. NJ's BPU pilot community solar projects will soon become reality, as well as NJ off-shore wind.

These trends are worldwide. Between 2010 and 2019, some 638 gigawatts of solar power have been added, outpacing coal's 529 gigawatts, wind's 487 gigawatts, and gas-fired generation's 438 gigawatts. (<https://ieefa.org/wind-and-solar-continue-to-win-the-global-electricity-cost-war/>). Two-thirds of the world's population live in countries where either solar or wind is now the cheapest choice for electricity generation – in terms of all-in costs. (<https://ieefa.org/wind-and-solar-continue-to-win-the-global-electricity-cost-war/>)

The transition to a clean energy economy is necessary to protect our planet, reduce pollution, and ensure profitability. Now is the time for pension funds to divest from fossil fuels and establish a "Fossil Free" Energy Portfolio.

- Wetlands protection and restoration
- Regenerative agriculture practices
- Ecosystem resilience and restoration

It will take efforts (and funding) at both the National and Chapter levels to successfully carry out these campaigns. I would welcome the opportunity to elaborate on this report.



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

## Editorial A Rock Falls on I-80

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



The last mile of I-80 westbound, approaching the Delaware Water Gap and the bridge into Pennsylvania, follows the Delaware River upstream through Knowlton and Hardwick, past a spectacular vertical face of crumbling sedimentary rock and an adjacent slope of talus, viewed best from the Pennsylvania side of the River (or with a camera mounted on a drone).

The Chapter's monthly Conservation Committee meeting, on Nov 9 in Highland Park, was devoted entirely to a presentation and discussion of NJDOT's proposal to protect that Interstate Highway from the continuing danger of rockfalls. The mayors of both communities were present, and the team from NJDOT included one geologist, three civil highway engineers, and two "community relations" specialists, led by NJDOT Acting Director Jessica Franzini, who contributed details to this editorial, including two sentences in quotation marks, and approved its publication.

Their powerpoint presentation included details of 28 rockfall "incidents" since 2001, resulting in 14 motor vehicle crashes and one fatality. They were quick to explain that the proposed \$47M construction cost is federally funded and dedicated to rockfall mitigation. If it isn't spent on this project, it will be spent on another rockfall priority in the state.

They were also careful to assure us that traffic on I-80 would continue unimpeded during the construction period, by temporarily shifting all four lanes. We were shown options for the appearance

of a 60-foot, inclined stone berm that would be constructed to catch the falling rock, including vegetation alternatives, along with shorter 5-10-foot rock berms along the project area.

The two mayors were clearly unimpressed, preferring the "no build" option, one estimating that the current lifetime risk of rockfall death, for a daily commuter on I-80, is one in three million. (Of course that translates to one seventieth of a statistical death as often as three million daily commuters navigate the road. Guessing once a decade? Perhaps in line with the USGS statistics reported by the team: 25-50 deaths per year nationwide from falling rock.) And of course there are other benefits from rockfall mitigation: fewer non-fatal incidents and the reduced cost of highway maintenance. "FYI - the Average Annual Daily Traffic on I-80 in this area is just over 55,000 vehicles per day in both directions."

One of us asked how many deaths it takes at a road intersection to merit a traffic light. Answer: "All requests for traffic lights on state roadways are investigated by the NJDOT to determine if they are warranted."

Several years ago, the Club took a position for "no build." But that was before the current options were scoped, and when it was thought that the project would impact the Appalachian Trail. Our primary concern is usually to protect wilderness, which includes native animal and plant wildlife, and (to a lesser extent) the viewsapes experienced on the trail. In the grand scheme of things, I suggest this is not now an issue for us.

## Chair's Message A Well Earned Thank You – and a New Volunteer Opportunity

By Richard Isaac (risaacx@aol.com)



After many years as Chair of our Chapter's 'Introducing Children to the Outdoors Section' (ICO), Marty Cohen has retired. Please read his resignation letter (and plea) in the "On the Trail" column on p. 10 of this newsletter.

Under Marty's leadership, hundreds of children living in economically disadvantaged areas of our state have had the opportunity to go on nature outings and experience the wonders of the natural world.

On behalf of the Chapter, I offer Marty our sincere thanks and appreciation for all he gave to those children - and to our environment.

Thus we now have a new volunteer opportunity: for an individual who would like to offer children some of the excitement of the great outdoors.

Marty would be glad to serve as a resource: providing guidance to anyone willing to take over from him.

The position requires training (OLT 101) - plus the first aid certification of all outings leaders - plus familiarity with local Club policies and procedures pertaining to the Chapter's ICO Program.

If you're interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact me: (H) 973-7167-0297 and/or richard.isaac@sierraclub.org.

## Legislative Entreaty

# Pass the NJ Endangered & Threatened Plant Protection Act

by Ryan Rebozo PhD, Director of Conservation Science, NJ Conservation Foundation, and published with the approval of our Chapter Conservation Committee and Editorial Board

Even though New Jersey has a list of rare and endangered plant species, these plants are not yet protected by state law.

Assemblymen Herb Conaway and Kevin Rooney have teamed up to co-sponsor bill A5201, the **New Jersey Endangered and Threatened Plant Protection Act**, which will offer protection to New Jersey's rare plant species.

New Jersey is home to over 2000 native plant species, of which 18% are currently at risk for extinction. Unlike animals, rare plants do not have statewide protections and do not have a recognized threatened category. Plant protections do exist regionally under Highlands and Pinelands legislation, but even those regulations don't cover all of our rare plant species.

This legislation would protect our rare plants from intentional damage and sale or transport - with some exceptions. The bill would also establish a threatened category for plants, using language that is consistent with that of other states and the federal government. It would also direct the commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to establish an "Endangered and Threatened Plant Species Advisory Committee."

This committee would be tasked with developing conservation plans for priority rare species, extending the list of species as appropriate, and then shortening the list as protection efforts prove successful.

Biologists have long been aware of New Jersey's extraordinary flora. Yet we lag far behind other states in rare plant protections. Though densely populated,

the state boasts dramatic floral diversity, due in part to its geological diversity. Our plant diversity is under threat: from 2006 to 2016, 26 species were added to the endangered list, and six went locally extinct. Four species of plants exist only in New Jersey, and we harbor 42 globally rare species.

Compare this to the protections that exist for wildlife. In 1973 the NJ Endangered Species Conservation Act was signed, which protects and restores endangered and threatened animal wildlife. This legislation led to the Endangered and Nongame Species Program. Currently, 35 animal species are listed as endangered and 25 are threatened. The Act has protected our wildlife from capture, kill, harassment, habitat destruction, over-exploitation, and pollution for close to 40 years - it's about time we protect our botanical heritage as well. Plant and animal communities are inextricably intertwined. Plants provision the animal wildlife food-chain and provide habitat.

This bill is currently in the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, the members of which are Eric Houghtaling (Chair, D, 11), Adam Taliaferro (Vice-Chair, D, 3), Clinton Calabrese (D, 36), Ronald Dancer (R, 12), Matthew Milam (D, 1) and Parker Space (R, 24). It has not moved since it was introduced on March 18, 2019. Contact the members of this committee and let them know you want to see this bill passed through committee. Then let your senator know you want to see a senate version of this important legislation.

## ELECTION RECAP

(Continued from page 1)

national parks, curb climate change, and protect our shores from oil and gas development. We honor them with early endorsement for re-election in 2020, along with our other seven "tenured" Democratic Members of Congress.

One thing you can do is take Debbie Young's advice (p.4). Another, when the time comes, is to trot down to the campaign office of your Congressperson and start stuffing envelopes, making phone calls, knocking on doors, and posting on social media. All Club members ought to

get involved in the Congressional races in 2020, especially the competitive ones. For more information, please contact me at political.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org.

Here is our full current list of 2020 endorsees: Rep. Donald Norcross (D-1), Rep. Jeff Van Drew (D-2), Rep. Andy Kim (D-3), Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-5), Rep. Frank Pallone (D-6), Rep. Tom Malinowski (D-7), Rep. Albio Sires (D-8), Rep. William Pascrell (D-9), Rep. Donald Payne Jr. (D-10), Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-11), and Rep. Bonnie Watson-Coleman (D-12).

## Resolutions: Approved by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in September, October and Nov. 2019

**Sept:** We urged reconstruction and enlargement of the existing Port Authority Bus Terminal, in New York City, as the environmentally best way to improve public transit for commuters into and out of Manhattan.

We allowed the Raritan Valley and Central Jersey Groups to downsize their Executive Committees. It is becoming harder to find members willing to serve as Group officers. These changes require approval by those Groups' members by means of the ballot on p.2 of this newsletter.

Additional political endorsements for the General Election on Nov. 5.

**Oct:** More political endorsements for the General Election, included in John Kashwick's political report. And more early federal endorsements for the November election in 2020: now extending to ALL Democratic Party Congressional incumbents.

We approved renaming the South Highlands Group as the Hunterdon Warren Group, and to change the mandated frequency of that Group's ExCom meetings. The latter change requires approval by the Group's members by means of the ballot on p.2 of this newsletter.

**Nov:** We resolved to remind Bergen County to include the Northern Valley Greenway, a project supported by our North Jersey Group, in its Parks Master Plan.

Strong opposition was taken to a proposal to "manage" forests traversed by the Highlands Trail in Mahlon-Dickerson Reservation in Morris County.

We voted corrections to the Club's inaccurate assignment of postal ZIP Codes to some of our regional groups.

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

### YOU HAVE MORE TO GIVE THAN YOU KNOW

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

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

## Report from our Psychologist for Sustainability

## Skies are Empty and Eco-Anxiety is On the Rise

By Claudia Mausner, (C.Mausner.PhD@gmail.com)



I read and reread the statistics because I couldn't believe my eyes: "The number of birds in the United States and Canada has fallen by 29% since 1970" (Zimmer, 9/19/19). Sure, I had noticed fewer migrating birds in flocks overhead; bird feeder with fewer visitors and less species diversity; longer stretches on forest hikes unaccompanied by bird song. Loss of habitat due to rising sea levels, warming temperatures, ocean acidification and the myriad other climate-related changes are mounting quite an assault on the bird population, part of the notorious "sixth mass extinction".

When faced with such daunting statistics, along with direct experience, it is not surprising that unconscious defense mechanisms shift into high gear. Both professionals and amateur birders were "stunned", "afraid" and "appalled" by the "staggering" numbers in this groundbreaking research published in the journal *Science* and reported in the New York Times. These strong emotional reactions may be reflected in the newly coined term *eco-anxiety*, defined as "chronic fear of environmental doom" (Clayton et al., 68). For many people, defense mechanisms such as *denial* or *apathy* can be provoked by these alarming findings. Based on her sociological research into climate change, Kari Norgaard explains: "It's not that people don't care and it's not that they don't know, but it has to do with how we manage very disturbing information" (Norgaard cited in Flam, 2019). How ironic that defense mechanisms which evolved to protect our psychological health can prevent us from taking action to stem our physical demise.

While searching the academic literature for references to *eco-anxiety*, I happened upon a transformative book of essays titled *Confessions of a Recovering Environmentalist* (Kingsnorth, 2017). After years of campaigning, letter-writing and demonstrations that left him depressed, cynical and burned out, the author moved with his wife and children from the "comfortable" English suburbs to the rural Scottish countryside, where they began a new life consistent with their "eco-centric" values. Kingsnorth offers a stinging rebuke of mainstream environmentalism by arguing that its current paradigm, shaped by the supposedly "neutral gaze of Science", uses "mind-numbing numbers . . . as if the world were a giant spreadsheet that needs only to be balanced correctly" (44-45).

Psychoanalytic research conducted by Renee Lertzman, and published in her book *Environmental Melancholia* (2016), supports Kingsnorth's thesis. Her findings debunk the "rational actor model" embraced by the environmental movement, with its false premise that more facts, more information and more data will deepen environmental concern and spur people to action (Fisher, 2016). Too often people who appear apathetic are "shamed" or "patronized" by environmentalists according to Lertzman; her research suggests that a "nonjudgmental" approach would be far more effective, with "collaborative and participatory" strategies used to discourage psychological avoidance and foster increased engagement.

Eco-philosopher Joanna Macy and psychologist Chris Johnstone (2012) have found that *eco-anxiety* can also be exacerbated by lack of community, as people

frequently encounter social resistance from the cultural taboo against discussing that which is too depressing. Through years of scholarship and activism, Macy has developed "deep ecology" workshops that energize and empower participants as they release feelings of "outrage, alarm, grief, guilt, dread, and despair" (67) at our current environmental predicament. In working with local communities she has created ceremonies to honor destroyed ecosystems or extinct species, and has organized "study-action groups" in which members learn about environmental issues, spread newfound knowledge to their communities, use this knowledge to implement environmental changes, and actively support one another in maintaining a strong commitment to the group's work.

Kingsnorth appears cautiously optimistic in suggesting that, "When things fall apart, the appetite for new ways of seeing is palpable" (p. 9). After rebounding from his own burnout, the author realized that *activism* should be redefined to include the role of creative work and the importance of living in synch with one's pro-environmental values. He urges environmentalists to use narratives – not just numbers – since people "think primarily in stories, not statistics" (86), and is adamant that new narratives are needed to replace "the myth of progress, the myth of human centrality, and the myth of our separation from 'nature'" embedded in Western, middle class society where most (predominantly white) environmentalists reside (Kingsnorth, 283). A similar sentiment is articulated by Macy as she reminds us that, "In rising to the challenge of playing our best role, we discover something precious that both enriches our lives and adds to the healing of our world. An oyster, in response to trauma, grows a pearl. We grow, and offer our gift of Active Hope" (Macy & Johnstone, 238).

I would be remiss in concluding this column without a direct admonition to you, the reader. If you are kept awake at night by concerns about the climate crisis and ecological degradation, I urge you to become more actively engaged with your local Sierra Club Group. The evidence is clear: that by helping to build community, learn more, and have fun, you will celebrate your way out of despair, and actively counteract those thoughts that could ultimately fuel your paralysis.

## References

- Fisher, A. (2016). Going deep. A review of *Environmental Melancholia*. Book Review, *Ecopsychology*. <https://reneeclertzman.com/a-review-of-environmental-melancholia-2/>
- Flam, Faye (10/22/2019). We're all in denial about climate change. Bloomberg News, Reprinted in Atlantic City Press, Op-Ed. Retrieved October 28, 2019: [https://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/opinion/commentary/we-re-all-in-denial-about-climate-change/article\\_74d1219a-6259-584c-9a0a-6914d50f2f07.html](https://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/opinion/commentary/we-re-all-in-denial-about-climate-change/article_74d1219a-6259-584c-9a0a-6914d50f2f07.html)
- Kingsnorth, P. (2017). *Confessions of a recovering environmentalist and other essays*. Minneapolis, MN: Graywolf Press.
- Lertzman, Renee (2016). *Environmental Melancholia: Psychoanalytic Dimensions of Engagement*. Routledge Press.
- Macy, J. and Johnstone, C. (2012). *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in Without Going Crazy*. New World Library, Novato, CA.
- Clayton, S., Manning, C., Krygsman, K. and Speiser, M. (2017). Mental Health and Our Changing Climate: Impacts, Implications and Guidance. Report published by American Psychological Association, Eco-America, Climate for Health. Retrieved 11/5/2019: <https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2017/03/mental-health-climate.pdf>
- Norgaard, K. M. (2011). *Living in Denial: Climate Change, Emotions and*

## Issue Coordinator's Report

## What Could Possibly Go Wrong with Our Public Lands?

By our Utah Wilderness Issues Coordinator, Debbie Young (debyoung31@comcast.net)

The current Trump Administration has rolled back the previous (Obama) EPA's steps to reduce methane leaking from operations of the oil and gas industry. Methane is one of the worst greenhouse gasses with respect to Climate Change.

Factor Trump's opening up of National Monument land to energy extraction, and we have a perfect storm: simultaneous fouling of our air and pristine lands!

What CAN and what SHOULD we be doing about it? Thanks for asking! How many of us have let our Congressional Representative know that we are taking notes, and awaiting news of her/his efforts both on the legislative floor and behind the scenes.

Not an issue in NJ? Think again. America's public lands belong to ALL of us, and we ALL breathe the air.

## Sustainable Lifestyle

## Planting Rain Gardens in the Whale Pond Brook Watershed

By Faith Teitelbaum, Conservation Co-Chair of our Jersey Shore Group (Faithte@aol.com)

Last September, public works crews from three towns on the Whale Pond Brook Watershed heard Dr. Chris Obropta, of Rutgers University's Water Resources Program, explain how towns can build rain gardens.

This Monmouth County six-mile brook and its watershed extend from Tinton Falls to Long Branch and the Atlantic Ocean.

In mid-October, the first shovel hit the ground for a rain garden in Ocean Township as volunteers from the Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association, Jersey Shore Sierra, and Rutgers' Water



Whale Pond Watershed volunteers have begun planting a rain garden in Ocean Township.

Resources staff members started digging in the first plants.

The Watershed Association hopes that all the communities along Whale Brook will begin planting their own rain gardens: shallow, landscaped basins that slow storm water runoff by letting it seep into the ground. By preventing storm water from flowing directly into brooks, the basins prevent local flooding, bank erosion, creek turbidity, and distribution of litter.

Over the past few years, the Association has also removed truckloads of garbage from the Brook, cleared out overgrown brush, restored a small stone mid-stream structure, and planted a native flower garden on what will eventually become a six-mile brookside trail.

I helped found the Association about six years ago. Its volunteers now include members of other environmental groups, Boy Scouts, high school and Monmouth University students, and local citizens. Our rehabilitation efforts enjoy the support of local municipal officials as well as county and DEP environmental consultants.



Ocean DPW prepares the basin



Volunteers plant the day after the basin is completed

## Annual Reorganization Meeting: Jan. 11

All Sierra Club members are welcome to attend the January meeting of our Executive Committee (and, indeed, ALL of its monthly meetings), to be held, tentatively, at 1pm at the Hamilton Twp (Mercer Co) Public Library: 1 Justice Samuel Alito Jr. Way. We will elect our Chapter Chair, and make other officer appointments, as well as decide on campaign priorities for 2020. Jeff Tittel, our Chapter Director, will report on happenings in State government.

lished by American Psychological Association, Eco-America, Climate for Health. Retrieved 11/5/2019: <https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2017/03/mental-health-climate.pdf>

Norgaard, K. M. (2011). *Living in Denial: Climate Change, Emotions and*

*Everyday Life*. MIT Press.

Zimmer, Carl (September 19, 2019). Birds are Vanishing from North America. New York Times Science Section. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/19/science/bird-populations-america-canada.html>. Retrieved 10/28/2019.

Reports from Trenton

# American Dream Opens to Problems and Confusion

From a press release issued on Oct 25, edited by Joe Testa

The grand opening for part of the American Dream Mall, in the Bergen County Meadowlands, occurred on October 25. The Mall took more than 17 years to build. Construction workers were still working on other parts of the Mall. The waterpark and ski / snowboard facility were scheduled to open by early December, and the retail portion in March. When finished, there will be 3 million square feet: 55% for entertainment and 45% for retail. There are 11,000 parking spaces, plus 22,000 shared with nearby MetLife Stadium on non-event days.

As more of the Mall opens, we anticipate that the “American Dream” will become the “American Nightmare” with respect to traffic. Malls are dying across the country. Investing in this one makes no sense, especially considering the \$2 billion in subsidies that have gone into it. The Sierra Club has been fighting it for 20 years because it’s too large, it’s in an environmentally sensitive area, and it will cause heavy pollution and traffic. The project anticipates more than 150,000 cars a day, gridlocking an area already overburdened with traffic. The Murphy Administration proposed a rail-access plan that would cost \$1-2 billion, but NJ Transit is crumbling. That money could have been used to finish the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail, or for other important improvements for NJ Transit.

The Mall site flooded during Hurricane Sandy. Its water park is built on wetlands, which leaves it vulnerable to the effects of sea-level rise and storm surges. Studies have shown that the entire area will end up under three feet of water. The site is important to migratory birds. The EPA and Fish & Wildlife under President George W. Bush opposed the project because of anticipated environmental impacts.

We think the \$1.15 billion of taxpayer cash could have been better used for building schools and colleges, removing lead from drinking water, and cleaning up toxic sites. It’s hard to imagine what will be worse: pollution and traffic if the American Dream succeeds, or the waste of public money if it fails.

# New Zillow Report: NJ Most At Climate Risk

From a press release issued on August 27, edited by Tony Hagen

An update on risky housing development in flood zones puts New Jersey near the top in the nation for this kind of brinkmanship. Since 2009, housing growth in the ten-year flood risk zone in the Garden State occurred at two to three times the rate in safer areas, according to the report from Climate Central and Zillow, an American online real estate database company. In all coastal states, housing growth in the ten-year flood risk zone was occurring at faster rates than in safer zones.

Since 2009, New Jersey has built more than 4,500 homes in the ten-year flood risk zone, topping the nation for this rate of development. This represents 2.7 times the growth rate in safer areas.

Two New Jersey counties head the top ten counties nationally for this kind of building: Ocean and Cape May Counties, with 2,306 and 1,274 houses respectively. Atlantic and Monmouth Counties were also on the national top ten list.

Building in flood zones is shortsighted, the report said, because scientists are convinced that climate change is going to increase the frequency of flooding. Translation: New Jersey is building itself into a very vulnerable position.

The New Jersey Sierra Club has called upon the Murphy Administration to implement a climate adaptation and mitigation plan—and join many other states that have already done so. We lament that our state government lacks the sense of urgency for this. Our flood plain maps are out of date. Furthermore, NJ’s Hurricane Sandy Blue Acres program, intended to buy Sandy-damaged houses rather than allow their rebuilding, especially along the coast, has failed in its original mission and been recast as a general repurchase program for flood-zone housing around the state.

The evidence for sea level rise in Shore communities includes the frequency of storm-sewer backups and sea creatures moving into the underground pipe structure. Seawater has intruded into groundwater in places (especially in Cape May Co.), turning it to brine. Rutgers scientists predict a one-foot rise in sea level by 2050. The Climate Central-Zillow report includes an analysis that suggests that modest cuts to carbon emissions could prevent more than 270,000 homes in New Jersey from ending up in the ten-year flood risk zone by 2100, owing to climate change.

To see the report, visit <https://bit.ly/2NrMFih>

# Plastic Ban in Camden Co. - Statewide Ban Needed

From a press release issued on Sept 18, edited by Sylvia Kay

On Sept 17, the Camden County Freeholders approved a ban on the use of plastic bags, straws, foam (polystyrene) food containers, utensils, and other single use plastic items at county facilities and events. The ordinance requires merchants to charge at least ten cents for recyclable paper bags. The ban takes effect Jan 1. While the County ordinance is significant, a state-wide ban would be a more-effective remedy for the immense environmental and health problems associated with accumulating plastic waste.

Plastic items, including microplastics (5mm or less), are not polluting just the Pacific Ocean. Rutgers scientists recently found densities of approximately 28,000 to more than three million plastic particles per square kilometer of surface in the Passaic and Raritan Rivers. More than 80% of the trash found on beaches at the New Jersey shore is plastic. Microplastics have entered aquatic food chains and drinking water; foam containers contain toxins including stearate, which has been linked to cancer.

# Seventh Anniversary of Superstorm Sandy: NJ More Vulnerable Now

By Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club

October 29<sup>th</sup> was the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hurricane Sandy’s passage over New Jersey; its impact will long be remembered. Many of the affected are still homeless. But future storms will be much worse! A Rutgers study predicts sea level rise of almost three feet by 2100, and warming oceans will produce more and more-severe hurricanes.

Just this past October, Tropical storm Melissa eroded more than a dozen New Jersey beaches. Some lost half a million cubic feet of sand. We will spend millions of dollars to replace that sand.

We think New Jersey needs to develop a comprehensive plan for the shore that includes adaptation to climate change, preparation for sea level rise, and restoration of natural ecosystems. There is no current program that requires towns to protect and maintain their dunes. We should also be increasing our coastal buyout programs to move people out of harm’s way.

Since Sandy, New Jersey has built 4,524 new homes in high flood risk zones. Counties like Atlantic and Monmouth have the greatest numbers of new homes built in flood zones. (See our report on the Zillow study on the left side of this page.)

There are some direct and immediate actions that the Murphy Administration could take. Murphy could create a cabinet-level committee to coordinate all agencies in coastal resiliency and reducing greenhouse gasses. This includes updating state regulations to include climate impacts, re-doing the Water Supply Master Plan, and using up-to-date data in our mapping and planning. The Murphy Administration needs to strengthen important water protections and regulations including the Flood Hazard Rules, Water Quality Management Planning Rules, CAFRA and Wetlands. New Jersey also needs a Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan.

Sea level rise and climate change require a multi-state approach. We must protect coastal ecosystems with natural infrastructure such as flood storage basins and blue and green roofs, rather than concrete walls that only redirect flooding to someone else’s property. We need to rebuild more resiliently to fix problems of the past: implementing green building codes, energy efficiency standards and retrofitting stormwater systems that do not work. We can meet the Paris Accords, stop fossil fuel infrastructure, and move to a green economy.

In order to fight climate change, New Jersey needs to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) and take bold action against fossil fuels. That is why we ask Governor Murphy to impose a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects. More than a dozen such projects are currently underway: they will increase the state’s GHGs by over 32%. We should be capitalizing offshore wind and solar energy instead of building natural gas pipelines, like NESE, that don’t even provide power for New Jersey.

While Governor Murphy touts that he is doing more about climate change than any other governor, other governors are running circles around him. Gov. Cuomo (New York) and Gov. Inslee (Washington State) are going 100% carbon free by 2040 and by 2030, respectively. Eight states are going 100% renewable by 2050; even states with Republican governors like Maryland, Vermont, and Mass. are moving more quickly on electric vehicles and regulating CO<sub>2</sub>.

# Toms River Approves State’s Largest Solar Farm: Dirty Site to Clean Energy

From a press release issued on Oct 17, edited by Joe Testa

In October, the Toms River (Ocean Co) Planning Board approved a proposal to build New Jersey’s largest solar farm on the former Ciba-Geigy Superfund site. Construction could start as early as 2020. Toms River Merchant Solar LLC, a subsidiary of EDF Renewables, plans to lease 166 acres to generate 35 MW of solar power, enough electricity for over 6500 homes.

This is an important project that will take one of the dirtiest sites in New Jersey and turn it into clean energy. It is a step in the right direction; we need to build large solar installations on toxic and brownfield sites instead of building them on green fields.

The 1.25 square mile Ciba-Geigy property is the largest continuous piece of undeveloped land in Toms River. The EPA has been overseeing cleanup at the site since it was placed on the federal Superfund list in 1982.

While the solar farm project moves forward, it is critical for the EPA and DEP to work together to make sure the site is properly cleaned up. They should not use the solar farm as an excuse for capping the site. A cap there would not work because there are still high levels of toxic and cancer-causing chemicals in the groundwater, and tens of thousands of tons of wastes still remain in the site’s landfills. The people of Toms River have been suffering from the contamination coming from this site for too long; they deserve a full cleanup.

More than forty municipalities have now passed ordinances restricting single-use carryout bags. The list includes South Orange, Paramus, Parsippany-Troy, Hoboken, Stone Harbor, and Little Silver. Some of them (Lambertville, Ocean Gate and Monmouth Beach) have banned not only bags, but also straws and polystyrene food containers. State bill S2776 (Smith, Greenstein) (same as A4330) is a strong piece of legislation, that would ban all three single-use items.

In other states, bans have clearly proven to be more effective than fees. For example, Los Angeles County saw a 94% reduction in single-use bags after implementing a ban. Governor Murphy has displayed leadership and environmental stewardship in his support of S2776/A4330. It is now in the hands of the New Jersey Senate and Assembly to push this deserving piece of legislation.



# Group News

FROM AROUND THE STATE

## HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

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

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

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

### Skylands Group

(Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

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

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

**E-mail:** [ggorman07419@embarqmail.com](mailto:ggorman07419@embarqmail.com); **Phone:** 973-886-7950

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Hunterdon Warren Group

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

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

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

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

#### OFFICERS:

<b>Chair:</b>	Jonathan Wall *	<a href="mailto:jonwall@jonwall.com">jonwall@jonwall.com</a>
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Celeste Martin *	<a href="mailto:onecentral@mac.com">onecentral@mac.com</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Amy Weeder *	<a href="mailto:aweeder@comcast.net">aweeder@comcast.net</a>
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	Nancy Carringer	<a href="mailto:ncarringer@yahoo.com">ncarringer@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Karen Becker*	<a href="mailto:karbecker@gmail.com">karbecker@gmail.com</a>
<b>Children's Programs:</b>	Kimberly Borin	<a href="mailto:storiesofourown@mac.com">storiesofourown@mac.com</a>
<b>Environmental &amp; Social Justice:</b>	Angela De Sapio *	<a href="mailto:angela.desapio@gmail.com">angela.desapio@gmail.com</a>
<b>Environmental Education:</b>	Dan Dolce*	<a href="mailto:dandolce48@hotmail.com">dandolce48@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Highlands Issues Coordinator:</b>	Cinny MacGonagle *	<a href="mailto:cmacgonagle@yahoo.com">cmacgonagle@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Outings:</b>	Jonathan Wall *	<a href="mailto:jonwall@jonwall.com">jonwall@jonwall.com</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	John Kashwick	<a href="mailto:jkashwick@gmail.com">jkashwick@gmail.com</a>
<b>Webmaster/Listmaster:</b>	John Kashwick	<a href="mailto:jkashwick@gmail.com">jkashwick@gmail.com</a>

(\* Group Executive Committee Member)

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** All our general meetings are held at the Hunterdon North County Library, 65 Halstead St, Clinton, 08809 on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm (except for January, which will be on the 2nd Wednesday). Meet and Greet to follow. Meetings are free but donations are gladly accepted. There are no speaker programs in July and August. Please check <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/hunterdonwarren> for updates.

**Jan 8 (Wed):** Wanted: Dark Skies (Tentative): Turn the lights off and get ready to see the universe expand before you! Astrophysical, environmental, psychological, developmental and financial reasons why light pollution must be curtailed. Check web site to confirm program and speaker.

**Feb 5 (Wed):** The Nature Fix: It's not all fun and games. Kimberly Borin, EdD, will discuss the spiritual, biological and physical reasons why immersing yourself in the joys of the out-of-doors will bring peace and healing to your mind, body, and spirit!

**Mar 4 (Wed):** Onslaught: The Industrialization of Hunterdon and Warren Counties. Farms and woodlands are being bulldozed to create massive distribution centers at an alarming rate. Jeff Tittel, Senior Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club will present on proposed legislation and grassroots initiatives to curb the onslaught of development that portends to pave over the last rural vestiges of New Jersey. Tittel, once again named one of InsiderNJ's Top 100 Policy Makers in 2019, will discuss the history of rampant, unrestrained, poorly-planned growth in New Jersey and mentor us in the methods to engender community support to fight against these encroachments.

#### OTHER EVENTS:

**Jan 15 (Wed):** Executive Committee/Planning Meeting. 7:30 pm, at the offices of Dr. Jonathan D. Wall, 21 Water Street, Clinton. The meeting is casual and informative. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about the Club. Hear about and discuss issues, plan future events, and become more active. (Please contact [jonwall@jonwall.com](mailto:jonwall@jonwall.com) or sign-up on our web site.)

**Mar 21 (Sat):** Heritage Park Walk and Talk with Skylands Preservation Alliance. 11am. Bring snack and at least 1-2 quarts of water. Hiking boots recommended. We will walk approximately five miles through relatively-level pastoral terrain. Rain or snow cancels (check our web site if in doubt). Meet at Heritage Park parking lot, Vliet Farm Rd., Asbury, NJ 08802. RSVP required. (Please email [jonwall@jonwall.com](mailto:jonwall@jonwall.com) or sign-up on our web site.)

#### Current Issues:

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

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

### North Jersey Group

(Bergen and Passaic Counties)

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

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

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

The North Jersey Group is currently in reorganization. It is currently managed by a Steering Committee consisting of:

Buddy Jenssen	<a href="mailto:buddy.jenssen@gmail.com">buddy.jenssen@gmail.com</a>
Diane Scarangella	<a href="mailto:diascat@hotmail.com">diascat@hotmail.com</a>
Mary Walsh	<a href="mailto:blehlwalsh@hotmail.com">blehlwalsh@hotmail.com</a>
Jeff Rappaport	<a href="mailto:jefrap@optonline.net">jefrap@optonline.net</a>
Sandi Liberti	<a href="mailto:dillon7744@yahoo.com">dillon7744@yahoo.com</a>
Bob Weiss	
Jan Barry	

**Trail Maintenance:** Marty Cohen [martincohen@verizon.net](mailto:martincohen@verizon.net)

#### MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

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

**Each Group is invited to designate a Group Environmental Justice Officer**

## Gateway Group

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

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

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

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

### OFFICERS:

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

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

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

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

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

## Hudson County Group

**Website:** <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/hudson-county>.  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/HudsonCountySierraClub>  
**E-mail:** [HUDSONSIERRACLUB@gmail.com](mailto:HUDSONSIERRACLUB@gmail.com)  
**Instagram:** @sierraclub\_hcg

### OFFICERS: (\*=ExCom)

<b>Chair:</b>	David 'Ace' Case*	acecase88@gmail.com
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Pramod Raju*	modisone@gmail.com
<b>Secretary, Treasurer:</b>	Patricia Hilliard*	hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	John Ottomanelli*	otto.pittsburgh@gmail.com
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Pramod Raju*	modisone@gmail.com
<b>Ready for 100:</b>	Allyson Samuels	allyson.samuell@sierraclub.org
<b>Delegate to Chapter:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>	
<b>Membership:</b>	Andrea Rodriguez*	aarodriguez87@gmail.com
<b>Publicity:</b>	Pramod Raju*	modisone@gmail.com
<b>Outings / Events:</b>	Steve Krinsky*	stevekrinsky@comcast.net
<b>At-Large:</b>	Nancy Booth*	boothnancy2011@hotmail.com
<b>Instagram:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>	
<b>Web-Master:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>	

### MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

**Jan 4:** 10am: Nature Walk and Meet 'n Greet in Bayonne at South Cove Commons Mall.

**Jan 26:** 12:30 - 2pm, Hudson County Community College (HCCC): First 2020 Meeting of Executive Committee. Elect officers and Committee Chairs for 2020.

**Feb 16:** 12:30 - 2pm, HCCC: General Meeting/Forum - Film Screenings.

**Mar 15:** 12:30pm - 2:00pm, HCCC: Quarterly ExCom Meeting.

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

**Current Campaigns:** Please join in. We can use help with any of these:  
**#MoratoriumMondays!** Call Gov. Murphy to tell him you want a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects in the state of NJ. Here Hudson County there are proposals for two huge new gas-fired power plants which would pour toxic chemicals into the air we breath for generations. Help make the change to renewable energy. Stop the Meadowlands Power Plants - no more Fossil Fuel Projects! [www.empowernewjersey.com](http://www.empowernewjersey.com)

**Climate Change:** You thought Hurricane Sandy was fun? New studies show that Hudson County will be harder hit by sea-level rise and catastrophic flooding than any other NJ county. Sierra has joined with other leading environmental groups to form the Hudson Climate Coalition. Together, we will demand change from politicians at each level of government. We plan to meet with state and federal legislators to demand support for the Green New Deal and related policies. The ReadyFor100 campaign is work-

ing to build awareness and grass roots support as we transition to 100% renewable energy locally by the year 2050, or sooner. Get involved and be part of the solution.

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

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

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

**Environmental Justice:** Low-income communities and black and brown communities suffer the most from environmental destruction: elevated levels of cancer, respiratory disease, lead poisoning, and a host of other problems. Hudson County has had more than its share of environmental poisoning for generations.

**Combined Sewage Overflows (CSOs)** - sounds boring but a federal court has mandated that Hudson cities eliminate raw sewage discharge into our rivers. Billions of \$\$\$ will be spent to fix this. We need to see that the solutions include green infrastructure: open space, trees, bio-swales, green roofs.

## Loantaka Group

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

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

### OFFICERS:

<b>Group Chair (Acting):</b>	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Conservation Chairs:</b>			
<b>Morris County:</b>	Len Fariello		len@wildlifepreserves.org
<b>Union County:</b>	Allen Swanson		afswanson@hotmail.com
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Clea Carchia	908-892-7229	info@cleacarchia.com
<b>Programs:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		
<b>Fundraising Chair:</b>	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
<b>Outings Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Publicity Chair:</b>	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
<b>Membership:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
<b>Upper Passaic River Coor:</b>	Kathy O'Leary	908-647-2870	kolearypcnj@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

### MEETING SCHEDULE:

**Jan 8:** To be determined - please see the Group website for Programs

**Feb 12:** To be determined - please see the Group website for Programs

**Mar 11:** To be determined - please see the Group website for Programs

**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.

Last Fall, the Loantaka Group held its 15th annual on-line auction, organized by Eric Hausker. We raised more than \$600, adding three new businesses to our loyal network of prize-donors: the Chatham Bookseller and San Francisco Clothing Boutique in Madison, and that great new Italian restaurant, Il Forno a Legna, in Rahway. The rest of our donors stood by us one more year, among them Vaccaro's Bakery and Villa Stefano Pizza in Clark, and Chatham Sandwich Shop. Arminio's Pizza, Quartet Home Decor, and Charley's Aunt in Chatham, and Winberie's in Summit. Eric offers his help to any other Group that would like to make money this way. (He helped Dennis Anderson's Jersey Shore Group raise \$500 a few years ago.)

## Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

**Web-site:** <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/central-jersey>. Or click from the NJ

(Continued on page 8)

## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

Chapter's web-site. Please see the Outings List in this newsletter - or on Pineypaddlers.com.

### OFFICERS:

<b>Group Chair:</b>	Joanne Pannone	jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
<b>Group Vice Chair:</b>	Xiaoping Du	xiaping_du@yahoo.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Leona Fluck	leona@pineypaddlers.com
<b>Outings Coord:</b>	George and Leona Fluck	leona@pineypaddlers.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Arlene Ceterski	va2c2015@gmail.com
<b>Programs:</b>	Joanne Pannone	jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	Kip Cherry	KipAtTheSierraClub@gmail.com
<b>Recycling:</b>	Sylvia Kay	sylviakay222@gmail.com
<b>Trails:</b>	Dave Mattek	MattekDC@aol.com
<b>Webmaster:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>	
<b>Education:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>	

**MEETINGS SCHEDULE:** The Central Jersey Group is continuing with its popular monthly meetings at Mercer County Community College from September through April. We meet at 6 pm in the Student Center Room sc104. Parking across from the Security Office after 5:30pm. Everyone welcome, but please rsvp to kipatthesierraclub@gmail.com so we buy enough pizza!

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

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

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

## Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

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

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

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

### OFFICERS:

#### Chair and Conservation

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

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

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

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

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

## Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

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

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

### OFFICERS:

<b>Group Chair:</b>	Dennis Anderson	732-970-4327	dennisaza@aol.com
	6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747		
<b>Secretary:</b>	John Luard	732-708-9221	John.Luard@gmail.com
<b>Conser. Co-Chairs:</b>	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445	faithtei@aol.com
	Bob Sandberg	732-241-7757	Sandberg00@gmail.com
	Stan Greberis	732-431-0082	grapefruit@msn.com
<b>Social Media Chair:</b>	Yazmin Sourias		yazming915@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Jim Baye		jimbaye@optonline.net
<b>Political Co-Chairs:</b>	Robin & Harold Zullo		drzullo@optonline.net
<b>Outings Chair:</b>	John Luard	732-708-9221	John.Luard@gmail.com
<b>Outings Leaders:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Membership Chair:</b>	Wael Kanj		waelkanj@gmail.com
<b>Program Chair:</b>	George Moffatt	732-544-1726	gmoffattgt@aol.com
<b>Climate Chair:</b>	Steve Miller	732-671-5917	SteveMiller@Comcast.net

### Fund-raising

<b>Co-Chairs:</b>	Mark Fukayama	908-902-1555	markexams@aol.com
and:	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445	faithtei@aol.com

### Communications

<b>Chair:</b>	Wael Kanj	waelkanj@gmail.com
---------------	-----------	--------------------

**High School Coor:** *Open Position!*

**Letter-writing Committee:** Mark Fukayama, Steve Miller and Stan Greberis

### Jersey Shore Group Happenings:

**Progress at Whale Pond Greenway** – The Jersey Shore Sierra Club is a partner of the Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association, whose goal is to restore the banks and water quality of Whale Pond Brook and create a greenway from the ocean at Long Branch to the uplands in Tinton Falls.

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

### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Our general membership meetings take place at 6pm on the FOURTH MONDAY of the month at Brookdale Community College's Lincroft Campus (BCC). We are delighted that the college has invited us to continue the joint meetings of Sierra members, BCC students and the public through 2020. Our meetings, billed by BCC as "Science Monday," average 75 attendees a month, with some talks peaking at 120 to 150 people. The cooperative effort between Sierra and BCC extends the "reach" of both organizations into the Monmouth community. Our BCC liaison is Dr. Patricia Dillon, biology professor in the college's Science Department.

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

To get to Brookdale, take GSP Exit 109 to Rte 520 West (Newman Springs Rd, which becomes E Main St at the Lincroft campus). Exit the traffic circle into the campus and follow the signs to the Warner Student Life Center (SLC), where the meeting usually is in the Twin Lights Rooms I and II. Use parking lot 7. As you walk towards the building complex, Warner will be down the slope on your left. If lot 7 is full, use parking lots 5 or 6. A campus map is at [http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPI/Map\\_04\\_08.pdf](http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPI/Map_04_08.pdf).

**Dec 1:** Our Group Holiday Party – While this is the time for edelweiss, white winter roses, holly boughs, and poinsettias (but don't eat those), you are invited to bring safer and somewhat more tasty fare, along with bit of vin if you wish, to share at our annual holiday Group buffet. Time is 3 to 5 pm at Dennis Anderson's house at 6 Maple Av, off Middlesex Rd, Matawan. Use MapQuest for directions, but beware, there are two Middlesex Roads in Matawan. If you get lost, call him at 732-970-4327. Members of other Sierra Groups and the state ExCom are invited. The password? "Happy holidays!"

**Jan. 27:** Climate Change and Wildlife – Dr. Catherine N. Duckett, Associate Dean of the School of Science at Monmouth University, will explore the impact that global warming is having today on terrestrial and marine animals, and the growing threats they may face in the near future. These threats can also have a major impact on homo sapiens who hunt and fish for sustenance – and survival.

**Feb. 24:** Solar Power On the Rise – Guy Downers, a consultant for the solar installation firm, Sea Bright Solar, will discuss the various assistance programs, both federal and state, available to homeowners to spur pollution-free solar power. He also will discuss employment opportunities in the solar industry, as compared to the fossil fuel industry, and the efforts of the fossil industries and some legislators to thwart the growth of solar energy.

**Mar 23:** Speaker TBA

**May 18:** STEM's Beckoning Horizons – Biology professor Dr. Marion McClary, Jr. of Fairleigh Dickinson University, will explain an integrated nationwide curriculum to educate high school students in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics with an inter-disciplinary applied approach. Currently, about 28 per cent of incoming high school students are interested in these fields, but half lose interest by graduation time.

**Date TBA:** Our Disappearing Wilderness – Tim Whitehouse, Executive Director of PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility), a recognized and respected voice for all public employees on environmental issues, will put the spotlight on the unprecedented give-away of public lands to the fossil industries and other corporations. Even our National Parks are being threatened by piece-meal proposals.

TBA dates will be posted on Facebook and our website (above)

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

## Ocean County Group

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

### OFFICERS:

#### Acting Chair &

<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	Margit Meissner-Jackson	sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com
<b>Vice-Chair &amp; Treasurer:</b>	Laura Stone	Laura36@yahoo.com
<b>Outings &amp; Envl Ed'n:</b>	Terrance Brown	terrybrown@comcast.net
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Nancy Brown	nancybrown624@comcast.net
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Margaret Mary Piccolo	gogreenp1@yahoo.com
<b>Membership Chairs:</b>	Ray & Cathy Kozakerich	raykozak@comcast.net
<b>Social Media Chair:</b>	Annie Jones	AnnaLeighEilbacher@yahoo.com
<b>Fund-Raising Chair:</b>	Joyce M. Isaza	
<b>Group ExCom Members:</b>	William Rodgers	
And:	Peter Leighton	JPLighton1@verizon.net
And:	Joyce Isaza	realtymstr@aol.com
<b>Hospitality, Fundraising, Publicity, Webmaster:</b>	<i>All Open Positions!</i>	



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

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

## West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

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

**Follow us on Twitter** @Wjsierraclub **and Instagram** @wjsierraclub

### OFFICERS:

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

**NEWS:** The West Jersey Sierra Club joined the NJ Tree Foundation & the NJ Conservation Foundation to plant trees at Gateway Park in Camden on Oct 19.

The smiling face on the right is Camden native and West Jersey Group Vice-Chair Frank Zinni. With him is the prettiest girl in Barrington and her father who responded to a Facebook request for help in planting trees to improve the airshed in Camden. Photo courtesy of Tree Foundation & the NJ Conservation Foundation.



The West Jersey Group held their Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Members brought donations that will be delivered to the Food Bank of South Jersey. The food bank distributes food to more than 150 food pantries in Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Salem counties to provide healthy foods to seniors, families and children in need.

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

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

**Dec 11:** Join us for our Year-End Wrap Up and Holiday Party. Bring a favorite munchie to share as we discuss our successes and ongoing efforts from 2019 and plan for 2020. Door prizes and great camaraderie.

**Jan 8:** NJ Tree Foundation Update - Meredith Brown will update us on the spring and Fall 2019 seasons, as well as what's ahead for the Spring 2020 season.

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

## South Jersey Group

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

### OFFICERS:

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

The officers listed above are wearing out (with respect to the Club), and would more than welcome new blood, with ideas and energy for local projects. Please contact Dick Colby for a discussion. Otherwise, our consuming conservation issue, adopted just after the Group was founded in the 1970s, continues to be protection of the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continues to consume the energies of those few offi-

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

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

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

### Some Possibly Relevant Activities of Allied Organizations:

**Jan 28 and Mar 24:** (alternating fourth Tuesdays), 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Watershed Assn. Activities centered on protecting the Wild & Scenic Recreational River. All are welcome. Warren Fox Nature Center (WFNC\*), Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor, Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 3½ miles south of Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

**Feb 5, and Mar 4:** (first Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Atlantic County Friends of the Parks: Monthly meetings of a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Park System. All are welcome. WFNC\*. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280. Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Atlantic-County-Friends-of-the-Parks>.

**Feb 12 and Apr 15:** (alternate second Wednesdays), 7pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries (another "Partnership River" under federal protection): Meeting place: George Luciano Center, Cumberland County College. Cumberland County development issues are commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Karla Rossini (CU) at 609-774-5853 or [karla.rossini@cumauricriver.org](mailto:karla.rossini@cumauricriver.org). Website: [www.cumauricriver.org](http://www.cumauricriver.org).

**Feb 19 and Apr 15:** (alternate third Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss river management strategies. Open to the public. WFNC\*. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

**Jan 22, Feb 26 and Mar 25:** (fourth Wednesdays), 7pm: Atlantic Audubon Society is a lively member-organization with strong environmental programs and an excellent monthly on-line newsletter. Membership is free. Meetings are in the Galloway Twp Library, 306 E Jimmie Leeds Rd. [www.AtlanticAudubon.org](http://www.AtlanticAudubon.org).

## Singles Section

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

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

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

### OFFICERS:

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

**Executive committee members:** Rozanna Fanelli, Joyce Haddad, Ron Pate, and Jeff Sovelove.

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

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

(continued on page 10)

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

## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

### 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.

**Jan 14 (Tue):** Singles Dinner: Summit Thai, East Hanover (Morris Co). 6:30pm. Registration Required: Please RVSP via Sierra Club web site: Start with the NJ Sierra Club web page: [https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey#home\\_calendar](https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey#home_calendar)

Scroll down to the calendar of events and click on the "Singles Dinner at Summit Thai" and click on "RSVP" Leader: Rozanna Fanelli: <[rfanelli39@hotmail.com](mailto:rfanelli39@hotmail.com)>.

**Jan 16 (Thu):** Singles Movie: Montclair Environmental Film series, Montclair Public Library: 50 South Fullerton St. Montclair. 6pm. Come enjoy film and lively discussion on topical environmental issues. Leader: Ron Pate: <[ronaldjamespate@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldjamespate@gmail.com)>.

**Feb 11 (Tue):** Singles Dinner: MJ's at Buttonwood Manor, Matawan (Monmouth Co). 6:30pm. Registration Required: Please RVSP via Sierra Club web site: Start with the NJ Sierra Club web page: [https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey#home\\_calendar](https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey#home_calendar). Scroll down to the calendar of events and click on the "Singles Dinner at MJ's at Buttonwood Manor" and click on "RSVP" Leader: Elly Faden: <[efaden1@gmail.com](mailto:efaden1@gmail.com)>.

**Feb.20 (Thu):** Singles Movie: Montclair Environmental Film series. Montclair Public Library (Essex Co). 6pm. All members welcome. Come enjoy film and lively discussion on topical environmental issues. 50 S. Fullerton St. Montclair. Leader: Ron Pate: <[ronaldjamespate@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldjamespate@gmail.com)>.

**Mar 12 (Thu):** Singles Dinner: Hunan Chinese, Morris Plains (Morris Co). 6:30pm. Registration Required: Please RVSP via Sierra Club web site: Start with the NJ Sierra Club web page: [https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey#home\\_calendar](https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey#home_calendar). Scroll down to the calendar of events and click on the "Singles Dinner at Hunan Chinese," and click on "RSVP" Leader: Linda Lang: <[allinkcorp@aol.com](mailto:allinkcorp@aol.com)>.

**Mar 19 (Thu):** Singles Movie: Montclair Environmental Film series, Montclair Public Library (Essex Co). 6pm. Come enjoy film and lively discussion on topical environmental issues. 50 S Fullerton St. Montclair. Leader: Ron Pate: <[ronaldjamespate@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldjamespate@gmail.com)>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### OFFICERS:

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

(\* Section Executive Committee Member)

### MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

**Jan 23 (Thu):** Executive Committee Conference Call. 8pm. This is our quarterly meeting to discuss issues and plan events for next quarter. Check our web site for details and dial in information.

**Jan 26 (Sun):** Cross-Country Ski Outing. Time and Location TBD. Check web site for details and to register.

**Feb 29 (Sat):** Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary Walk and Talk. Join us for a guided walk at the Sanctuary in Bernardsville. NJ. Check web site for details and to register.

**Mar 28 (Sat):** Sourland Mountain Preserve Hike. Join us for a moderate hike in Sourland Mountain Preserve. Check web site for details and to register.

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

Please see the website, and/or contact William Parish at the email address above for additional information.

## Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Sierra Student Coalition

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

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

## Introducing Children to the Outdoors Section

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

### OFFICERS:

**Chair:** *Open Position!*

Also known as Inner-City Outings, ICO is a public service program that provides outdoor trips to children, active in 50 of the Club's 59 Chapters, including the New Jersey Chapter since at least 1998. Marty Cohen has led our participation for most of that time, producing about five trips per year for students in the Clemente Middle School in Paterson. He has asked to be replaced. We will provide training leading to certification. Would someone or someones please contact Rich Isaac ([risaacx@aol.com](mailto:risaacx@aol.com)) to take over from Marty? There is a statement from Marty just below.

## On the Trail New Leadership Needed for ICO

Statement from Marty Cohen, Retiring Chair, August 20, 2019

For a considerable time now, the NJ-ICO Section has been unable to maintain a sufficient staff of dedicated, qualified leaders. We have been fortunate in always being able to find volunteers to assist on our outings. But, while their services are greatly appreciated, they are not qualified ICO leaders. Besides me, our current certified leader staff consists of one person who happens to work during the week. An additional volunteer is willing to pursue leader certification.

The only client (youth service agency) we currently partner with is Clemente Middle School in Paterson, which provides us with 40 students plus chaperones for each outing. As we like to keep experiencing nature as personal as can be practical, we divide the group in two. So, outings with Clemente require two sets of leaders to guide 20 students each, on a weekday.

It is my considered opinion that we should not rely on an inexperienced newcomer and an 85-year old to implement our program. Accordingly, I have resigned as NJ-ICO Chair.

Let me thank everyone who has helped keep NJICO alive over the years. Without naming them, these people came from the national office of ICO, the state chapter of the Sierra Club and, of course, those who kept NJ-ICO vital before I became involved, and the many who participated in our outings, helping to insure we didn't lose anyone, or even more than slightly injure anyone (adults are injured all the time traversing the same trails that



we use - but the children listen!). Not only did our volunteers work to keep the children (and indeed all of us) safe, but to engage the children: they made our outings wonderful events.

ICO is a great program. Everyone who attends one of our outings is quick to attest to the great values that the children receive from participating, and to the enjoyment of being with children in the woods. Like most children from cities and suburbs today, the children of Paterson seldom, if ever, experience a wild forest. We are blessed with such a natural area in the Palisades Interstate Park (at Harriman). This is no domesticated county park (wonderful in its own right), but an almost pristine 53,000-acre wilderness area complete with fauna of all sorts (deer, wild turkeys, raptors, vultures, rattlesnakes, copperheads, other snakes, bear, coyotes, and tons more), rugged trails, steep climbs, pristine lakes, great views and, for the most part, solitude.

Do the children learn anything from a hike in Harriman? Hah! Yes: fear! They are initially afraid of the unknown, but this is quickly overcome, as they realize they are capable of meeting most of nature's challenges: rock hopping across a brook, scaling a steep climb, following a skinny trail, giving room to a rattlesnake, coiled or not, knowing they can trust their own brains and bodies. They learn that in the wilderness the weather must be respected, that there is no indoors. If it's not in your pack it doesn't

(Continued on page 11)

# ON THE TRAIL

(Continued from page 10)

exist. They learn that ICO leadership would not expose them to real danger. In NJ there has been only one fatality from bear attacks in the last 150 years, in the U.S. only one in 50 million people per year die from snake bites. Compare that with the fatality rate from traffic accidents: 40,000 per year.

Do the children learn that ICO volunteers and their school chaperones go out of their way to provide this great outing for them? You bet they do; good teachers are sure their students realize that. Do our volunteers and the school chaperones learn anything from the outings? Of course, lots about the children and lots about themselves. Just ask the next person you run into: "How would you like to take 20 sixth-graders on a 3-hour hike in the wilderness?"



## Outings

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

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

- Skylands:** Dave Alcock: [dwhoob@hotmail.com](mailto:dwhoob@hotmail.com)
- Hunterdon Warren:** Jonathan Wall [psychologist@jonwall.com](mailto:psychologist@jonwall.com)
- North Jersey: Co-Chairs:** Ellen Blumenkrantz [ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com](mailto:ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com), 201-784-8417 and Mary Walsh: [blehlwalsh@hotmail.com](mailto:blehlwalsh@hotmail.com)
- Gateway:** Vacant
- Hudson Co:** Natalya DeRobertis-Theye [natalyadt@gmail.com](mailto:natalyadt@gmail.com)
- Loantaka:** Vacant
- Central Jersey:** Leona & George Fluck [Leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:Leona@pineypaddlers.com)
- Raritan Valley:** Vacant
- Jersey Shore:** John Luard: [John.Luard@gmail.com](mailto:John.Luard@gmail.com)
- Ocean County:** Terrance Brown: 848-333-7331 [terrybrown@comcast.net](mailto:terrybrown@comcast.net)
- West Jersey:** Vacant
- South Jersey:** Tom Boghosian, 267-930-8583 (H)
- Singles Section:** Joyce Haddad, [jkhaddad@juno.com](mailto:jkhaddad@juno.com)
- LGBT Section:** Jonathan Wall: [dojdwall@gmail.com](mailto:dojdwall@gmail.com), and Robert Zitzman: [robertz@att.net](mailto:robertz@att.net)
- River Touring:** Fred Tocce, 908-453-2205 (H) RD-1, Box 277, Washington, 07882
- Chapter Outings Chair:** Ellen Blumenkrantz [ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com](mailto:ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com), 201-784-8417

**Outing Leaders:** Please send April-June 2020 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator (or, if you don't associate yourself with a single Group, directly to Ellen Blumenkrantz, the Chapter Outings Chair) before February 5. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it also for the previous Sierran, due to the occasional lag in mailing. Also, please send outing rosters or sign-up sheets to the Chapter Office as soon as possible after each outing.

**Note:** Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your April-May 2020 trip write-ups by February 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.

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

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

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

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

## JANUARY

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

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

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

**Jan 11 (Sat): Singles Hike in Tourne Park (Morris Co).** 10am. All members are welcome. This hike will cover 6 miles in 3.5 hours in moderately hilly terrain. Facilities: There is a Port-A-John near the parking lot. Required: Hiking Boots, backpack with water, trail snack and also winter traction devices are required if there is ice or snow on the ground. Registration required via Web: Start with the calendar at [https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/nj\\_calendar.asp](https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/nj_calendar.asp) and click on the "Tourne Park" hike, then click on RSVP. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: <The\_Hikist@mac.com>.

**Jan 12 (Sun): D&R Canal Hike (Mercer/Burlington Cos).** 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. Option for late lunch at Heart of Bordentown (HOB) Tavern. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Contact Co-leaders to confirm hike: Joanne Pannone: 609-443-6992, [jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com](mailto:jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com), or Leona F: 609-259-3734, or [Leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:Leona@pineypaddlers.com). (C)

**Jan 18 (Sat): Singles Hike: Jockey Hollow, Leader's Choice, (Morris Co).** 10am. All members welcome. Meet at the Visitors' Center at 9:45 for a 10am start. GPS address: 586 Tempe Wick Road, Morristown NJ 07960. ("This address is approximate"). Leader's choice of trails depending on conditions at Morristown National Historical Park in Morristown. See <http://www.nps.gov/morr/planyourvisit/directions.htm> for directions and information. DO NOT GO TO WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS. Bring water, a snack, and wear hiking boots. Heavy/steady rain cancels. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: [Hiker\\_Dood@yahoo.com](mailto:Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com). Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

**Jan 17-25: Singles Trip, but open to all Sierra Club members: Puerto Rico: Rincon PR.** Join us in a warm place! Friday, Jan 17, to Saturday, Jan 25, for hiking, snorkeling and many other outdoor activities. We will fly from Newark to Aguidilla (BQN) Friday night arriving early Saturday morning. Three days in Rincon: hiking snorkeling, opportunities for surfing, stand up paddle sailing, horseback riding, and yoga on the beach. Then a drive south to Parguera, Guanica and Cabo Rojo to visit an historic light house, magnificent cliffs and a beautiful swimming beach - as well as for hiking in the dry forest reserve and snorkeling in the bioluminescent bay. Return to Rincon Friday for a flight back to New Jersey early Saturday morning. Estimated Cost: food and lodging without airfare \$1000. Leader: Ron Pate: [ronaldjamespate@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldjamespate@gmail.com).

**Jan 19 (Sun): NJ State Museum (Mercer Co).** 10am. Let's enjoy an "indoor outing" to the N J State Museum. We'll view the Current Exhibition - Preserving the Pinelands: Albert Horner's Portraits of a National Treasure. Interested in dinosaurs? The Museum has added two NJ life-size fossil casts to the Written in the Rocks: Fossil Tales of New Jersey! Check the website for details: [www.state.nj.us/state/museum/](http://www.state.nj.us/state/museum/) Please register to confirm participation. Co-Leaders: Leona F: [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com), or Joanne P: [jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com](mailto:jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com). (C)

**Jan 25 (Sat): Hike the Franklin Parker Preserve (Burlington Co).** 10am. 5-6 miles, easy pace on the Yellow Trail. The acquisition of the Franklin Parker Preserve in 2003 by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation was a momentous occasion in conservation. This 9400-acre preserve is a keystone piece of land, linking the expanses of Brendan Byrne, Wharton, and Penn State Forests and creating a more contiguous Pinelands National Reserve. Meet at Speedwell entrance off Rte 563, Woodland Twp. Leashed dogs are welcome. Bring lunch and water. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Contact leaders to confirm hike: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com). (W)

## FEBRUARY

**Feb 1 (Sat): Singles Museum Trip: Metropolitan Museum of Art, (New York City).** 10am. All members welcome. Meet for a day trip and lunch. Contact Leaders: Ron Pate: [ronaldjamespate@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldjamespate@gmail.com), or Rozanna Fanelli: [rfanelli39@hotmail.com](mailto:rfanelli39@hotmail.com) for details.

**Feb 2 (Sun): Walk at Sandy Hook, near Highlands (Monmouth Co).** 9:30am. The wonder of the beach in winter, with views of the city. This walk is mostly in a mixed dwarf forest (just behind the dunes) with lots of holly, juniper and cedar, all within the National Recreation Area. Mostly flat, a portion is on the sandy ocean beach. Approx. 4 miles, easy pace, bring plenty of water, beginners welcome. (Extreme cold winds will cause rerouting.) Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: [John.Luard@gmail.com](mailto:John.Luard@gmail.com). (JS)

**Feb 2 (Sun): Groundhog Day Hike at Jakes Branch County Park (Ocean Co).** 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. Jakes Branch has a Nature Center with interesting hands-on exhibits and an observation deck that offers a 360deg view of the Pinelands. Meet at Jakes Branch Park, 1100 Double Trouble Rd, Beechwood. Option for late lunch at Shady Rest Restaurant. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Contact leaders to confirm hike: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com). (W)

**Feb 8 (Sat): Singles Ski: High Point Cross Country Ski (Sussex Co).** 10am. All members welcome. We expect to take 4-5 hours for fun in the snow. There is a full-service cross country ski center at the park with ski and snowshoe rentals. <http://www.xcskihighpoint.com/>. Email the leader for the up-to-the-minute details. Facilities: There is a ski lodge with a fireplace, and a snack counter with light refreshments, hot soup and drinks. There are restrooms in the ski center and there is a second heated restroom building nearby. Requirement: XC skis and boots and a day-pack with water. Bring a lunch. Registration required via Web: Start with the calendar at [https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/nj\\_calendar.asp](https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/nj_calendar.asp) and click on the "High Point" hike, then click on RSVP. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: <The\_Hikist@mac.com>.

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

**Feb 15 (Sat): Singles Hike: Patriots Path Stroll (Morris Co).** 10am. All members welcome. Come take an easy stroll on Patriots Path in Morristown. This 5-mile stroll will start out from the Speedwell Lake Park, Morristown, across the street from Historic Speedwell. Google "Speedwell Lake Park, Morristown" for directions. The path is wide, partly paved, partly crushed stabilized gravel with very little in the way of elevation gains. We will be strolling at a very moderate pace. Please bring plenty of water and a light snack. Great for beginners. No pets please. Inclement weather cancels. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: [Hiker\\_Dood@yahoo.com](mailto:Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com). Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. NO BATHROOM FACILITIES AT THE TRAILHEAD OR ALONG THE TRAIL.

**Feb 16 (Sun): Whitesbog Village Winter Hike (Burlington Co).** 10am. 4-5 miles. Easy pace. Whitesbog is a NJ historic site: once village built to house workers in the local cranberry bogs. Perhaps we'll see wintering Tundra Swans as we hike around the bogs. Directions: [www.whitesbog.org](http://www.whitesbog.org). Bring beverage and lunch. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or [Leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:Leona@pineypaddlers.com). (C)

**Feb 22 (Sat): Singles Hike: Hatfield Swamp (Essex Co).** 10am. 3 miles in 2 hours, level, possible icy conditions. Required: Hiking Boots, Traction Devices suggested, e.g. micro spikes. Leader: Ron Pate: [ronaldjamespate@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldjamespate@gmail.com).

**Feb 23 (Sun): Hike at the Davidson's Mill Pond Park (Middlesex Co).** 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. 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-mill-pond-park/](http://www.njhiking.com/davidsons-mill-pond-park/). Bring water and snacks. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Contact leaders to confirm hike and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com). (RV)

## MARCH

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

**Mar 7 (Sat): Singles Museum Trip: Newark Museum (Essex Co).** 10am. All members welcome. Newark Museum followed by lunch in Portuguese section of Newark. Leaders: Ron Pate [ronaldjamespate@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldjamespate@gmail.com), and Rozanna Fanelli [rfanelli39@hotmail.com](mailto:rfanelli39@hotmail.com).

**Mar 7 (Sat) Singles Hike: Lewis Morris Park, Morris Township (Morris Co).** 10am. Meet in the lower Sunrise Lake parking lot at 9:45. We will start at Sunrise Lake, then hike to the parking upper lot and back down to the Lake using a combination of the Yellow and Red trails. The pace will be a moderate one. See the Morris County Parks Commission website <http://www.morrisparks.net/index.php/parks/lewis-morris-county-park> for directions. GPS Address: 270 Mendham Rd, Morris Twp, NJ 07960. Bring water, a snack, and wear hiking boots. Inclement weather cancels. No pets please. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: [Hiker\\_Dood@yahoo.com](mailto:Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com).

**Mar 8 (Sun): DST Hike at the Thompson Park Conservation Area (Middlesex Co).** 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. A highlight is the Natural Spring located in the Park, one of 12 in NJ. ([www.findspring.com/](http://www.findspring.com/)) Thompson Park is dominated by heavily wooded forests and lowland swamps along the Manalapan Brook. We will meet at the Thompson Park Trailhead near the Off-Leash Dog Area on Fir Dr, Monroe Twp. GPS Coordinates: N 40° 20' 3.753", W 74° 26' 8.556". Inclement weather cancels. Option for late lunch at a local restaurant. Leashed dogs are welcome. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com). (RV)

**Mar 14 (Sat): Singles Hike: Sherman Hoffman Preserve, Morris Township (Morris Co).** 10am. All members welcome. Moderately strenuous: 7.3 miles in 4 hours in hilly terrain. Hiking through the Audubon Center, the Passaic River Brook and parts of Jockey Hollow. Facilities: Indoor restrooms at the visitor centers of the Audubon and Jockey Hollow during the hike. Requirements: No beginners. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch required. Registration required via Web: Start with the calendar at [https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/nj\\_calendar.asp](https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/nj_calendar.asp), and click on the "Sherman Hoffman" hike, then click on RSVP. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: <The\_Hikist@mac.com>.

**Mar 14 (Sat): Explore the Unique History, Ecology and Culture of the Pinelands (Atlantic Co).** Join me for a daylong event at Stockton University for the 29th Annual Pinelands Short Course. There will be options for a guided van tour of the Mullica River Watershed, "virtual field trips" of the Barnegat Bay and Maurice River and many new presentations as well as popular ones from past years. For further infor-

(continued on page 12)

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



**Chapter Chair**  
 \* Rich Isaac (973) 716-0297  
 risaacx@aol.com  
 47 Fellswood Dr., Livingston NJ 07039-2235

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Webmaster**  
 (Currently Vacant)

**Membership Chair**  
 \* Laura Tracey-Coll • LauraTraceyColl@hotmail.com

**Programs Coordinator**  
 George Moffat • gmoffattgt@aol.com

**GIS (Geog. Info. Systems)**  
 Abdel Alfahham, Chair  
 Evangelina Pena, Analyst

**Environmental & Social Justice Committee**  
 Howard Steinberg, Chair howz1648@hotmail.com  
 Renee Pollard, Vice Chair  
 Jim Andreano, Paul Ehrlich, Gary Frederick,  
 Jermaine Spence, Suzanne Trimel

**High School Coordinator**  
 Shivani Patel • shivani.patel172001@gmail.com

**Transportation Committee**  
 Bill Beren, Chair • Beren1@verizon.net  
 Karuna Jobanputra, Vice Chair • swarakjji@gmail.com  
 Steve Lax, Transp Issues Advisor • zevson2004@verizon.net  
 Tim Sevener, Rail, Public Transit  
 Paul Ehrlich, Transportation Air Quality  
 Angela DeSapio, Bicycle Issues

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

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

**Regional Issues Coordinator**  
 \* Joan Denzer • JDenzer73@yahoo.com

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

**Personnel Committee**  
 Rich Issac\*, John Kashwick, Paul Sanderson,  
 Laura Tracey-Coll, Ken Johanson, Joan Denzer

**Legislative Coordinator & Litigation Oversight**  
 Ken Johanson (see above)

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

**Information Technology Committee**  
 Joe Testa\*\*, Sunil Somalwar, Laura Sliker, Evangelina  
 Pena, Abdel Alfahham

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

**Group Effectiveness Coordinator**  
 Richard Isaac

**Parliamentarian**  
 Joe Testa

**National Campaigns Coordinator**  
 Gary Frederick

**Nominating Committee**  
 Gina Carola\*\*, Joanne Pannone,  
 Dennis Anderson, Buddy Jenssen

**Elections Committee**  
 Joe Testa\*\*, Mark Fukayama, S. Pasricha,  
 Laura Bagwell

**NEW JERSEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP**

**Advisors and Issue Coordinators**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Environmental Health Advisor**  
 Howard Steinberg • howz1648@hotmail.com

**Faith-Based Issues Outreach; Solar Homes Finance:** Jim Andreano • JimAndreano@gmail.com

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

**Genetically Modified Organisms**  
 Joanne Pannone • jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com

**Home Solar Issues Coordinator**  
 Abbas Salim • azas786@yahoo.com

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

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

**Natural Gas and Fracking**  
 Greg Gorman (see left column)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Community Outreach Coordinator: Taylor McFarland**  
 taylor.mcfarland@SierraClub.org

**Administrative Assistant: Megan Steele**  
 Megan.Steele@SierraClub.org

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

**OUTINGS**

(Continued from page 11)

mation and registration please contact Joanne P and note "Sierra" in the e-mail subject line. jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com, or 609-443-6992. (C)

**Mar 15 (Sun): Hike Turkey Swamp Park, Freehold (Monmouth Co).** 1pm. Forest and the meandering Manasquan River will greet us. About 4 miles, easy pace, mostly level, some roots, can be muddy; bring plenty of water, supportive footwear recommended. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com. (JS)

**Mar 15 (Sun): Hike at Estell Manor (Atlantic Co).** 10am. 5-6 miles, easy pace. Meet at the Warren 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! Inclement weather cancels. Please contact leaders to confirm hike: Leona and George F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pincepaddlers.com. (W)

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

**Mar 29 (Sun): Hike at Maurice River Bluffs Preserve (Cumberland Co).** 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. The Nature Conservancy prides itself on protecting great places like the Maurice River Bluffs, a majestic preserve overlooking the river. www.njhiking.com/maurice-river-bluffs/. Bring binoculars, water and snacks. Address: 1200 Silver Run Rd. Millville 08332. Leashed dogs are welcome. Option for late lunch at the Maurice River Diner. Inclement weather cancels. Contact leaders to confirm hike: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pincepaddlers.com. (W)

**APRIL**

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

**Apr 3 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co).** 10:30am. The section we paddle will depend on weather conditions. Experienced cold weather/water paddlers only. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and details. Option for early breakfast at the Vincentown Diner. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pincepaddlers.com. (W)

**Upcoming ExCom Meetings**

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

Conservation and/or Political Committee meetings usually start at 10am; Environmental Justice Committee at noon. Lunch is otherwise shared at noon. The main meeting starts at 1pm, and is usually followed by a meeting of the Transportation Committee.

**January 11, February 8 and March 14:  
 All at Hamilton Twp. (Mercer Co.) Public Library  
 1 Justice Samuel Alito Jr. Way**

**The Jersey SIERRAN**  
 Vol. 49, No. 1 • Winter, 2020

**Dick Colby** (dick.colby@stockton.edu).....Editor  
 Assisted by Irene Gnarra, Tony Hagen, Sylvia Kay and Joe Testa

**Karen Crosby** (karonna@yahoo.com) ..... Designer

**Paul Sanderson** (paulsanderson@aol.com) ..... Publisher

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MEMBERSHIP COUPON**

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

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

Mastercard  Visa  American Express

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

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

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

Enclose check and mail to:  
**Sierra Club,  
 P.O. Box 421041,  
 Palm Coast,  
 FL 32142-1041**

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

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

F94Q **W 4000** -1

**SIERRA CLUB**  
 FOUNDED 1892

**Explore, enjoy and protect the planet**

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

## Committee Report

# Call for a Moratorium on Fossil Fuel Infrastructure Projects in New Jersey

By our Jersey Shore Group's Letter Writing Committee, communicated by Mark Fukayama  
(Note: for live links to the citations, visit our web edition: on the Chapter website.)

A moratorium on the development of fossil fuel infrastructure in New Jersey is needed – based on recent peer-reviewed studies about methane emissions and Federal deregulatory actions.

## Rising Global Atmospheric Levels of Methane

The global atmospheric level of methane, the principal component (typically 70-90%) of natural gas and the second most important greenhouse gas<sup>1</sup>, has been significantly rising over the past decade.<sup>2,3,4</sup> A recent study indicates that if this rise continues, the 2015 Paris Agreement target of less than a 2°C temperature change will be virtually impossible to achieve.<sup>5</sup>

A recent study points to production and use of shale gas and oil, especially in North America, as significantly contributing to the increasing global atmospheric levels of methane.<sup>6</sup> In this study, shale gas is considered a bigger factor than biogenic sources, such as wetlands or livestock, that had previously been reported to be major contributors.<sup>7,8,9</sup>

Although scientists will be debating the source of emissions, all agree that industry sectors that emit methane must reduce emissions. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) advised in October, 2018, that methane emission levels must be reduced by 35% or more by 2050 relative to 2010 levels, if we are to keep below a 1.5°C change.<sup>10</sup> Achieving this goal will be especially challenging as global methane levels have been rising rather than decreasing.

Also, the bottom-up (BU) analytical method<sup>11</sup> for determining the EPA national inventories of greenhouse gas emissions, for which levels are used to make policy decisions, has consistently underestimated the amount of natural gas emitted.<sup>12,13,14,15</sup> Bottom-up analysis is plagued by sparse and unreliable activity data, poorly characterized and highly uncertain emission factors, time consuming and costly measurement programs, and unaccounted-for emissions.<sup>16,17</sup>

Scientists have called for the use of top-down (TD) emission measurements<sup>18</sup> to establish policies as it provides climate relevant data without the problem of limited accuracy in BU estimates and would better integrate national estimates into a global verifiable framework.<sup>19</sup>

A recent TD study revealed unexpectedly high levels of methane over five major urban centers along the East Coast.<sup>20</sup> The total level of methane is twice the EPA's estimate for this region and is attributed to the use of natural gas. Also methane emissions in the Los Angeles basin have been strongly correlated with the consumption of natural gas by residential and commercial consumers, with a leakage rate of 1.4%.<sup>21</sup>

Using a combination of TD and BU methods, methane emissions from the oil and natural gas supply chain (production, processing, transmission, but not urban emissions as noted above) were determined to be ~60% higher than those estimated by the EPA, with an emission rate of 2.3%.<sup>22</sup>

For methane emissions, the Trump Administration has weakened the requirement that companies monitor and repair methane leaks and has repealed a restriction on the intentional venting and “flaring,” or burning, of methane from drilling operations. Also, methane emissions from animal wastes will no longer have to be reported under the Superfund legislation.<sup>23,24</sup>

Empower NJ, a coalition of over 80 environmental, community and faith

organizations, has advocated for a moratorium on fossil fuel infrastructure projects and has provided scientific and socioeconomic reasons (Empowernewjersey.com).<sup>25</sup>

**Given the reasons provided by Empower NJ; recent IPCC recommendations on reducing methane levels; recent science including the increasing global levels of methane that may be due to commercialization of shale gas and oil; emissions of methane from the shale gas fields to the end users being much higher than EPA national inventory estimates; and deregulation of methane emission controls and reporting to the EPA, a moratorium must be declared until the BPU and the DEP fully understand the consequences of expanding the fossil fuel infrastructure given the potential for significantly exacerbating climate change far beyond the Paris Agreement goal.**

## References (2019 references are bolded):

- 1 Etminan, M., Myhre, G., et al. (2016). *Geophys. Res. Letters* 43 (12): 614–623. <https://doi.org/10.1002/2016GL071930>
- 2 National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration. Global Monitoring Division. Global CH4 Monthly Means. [https://esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends\\_ch4/](https://esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends_ch4/)
- 3 Mikaloff Fletcher, S.E., H. Schaefer, H. (2019) *Science* 07 Jun: 364 (6444): 932-933. DOI: 10.1126/science.aax1828
- 4 Nisbet, E. G., Manning, M. R., et al. (2019). *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, 33: 318–342. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2018GB006009>
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Howarth, R. W. (2019) *Biogeosciences*, 16: 3033–3046. <https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-16-3033-2019>
- 7 Schwietzke, S., Sherwood, O.A., et al. (2016). *Nature*, 538: 88-91, doi:10.1038/nature19797.
- 8 Schaefer, H., Mikaloff-Fletcher, S.E., et al. (2016). *Science*, 352: 80-84, doi:10.1126/science.aad2705.
- 9 J. Wolf, G.R. Asrar, T.O. West. (2017). *Carbon Balance and Management* 12: 16. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13021-017-0084-y>
- 10 IPCC, Summary for Policymakers. In: Global warming of 1.5°C. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2018. <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>
- 11 A bottom-up approach involves measuring or modeling emissions of individual methane emitters such as oil and gas wells, landfills, and cattle farms, and extrapolating using emission factors to regional and national scales.
- 12 Brubert-Adam, E.A, Brandt, R. (2019). *J. Cleaner Production* 222: 760-767. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2019.03.096>
- 13 Alvarez, R. A., Zavala-Araiza, D., et al. (2018). *Science* 361 (6398): 186–188. doi:10.1126/science.aar7204
- 14 Vaughn, T.L., Bell, C.S., et al. (2018). *PNAS* 115(46): 11712-11717. [www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1805687115](http://www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1805687115)
- 15 Zaines, G.G., Littlefield, J.A. et al. (2019). *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 53:8, 4619-4629 <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.8b05546>
- 16 IPCC, Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines

## Member Report

# Hey Millennials, voting is the most powerful thing you can do

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

On September 20, 2019, more than four million people marched on their governments worldwide to demand action on the climate crisis. The protests were led by Greta Thunberg as part of a series of actions leading up to the United Nations Climate Summit. The protests were largely fueled by students who were alarmed and fed up with the corporate and political stonewalling we see in the U.S. and across the globe to take any meaningful action to save our planet.

As if to highlight how far the Koch clan, ExxonMobil and other fossil-fuel protectors will go, six weeks later, on Nov 5, the Trump administration began taking active steps to remove the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement.

Protesting, writing letters, organizing and lobbying are all great ways to fight the climate crisis. But if today's voting youth, meaning Gen Z (ages 18-22) and Millennials (ages 23-39) are to make a real difference, the ballot box is the most powerful place to do it. Voting is the only way to put in place the politicians who will fight the climate crisis and save our planet.

**The voting trends are good but not enough:** Leading to the 2020 election, the voting trends suggest that, while more people will be voting, the election may be a tough one. In the 2018 midterm election, nearly 120 million people voted nationally, which is 35 million more than in the 2014 midterm election. The increase in voters came from a rise in people turning 18, and from immigrants who became new citizens. The great voter turnout was sparked by opposition to Trump, and concerns over the direction of the country, particularly when it came to immigration policy, the climate crisis, and the rights of all citizens, particularly minorities, LGBTQ, and women's rights. Still, in the under-30 age group, voter participation was only 36%. Although that was a great increase from past elections, the participation rate of younger voters still lagged that of older voters, who tended to vote in greater numbers and more in support of Pres. Trump. That is critical to understanding why the 2020 election will be such a battle to dump Trump, despite his unpopularity among younger voters.

According to the Pew Research Center, in 2000 nearly 7 in 10 voters were older than 56. In the 2020 election, that number is expected to drop to 4 in 10 voters. In fact, Millennials are now a larger age group than Boomers. And voter demo-

graphics will be increasingly made up of non-whites, younger voters and immigrants turned citizens. All this seems like good news, right?

Unfortunately, the reality is that older adults are more likely to show up at the polls. That means these more-conservative, right-leaning individuals might actually represent a larger share of voters. And that might pose a real threat that Trump could be re-elected.

One obvious solution: more voter turnout among Gen Z and Millennials. 2020 is expected to produce record voter turnout numbers, possibly the highest in decades. Glen Bolger, a partner at Public Opinion Strategies, said, “The emotion behind politics is sky high, and I don't think it's just on one side. It's both sides.”

**A bright spot in New Jersey:** In New Jersey, voter turnout in the 2018 midterm election was the highest in two decades. (Votes had just been cast in the 2019 election as this article was being written.) And NJ saw the largest increase in student voting versus 2014 than any other state. According to the Institute for Democracy and Tufts University, it is estimated that 40% of college students voted in 2018, more than double the 19.3% from 2014. Rutgers' New Brunswick campus saw triple the increase, with close to 43% of students voting.

Great numbers, but here's the rub. Close to 82% of Rutgers students were registered to vote, but less than half of them actually did. And that mirrors what happened across the country.

Hopefully, the outrage against Trump, and the politicians who tenaciously cling to him, will produce a tide of outrage at the ballot box in 2020. As I noted earlier, the election is supposed to produce a record turnout. But younger voters need to keep registering as they turn 18, and they and Millennials need to show up to vote. Raising your voice, creating headlines and expressing alarm on social media are all effective tactics. But nothing works better than removing bad politicians from office, and casting a vote for change.

So tell your voting-age kids, your Millennial co-workers and anyone else who is listening, if you are not yet registered to vote, go to <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/voter-registration.shtml>. And then on November 3, 2020, go vote. It's your right, and it will make a difference. It's the most powerful thing you can do to fight the climate crisis and save our planet.

## Is Your Email Address Up-To-Date?

If you didn't receive an electronic Sierra Club ballot last Fall, and would like to receive future ballots electronically, as well as membership renewal notices, please send your E-mail address (along with your name, street address and membership number if you know it) to [membership.services@sierraclub.org](mailto:membership.services@sierraclub.org).

for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 2, Energy <https://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2019rf/index.html>

17 Leip, A., Skiba, U., et al. (2018). *Atmosph. Environ.* 174: 237-240. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2017.12.006>

18 A top-down approach uses aircraft or tall towers to measure atmospheric methane concentrations and models to account for atmospheric transport in estimating regional levels.

19 A. Leip, et al., N-17

20 Plant, G., Kort, E. A., et al. (2019). *Geophys. Res. Letters*, 46 (14): 8500-8507 <https://doi.org/10.1029/2019GL082635>

21 He, L., Zeng, Z-C., et al. (2019). *Geophys. Res. Letters* 46 (14): 8563-8571 <https://doi.org/10.1029/2019GL083400>

22 Alvarez et al., N-13

23 Seo, S.N. (2019). *J Public Affairs*. 19 (1):e1914. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pa.1914>

24 L. Friedman, *New York Times*, Aug, 29, 2019. E.P.A. to Roll Back Regulations on Methane, a Potent Greenhouse Gas.

25 Empower NJ, 2018. FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE IN NJ: The Urgent Case for a Moratorium on all Fossil Fuel Projects. [http://empowernewjersey.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/EmpowerNJ\\_Report\\_190211\\_Color.pdf](http://empowernewjersey.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/EmpowerNJ_Report_190211_Color.pdf)

## Reports from our Members

# Support the “Restore Our Parks” Act

By John Kashwick, Wildlands Issues Coordinator ([political.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org](mailto:political.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org))

Millions of people enjoy visits to our national parks each year. These federally-administered parks provide inspiration in all 50 states. Unfortunately, that enjoyment is increasingly impaired by a backlog of needed maintenance, and New Jersey’s parks are no exception. From the Delaware Water Gap to Morristown National Historical Park, and the Gateway National Recreation Area in Sandy Hook, our parks are in need of repair.

The Restore Our Parks Act (S.500/H.R.1225) would provide that much-needed funding without raising taxes, because it would come from the unallocated portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (paid for by royalty fees from offshore drilling by the oil and gas industry). Senator Booker and our 11 Democratic members of Congress have already co-sponsored this Act—please contact their offices and

thank them for their support of our national parks!

Senator Bob Menendez (D) and Congressman Chris Smith (R, CD-4) have not yet become co-sponsors. Please contact Senator Menendez and, if you are in his district (Monmouth County and surrounding areas), Congressman Smith, to ask them to **co-sponsor the Restore Our Parks Act (Bill number S.500 in the Senate and H.R. 1225 in the House)** – to provide much needed funding for our national parks in New Jersey and throughout the nation.

Senator Menendez’s office number is 202-224-4744, or you can fill out an on-line form at <https://www.menendez.senate.gov/contact>.

Congressman Smith’s office number is 202-225-3765, or you can use his web site at <https://chrissmith.house.gov/contact/>.

# The Fitness Club Industry Needs to Go on a Diet

By Laura Piraino, of our Hudson County Group ([laurapiraino6@gmail.com](mailto:laurapiraino6@gmail.com))

The first thing many Americans do in the morning is think about exercise – and then decide when they will head to the gym. In 2018, nearly 60 million Americans had a health club membership. A recent article in Forbes magazine outlines why this \$30 billion fitness club industry will only continue to grow – and may in fact double in the next 10-15 years.

Market research completed in 2018 by Nielsen, Mc Kinsey and Cone Communications has been mapping out another new important trend in the United States: a growing demand for companies that are going green. 3 out of 4 Millennials, 51% of Boomers and 85% of Gen Z are now purchasing green. 31% of all US consumers rewarded companies that have taken steps to reduce global warming in 2018; and 76% of all consumers want businesses to act specifically on climate change. Among the top sustainability purchasing drivers are for products “known for health and wellness benefits.”

The fitness apparel industry is responding to this new demand. Patagonia, Nike, Adidas and others are making progress with a wide array of sustainability measures. These include improved recycling, repair, resale, increasing efficiency, adding renewable energy and utilizing post-consumer waste materials in manufacturing. GlobalSportsMatters.com reports that sports league associations like the NFL, NBA, NHL, and the MLB are also pursuing sustainability plans, including efforts to green stadiums and merchandize.

Yet surprisingly, the fitness industry continues to build and operate inefficient facilities, despite the opportunity to benefit from sustainability best practices established in other industries. Largely designed like a hybrid version of a big box store and a hotel, these fitness gyms consume disproportionately higher amounts of energy than other commercial buildings.

Large workout areas are filled with rows of treadmills, spinning bikes and ellipticals, with equipment left on all day, whether it is being used or not. Air conditioning is run to the extreme, so their members can stay very cool...while they sweat. Bright lighting shines down in almost all spaces, highlighting imperfect bodies, at all times of day and night. Spalike showers and onsite laundromats for towels use copious amounts of water. Some clubs even offer refrigerated wet towels, for an especially cold face wipe after spin class.

Many fitness clubs also sell a wide selection of single use plastic water bottles, smoothies, and other plastic-packaged snacks. There are very few places that are so easy to bring a reusable water bottle or homemade snack- since members are already carrying a gym bag and have access to a locker. To make matters worse, recycling bins for all this material are difficult to find.

In fact, most national fitness club chains have no major sustainability initiatives at all. Only one out of the nine biggest US national fitness chains has even published a sustainability plan, making rather modest gains towards their water and energy reduction goals.

With profits invested in nearly guaranteed growth and a fast return, the industry has largely ignored our climate crisis- and their members have let them. The Fitness Club Industry needs to go on a Green New Deal diet and reduce waste while reducing our waistline. Members also need to re-examine their fitness routine- and other leisure activities- and request that companies make changes if they are damaging the environment.

Sierra Club members can also do what we have always done: go for a walk, hike, run, bike ride, ski, swim or paddle ...and leave no trace while they exercise outdoors.

# How I Saved \$20,000 on Gas

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

In June of 2017 the Delaware Riverkeeper showed me her Chevy Volt. They came on the market in 2008. It looked like a Prius but it didn’t have a combustion engine. It was a plug-in. She is one of the greatest environmental champions I know. So I bought my Volt and on a full charge I get 63 miles from the battery then it automatically turns on a generator. Then I can go a total of 420 mile until the next recharge and fill up. But my daily driving rarely turns on the generator. To date, I have driven 41,000 miles. The AAA estimates that driving costs 50¢/mile. That would be a cost of approximately \$20,000. There is my savings. Electric is cheap, especially when you install solar panels. Plus, you don’t pay sales tax (over \$2200) on the purchase of an electric vehicle and you get a hefty Federal tax credit up to \$7000.

I want to have a healthy environment with clean air. Air pollution is mostly invisible. Batteries are clean. This picture is this morning’s energy dashboard in my Volt. It makes me smile. Dennis Anderson and his wife, Carol, of the Shore Group own all-electric Tesla’s. They traded up from the Volt. Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker (D-16) has owned an all-electric Nissan Leaf for several years.

Note:

If you can’t break away from your all gas vehicle: A hybrid vehicle is a type of hybrid electric vehicle that combines a conventional internal combustion engine system with an electric propulsion system a hybrid vehicle drive-train . The first hybrid car was by Toyota. The Prius was introduced in 1997. Next was the Honda Insight. Since then there are hybrid electric trucks (pick-up trucks and tractors) and busses also exist. Ferdinand Porsche developed one in 1991 but hybrids weren’t part of the market futures due to low gas prices. But the first small scale electric car was produced in 1830, according to Energy.gov, and the first electric vehicle debuts in the US in 1890. Edison took on electric vehicles with batteries.

And we subsidize the fossil fuel industry. So in 2019 why aren’t more people saving money with an electric car?

I plan on leaving this planet cleaner than when I came into it. This is how I am investing in a clean energy future. I hope I have given you something to think about this and consider an electric car for your next vehicle.

(Joanne is also a Rutgers Environmental Steward.)

## Sustainable Lifestyle

# Swimming Pool Wastewater

By Faith Teitelbaum and Stan Greberis, Conservation Co-Chairs of our Jersey Shore Group

Where does the water go when you empty your pool? Do you run a hose from your pool down to the street? That would send it into a storm drain, but do you know where the outlet is? Storm drains do NOT lead to a sewage treatment plant. Storm drains typically outfall into the nearest body of water, for instance our beautiful Takanassee Lake in Long Branch, in the Whale Pond Brook watershed.

So what should you do?

Swimming Pool Waste Water Fountains are designed to re-purpose properly balanced swimming pool waste water for irrigation. They normally include sand or cartridge filtration systems. Their spray aerates pool water by sending it approximately six feet into the air. The returning water falls back to the ground like rain, typically covering 100 square feet, where it can be absorbed into the soil and water the grass.

And what about the grass? Chlorine levels are reduced through the process of aerating swimming pool water. Waste Water Fountains also reduce the soil erosion normally caused by the forceful blast

of a wastewater hose. Construction is typically of durable HDPE plastic. Some models are light enough to carry around with your fingertips. The ones made of HDPE are also recyclable.

You can also talk to someone from your Green Team and ask them to incorporate this provision in your municipal Master Plan. Here is a sample of a town ordinance in Monmouth County. Check your town’s stormwater ordinance and see what it says.

Per ordinance, it is unlawful to discard, spill or dump any material other than storm water into the municipal storm water system. Further, an illicit connection which is defined as any system that discharges domestic sewerage, swimming pool water, process wastewater or pollutants, is prohibited from discharging to the storm water system. Swimming pool water must be disposed of on the pool owner’s property. Waste water fountains are a good option to reduce water consumption, recycle pool water onsite and minimize soil erosion. The purpose of this ordinance is pollution and contamination prevention.

## Reports from Trenton

## Trump Tries to Kill Endangered Species Act

From a press release issued on Aug 12, and edited by Irene Gnarra

The Trump Administration has been dismantling environmental and wildlife protections bit by bit, prioritizing the interests of industry and big business over the concerns of scientists and environmentalists. Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, a former oil and gas lobbyist, claims that his revisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 “modernize” policies. Rather, those modifications weaken protections for endangered species and their natural habitats, and will cause environmental degradation.

The new regulations forbid consideration of climate change when assessing the viability of species. Economic factors are allowed to determine whether a plant or animal should be protected. The degree of risk – threatened, vulnerable, or endangered—will not be respected, since species may be placed on or removed from the list arbitrarily. The new regulations undercut the work of the US Fish and Wildlife Services, as well as the processes of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Bernhardt’s announcement was hailed by industry groups, including oil and gas companies, utilities, ranchers and real estate developers. They are now free to exploit habitats of vulnerable species. New Jersey is especially affected, since we have relied on federal protections in our fights against harmful proposals.

For example, the PennEast Pipeline would destroy the habitats of our endangered species. We especially fear the extinction of the dwarf wedge mussel, bog turtle, and red knot. To compensate for the loss of federal protection, we ask the Murphy Administration to adopt replacement regulations at state-level.

## EPA Repeals Drinking Water Protections

From a press release issued on Sept 12, and edited by Irene Gnarra

On September 12, the US-EPA announced its repeal of the 2015 rules protecting the quality of drinking water, known as WOTUS (Waters of the United States). Environmental groups are in court contesting the action. A hallmark of the Obama Administration, WOTUS regulated the quality of the water in tributaries that feed rivers – protecting wetlands that filter pollution, safeguarding habitats for fish and wildlife, and absorbing floodwaters.

The EPA reduced the number of waterways under protection, excluding intermittent streams and tributaries, and isolated wetlands that are not directly connected to large bodies of water. Now polluting industries, developers, mining companies, agribusinesses, pharmaceutical companies, and other corporate polluters will be free to establish their own rules and possibly ignore the harmful effects of their operations.

The new EPA regulations will impact New Jersey negatively. We expect more flooding, filling in of wetlands, and pollution, with storm water runoff and sewage from other states coming into our rivers and reservoirs.

The Murphy Administration must set new standards for safe drinking water. NJ-DEP must reverse Christie Administration rollbacks on Wetland and Flood Hazard rules, and it must tighten rules on headwater areas and the connectivity of streams. New Jersey must oppose short-sighted decisions and adopt sensible regulations that assure protection for our streams, wetlands, and waterways.

## Toxic Algae Bloom in the Fall – Salem, Sussex, Burlington & Passaic Cos. Impacted

From a press release issued on Oct 4

2019 seems to have been a record year for closures of freshwater lakes because of blooms of blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria. These organisms thrive in polluted waters with high ratios of phosphorous to nitrogen, i.e. in which the pollution originates from household or industrial rather than agricultural sources. (That’s because, unlike green algae, they can “fix” nitrogen from the atmosphere.)

The affected lakes include Lake Owassa in Sussex County, Smithville Lake in Burlington County, and Shepherd Lake in Passaic County, and, in Salem County, Memorial Lake in Woodstown, East Lake and Avis Mill Pond in Pilesgrove, Daretown Lake in Daretown, Elmer Lake in Elmer, Salem River, and Slabtown Lake.

Some of our largest and most popular recreational lakes were affected last year: lakes adjacent to Hopatcong State Park and Greenwood Lake were or are still above NJ Health Advisory Guidance Levels. The DEP needs to establish stream buffers and enforce real Total Maximum Daily Load standards that limit pollutants in our lakes. We need tougher rules on stormwater management and to bring back Septic Management Districts. We also need to reduce overdevelopment and sprawl in environmentally sensitive areas.

In North Carolina, three dogs died due to the same bacteria that shut down swimming at several New Jersey lakes last summer. Shortly after swimming, they started to seize and died three hours later.

## Lake Closures Expose State Park Shortfall

From a press release issued on July 24, edited by Joe Testa

In Summer, 2019, we ran out of places to swim in New Jersey – because of two failed policies. For years, the DEP has not adequately protected waterways or funded parks. There are only eight public swimming areas in all of the north and central parts of the state; four of them were closed intermittently because of toxic algal blooms. Many state parks had to turn people away by 10am on summer weekends because they were filled to capacity.

Shutdowns and advisories at some of the largest and most popular lakes continued to occur as the Summer progressed: Lake Hopatcong, Greenwood Lake, Spruce Run Reservoir, Swartswood Lake, Rosedale Lake in Mercer County, Sunset and Deal Lakes in Monmouth County, and Lake Mohawk in Sparta.

New Jersey hasn’t opened a new swimming area since Wawayanda in 1981. Constructing a swimming area required at Monksville Reservoir was abandoned in 1984 for lack of funds. Greenwood Lake has a state park, but the beach and bathhouse there were never built. The state bought a KOA campground in West Milford with a swimming area, then closed it.

New Jersey has passed on many chances to buy new recreation and swimming areas – from owners who wanted to sell below market value to preserve recreational use – but they were told there wasn’t the money to maintain and operate them. Under Gov. Whitman (1995-2002) the focus of the Green Acres program went from parks and people to buying open space such as farms and forests. As part of that change, she cut park staffing from 1,000 to 400, where it remains. Perhaps this policy was devised to keep urban residents from coming out for recreation in wealthy suburban and rural areas.

Some lost opportunities include Suntan Lake in Riverdale, which had a lake and a giant swimming pool, and is now a Home Depot; Fountain Spring Lake in Ringwood, now an exclusive day camp; Hudson Guild in Byram, which has three lakes and is now an exclusive hunting lodge; and Crystal Springs in Hamburg, which is now a massive resort. McDonald’s Beach in Pequannock is closed and threatened with development.

Money for parks continues to be withdrawn. The annual \$30M budget for capital repairs and parks was cut to \$8M. The lack of money has produced a \$250M backlog of emergency park repair needs. Over the last decade the parks budget is down 40%.

Remaining swimming areas are being overrun by algae. That’s a direct result of the state’s failure to properly maintain waterways. There are no watershed management programs, no attention to stormwater and failed septic tanks. Nothing to address nutrient loads, and no Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standards to limit pollutants. The DEP has made the nutrification of lakes a “low priority because it does not directly relate to human health issues.” That’s wrong.

Solving the algae crisis will require a comprehensive approach. There are short-term, environmentally-sound ways to treat water to reduce algae blooms. We need to reverse Christie-era rollbacks that weakened water protections, and strengthen rules on stormwater management, flood hazard and water quality planning. We should restore Septic Management Districts and extend stream buffers, and retrofit stormwater systems in existing developments. We must also fix aging infrastructure and reduce nutrients from failed septic, leaky sewers and combined sewer overflows.

17 million people visit parks in New Jersey each year, generating \$4 billion in recreation tourism. That demand needs attention. Since 1892 the Sierra Club has fought to “explore, enjoy, and protect” our nation’s wild places and open spaces. That mission includes making sure that our parks are available for people. We will continue that fight.

## DEP Asks for Climate Data – Long Overdue

From a press release issued on Sept 16, and edited by Sylvia Kay

The DEP has just requested that higher-education institutions share research findings on climate change and sea-level rise: that will help New Jersey strengthen its resilience strategies for global warming. This was proposed two years ago, so it seems that the DEP is waking up. Rutgers in particular has strong programs in climatology and land-use planning, and administers a state-wide lay data-collecting program with the acronym cocorahs. The new request has an action deadline of September 30, 2020, and is for all studies either in progress or completed within the last five years.

New Jersey is the only East Coast state that does not currently have a plan for climate resiliency. We think there needs to be a multi-state approach, with a mechanism for updating data and regulations. The DEP needs to:

- regulate CO<sub>2</sub>,
- reopen the NJ Office of Climate Change. It needs to:
- update adaptations for sea-level mitigation,
- update a shore protection plan,
- fix CAFRA loopholes,
- establish a Coastal Commission,
- update Flood Hazard Rules,
- update Wetlands Rules,
- update Water Quality Management Planning Rules,
- update FEMA flood maps for sea level rise,
- update building codes, and
- advance energy efficiency

New Jersey is one of the states most vulnerable to sea level rise, impacting both private and commercial properties. The Union of Concerned Scientists reports that more than 62,000 New Jersey homes, worth more than \$26 billion, will be at risk by 2045. These numbers grow to 251,000 homes, worth \$107 billion, by the end of the century. We lead the nation in the number of commercial properties projected to be at risk of chronic inundation in 2045. It’s time for the Murphy Administration to move aggressively.

## More Reports from Trenton

# RGGI Needs Update to Deal with Our Climate Emergency

From a press release issued on Oct 25, and edited by Tony Hagen

On January 1, New Jersey will again become a partner in the northeastern states' Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), and this will generate a large pot of money from the sale of CO<sub>2</sub> emission allowances to power companies. The idea is that by limiting the sale of those allowances, power companies will be forced to invest in cleaner forms of energy. Furthermore, the proceeds of the allowances will be invested in projects that further reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In October, the Murphy Administration announced a series of public workshops to help decide how that money will be invested.

The New Jersey Sierra Club is pleased to see us back in RGGI, but we are concerned about how the money will be used. Under NJ's Global Warming Solutions Fund Rule, it will be divvied between the Department of Environmental Protection, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

The following seven target areas have been identified: clean transportation, New Jersey's Green Bank, community clean energy microgrid, net-zero energy solutions for waste management, beneficial role of NJ forests in the carbon cycle, sequester "blue carbon" in coastal habitats, and clean tech innovation.

As always, the devil is in the details. The decision process has to be open, and the environmental goals have to be made clear. We must not, for example, rebate or subsidize power companies so that they can further invest in fossil fuel technologies. Energy efficiency, community solar, and electric vehicle infrastructure need to be clearly in the running, as well as other green technology, such as wave and offshore wind energy.

We hope the DEP will keep its commitment to the community and stakeholder process - to target benefits to environmental justice (EJ) communities. It is critical that RGGI funds provide remediation to EJ communities that receive a disproportionate amount of pollution. That should include jobs.

During our previous RGGI participation, New Jersey gained \$151 million in economic value and almost 1,800 jobs. We also achieved greenhouse gas reduction of 10% in the first three years.

Here is a document that explains the intended destination of money acquired through sales of CO<sub>2</sub> allowances: <https://bit.ly/32fctUQ>. And here is the latest report on the success of the RGGI among partners in the New England and Mid-Atlantic states: <https://bit.ly/2poh6hX>.

# Battle against PennEast Pipeline

From a press release issued on Oct 11, and edited by Irene Gnarra

The Sierra Club continues its opposition to the PennEast Pipeline, winning some battles but no ultimate victory as yet. Hopefully we can block construction of this dangerous and unnecessary 110-mile pipeline - so that it never transports natural gas from the Marcellus Shale Region of Pennsylvania, through Hunterdon and Mercer counties: crossing 88 waterways, 91 acres of wetlands, 44 miles of forest, and 1600 acres of open space including farmland. To date, PennEast has failed to gain approval from federal and state agencies, including the Delaware River Basin Commission.

Last March, Attorney General Gurbir Grewal challenged a decision by FERC (the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) to allow PennEast to use eminent domain to access properties protected by open-space and farmland preservation programs. On behalf of seven state agencies involved, Grewal filed an appeal in the U.S Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

In September, the State of New Jersey won its case - with a ruling that New Jersey has sovereign jurisdiction over all state-owned property, property in which the state has an interest, and property in which it holds development rights. Those properties include the much-prized Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park, Bulls Island State Park, Goat Hill, Baldpate Mountain, and Sourland Mountain, which contains the last contiguous forested area in central New Jersey.

In October, DEP denied PennEast's application for a Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit, Flood Hazard Area Verification, and a 401 Water Quality Certificate. The Division of Land Use Regulation ruled that the application cannot be deemed "administratively complete," because it does not demonstrate that PennEast has the authority required by state regulations (N.J.A.C 7:7A-16.n [c] and N.J.A.C 7:13-18.2 [c]). However, "it's not over until it's over": Chapter Director Jeff Tittel reminds us that we must remain vigilant, since DEP denied these permits "without prejudice."

PennEast has not accepted defeat, and environmentalists have not weakened their opposition. The Club will continue to support the 70% of private property-owners who have denied PennEast access to their lands—as their court cases have not been dismissed. Moreover, we want DEP to revise its rules that make it easy to build pipelines. Most importantly, NJ must put a moratorium on all fossil-fuel projects - as part of the effort to stop global warming.

# DEP Finds Toxic Chemicals in Illegal Ocean County Dump

From a press release issued on Oct 21, edited by Sylvia Kay

On a 94-acre property in Plumstead, the DEP recently found cancer-linked PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and contaminated soils that were illegally dumped by Sam Russo. The Department also found high levels of fecal bacteria in water samples from a stream that runs through the dump and flows into nearby bodies of water. High levels of arsenic were found in the soil near the drainage pipe that empties into the stream.

Russo has dumped over 40,000 tons of waste at his rural site, which borders the Pinelands. PCB levels peaked at 1.7 parts per million - more than eight times higher than the 0.2 ppm standard set by the state for residential properties. That same sample also contained two pesticides — Dieldrin and Aldrin — at levels above the residential standard. Water taken from the mouth of the drainage pipe contained 160,000/100mL (MPN) of fecal coliform, and 3,300/100mL (MPN) of enterococci. Also found were asphalt millings (known to contain toxic chemicals like benzene) and concrete linked to PCBs. Russo's pollutants have killed fish, and they threaten the drinking water quality of local residents.

From Vernon (in Sussex Co) down to Kearny (Hudson Co), soil and water contamination has become a major problem in New Jersey, where the historic failure of environmental protection has encouraged illegal dumping. Remediation of the accumulating contamination of aquifers and ecosystems increasingly drains our tax revenues. The DEP and the Attorney General need to tighten their regulations and start vigorous prosecution so that sites like Russo's are properly cleaned up - and paid from the polluter's change purse. In August, Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal and DEP Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe announced that the State is starting actions to close an "unauthorized solid waste dumpsite in Ocean County."

Legislation exists: the Spill Act, originated in the 1970s, allows New Jersey to charge triple damages to an offender like Russo. But the legislation requires tighter DEP regulations on dirty dirt. A bill, **S1683 (Smith, Greenstein)**, was introduced into the Senate Energy and Environment Committee in February, 2018. It would extend back-ground checks to a broader range of persons in the waste-processing industry, such as sales persons, consultants and brokers. It has passed the Senate, and is currently pending Assembly approval. Also, the DEP needs to set stronger standards to prevent new contamination.

But the fundamental problem continues to be the DEP's lack of enforcement. Its permissive attitude has allowed a disgraceful history of dumping and contamination.

# AG & DEP Target Polluters in EJ Communities

From a press release issued on Oct 25, and edited by Tony Hagen

Six civil filings recently, by the Department of Environmental Protection and Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal, have hopefully put a chill down the spines of ne'er-do-well business owners who think they can leave a toxic legacy and get away with it.

Grewal said the lawsuits against current and past business owners in Trenton, Camden, Newark, East Orange and Kearny are intended to put meaning behind the words "environmental justice," which is a movement to give inner city residents the same entitlements to a clean, healthy, and safe environment as residents elsewhere.

In Newark, Nanes Metal Finishing Company, of 4th St, allegedly allowed TCE (trichloroethylene) and PCE (perchloroethylene) to leach into the soil. These chemicals are linked to kidney dysfunction, respiratory tract irritation and cognitive and neurological effects. The DEP has spent \$500,000 on cleanup so far and wants to recover the costs.

Sainte Marie Dry Cleaners of Chestnut St in Trenton allegedly created an unholy mess by allowing PCE to leach from underground tanks, affecting nearby homes. The property was foreclosed; the DEP now seeks at least \$400,000 for remediation. Those responsible for the contamination allegedly didn't follow through with the required cleanup. The DEP hopes to compel them to finish the job.

At a Chestnut St property in Camden, current and past owners allegedly ran an unlicensed solid waste dump. Scrap metals, construction and demolition debris, dirt fill and discarded materials are present in abundance. The State asks for a court order requiring the removal and proper disposal of the solid waste by year's end, as well as the imposition of civil penalties.

The DEP and the AG are also seeking enforcement actions against Schofield Cleaners of West State St, Trenton, Auto Scrap of Stover Ave, Kearny, and Gas Mart of North Park St in East Orange. What offenses these businesses allegedly committed was not specified in the DEP release. The six suits also name other parties thought to be complicit.

State officials are rightly proud of these actions. Also recently published is a reminder of previous actions and lawsuits intended, among other things, to stop offshore drilling and reverse the Trump Administration's rollback of critical federal rules that address climate change, clean air, and clean water.

Additionally, Grewal has issued a new handbook for law enforcement officers on how to prosecute environmental criminals. The Sierra Club commends state officials for putting force into law enforcement and holding polluters accountable. We look forward to the successful prosecution of these cases.

To read the release, visit <https://bit.ly/2JFfvw5>