Joe Biden has a plan to build back better. A key objective of this plan is to mobilize American ingenuity to build a modern infrastructure and an equitable, clean energy future. This requires building a resilient economy and building sustainable infrastructure. On Nov. 4, the day the U.S. officially left the Paris Climate Agreement, Joe Biden reaffirmed his commitment to rejoin it. Although his plan is not as ambitious as the Green New Deal, he has promised to spend $2 trillion over four years toward achieving a carbon-free power sector by 2035, and net-zero emissions country-wide by 2050. With the need to replace jobs lost during the COVID-19 pandemic, an emphasis will be on climate solutions that stimulate economic development.

The "Biden Plan to Build a Modern, Sustainable Infrastructure and an Equitable Clean Energy Future" (https://jobiden.com/clean-energy/) was developed by a Climate Task Force chaired by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), a strong advocate for bold climate action, and former Secretary of State John Kerry, an architect of the Paris Climate Accord. The plan is influenced by The Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, created by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. It is committed to commonsense climate solutions and, in 500 words, sets the stage for achieving this vision. Former Astronaut Mark Kelly, who is committed to commonsense climate solutions. After this year of hurricanes and forest fires, citizen support for Congressional climate action is expected.

2021 is an election year for New Jersey state office-holders including the Governor. The NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club, and its members, have a responsibility to ensure that all candidates and parties align their platforms with the need for combating the Climate Crisis. We’ll do this by pushing for aggressive decarbonization policy, by promoting Smart development, and by supporting clean energy and energy efficiency initiatives. We need to elect people who recognize the challenges of global warming and who are willing to seek solutions.

NEW LOOK!

To start our 50th year as a Sierra Club Chapter, our Designer, Karen Crosby, has revamped the Style and Design of the Jersey Sierra Newsletter, adding color and using the latest formatting recommended by the national Sierra Club "Handbook." The new typeface is called Merriweather. I’m sure she would welcome comments to karona@yahoo.com.

— Editor

Inside this Issue:
- CCL Report, Asian-American Hate Crimes, Club’s Finest Hours in NJ, ... 2
- Member Reports: Spotted Lantern Fly, High School Report, Pine Barrens Water, NJ State Long Tail, Pollution Laws and Environmental Justice ... 4-5
- Reports from the National: Beach Sand Replenishment, Subsidizing PSE&G, Warehousing, Bear Hunt, Lead in Newark Schools ... 5-6
- Group News ... 7-11
- Outings, Leaders, Meetings, Membership, ... 12
- Electronic supplement: ... 13-15
- Editorial on the Land and Water Conservation Fund; More Reports from Trenton: Bus Depot for Ridgefield Park; Ciba-Geigy Superfund Site; Powering NJ’s Trains; Solvay Sun; Salem Co. Groundwater, Cost of Shutting Coal Plants, Solving Water Problems, Toxic Sites to 40% and

———continued on page 4———

Sustainable Future —―.—. 1198 is the beneficiary of many attempts at plastic control legislation over the last several years. In the summer of 2018, and at the urging of the Sierra Club and other environmental groups, Governor Murphy killed a bill. By late 2018, more robust legislation. New Jersey now joins a growing set of US states and territories with some form of plastic control. California and Oregon bar bags and straws; Connecticut, New York, Oregon, Puerto Rico, and Delaware bar bags; Maine bans wall bags and in some areas straws and foam containers. The extent of global environmental degradation by plastics became clear after the publication of several United Nations’ reports in 2017 and 2018. More recently, various media have highlighted the massive accumulation of plastic waste. We continue to progress since the start of plastic production in the 1950s. Manufacture of plastics has grown from 2.3 million tons in 1950 to 464 million tons in 2015; this number is likely to double by 2050 unless there is a major shift in global consumption and recycling. The United States and China have been the largest producers of plastic waste.

Many other countries have legislated against single-use plastics. The European Union, in particular, has imposed
Our Finest Hours in the Sierra Nevada

For our 50th anniversary, we asked some of our longest-serving officers to contribute words of reminiscence.

From Marty Cohen, founder of the Chapter’s Inner City Outings program: Our primary concern is public ed- ucation, and our most memorable stu- dent was, in fact, me. Nobody, I suspect, has learned as much from ICO as I, from what a ten-year-old is capable of doing a week-end to an appreciation of the im- portance of experience to a leader.

Early in my ICO days I was usually the youngest, with the usual, which was good (having to keep up with me increased some children’s confidence in their capabilities) and bad (I didn’t really realize my pace was too fast for some of the others). One of my favorite hikes involved climbing a level IV section of the Miners Ridge Trail. The good thing is that the ascent appears vertical, hand and foot holds required, but it was proba- bly “only” about 40 degrees. At the on- set there was a group conversation from the children, some sneaking in antic- ipation, others in fear; but all made it (boys and kids of all ages), and at the top all of them beaming expres- sions of accomplishment. Or what about the time we encoun- tered a rattlesnake on the edge of the trail, a snake I had walked right by, but which did not escape the sharp eyes of the children. Or the time, on a trail that I had hiked about 50 times previ- ously, one of the children asked if we could see that waterfall “over there”. None of the adults who hiked with me, nor 1, had ever seen that waterfall, may- be 150 yards from the trail, before.

As I looked out at my audience at one of our pre-hike talks at a middle school in Patterson what I saw were the faces of twenty or so 7th graders staring right at me wanting, demanding to know more about the upcoming adventure, an ad- venture into our homeland (we didn’t evolve in cities, but in the woods). This was the preliminary part of education, the main event would be being there, trepidation at the beginning, familiar- ity with the setting.

From our Central Jersey Group, courtesy of Laura Lynch: We stand on the shoulders of giants. None of our achievements would have been possible if not for the people who came before us and the people who worked with us.

The Club has been fighting for our natural resources, during our tenure as Conserva- tion Chair for the Central Jersey Group, we were able to stop environmentally destructive highway projects such as the Millstone Bypass and Route 92. We were able to keep dense housing off of the environmentally-sensitive Princeton Ridge. We held back several big- box retailers from planting themselves next to open spaces.

None of these battles were won alone. If not for the people who came before us and the people who worked with us.

From your editor, Dick Colby: Noth- ing succeeds like success, especial- ly when a team of activists has worked closely together for many years on a major project: obtaining Federal Wild & Scenic protection for the Middle Fork of the South Platte River, which includes parts of Cam- den, Gloucester, Atlantic and Cape May Counties. The effort took from 1995 to 2019, with assistance of the Club’s South Jersey Group incorporat- ing themselves as the Great Egg Har- bor Watershed Association – to acquire the appropriateness of public works to the appro
I don’t know any currently active Club members who were here at the begin- ning, when in the mid-19th Century the Sierra Club was fragmented into separate Chapters for each Eastern State. We have our earliest Chapter Chairs, where did they hold meetings, and what were their issues and campaigns? The Sierra Club was founded in Cal- ifornia in 1892. In the mid-20th Century, Club membership required sponsorship by an exist- ing member. Also during that Century, the Club evolved from a member-oper- ated organization to a staff-oper- ated organization, both at the national and chapter level. In the mid-1900s David Brower became the Club’s first national director, hired (at least partly) to lead the campaign to resist damming of the Colorado River in Glen Canyon that was expected to flood part of the Grand Canyon. Tim Dillingham was the New Jersey Chapter’s first Di- rector, hired in or about 1993. One con- sequence of the move toward staff op- eration was a dramatic increase in our number of members. Every year we have to elaborate fund-raising campaigns that we see today. So gone are the days when MOST Club members were in it mostly for the opportunities to hike, camp, climb, so- cialize, and be awed by immersion in wilderness. Even the New Jersey Chapter officers retreated into the woods at least annually for a weekend of introspection and fellowship. Another way in which environmen- talism has become a rare niche activity. From member-operation to staff-operation was, to my mind, the saddest change in the Club’s history. We still differ from most other environmental organiza- tions in the extent to which some of our campaigns are conducted by volun- teers. But in our lifetimes political lobby- buying has become a full-time profes- sional business for well-paid experts, and the enjoyment of wilderness has become a sport. Paralleling the shift toward profes- sionalism, the last 50 years is also a time of emerging environmental con- servation issues. Some of those issues have changed from land use (the protection of open space, especially of special areas) to water quality, back and remediation of environmental degradation: global warming, sea-level rise, toxic site remediation, water and air quality, the need for recycling, the need for replanning plastics and other problematic substances, and the need to environmentally unburden commun- ities from the burdens of the past. Our Chapter engages in two prima- ry theaters of environmentalism: one is political lobbying (we're a member of the Legislative and Executive branches of government; the other is at the lo- cal level: in our cities and townships. I don’t have to tell our member-volunteer conservation activists who report at our monthly Conservation and Prevention (C&P) meetings that our cam- paigns to cope with invasive species, local runoff contaminations, battles in local land use boards, promoting can- didates and candidates, and other involvements. But I see what was once a Sierra Club as having morphed into two or three clubs: one for profes- sionals, one for volun- teers and p e r h a p s the bulk of our membership. My earliest memories of Chapter ac- tivity include my recruitment by facul- ty, a late professor, from my place at Stockton State College and later in my local community high school to join the Chapter. I remember attending statewide meet- ings in the Engineering Quad at Prince- ton University with my chapter Chair, Ian Walker, taught Geology. I remember the Chapter’s Conserva- tion Chair, Diane Graves, and the par- ty of them functioned almost full time in the 1970s and 1980s as the best volunt- eer leadership team I have ever known. One big issue then was the proposed Tock’s Island Dam: a dam that the Delaware River at the Water Gap for power and flood con- trol. Their efforts were successful, and the publicity built the Chapter’s membership numbers, not to mention enabling the Club to con- vert the site to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. I think another major shift in the last 50 years has to do with the bulk of Club membership: from active to passive, i.e. from participatory to dollar contributo- ry. The average age of our members has risen, both in Chapter outings and in the Club’s national outings, especially as a percentage of our members. We’ve seen far more of a charity, with dues understood as necessary for the salaries of professionals. As a graduate student in California in the 1960s I remember participat- ing in the campaign for the designa- tion of Redwoods National Park, an ef- fort led by the Club’s then President, Ed Wayburn, and conducted primarily by member-volunteers. When I was Chapter Chair of the New Jersey Chapter, we faced a rather cer- tain financial crisis in the Club nation- ally, that was solved by trimming the number of national staff from 250 to 225. The New Jersey membership declined, so it was up to our volunteers to help bridge the gap, by raising much of the money needed to support the Club’s activities. Another way that environmental men- tions has become professionalization. The Chapter’s ICO Committee Members were invited regularly to meet with DEP officials and with the Governor. No longer. Another way that the laments (and preju- dicies) with which I unburden myself as your 81-year-old curmudgeon editor!
The Challenge of the Spotted Lantern Fly

By Kip Cherry, PP, AICP, Conservation Chair of our Central Jersey Group

While we cope with COVID-19, there is another issue where we need to take immediate action. The Spotted Lantern Fly (SLF), an invasive insect species from Asia, has arrived in New Jersey and needs immediate action. Right now we need to be scraping SLF eggs mass off of trees and cutting down the invasive Tree of Heaven. Here are the details:

The SLF attacks apple trees, peach trees, cherry trees, blueberries, grapes, hops, walnut trees, maple trees, sweet gums, oak, birch, sassafras, and many other important agricultural plants and shade trees. When the SLF feeds on a host, it digests the tree sap and regurgitates a sticky honeydew waste that draws mold and other insects. This weakens the host and degrades the fruit, presenting the possibility of major financial losses among the locally grown fruits for which New Jersey is so well known.

Eggs laid and a reduction in the quality of life for New Jerseyans:
The most popular host for the SLF is the Tree of Heaven (Latin: Ailanthus), an invasive species that, once it gains a foothold along roadways and in vacant lots, is very difficult to control. Eight counties in New Jersey are currently under quarantine. That means that anyone who sees these invasive trees should do a quick inspection to make sure that no SLF stowaways are present. Towns are becoming increasingly aware that their Public Works Departments have a responsibility to survey public rights-of-ways and public properties to identify Trees of Heaven, receive reports of sightings from the public, and send out crews to cut down the infected tree and properly dispose of the waste materials.

The SLF seems to take its name from the effect of its inner red wings that reflect off of large outer wings, creating a glow. It also jumps more than it flies. Thus far no SLF predators are known. Most immediately with farmers fighting the SLF, local residential neighborhoods will be saddled with sticky messes and cleaning up. It will be a reminder of the devastation that lies ahead.

For further information, here is a link to a presentation by Rich Buckley, Rutgers University Plant Diagnostic Laboratory:
http://PostDoc.rutgers.edu/uploads/SLF%20Buckley%202019%5F10.mp4

Leaves of Tree of Heaven

The SLF is known to attack several other tree species, but the Tree of Heaven has smooth leaf edges except for one or two notches at the base of the leaf. SLFs die off in the Fall after laying their eggs. The eggs survive the winter and hatch as nymphs that morph into the adult flies.

First seen in 2004, in Berks County, Pennsylvania, SLFs have been spreading fairly rapidly into surrounding states. Eight counties in New Jersey are officially quarantined: Mercer, Warren, Hunterdon, Burlington, Camden, Salem, and Gloucester. That means that anyone who leaves these counties in a vehicle should do a quick inspection to make sure that there are no SLF stowaways. Towns are becoming increasingly aware that their Public Works Departments have a responsibility to survey public rights-of-ways and public properties to identify Trees of Heaven, receive reports of sightings from the public, and send out crews to cut down the infected tree and properly dispose of the waste materials.

The SLF seems to take its name from the effect of its inner red wings that reflect off of large outer wings, creating a glow. It also jumps more than it flies. Thus far no SLF predators are known. Most immediately with farmers fighting the SLF, local residential neighborhoods will be saddled with sticky messes and cleaning up. It will be a reminder of the devastation that lies ahead.

For further information, here is a link to a presentation by Rich Buckley, Rutgers University Plant Diagnostic Laboratory:
http://PostDoc.rutgers.edu/uploads/SLF%20Buckley%202019%5F10.mp4

In the last decade there has been a growing trend to turn waste plastic as fuel, but this leaves toxic residuals. New Jersey has been estimated to supply 4.4 billion plastic bags each year, so the new law will have a sizable impact. With Murphy’s signature on S664/A10978, we have made a bold, clean step forward and obtained a clear win for the environment.

Sources:
“Single-Use Plastics: A Road Map for Sustainability” (2018), UN Environment Program
“Here’s how much plastic trash is littering the Earth,” news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/07/ L. Parker, and www.nationalgeographic.com/envi ronment/habitats/plastic-pollution/

Water in the Pine Barrens Part 2

By Lee Snyder (Pinelands1@hotmail.com)

As noted in a previous issue of this Newsletter, the most important natural resource in and below the 1.1-million-acre Pine Barrens Regional Reserve in New Jersey is a estimated 17 trillion gallons of fresh water. This water resource is extraordinary not only because it is vast, but also because of its quality. The water sits in the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer, one of the largest aquifers in the United States. New Jersey is an estimated 17 trillion gallons of fresh water reservoir, which, in the case of the Pine Barrens, is contained in one of the three sand bowls. Pine Barrens groundwater has fewer objectionable physical or chemical characteristics, and has been described as being more pristine and cleaner than most ground waters. The chemical purity approaches that of uncontaminated rainwater or melted glacial ice. Where water pollution is present, it is usually local and of relatively low intensity.

New Jersey’s surface water has a pronounced reddish brown color or which is caused by a chemical mix of iron oxide and other particulate materials such as tannin from tree bark and other plant matter. This “cedar water” can be so dark that it obscures the river and can be a problem. It is practically tasteless and refreshing to drink, as it seldom exceeds a temperature of 70°F. In the winter months, the lake and pond 54°F groundwater generally prevents the streams from freezing bank-to bank. It is vitally important to protect such unique fresh water resource for future generations.

REPORT FROM OUR HIGH SCHOOL LIAISON
From First-Time Voting to Community Service
By Allison Fabrizio (allisonl.f1190@gmail.com)

I have just voted for the first time! Mailing in my ballot brought an enormous sigh of relief, knowing that I am no longer tied to being able to vote, but I am more than able to do so. This right is in the issues that directly affect me, my community, and my generation. Many of you may not be able to vote, however, doesn’t (yet) have the right to vote. But that doesn’t mean that they were powerless during this election year. October 2019, the organization “Countdown,” was attended by many students in New Jersey. After this event, I asked the founder of the Edison High School’s iSTEM Club, Sunnit Panda, to reflect on his team’s amazing work of putting on this conference.

TEDxEdisonHighSchool’s “Countdown” was a virtual conference that brought the TEDx Countdown Climate Change initiative to our high school community. Our local and TED-provided talks focused on possible solutions to climate change: something more than just contemplating ways to save the planet. The powerful personal anecdotes and scientific evidence, we discussed topics such as the Green New Deal, city green grids as a way of life, and what effects of climate change have on the planet and water access.

Our conference hosted two live speakers: Dr. Greg Gorman (Conservation Chair of the NJ Sierra Club) and Justin Paik (Student Organizer of the Colum bia University Youth Climate Summit). Gorman presented a bird’s eye view of climate change in NJ. He discussed how the Green New Deal would rebuild NJ’s economy and the heat of the change, focusing on both planet and profit.

Justin discussed a project in which he built a well in the Moroccan desert: a use of environmental engineering to solve problems caused by climate change. Such engineering solutions are the basis of “Climate Action Plans” developed by high school students at the Youth Climate Summit. These plans address environmental problems in the students’ own high schools. “Overall, this local TEDx event was a great way to bring hot-button climate change issues home to New Jersey,” (Sunnit) Event Page: https://www.ted.com/tedx/ edisonhighschool/ The iSTEM Club works to channel the interest of the next generation of STEM students to meaningful causes. The iSTEM Club is only in its second year, its members are already trying to branch outside of their club setting into their school curriculum and not just on STEM, but also on principles of teamwork and leadership – so their members feel as though their efforts positively impact their surrounding communities. For the rest of this academic year, the iSTEM Club’s platform for meetings and events will be entirely online.

“TEDxEdisonHighSchool is a great example of how we can provide value to the community in this virtual world. We will host another TEDx Event in February: on recent social unrest, and titled, “Diversity through Uncertainty.” We are also developing a seminar series where Club officers share their experiences to help the members of the community seek career-oriented activities such as internships, research projects, and community service.” (Sunnit)

“Additionally, since real-world STEM experiences are not practical during the pandemic, we are exploring iSTEM Club activities. We have planned community-building events such as TEDx Countdown votes. Club members just talk about current events in an academic context. Additionally, Club officers make themselves available for presenters to programs in short, while it was difficult to create a plan for the upcoming year, the iSTEM Club is taking a community-minded and personal approach to serving our community during the pandemic.” (Sunnit)

Sunnit also attributes the success of his Club and this event to organizers including Vasanuthi Venkit, Aditi Deshmukh, Gunjan Adya, Neoma Chowdhury, and Anastasia Iribahm.

PINELANDS ISSUER'S COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Pinelands Issues Coordinator's Report Part 2

By Brian Buckley and Lee Snyder

Water in the Pine Barrens Part 2

By Lee Snyder (Pinelands1@hotmail.com)

As noted in a previous issue of this Newsletter, the most important natural resource in and below the 1.1-million-acre Pine Barrens Regional Reserve in New Jersey is a estimated 17 trillion gallons of fresh water. This water resource is extraordinary not only because it is vast, but also because of its quality. The water sits in the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer, one of the largest aquifers in the United States. For New Jersey is an estimated 17 trillion gallons of fresh water reservoir, which, in the case of the Pine Barrens, is contained in one of the three sand bowls. Their Pine Barrens groundwater has fewer objectionable physical or chemical characteristics, and has been described as being more pristine and cleaner than most ground waters. The chemical purity approaches that of uncontaminated rainwater or melted glacial ice. Where water pollution is present, it is usually local and of relatively low intensity.

New Jersey’s surface water has a pronounced reddish brown color or which is caused by a chemical mix of iron oxide and other particulate materials such as tannin from tree bark and other plant matter. This “cedar water” can be so dark that it obscures the river and can be a problem. It is practically tasteless and refreshing to drink, as it seldom exceeds a temperature of 70°F. In the winter months, the lake and pond 54°F groundwater generally prevents the streams from freezing bank-to bank. It is vitally important to protect such unique fresh water resource for future generations.

MEMBER'S REPORT
PLASTIC BAN continued from page 1

a single-use plastic ban, and is attempting to improve a strong consumer consciousness for reuse and recycling. Single-use plastics have proven particularly harmful to wildlife. They accumulate in ecosystems and have been reported to harm more than 700 animal species by blocking ingestion or suffocation. Plastic decomposes very slowly, degrading through a stage of microplastics: 5 micrometers or smaller. Microplastics have been found in more than 100 aquatic species: entering food webs in the ocean, fresh water and on land. Microplastics are a by-product of the fossil fuel industry. New production from virgin natural gas or petroleum is cheaper than from recycled plastic waste, so only about 9% of all plastics are recycled compared to less than 3% that are repurposed. The EPA reports that this is especially true for plastic bags. Much of the so-called “recycled” plastic sits in landfills or enters the oceans.

1/25/2021 6:35:48 PM
REPORT FROM OUR TRAILS COORDINATOR

The Jersey Sierran

By David Mattek (MattekDC@siouc.org)

Monmouth Beach Project Will Wash $$$ Out to Sea

From a Press Release issued on Sept 29

On Sept 24, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers started a $52 million beach replenishment project in Long Branch, Monmouth Beach, and Sea Bright (Monmouth Co). 2.7 million cubic yards of offshore sand are being pumped onto the beaches. A first phase began last December, costing $13.5 million; this second phase will cost another $38.5 million. The federal government is paying 65% of the cost, the state will cover 26%, and the local authorities will cover the rest.

All this sand will be washed out to sea in the next storms, along with the $52 million. Sea walls and dikes won’t work either. The Sierra Club urges a long-term solution to accomplish this restoration: Restoring dunes and marshes protects property and is environmentally beneficial. There needs to be a comprehensive approach that includes elevating structures and moving them back from the water’s edge. Developing new flood storage and still help also. Foremost, we should refuse further development in flood–prone areas. Unless we build dunes appropriately and restore marshes and tidal wetlands, we cannot protect our coast against beach erosion or protect property from storm surges. The U.S. Army Corps should abandon buy-out and flood–prone properties.

In October of 1999, several shore towns tried to replenish their beaches after tropical storm Melissa caused major beach erosion and tidal flooding. The storm washed away mounds of sand at some beaches and created scars up to 15 feet high. There were sinkholes in Sea Bright.

The Sierra Club recommends the building of dunes, even at the cost of depriving homeowners of a private ocean view. Dunes protect against beach erosion, provide habitats for birds and other species, and reduce beach rains.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is moving forward on a new program, worth over $500 million, to buy large scale community flood prone areas. New Jersey’s Fish and Wildlife Management Bureau is already buying out properties in Southern Monmouth county for the purpose of restoration. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has started a similar $16 billion program.

MEMBER’S COMMENTARY ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Will Socially Oriented Pollution Laws Help Our Vulnerable Communities?

By George Moffatt, Communications Chair of our Jersey Shore Group

Our concept of “environmentalism” has evolved over time. Our earliest nature writers, such as John Muir, Henry Thoreau, Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson, were all concerned with the natural environment. But all that struck common chords: respecting the land and sea, communing with nature, and preserving God’s creations.1 Yet, nature, through its actions, often becomes a force resulting in the harm of its own species.2

In the late 1940s, environmental concerns morphed from “health” to “national” issues — including nuclear weapons.3 When climate change took hold in the late 20th Century, “environmentalism” expanded into new and more complex territories — geography, chemistry, biology and human society.4 The “climate” and credible area of concern is resulting in “climate” with the potential to devastate.5

Our goal is to improve a community, not just build a community.6

In effect, CI’s regulations will help determine if a community has “had enough.” This is why CI is a big deal. Consider just one “had-enough” example: the three richest Americans have more money than the poorest 160 million of their countrymen. Twenty percent of American households have zero or negative net worth, including 37 percent of Black families.7

The majority of Americans — white, Black, and brown — are paychecks removed from bankruptcy. While the US is the wealthiest country in history, most Americans live on civilization’s edge. Most shockingly, almost 13 percent of all low-income households can’t have enough to eat.

Another urban burden is health. The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention state that whites are 61 percent of the US population, Latinos 28 percent, and Blacks 12 percent. Yet, while whites account for 53 percent of COVID deaths, Blacks and Latinos 17 percent, Black deaths are twice their population percentage -- 22 percent.16 Blacks also have the highest reported COVID rates and Black deaths are twice their population percentage — 22 percent.16

CI’s regulations can’t solve many of these problems, but they can prevent them from becoming worse. And if CI can successfully control all forms of pollution — noxious odors, discharge, spillages, faulty treatment plants, and other manufacturing burdens — it will certainly help improve a community’s living conditions.

So, if the Muckrakers would be pleased. But CI isn’t there yet. Detailed CI regulations must be written to flesh out the enabling legislation, and lobbyists will try to water down or work around them — and therein the Devil’s advocacy.

As Dr. Henry Thoreau wrote, “A man must be very carefully monitor the specifics as they unfold.”

As a prescient CI advocate challenged at a recent Jersey Shore talk, “What are you going to do about it?”

Citations:

The budget that Governor Murphy signed in September increases the operational budget of the Department of Environmental Protection to $181 million, up from $159 million last year. It rests more money that was being raided from the Recycling Trust Fund ($12 million) and the Clean Communities Fund for Parks Management ($10 million) and also includes $750,000 for grants-in-aid, $8.5 million for state aid, and $117 million for capital construction.

The restored funds will help deal with plastic pollution and implement the statewide plastic bag ban. The budget also restored $10 million for removing lead paint from homes. There will also be more money for programs like open space parks, cleaning up underground storage containers and contaminated sites, and watershed protection. This is because the Corporation Business Tax is increasing, and 6% of the CBT is dedicated to environmental programs.

NJ Transit’s budget, which was originally cut by $31 million, has increased by $600 million. The Lead Abatement Program has been restored to its original $20 million. However, a total of $40 million is still being taken from the Clean Energy Fund and the budget does not provide funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Programs from $80 million to $60 million.

This is the first year in over a decade that the DEP hasn’t been cut, and the budget eliminates some of the raids and one-shots that hurt the environment in recent years. Given the coronavirus and the budget shortfall, having this money re-stored is a step forward for the environment, but we need to do more. DEP staffing has been cut by a year after year; we need to start restoring its capacity for environment protection.

With this budget, Murphy has finally given the environment a break. It is a first step to make sure DEP has the funds for personnel and resources to protect our environment and our health. The investment in environment is integral in our society and our future.

**REPORT FROM TRENTON**

**Tinton Falls Delays Warehouse Proposal**

From a press release issued on Oct 15

The Tinton Falls (Monmouth Co) Planning Board canceled a meeting scheduled for Oct 14 – that would have heard an application for a major receiving and shipping warehouse. The proposal required enough room and space to fit everyone in a socially distant setting. Members of the Sierra Club’s Jersey Shore Group, of the Tinton Falls, that blames China for the suffering in recent weeks. It is consistently with the call to action are consistent with the hope that our newly elected officials will stand up to China.”

**REPORT FROM TRENTON**

**PSE&G Seeks More Subsidies**

From a press release issued by our Trenton staff on Oct 1, edited by Irene Grunra

New Jersey’s Nuclear Subsidy Law requires that the NJ Board of Public Utilities create a program and mechanism for the issuance of Zero Emission Credits (ZECs) for eligible nuclear power plants. Following the requirements in “The Matter of the Implementation of L. 2018, c. 16,” PSEG submitted its petition on October 1, requesting $20 million for its two nuclear power plants in Salem County.

Last year, the BPU staff urged the rejection of PSEG’s application, but the Board disregarded them and granted the company $300 million. The Sierra Club opposes these subsidies and hopes that the new petition will be denied, for the company has no need for financial assistance. According to PSEG’s tax report for 2018, the company received $9.7 billion in revenues, of which almost $1.8 billion was profit. That amounts to an 18 percent return, yet the company paid no federal taxes. Doubtless, that money was distributed as dividends to stockholders.

The Nuclear Subsidy Law also requires that utilities buy 40% of their electricity from nuclear power plants. It is shameful that the subsidy constitutes a regressive tax on working families who struggle to pay taxes while their electricity bills escalate.

PSEG would also like to build a new power line through Maryland and Delaware, apparently funded by New Jersey subsidiaries. New Jersey ratepayers should not have to finance in- and out-of-state nuclear plants. It is critical that PSEG analyze how much power each plant generates, where the power is used, and who is paying for it. Companies receiving subsidies from New Jersey should not be permitted to receive additional support from the PJM Grid, as well as from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). The New Jersey Sierra Club is concerned that other companies owning plants within the PJM region will also apply for New Jersey’s ZEC credits. BPU must make the application process transparent and require that all applicants show proof to an independent auditor that they need support for their nuclear facilities.

Instead of subsidies for munificently—dollar energy companies, the State should fund the development of renewable energy. Nuclear power should not be considered a long-term solution, nor should it be considered the ultimate goal for green energy.

**REPORT FROM TRENTON**

**Murphy's Bear Hunters Kill 336**

From a Press Release issued on Oct 19

The first, how-and-arrow, segment of the 2020 New Jersey Bear Hunt resulted in 336 bears killed: 152 in Sussex Co, 89 in Warren, 63 in Morris, 21 in Passaic, 7 in Hunterdon, and 1 bear in Somerset. The second segment for firearms was scheduled to begin on December 7th.

Governor Murphy should have stopped this hunt but he didn’t. More than 5,000 “trophy” bears have been killed since 2010. The Sierra Club urges transition from hunting to a real management plan, one that includes education and installs warning signs in the region, educational materials at trail heads, prohibits the feeding of bears, and manages garbage. These measures would manage the bear population better than hunting.

The bear hunt was initiated to get rid of aggressive and nuisance bears. But their numbers have dropped too much to be handled by hunting. A coalition of twelve organizations, including the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Humane Society of the United States and The Animal Legal Defense Fund, filed a petition with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection under the Administrative Procedures Act to repeal rules permitting bear hunting and the Department’s Comprehensive Bear Management Policy. The coalition also sent a letter to Murphy asking him to issue an Executive Order to stop the bear hunt.

**REPORT FROM TRENTON**

**Newark Schools Receive $7.5 Million for Lead Removal**

From a Press Release issued on Oct 23

On Oct 23rd, the US Environmental Protection Agency awarded the Newark Board of Education $7.5 million in federal funds to combat lead in Newark schools. The grant will help fund the Newark Safe Water Initiative, which removes lead from school drinking water.

In addition to replacing lead plumbing, the money will also fund outreach and public education to raise awareness of the health effects of lead in drinking water and ways to reduce lead exposure.

Testing has revealed elevated levels of lead in 30 schools in New Jersey, in some places levels ten times above the federal standard. In March 2016, a memo obtained by the New Jersey Sierra Club showed that school officials in Newark have known about the lead problem since August 2014.
The CCL is working to ensure that this is the case. I am honored that the CCL elected me as its Chair for the coming year. In that role, I have a seat with the Board of Directors and on many national Board committees, and am responsible for leading the CCL Executive Committee and bringing local Chapter and Group concerns to the attention of our Club’s national leadership and bureaucracy. We will have a busy year ahead.

Jan 6 (Wed): COVID-19 Camping in the National Parks. Recent Rutgers graduates Ray and Victoria Sherry-Williams will share stories and photos of their great park summer adventure visiting the Badlands, Rocky Mountain, Yellowstone, Arches, Canyons, Great Sand Dunes, Redwoods and Olympic Parks.

Feb 3 (Wed): “Collaboration is our Strongest Lever for Change!” Mary Conti, Director of Marketing for The Nature Conservancy (TNC), together with Heather, Tracy and Melissa from the Woodland’s Wildlife Refuge (WWR) will present on their collaboration to release rehabilitated animals back into the wild. How TNC and WWR’s collaborative efforts may serve as a model to spearhead other environmental initiatives to preserve lands while mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Mar 3 (Wed): Precious yet Imperiled Northern New Jersey’s Secret Forest — 260 square miles of Woodlands. Elliot Rugo from the NJ Highlands Coalition will give a Pro-forestation talk. Learn how the Coalition is spearheading efforts to stop NJ’s misguided logging practices that threaten habitat for mature trees best used to absorb carbon to combat climate change.

OTHER EVENTS:

Jan 13 (Wed): Executive Committee/Planning Meeting. 7:30 pm via Zoom. The meeting is casual and informal. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about the Club. Hear about and discuss issues, plan future events, and become more active. (Please contact jonwall@jonwall.com or sign-up on Meetup.com)

CURRENT ISSUES:

Oppose Mega-Warehouses: There are several massive warehouse projects that are more active. (Please contact jonwall@jonwall.com or sign-up on Meetup.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 Officers

Co-Chair: Danielle Scarangella* dsciarangella@hotmail.com

Co-Chair: Buddy Jenson* buddy.jenson@gmail.com

Treasurer: Buddy Jenson* buddy.jenson@gmail.com

Secretary: Laura Troy* ltrroy09@gmail.com

Political Chair: Sandi Liberti* libertandin@northJersey.sierraclub.org

Outings Chair: Mary Walsh* mwalsh466@gmail.com

Conservation Chair: Judy Greene* jgreene@optonline.net

Marketing/Social Media Co-Chair: Vacant

Youth Outreach Co-Chair: Vacant

Diversity/Environmental Justice Chair: Vacant

(* Group Executive Committee Member)

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

We will have a busy year ahead. I am honored that the CCL elected me as its Chair for the coming year. In that role, I have a seat with the Board of Directors and on many national Board committees, and am responsible for leading the CCL Executive Committee and bringing local Chapter and Group concerns to the attention of our Club’s national leadership and bureaucracy. We will have a busy year ahead.

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 Lascoch 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.

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 Lascoch 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.

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 Lascoch 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.

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 Lascoch 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.

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 Lascoch 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.

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

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

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

COMMITTEE OPENINGS

Conservation Committee: We assist people in the community with grassroots ef-forts to protect important natural habitats and surrounding areas. Help us by finding and reviewing public records, circulating petitions, going door-to-door with lawn signs, speaking in public meetings, and attending and organizing press conferences. The choice of activity is up to you. No activity or time commitment is too small. Make your voice heard. If interested contact Mary at north.outings.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org or Judy at jagueyn54@gmail.com.

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

Political Action Committee: We recommend candidates for political office in Bergen, Passaic, and Hudson Counties. Learn about candidates and candidates for office stand on environmental issues by examining their voting records and interviewing them. You can phone bank or otherwise work from your home or office. See our political action committee meetings schedule on our website. If interested contact Diane at diascat@hotmail.com or Buddy at buddy.jenssen@gmail.com.

Marketing/Social Media Committee: Are you creative? Do you love graphic design, social media, or storytelling? Do you enjoy photos, video, web, and social media? We need you! If interested, contact Marie at mmarinno@yahoo.com and Jan at janbarry61@hotmail.com.

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

Youth Outreach: This Committee plans nature walks in local parks for elementary and middle school students. Work with local schools and youth organizations to encourage local teenagers to become organizers of these events, so that all can appreciate the value of the outdoors. The committee creates liaisons with local schools, parents, other youth groups, and Sierra Club certified hike leaders to help young people learn to appreciate and protect the planet as they explore the natural world. The Committee uses social media to expand participation, as the group conforms to the goals of the national Sierra Club. If you are interested, please contact Sophia at sophianee2@gmail.com.

OFFICERS: CO-Chairs: Bill Beren and David Yennior Secretary: Anne Hicks Treasurer: Suzanne Trimmel and Steven Yaffet

CONSERVATION NEWS:

The Group continues to focus its efforts upon fighting climate change; creating more open spaces for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy and appreciate nature; and collaborating with coalitions, such as Empower NJ and Don’t Gas the Meadowlands, and with other New Jersey Groups to advocate for renewable energy and a moratorium on fossil fuel usage, preserve our waterways and protect our parklands.

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

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

COMMITTEE OPENINGS

Conservation Committee: We assist people in the community with grassroots efforts to protect important natural habitats and surrounding areas. Help us by finding and reviewing public records, circulating petitions, going door-to-door with lawn signs, speaking in public meetings, and attending and arranging press conferences. The choice of activity is up to you. No activity or time commitment is too small. Make your voice heard. If interested contact Mary at north.outings.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org or Judy at jagueyn54@gmail.com.

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

Political Action Committee: We recommend candidates for political office in Bergen, Passaic, and Hudson Counties. Learn about candidates and candidates for office stand on environmental issues by examining their voting records and interviewing them. You can phone bank or otherwise work from your home or office. See our political action committee meetings schedule on our website. If interested contact Diane at diascat@hotmail.com or Buddy at buddy.jenssen@gmail.com.

Marketing/Social Media Committee: Are you creative? Do you love graphic design, social media, or storytelling? Do you enjoy photos, video, web, and social media? We need you! If interested, contact Marie at mmarinno@yahoo.com and Jan at janbarry61@hotmail.com.

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

Youth Outreach: This Committee plans nature walks in local parks for elementary and middle school students. Work with local schools and youth organizations to encourage local teenagers to become organizers of these events, so that all can appreciate the value of the outdoors. The committee creates liaisons with local schools, parents, other youth groups, and Sierra Club certified hike leaders to help young people learn to appreciate and protect the planet as they explore the natural world. The Committee uses social media to expand participation, as the group conforms to the goals of the national Sierra Club. If you are interested, please contact Sophia at sophianee2@gmail.com.
If you might be interested in getting more involved, please attend one of our Executive Committee Meetings: the first Tuesday of each month -- and get to know us. Or participate in one of our General Meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. There are no obligations and there will be no pressure. Currently all meetings are being held as Zoom meetings.

More of our activities are at: http://sieraclough.org/new-jersey/loantaka/

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: are held on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month: 7pm at the Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St, Chatham, when possible. All members are welcome. There are currently some open positions on it! If you would like to find out more, please contact Paul Sanderson.

GENERAL MEETINGS: are held on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month -- 7:30 pm at the Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St, Chatham, when possible. Learn something new and make some new friends. We’d welcome the chance to meet you and to introduce ourselves, even by Zoom. Please see the schedule, below, and join us! DIRECTIONS are posted on our website: http://sieraclough.org/new-jersey/loantaka/

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

Jan 13: Please check the Loantaka website.

Feb 10: Please check the Loantaka website.

Mar 10: Please check the Loantaka website.

ACTIVITIES: The Loantaka Group is working with concerned citizens and local environmental organizations to protect open space and wildlife habitat in Morris and Union Counties, and to safeguard the water resources on which we all depend. In addition, the Group is actively involved in State-wide initiatives including air quality, transportation, and environmental legislation. Volunteers are always welcome. Call Paul at 908-323-2444.

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

CENTRAL JERSEY GROUP
(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

Website: http://www.sieraclough.org/new-jersey/central-jersey. Or click from the NJ Chapter’s web-site. Please see the Loantaka Newsletter in this list -- or on Pinepaddlers.com.

OFFICERS:
Group Chair: Joanne Pannone
Group Vice Chair: Xiaoping Du
Secretary: Leona Fluck
Outings Coordinators: George and Leona Fluck
Treasurer: Arlene Ceterski
Programs: Joanne Pannone
Conservation Chair: Kip Cherry
Recycling: Sylvia Ky
Trails: Dave Matak
Webmaster: Open Position!
Education: Open Position!

One recent activity was a zoom video presentation, “Pinelands National Preserve - Wilderness Remains,” held on May 13th. The Central Jersey Group will post any future activities on the New Jersey Sierra Club website, Central Group FaceBook page, and Pinepaddlers.com. Stay home, be patient, stay safe! And don’t stop lobbying for our environment! We lobby at the State House for laws to fight polluters and climate change. We need a moratorium on pipelines and fossil fuel projects. Support Empower NewJersey!

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

RARITAN VALLEY GROUP
(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

Officers:
Group Chair: S. Parshica
Conservation Chair: Gary Frederick
Membership: John Miraglia
Political Chair: Teresa Callahan
Publicity Chair: Open Position!
Outings Chair: Paul Ehrlich
Trails Chair: S. Parshica
Webmaster: Open Position!
Club Liaison: Open position!
Bee affairs: Brenda Bradley
Executive Committee Members: Gary Frederick, S. Parshica, Teresa Callahan, Kevin Corcoran, and Paul Ehrlich

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

The issues of interest to our communities include but are not limited to:
1. Opposition to gas and oil pipelines and new fossil fuel infrastructure that threaten the air, water, and our health.

---on a page 10 The Jersey Sierran | January–March 2021 | 9
NEW JERSEY GROUP

MEMBER MEETINGS
• Address redevelopment
• Require stormwater management for minor development over 250 square feet
• Water quality
• Reduced threshold definition for major development

I am asking that the City include the following in the new Stormwater Rules:

1. Stormwater Management Campaign to Stop Urban Flooding: Wael, Stan and Faith are
   members of the Letter-writing Committee.

2. Open Position!

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NewJerseySierrach

Like us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/NewJerseySierraNJSC

JERSEY SHORE GROUP

(Monmouth County, approximately)

Website: http://sierrach.org/new-jersey/Jersey-Shore/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/JerseyShoreNJSC/

OFFICERS:
- Group Chair: Dennis Anderson 732-970-4377 dennisaza@aol.com
- Secretary: John Luard 732-708-9231 John.Luard@gmail.com
- Conservation: Faith Teitelbaum 732-513-5445 faithetei@aol.com
- Co-Chairs: Bob Sandberg 732-241-7757 sandberg00@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Jim Bayes jimbayes@optonline.net

Political Co-Chairs:
- Robin & Harold Zalouk drazoull@optonline.net

Outings Chair: John Luard 732-708-9231 John.Luard@gmail.com

Outings Leaders:
- Open Position!

Membership Chair:
- Wael Kanji
- Membership:
- Open Position!

Program Chair:
- Mary Reilly
- Program Chair:

Climate Chair:
- Steve Miller 908-731-2466 Mary@reillygreen.com

Fund-raising:
- Co-Chairs:

Communications Chair:
- Wael Kanji

Education Chair:
- George Moffatt

High School Chair:
- Open Position!

Letter-writing Committee:
- Mark Fukayama

If we can speak up at every Council meeting in our area group, we can make a difference. See our Shore Group website for details on how you can help.

MEMBER MEETINGS
- We really, really miss you, but we must cancel our get-together programs during this stressful time for the safety of everyone. This includes our popular "Science Mondays" presentations at Brookdale Community College.

- However, we are presenting Zoom webinars, usually on the fourth Monday of every month. We will bring to you — in the comfort and safety of your living room — knowledgeable guest speakers and interesting videos on important environmental issues. In addition, we will keep you advised of local environmental problems.

- Please check our website and/or watch your Email for details.

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

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

OCEAN COUNTY GROUP

Website: MEET.COM/SIERRA-CLUB—OCEAN GROUP

OFFICERS:
- Acting Chair & Conservation Chair: Margit Meltsner-Jackson sybria1910@yahoo.com
- Vice-Chair & Treasurer: Laura Stone Lauraj6@yahoo.com
- Field Ed & Jr. Ed Chair: Terrence Brown terrybrown@comcast.net
- Recording Secretary: Nancy Brown nancybrown6642@comcast.net
- Political Chair: Mary Margaret Pirollo gogreenpi@yahoo.com
- Chair & Co-Committee Members:
- William Rodgers ray&kathy@comcast.net
- Peter Leighton JPLeghton@verizon.net
- Joyce Issa realmystrm@aol.com

HOSPITALITY, FUNDRAISING, PUBLICITY, Webmaster: all open positions!

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: Normally held bi-monthly at the Skylark 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://sierrach.org/new-jersey/West-Jersey/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseySierraNJSC Log on and Like Us! Follow us on Twitter @WJSierraclub and Instagram @wjsierraclub

OFFICERS:
- Group Chair: Gina Carola 856-848-8831 ginaceee@verizon.net
- Vice-Chair: Frank Zimm efzim2@aol.com
- Secretary: Ellen Zimn efzim2@aol.com
- Treasurer: Trish Cun팻 trishcun.sprite@gmail.com
- Publicity Chair: Anne Cardi annecardi@yahoo.com
- Political Chair: Linda Robbins Linda_Mantia@yahoo.com
- Pinelands Rep: Lee Snyder pinelands1@hotmail.com
- Greenways Coord': Frank and Ellen Zimm efzim2@aol.com
- Conservation Chair: Stacey Ayala thunderroflgalxy@yahoo.com
- Delegate at Large: Aida Ayala thunderroflgalxy@yahoo.com
- Membership Chair: Mike Brown 856-547-9221 eybrown@verizon.net
- Fundraising Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8831
- Smart Growth Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8831
- Programs Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8831
- Outings Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8831
- Media & Communications: Tony Hagen hagenajohn@verizon.net

Social Media Coord': Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8831

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

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

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

If you would like to receive an email with a virtual presentation, please send an email to ginacee@verizon.net and I will add you to our email list.

Please check the West Group’s Facebook page for updates. https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseySierraNJSC

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

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

SOUTH JERSEY GROUP
(Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:
- Group Outings Chair: Tom Bogosian 627-930-8583 bogosian@verizon.net
- Vice-Chair: Open Position!
- Conservation Chair: Open Position!
- Political Chair, Calendars: Dick Colby dick.colby@stockton.edu
- Membership Chair: Open Position!
- Secretary/Treasurer: Julie Ader julieader56@gmail.com
The officers listed above are wearing out (at least with respect to the Club), and would more than welcome new blood, with ideas and energy for local projects. One alternative is to fold back into the West Jersey Group (from which we originated in the mid-1970s). Please contact Dick Colby for a discussion. Otherwise, our consuming conservation issue, adopted just after the Group was founded, continues to be protection of the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continues to demand the energies of those few officers who remain active both within the Sierra Club and in the Watershed Association (GEHWA) that spun off from the South Jersey Group. Very few of our local members seem interested in the meetings we once scheduled (monthly, from the early 1970s until 2005). For now, we’ll continue to be listed in this Newsletter, and offer a periodic “open call” for Club meetings in South Jersey. Dick has also produced a brochure describing 15 historic walks in Egg Harbor City. Every municipality ought to have its own such brochure: this is a hint for you to try your hand at it! (See “South Jersey Groups” in prior issues of this Newsletter, available on the Chapter website.)

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

COMMUNICATIONS:
The best way to be notified of upcoming events is to join our free listserve. Anyone may subscribe by going to: https://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/bic/

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 listserve to receive announcements for all our events a few weeks before each event. Events are also list on the online calendar on the Chapter’s website via sierraclub.org/new-jersey. You can also “like” us on Facebook: “Singles Group New Jersey Sierra Club.” Activities will also be posted on Meetup.

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

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

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER (LGBTQ) SECTION
Our mission of this Section is to support Sierra Club goals, and to promote environmental activism and social equity. We are an inclusive group and all are welcome to join our events.

Website: http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/
Meetup: http://www.meetup.com/njsierraclub/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/njsierralgdbt

OFFICERS:
Chair: William Parish *  whparishiv@gmail.com
Vice-Chair: Andrew Bevacqua * andrewbevacqua@gmail.com
Secretary: John Kashkovich  dkashkovich@gmail.com
Treasurer: Jonathan Wall  docjdwall@gmail.com
Outings Chair: Robert Zitman * robertzzi@yahoo.com
Webmaster/Listmaster: Matthew Lang  matthewlang4@gmail.com  jlkuchick@gmail.com

* (Section Executive Committee Member)

Please check web site for meetings and events.

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS: The best way to be notified of upcoming events is to join our free listserve. Anyone may subscribe by going to: https://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/bic/

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 listserve to receive announcements for all our events a few weeks before each event. Events are also list on the online calendar on the Chapter’s website via sierraclub.org/new-jersey. You can also “like” us on Facebook: “Singles Group New Jersey Sierra Club.” Activities will also be posted on Meetup.

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

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

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER (LGBTQ) SECTION
Our mission of this Section is to support Sierra Club goals, and to promote environmental activism and social equity. We are an inclusive group and all are welcome to join our events.

Website: http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/
Meetup: http://www.meetup.com/njsierraclub/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/njsierralgdbt

OFFICERS:
Chair: William Parish *  whparishiv@gmail.com
Vice-Chair: Andrew Bevacqua * andrewbevacqua@gmail.com
Secretary: John Kashkovich  dkashkovich@gmail.com
Treasurer: Jonathan Wall  docjdwall@gmail.com
Outings Chair: Robert Zitman * robertzzi@yahoo.com
Webmaster/Listmaster: Matthew Lang  matthewlang4@gmail.com  jlkuchick@gmail.com

* (Section Executive Committee Member)

Please check web site for meetings and events.

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

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

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

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

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

Paul Ehrlich is the Vice-Chair (pehrblitch-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 easily be accessed by many members, opinions on how to deal with environmental problems, and support/criticism of environmental actions taken by organizations and individuals. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU’VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT YOU’D LIKE TO TELL A LARGE AUDIENCE? Send an essay to Arline and Paul for editing and approval and it will be posted on our web site.

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

National Website: http://www.scc.org

ICO: INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS
(Previous: Introducing Children to the Outdoors; before that: Inner-City Outings)
(Another Chapter-wide special interest activity with the motto: No Child Left Inside!)

Chair: Daria Buyanov
ICO Chair: newjersey.sierraclub.org

Other Officers: Amanda Gagli, Oscar Nazar, Mike Depardieu, Zachary Rose, Leila Marović, Tara Deaver, Julia Marchese

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

The Jersey Sierran | January-March 2021 | 11
A Historic Funding Achievement for Our National Parks

By Tony Hagen, Editorial Assistant and Communications Chair of our West Jersey Group (hagenajohn@verizon.net)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides funds to augment national parks, refuges, forests, and other federal lands. The LWCF has been fully funded only twice. In 1964 and 1974...

REPORT FROM TRENTON

New Report on Ex-DuPont Site Chemicals is Scary
From an OpEd by Chapter Director Jeff Tittel, published in the South Jersey Times on Sept 28, and edited by Tony Hagen

Salem County residents have lived a nightmarish existence for many years owing to per- and poly-fluoroalkyl (PFAS) contaminants in their groundwater. Now, a new report from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shows that one of these chemicals, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), was found in concentrations reaching 310,000 parts per trillion (ppt)—23,000 times the Department of Environmental Protection’s upper limit for safe consumption—at the Chemours Chamber Works site in Pennsville Township. PFAS chemicals are linked to many forms of cancer. Also at the Chemours site, a former DuPont chemical manufacturing complex, perfluorouracil acid (PFNA) concentrations were as high as 120,000 ppt, more than 9,000 times the DEP maximum for drinking water, and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) was detected at levels 7 times higher than the NJ limit. The report also noted evidence of 13 types of unregulated PFAS chemicals. All samples were taken in the second half of 2019.

This is downright scary. The DEP needs to push for a full cleanup of the site. New Jersey set strict, health-based standards for PFAS and PFOA earlier this year. A standard for PFNA was set in 2018. The state needs to move quickly to set standards for other PFAS chemicals and their replacements, such as GenX, which also are suspected carcinogens.

The EPA report also noted that well samples taken in West Deptford, Gloucester Co., between 2013 and 2017, contain PFAS levels well above DEP limits, including PFNA, with more than 37,000 times the NJ safety maximum. The contamination is believed to have come from the Solvay Specialty Polymers plant, which ceased using the chemicals in 2010.

**REPORT FROM TRENTON**

**Solvent to Countersues to Avoid PFAS Clean-Up Costs**

From a press release issued by our Trenton staff on Oct 22

Solvent Specialty Polymers has filed a lawsuit in the Superior Court of Gloucester County accusing Paulsboro Refining Company of being the source of water pollution in the area. Solvent has spent $35 million over a decade to clean up polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid found in the Paulsboro area.

Solvent used PFNA and related chemicals as part of its manufacturing process for years at its plant in nearby West Deptford, resulting in some of the highest levels of PFNA pollution in the world. We think Solvent is trying to shift blame away from itself by suing a nearby refinery in Paulsboro. It is trying to avoid responsibility for cleaning up its pollution. The chemicals have been found in municipal water systems at levels 11 times above DEP standards, all linked to Solvent.

In March 2019, the DEP and Attorney General identified Solvent as one of five companies responsible for the extensive contamination, directing it to fund millions of dollars in assessment and cleanup efforts. Recent testing around New Jersey revealed PFNA above the new standard 13 times in municipal water systems, according to the DEP. Of those, 11 were tied to Solvent.

These chemicals have been shown to cause developmental effects affecting the unborn child and pregnant women, and liver and kidney problems, including tumors. Even as it cleans up the contamination in Paulsboro, Solvent is thought to be using a new chemical as a replacement for PFAS: chloroperfluoropolyether carboxylates (CIPFPECAs), which have now been found near the Solvent plant.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network, New Jersey Sierra Club and others recently sent two letters to DEP regarding a recent study published in the journal Science, on PFAS replacement chemicals found near the Solvent plant. This study, by a team of EPA and DEP research chemists, found CIPFPECAs in soil samples taken across New Jersey, with the highest levels in the area surrounding the Solvent plant.

There needs to be a full investigation into the new chemicals that Solvent is using. DEP must also continue to hold Solvent responsible for cleaning up its PFNA contamination in West Deptford and Paulsboro. We also need New Jersey’s Drinking Water Quality Institute to produce regulations for new replacement chemicals including CIPFPECAs. There are 500 chemicals that DWQI hasn’t looked at to set standards, including perchlorates, PFAS, TCE and PCE.

“We can’t afford to wait another two years,” said Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club. “We need the strictest standards for these dangerous materials and we need them to be as strong as possible based on strict science. The longer they wait, the more people are put in danger.”

---

**NJ Transit Goes Green – Progress on Microgrid**

From a press release issued on Oct 22

Good News: At a meeting of NJ Transit’s Board of Directors on Oct 21st, Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti announced suspension of work on a proposed fossil fuel electric power plant in Kearny. Instead, NJ Transit intends to update a review of renewable or other zero emissions energy technologies to supplement or replace the current power generation for its electric trains, known as its Microgrid Central Facility.

Alternatives to centralized fossil fuel electricity include microgrids, renewable energy, and battery storage. By “microgrid” is meant the dispersal of power sources such that no single power plant outage would bring down the entire transit system — aka resilience. New Jersey could be a national leader in powering its transit system environmentally.

NJ Transit’s timeline includes the following steps: hosting a Microgrid Market Outreach event in October 2020, issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) on November 25, issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) that encourages new, thoughtful renewable energy integration by December, 2021, and selecting a project option and awarding a contract to a developer by December, 2022.

The RFQ must allow for alternative energy sources; it must be open and transparent to the public. Companies require instruction so that they understand the process. Microgrid alternatives are not only cheaper, but safer for us and the environment. They still require air permits, land use approvals, and flood hazard permits.

There are microgrid back-up systems that use solar, wind or other renewables, and battery storage. They have the resiliency and reliability of fossil fuel generators – and alternative transmission systems – without greenhouse emissions and with tremendous reductions in operating expenses. They can also serve as back-up for the surrounding community to access heat or air conditioning, phone charging, internet access, etc. should there be an outage.

Microgrid generators can be easily sited on landfills in the Meadowlands, corridors along NJ Transit, NJ Transit train stations, the NJ Turnpike, brownfields, and other vacant land.

---

**PLASTIC BAN continued from page 4**


“Confronting Plastic Pollution One Bag at a Time”, M. Anderson, Blog.epa.gov/tag/plastic-bags

New Jersey League of Conservation Voters, www.njlcv.org/plastic-ban