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The Jersey..... SIERRAN

Vol. 47, No. 3 More than 22,000 Members in New Jersey July-September 2018

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Chapter Debates Its Role in Promoting Affordable Housing in New Jersey

By Gina Carola, Chapter Conservation Vice-Chair (ginaceee@verizon.net)



At our April 14 Chapter Conservation Committee meeting, there was a spirited debate about what our role should be with respect to New Jersey's need for affordable housing. Attendees pondered many questions: Is affordable housing an environmental issue? Is it an issue about racism and classism (rich vs. poor vs. working class vs. minorities)? Is it about Environmental Justice? Does the Sierra Club want to be pitted against the idea of affordable housing for all? Does affordable housing conflict with open space protection?

In the past, the New Jersey Supreme Court has found that municipalities are each obligated to create realistic housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income people. A recent Superior Court decision requires that 155,000 units be

built. An advocacy organization called Fair Share believes that 200,000 units should be built, and has sued every town in the state to force them to build affordable housing. The ruling and the lawsuits do not address issues of environment, transportation, jobs, infrastructure etc. Furthermore, many "affordable" units have only a 30-year deed restriction, after which they can be resold at market rate. Perhaps new legislation is needed to require that these issues be considered when municipalities grant permits - to prevent builders from hiring an army of lawyers to exhaust the municipal budgets of the towns defending their right to deny permits that don't address these other issues.

Some of our members felt that we already have legislation that requires affordable housing. Rather, we need to consider putting it in appropriate places. For example, perhaps affordable housing should be sited close to public transportation access.

It seems that environmentalists are most often pitted against developers, probably because builders look for the

cheapest sites on which to build: "our" open space! Most attendees agreed that, besides the degradation that this causes to open space, it is not always the best option for the people who need affordable housing. Rather, people need housing that is close to where they work - so they don't have to spend a significant part of their income getting there - or where public transportation is available to them. This suggests the siting of affordable housing in cities and their immediate peripheries, perhaps as redevelopment rather than converting farmland or scattering affordable units in new suburbs.

Most agreed that Transit Villages (also known as Transit Oriented Development) are a great option for new affordable housing. This would enable people to get to work using trains or buses whether or not they buy or rent market-rate housing or qualify for affordable housing units. This option helps to address climate change by reducing the number of cars on the road. A current Assembly proposal adds affordable housing to a bill about transportation. It is A-2926, the NJ Transit Villages Act.

Most of our members at the meeting agreed that the idea of adaptive reuse of existing properties could be a solution for some NJ municipalities that have not yet met their affordable housing quotas. Old abandoned warehouses and other old buildings could be rehabilitated into affordable units. This would negate the need for laying new sewer and water lines. Nor would municipalities be burdened with building new or upgrading existing sewage treatment plants to handle additional load.

We also discussed the inability of minorities to get loans to buy homes - even if they are sold below market rate. Affordable housing is also needed for the elderly and disabled, not just for people who need to live near their places of employment.

The Sierra Club's national Board of Directors has declared that Environmental Justice is an important Club issue that

needs to be addressed. All of us at the meeting agreed that affordable housing is an aspect of Environmental Justice, which needs to be considered when we consider development proposals. But a builder shouldn't be granted a zoning variance just because he or she agrees to build some below-market-rate units among a bunch of McMansions on all that is left of a municipality's open space. There should be exemptions for the towns but not loopholes for the developers. For example, a small farming community would be overburdened if forced to build affordable housing and the infrastructure needed to support it while a larger town could easily absorb that fair share, and then some, just by redeveloping abandoned sites or rehabbing old apartment complexes. A builder should not be able to coerce a municipality to permit increased density for affordable housing units.

After much debate, here is what the Conservation Committee would like to see happen with respect to affordable housing, perhaps by legislation, perhaps by court order, perhaps by municipal initiative:

All new developments should include a minimum of 15% affordable housing. Note: Highlands regulations require 20%.

Affordability should be in perpetuity, not expiring after a number of years for resale at market rate.

We should encourage towns to use a set of tools, some of which are yet to be developed.

No negative impact on environment, must be sustainable, address climate change.

No residential housing on polluted property

Limit the number of market-rate units.

Encourage adaptive reuse of existing properties.

Enforce existing wetland, green acres regulations, steep slope ordinances etc.

The vulnerability of coastal areas must be considered.

Conservation Alert

Please Oppose a New Fossil-fueled Power Plant in North Jersey

By Steve Miller, Climate Issues Chair of our Jersey Shore Group (SteveMiller@Comcast.net)

NJ-DEP permits have been requested by Diamond Generating Corp, Los Angeles (owned by Mitsubishi) for a proposed \$1.5 billion Liberty Generating Project in North Bergen (Hudson Co). The 15-acre site is near Railroad Ave, adjoining Bellman's Creek, in an industrial section of the town. It would generate 1200 megawatts of electricity, using natural gas from the nearby Transco pipeline, and be one of the largest fossil fuel generating plants in NJ. Its electrical power would all be exported via submerged cables to New York City, on the opposite bank of the Hudson River. The plant would be on-line in 2022.

At a time when renewable energy sources have become available, and when the air pollution from fossil fuel-burning is making headlines, and when Gov. Murphy has set a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2050, we are astounded by the audacity of such a project. It's crazy!

The many multinational corporations headquartered in NYC want clean energy,

and are investing in local renewable electricity across the US. The 2015 New York State Energy Plan requires a "clean, resilient and affordable energy system." The State has been modernizing its electrical infrastructure to bring northern hydro-electric and wind/solar to its highly populated areas. In January of this year New York announced a new "Wind Master Plan" calling for 800 megawatts of offshore wind to be constructed off Long Island beginning in 2018. The NY Power Authority has claimed that the State has sufficient electrical power. NY City announced plans early this year to freeze all fossil fuel investments and divest fossil fuels from pension plans. A similar proposal is in the NY State Legislature.

MANY DISADVANTAGES FOR NJ: The plant's 2.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide a year would cut future RGGI credits and result in less money available for future NJ renewable projects. Particulates and nitrogen oxides (NOx) will be emitted, which create

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Member's Report - Conservation News

Sourland Mountain, an Environmental Treasure and Music Festival

By Gery Juleff, Sourland Conservancy Trustee (gery.juleff@gmail.com) and Gary Frederick, Chair of our Raritan Valley Group (gfredsierra@gmail.com)

"Headless men and women, burning eyes that pierce the blackest night, wagons that disappear into the side of the mountain, weird cries at night, like those of someone in distress; strange birds that carry off children to their hidden lairs, huge and vicious dogs that follow people through the trails, strange quaking of the ground, jack-o-lanterns that if followed will lead into quicksand."

Transylvania? The wilds of Siberia?

No, these are old myths of the beautiful and sometimes haunting Sourland Mountain – as reported in the Times-Advertiser of Trenton on Sept 30, 1945. Located between the Delaware River and Route 206 in Mercer, Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, Sourland is a 90-square-mile hard diabase ridge that was largely left alone by settlers. It is one of only three major areas of unbroken habitat in NJ, mid-way between the other two: the Highlands and the Pine Barrens.

The Mountain has been a refuge for run-away slaves and a hiding place for those fleeing the law – or the British. Revolutionary war battles were planned there, and the Lindbergh baby was kidnapped there, near Hopewell.

Its unwelcoming nature discouraged settlement. It now includes the largest contiguous forest in Central New Jersey, and critical habitat for a rich diversity of plant and animal species. It's an important stopover point for birds migrating along the Atlantic Flyway. It supports many endangered species. It also contains popular hiking trails that are heavily wooded, rocky, and laden with volcanic boulders and impressive views. Hikers can visit sourland.org for trail information.

But, as with many ecological areas in New Jersey, the Sourlands are fragile and vulnerable to development, trenching for pipelines, and a soaring deer population.

Conservation Report

Cleaning Up a Contaminated Site in Edgewater

By Mary Blehl Walsh, Co-Conservation Chair of our North Jersey Group (blehlwalsh@hotmail.com) – dated April 17th

The EPA is supervising the clean-up of the Quanta Resources Superfund site in Edgewater (on the Hudson River in Bergen Co), using the best techniques available. The contaminants include a wide variety of volatile organic chemicals known as VOCs. One particularly carcinogenic group of them is known as PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls).

On March 28, Honeywell and the EPA addressed the issues at a public meeting, including the local smell of naphthalene (used to make mothballs), their methods of dealing with contaminated soil, and how they propose to prevent further leaching of chemicals into the Hudson River. The project has two phases: detoxifying the soil, then dealing with the contaminants in the Hudson River. The soil, groundwater, and sediment in both also contain arsenic and lead.

Coal tar was produced at the site starting in the 1880s – by a succession of 23 companies, and Honeywell stored waste oil there during the 1970s. Quanta was

The Sierra Club has long opposed these threats, along with the Sourland Conservancy. Both organizations contribute their strengths, synergistically, to achieve the mission of protecting the Sourlands.

The PennEast Pipeline is a current major threat to the Sourlands, endangering drinking water and open space habitat in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, not to mention many residential homes along its 120-mile route. It would promote the use of dirty fossil fuels at a time when clean renewable energy is available as an alternative.

Another threat to the Sourland ecology is the overpopulation of white-tail deer. Deer are a beautiful and gentle presence in nature, but have become a problem the past century as their natural predators have gone – so much so that the forest can no longer regenerate. Deer eat tree saplings, most other native plants, crops and suburban shrubs. Other impacts include such human health and safety issues as car-deer collisions and tick-borne diseases. The Conservancy has joined with other stakeholders – ecologists, farmers, landowners, hunters, municipal and county officials – to solve the problem.

As part of its efforts to promote and protect the Sourlands, the Sourland Conservancy hosts an annual Sourland Mountain Festival, now in its 15th year. This year it will take place on June 23 at the Hillsborough Country Club. Check out sourlandmusicfestival.org to purchase tickets and see the lineup of great bands, wonderful food and activities for all ages. And don't forget to stop by the Sierra Club's table and say hi. The Festival is for everyone and it's for a wonderful environmental purpose – protecting Sourland Mountain. The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club is proud to be a partner.

the last company to store waste oil there. The EPA shut it in 1981 when they discovered that the oil included dissolved PCBs. In 2012 Honeywell accepted responsibility for the cleanup, along with the 23 other companies. The NorthStar Company is doing the actual work, which should be finished in 2019.

The "soil solidification" process (in situ solidification, or ISS) consists of removing the "good" soil from the top of the contaminated soil, and mixing the latter with concrete that contains slag. Before the mixing is done, berms are constructed around a 20 by 20' opening. The size of the opening has been reduced in response to complaints about the smell that was emitted. The berms are constructed of the uncontaminated soil. Any soil that is waiting to be solidified is sprayed with Rusmar, a material that prevents more VOCs from escaping into the atmosphere.

During ISS, the smell of mothballs occurs when that soil is exposed to the

Political Chair's Report

Congressional Endorsements: Tom Malinowski for Congress in the 7th, and Mikie Sherrill in the 11th

By John Kashwick (jkashwick@gmail.com)

2018 is shaping up to be an interesting year in politics, especially here in New Jersey. Four of our five normally safe Republican seats are actually contentious! We are pleased to announce our endorsements in two of those races:

In the 7th District (Hunterdon and parts of Essex, Warren, Morris, Somerset, and Union counties), Tom Malinowski is challenging incumbent Republican Leonard Lance. According to the LCV voting chart, Lance has a NEGATIVE lifetime voting score: voting AGAINST the environment 77% of the time. This year Lance has a well-funded Democratic opponent in Malinowski. In addition to working as a diplomat in the Clinton and Obama administrations, he worked for Human Rights Watch, one of the world's leading organizations standing up for democratic values and social justice.

"I want to preserve the natural beauty of our District for the hikers, fishers, hunters and tourists who cherish it, and to keep our air, water and soil safe and clean. Conservation and common sense environmental protections are also critical to the economic vitality of our state – America should lead the world towards a clean energy future, and New Jersey should lead America," said Malinowski.

In the 11th District (most of Morris and parts of Sussex, Passaic, and Essex counties), Mikie Sherrill is running for the open seat of retiring Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen. A Naval Academy graduate, Navy pilot and former federal prosecutor, Sherrill opposes Donald Trump's environmental agenda. She also holds a Master's degree in Global History from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a Law degree from Georgetown Univ.

"This administration and Republican leaders in Congress are putting our future at risk by feeding us a false choice between creating jobs, fighting climate change, and keeping our air and water

air. The solidified soil is then covered with a clay-based mortar called Posi-shell. Research has shown that slag and clay slow the release of contaminants such as arsenic to almost nil. The organic compounds stick on to the clay, a process called adsorption, partly because they are not soluble in water.

The chemicals released into the air from the ISS are monitored at seven places on the perimeter of the site, and nine others in central Edgewater: three each at Independence Harbor, City Place, and iPark. These last nine were installed after the changes in the amount of soil being exposed to the air. The EPA has placed a limit on how much total VOCs may be released; it publishes the data on a daily basis. There are two numbers: one maximum for the work site itself, and one for the rest of Edgewater. A "standard" health risk was used to assign permissible exposure levels: one cancer per million people

clean. Here in New Jersey, we know that investing in clean energy technology will make our state stronger. I am proud to have the endorsement of the Sierra Club and look forward to bringing new leader-

ship to Washington to protect our planet and grow the clean energy economy here in New Jersey," said Sherrill.

Both Malinowski and Sherrill responded to our questionnaires and interviewed with political committee, made up of grassroots Sierra Club volunteers. The committee was impressed with the dedication and knowledge of both of these candidates. Each has committed to protect the environment, if elected. We strongly endorse Tom Malinowski and Mikie Sherrill for Congress.

There's more at stake here than just New Jersey. If enough Republicans are replaced by Democrats in Congress, much of President Trump's legislative agenda that denies climate change, and promotes polluting industries (such as fossil fuels), will be thwarted. Sierra Club members have traditionally engaged in political campaign support. To volunteer in the 7th District (Malinowski), please contact me at jkashwick@gmail.com. To volunteer in the 11th District (Sherrill), please contact Rich Isaac at risaacx@aol.com.

Here's the full list of our 2018 federal endorsements:

Robert Menendez (Incumbent, D, Senate)
 Donald Norcross (Incumbent, D, NJ-1)
 Andy Kim (Challenger, D, NJ-3)
 Josh Gottheimer (Incumbent, D, NJ-5)
 Frank Pallone, Jr. (Incumbent, D, NJ-6)
 Tom Malinowski (Challenger, D, NJ-07)
 Albio Sires (Incumbent, D, NJ-8)
 William Pascrell, Jr. (Incumbent, D, NJ-9)
 Donald M. Payne Jr. (Incumbent, D, NJ-10)
 Mikie Sherrill (Open Seat, D, NJ-11)
 Bonnie Watson Coleman (Incumbent, D, NJ-12)

exposed: that level was set at 4.62 micrograms per cubic meter, based on a person standing at the site perimeter for 10 hours a day, five days a week, for 18 months.

At the time of this writing, there have been two days on which airborne VOCs were measurable: both near River Road, both less than 0.7 micrograms per cubic meter. An "action level" has been set at 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter.

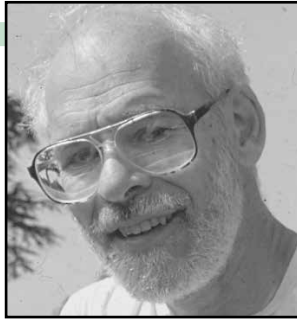
Once the ISS is complete, expected in November, a barrier/filter will be placed in the river outfall pipe, presumably containing granular activated carbon, which adsorbs VOCs. It will be monitored and replaced as needed.

(This article was written in consultation with Shane Nelson at the EPA, Hugh Evans and Dick Colby of the NJ Sierra Club, and Don Stitzenberg of the Hudson River Waterfront.)

Editorial

The Big Question

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



The essence of tragedy, as in “Tragedy of the Commons,” is the impossibility of a satisfactory solution to a problem: no chance of a happy ending. That’s the lesson of an interesting new book, “The Wizard and the Prophet,” by Charles C. Mann (Knopf, 2018).

It presents the classic confrontation among environmentalists: between our founder John Muir’s preservation/wilderness approach, which resulted in our National Parks, and that of Gifford Pinchot, Theodore Roosevelt’s forester, which resulted in our National Forests, and which allows beneficial uses that include recreation but also sustainable harvesting of timber, and management for hunters and livestock grazing, including partial clearing.

In more recent times, the conflict extends to human population growth: do we “manage” the needs of an increasing population by technologies that extend the food supply, pioneered by agricultural scientist Norman Borlaug, the “Wizard” in the book’s title, or do we regard high-tech as ultimately self-defeating, as argued by ecologist William Vogt, the book’s “Prophet”?

More specifically, do we allow our human population to increase, somehow producing the food and other resources that will be needed, or do we intervene to limit that growth? The book explores all the angles. (Of course, in the real world of spiteful politicians, there will be a fudge!)

The top rung up the ladder of environmental challenges is Climate Change. The Wizards of today argue for nuclear power because there are no carbon emissions – and production is independent of the vagaries of wind and sunlight – and for the technology of carbon capture and storage. Today’s top Prophet is Lynn Margulis (1938-2011), an evolutionary biologist who believed that we, as a species, “are fated by natural law to wreck our own future.” Life will continue but not as we know it, because we will have become extinct.

Each conception is supported by ideology, for some people religious (or humanitarian) beliefs, for others political and economic beliefs. Both conceptions come up against the barriers of human population growth and technological byproducts (wastes) as antithetical to the continuation of our civilization.

Norman Borlaug (1914-2009) was the

Green Revolution scientist who developed high-yield rice and wheat. Malthusian ecologist William Vogt (1902-1968) was a disciple of Aldo Leopold, who saw unbridled technology, coupled with unlimited population growth, as destructive of something sacred. Perhaps everything sacred. It’s a good book!

I suggest that it connects to an interesting debate going on among our Chapter officers over the extent to which affordable housing should be an environmental concern – and OUR concern. See Gina Carola’s article on p.1. Affordable housing at suburban densities clearly conflicts with open space protection, and of course there’s John Muir’s dictum that, in the environment, everything is connected to everything! Assuming that it IS an environmental issue: do we have Wizards and Prophets in our debate? The “technological” (wizardly) approach might be COAH: the requirement for each municipality to satisfy a quota of affordable housing units. I’ve argued, unsuccessfully, for what I think is a more “ecological” – or sociological – (prophetic?) solution: something like the concentrated ethnic districts of 100-150 years ago, displayed in the Tenement Museum on Orchard St. in lower Manhattan, (near where my father was born and grew up). They are approximated, I like to think, by some lively and thriving ethnic communities in New Jersey today, such as in Jersey City. Better to concentrate, I think, than to spread people out! Europe and Asia offer endless good examples.

My editorial in the Jan-March issue of this newsletter attempted a survey of member interests. The response was miniscule (n=16), but the results interesting and perhaps significant, ranked in clusters, below. Affordable housing seems to be an interest of many of our members.

1: Clean Air issues, solar energy, transportation, Passaic River, Pinelands.

2: Natural gas & fracking, marine issues, water quality and habitat.

3: Environmental Justice, environmental health, **affordable housing**, land use, watersheds, trails, Delaware River, faith-based environmentalism, GMOs, Alaska, NJ wildlands, toxicology.

4: Gender equity, asbestos, recycling.

5: Delaware Water Gap, wetlands, Utah wilderness, tigers.

Chair’s Message

Chapter Welcomes More Volunteer Officers!

By Richard Isaac (risaacx@aol.com)



Our Chapter extends a warm to welcome to several new volunteers now holding Chapter-level positions:

Andrea Rodriguez: Chapter Advertising Director

A graduate of Montclair State University with a BS in Business Management and Marketing, Andrea has extensive relationship-building experience, generating advertising revenue in the Digital and Out-of-Home space. She enjoys boxing at UFC Gym, eating cactus tacos from Taqueria in Jersey City, and hiking the Palisades Interstate Park. We are excited to have someone with this kind of background and experience, demonstrated by the ads in both of the most recent issues of The Jersey Sierran.

Heidi Klingbeil, MD: Environmental Education Chair

Heidi was raised in New York City, but toiled around New Jersey with her grandparents as a child, and particularly remembers the beauty of the Garden State Parkway – at that time-a stark contrast to her inner city neighborhood. College took her to Colorado, then medical school at the Univ. of Colorado; then she raised three boys. Returning to the East Coast for family reasons, she settled in South Orange in 2005. Dr. Klingbeil is now Associate Prof. of Rehabilitation and Regenerative Medicine at Columbia Univ. and Chief of Rehabilitation at the Bronx VA.

Heidi has volunteered medical services around the world, and is President of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Volunteers International, Inc, a non-profit: the only exclusively rehab group of its kind in the US. A current hobby is training search and rescue dogs, a perfect way to maintain a presence in the outdoors.

Chris Fleischman: Renewable Energy Issues Coordinator

Chris studied environmental economics both as an undergraduate and a graduate student, then worked in Switzerland in finance and program management. Now residing in Westfield with his wife, daughter and son, his interests include renewable energy, sustainable business and development, and smart urban planning. He contributes to the Ready for 100 campaign, which asks mayors, CEOs, pastors, school principals, civic and community leaders, parents and students to commit to achieving 100% clean, renewable energy across the United States by the year 2050.

Bill Beren: Transportation Committee Chair

Growing up in Queens NY, Bill graduated from SUNY Old Westbury in 1972; then received an MBA from NYU in 1988. He was the NJ Environmental Lobby’s lobbyist from 1974 -1977, also representing the Sierra Club. From 1978-1983 he worked for the NJ Dept of Energy, developing the Industrial/Commercial Energy Conservation Program and starting the state-wide recycling program. From 1984 until he retired last year, Bill worked for NYC Transit in a variety of managerial positions – dealing with budgets, information systems, data networking and telephony/call center systems. He moved from Hoboken to Montclair in 1983. His wife is an attorney in East Hanover.

Karuna Jobanputra, Transportation Committee Vice-Chair

Karuna received a BA in Environmental Studies in 2012, with a focus on International Sustainable Development. She claims to have quickly learned that grassroots strategies/innovation and positive leadership are key drivers of sustainable development. She sees through a social justice lens, focused on public health and immigrant rights. Her skills include fundraising, program management, grant writing and reporting, group facilitation, evaluation, and data analysis.

Kathy O’Leary, Upper Passaic River Issues Coordinator

For the last ten years Kathy has advocated for social justice issues as a leader of the NJ region of Pax Christi: contributing to legislation and policy development on such matters as the death penalty in NJ, support of the Iran Deal, and immigrant rights. She is a former board member of First Friends – which provides visitation services for immigrants in NJ’s detention facilities as well as post release support for asylum seekers. She has spoken before community groups, houses of worship and schools as well as helped to organize marches, protests and vigils.

A few years ago she relocated with her family to a more rural part of the state, and awakened to the issues of conservation and land-use. Thus she co-founded Long Hill Residents for Responsible Development, which educates the community on issues related to planning and infrastructure. Affordable housing is certainly one of them. She loves to hike with her son and spend time in her gardens.

Resolutions:

Approved by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in March, April and May, 2018

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

We made the political endorsements described and listed in John Kashwick’s article on p.2.

In March we adopted a resolution calling on the appropriate federal and state legislators to oppose a road construction project in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, for “rockfall mitigation,” that would unnecessarily impact the Appalachian Trail as well as wildlife habitat and scenic viewsheds.

In April we took action to rectify the occasional problem of national Club staff and officers publically praising New Jersey legislators without consulting us first. We think that some of their commendations have been counterproductive.

We also pursued the installation of a memorial bench for Greg Auriemma, former Chair of our Ocean County Group, who died hiking alone in New Hampshire in July, 2017

In May, we renamed our Environmental Justice Committee as the Environmental and Social Justice Issues Committee.

All our resolutions are now at 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

Candidates Sought for Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom)

The next (Oct-Dec) issue of this Newsletter will include our annual ballot for electing three members to our Chapter governing body (ExCom), as well as the ExComs of each of our active Groups,



and some Sections. (ExCom members whose three-year terms are ending are George Denzer, Laura Lynch and Lee Snyder) To nominate yourself, or someone else, please contact Gina Carola (ginacee@verizon.net) by August 10.

Committee Report: Environmental Justice

Environmental Injustice
Costs Everyone

By Howard Steinberg, Committee Chair (howz1648@hotmail.com)

Some people think that lead poisoning affects only lower-income people in urban areas. The reality is that all of us, as taxpayers, pay for the health consequences of this environmentally-caused illness.

Lead poisoning is caused by unscrupulous landlords who allow children to live in apartments with peeling and chipped paint on walls and woodwork, such as window- and doorframes. Such landlords are rarely prosecuted – thanks to corrupt local officials coupled with a lack of funding for the workforce needed to inspect every apartment in cities with an older housing stock. In New Jersey there are about 2,500 new cases of lead-poisoning each year. Lead reduces the cognitive ability of children, as well as causing anemia, cardiovascular diseases, delayed development, kidney damage, damaged blood cells, and decreased ability to concentrate. It is linked to violent behavior.

Lead is a crime against children. If it occurred in a white suburb there would be outrage, but because it mainly affects Black, Latino and other minority children it is met with mild indifference. Lead is an environmental crime: for which child-victims will suffer for the rest of their lives.

Initial treatment costs about \$5,000 per child, with cumulative costs of \$12,500 per year. If a lower-income family makes too much to qualify for Medicaid, and can't pay the bill, the hospital bills the State: i.e. all of us. When the State then reimburses the hospital at 20 cents on the dollar, the hospital will shift the cost onto every other patient's bill. This is why you are charged \$20 for an Aspirin, and why insurance costs so much.

That's only the beginning: cognitive problems result in children being classified as special needs tier 2. That costs the taxpayers an extra \$3,155 per child – multiplied by the 2500 new cases per year, and again by all the years in which children attend schools. In New Jersey we have tax sharing under the Abbot school funding formula. That means that wealthier school districts receive much less state aid and poorer districts get more to equalize child spending.

It all comes back to greedy landlords who refuse to remediate their buildings. Lead poisoning is preventable. We all should care enough to demand that every child be raised in a home free of lead hazards.

Reports from Trenton

Lawsuit Defending
Automobile Fuel Efficiency
Standards

From a Press Release issued on May 2nd

New Jersey is joining sixteen other states and the District of Columbia in suing the Trump Administration's decision to roll back vehicle fuel efficiency standards. Tailpipe pollution regulations were among President Obama's major initiatives to reduce global warming. Currently, they will require automakers to design passenger cars that achieve an average of 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025, compared with about 36 mpg today. That target would drastically reduce the nation's vehicle tailpipe pollution, which currently comprises about a third of our total greenhouse gas emissions.

Adopting Obama's standards would save us money, create green jobs, and grow our economy. Trump's alternative is to side with the oil companies and auto industry for more pollution and wasted gasoline. Requiring us to buy more fuel will raise its price, costing the average car driver at least \$3,000/year and the average light truck driver at least \$4,000. Instead of promoting fuel inefficiency, we should be moving forward with electric vehicles, green jobs, and cost savings for consumers.

In 2017, a coalition of the 17 largest automakers in the United States sent two letters to Trump's EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt, asking him to revisit the tailpipe rules. They said it may be "the single most important decision the EPA has made in recent history." They complained about the steep technical challenge posed by the stringent standard, noting that only about 3.5 percent of new vehicles are able to reach it. That even excludes some hybrid cars, plug-in electric cars and fuel cell vehicles, the automakers wrote. Last month they again told Trump that those technical requirements are too burdensome.

The weakening of vehicle efficiency standards will directly impact public health in New Jersey, where cars and trucks are the biggest sources of air pollution. It will heavily increase our dependency on oil, gas, and coal over renewable energy sources such as solar and wind. It will increase the need for dangerous pipelines like Pilgrim, and for oil bomb trains and offshore drilling.

OPPOSE POWER PLANT

(Continued from page 1)

ozone – and thus lung and heart disease, asthma, emphysema, and chronic bronchitis. NJ already suffers from some of the nation's worst air pollution.

The existing Ridgefield Generating Station is within two miles of the proposed Liberty site. Liberty would roughly double the local public health and environmental impacts of Ridgefield. Power plants require cooling water: Liberty would take 8.6 million gallons a day from a Meadowlands creek and discharge it, hot, somewhere!

The natural gas will come from fracked shale in Pennsylvania and westwards, where another set of environmental deg-

radations are taking place – another related story – with toxic emissions worse than those of coal generation.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Urge Governor Murphy to block this North Bergen project, and to issue an Executive Order to block all future fossil fuel projects. Write or call him at:

Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-6000

And please feel free to contact me for more information, such as a reading list of the sources I used in writing this article.

Issue Coordinator's Report

GMOs in Pet Food Too?

By Joanne Pannone, Genetically Modified Food Issues Coord. (jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com)

According to the Institute for Responsible Technology (responsibletechnology.org), USDA-certified organic ingredients may contain contaminated corn and soy, a popular filler in pet food.

GMO (genetically modified organism) crops may produce greater yields, but they can have lower nutritional value and adverse health effects. Their proteins can cause allergies, asthma, atopic dermatitis and other skin problems, irritable bowel syndrome, leaky gut syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease, colitis, recurrent diarrhea, vomiting, and indigestion – along with other abnormalities in the liver, pancreas, and immune system organs. These ailments occur in animals just as they do in humans, as reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Veterinarians must respond to them. And, according to the Centers for Disease Control, it may take longer to outgrow milk, egg and peanut allergies when consuming GMO foods since allergies attack the immune system. That's a reason to avoid GMO food.

A GMO has had its genetic makeup modified in a laboratory using genetic engineering or transgenic technology: creating unnatural genes. These new genes manufacture new proteins which may stimulate the immune system to respond as if to an infection.

The Institute points out that Monsanto's GM corn, approved for consumption by US food safety authorities, caused organ damage when fed to rats. And Roundup Ready corn or water containing Roundup caused cancer.

As a beekeeper, I am of the opinion that there can't be a legitimate claim that there are no GMOs in honey since bees travel several miles and can consume GMOs. So bees, butterflies and birds are also at risk from GMO crops and the pesticides used on them. GMOs can end up becoming a biological control agent for them. Toxics remain in their tissues after death and thus enter the food chain.

Education about health risks from legitimate sources is an ongoing challenge. We have been eating GMOs since the 90s. The real worry is the impact on our environment. There is a synthetic Insulin that was created by GMO technology to treat diabetes. More food production is a good thing with 9 billion people in the world. But even the World Health Organization claims GMOs have become potentially problematic.

Being informed of the food that we and our pets consume is only one way of providing protection. We should read the labels and buy fresh non-GMO food. "Non-GMO Project Verified" (a nonprofit organization) is the most reliable label in the natural products industry and the most trusted by consumers. It is dedicated to building and protecting a non-GMO food supply. *Bon appetit!*

Sierra Club Marches for
Science and the
Environment

From a press release issued on Mar 14

The Sierra Club was one of many groups that Marched for Science in Trenton on March 14th. Joining scientists, elected officials, and "ordinary" citizens, we defended the role of science in protecting the environment, and contributing to our quality of life.

We spoke to Donald Trump's Administration – and others who have gagged scientists by withholding their reports on the damage being done – to human health, to natural habitat, and to the planet's climate – by pollutants, by our energy choices, and by economic expedients such as plastic bags. Trump's EPA Administrator has been rolling back environmental protections. No testing and no information means no protection. That's their mantra: applied to drilling off our coasts, allowing dangerous pesticides to stay on the market, weakening standards for cleaning up toxic sites, and allowing more air and water pollution.

We need science to protect us from climate change and sea level rise, to refute fake news and fake science. The word itself derives from the Latin for knowledge and truth.

President Trump has cut the EPA in half. The remaining staff have been ordered not to use the term "climate change." He lives in a fantasy world, not caring if homes are flooded, communities are destroyed, and people put in peril. When you cut lead funding, children will be poisoned. When you don't clean up Superfund sites, communities will be poisoned. Perhaps the reason why Trump doesn't want to remove Agent Orange from the Passaic River is that Agent Orange is a Russian code name.

We marched against those who deny evolution and probably gravity too. Against those who prosecuted John Scopes for teaching evolution. We marched for Galileo, Copernicus, and Isaac Newton, for Albert Einstein, Rachel Carson, Jonas Salk and Madame Curie, etc. And we marched for voting – to oust those politicians who are trying to destroy our environment.

Reminder on Behalf of Nesting Animals

Supplied by Suzanne Dragan, our wildlife correspondent

Here are some humane resources:

For "problem" Wildlife: www.humanesociety.org/animals/wild_neighbors/For all wild bird help: theraptortrust.org; 908-647-2353NJ Wildlife Rehabilitators: www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pdf/rehab_list.pdfFor injured or baby wildlife: <https://njawr.com/i-found-an-animal>

Wildlife Helpline: 1-877-472-8945 (a recording)

Reports from Trenton

Murphy's First 100 Days: an Environmental Score Card

From an April 25 press release authored by Jeff Tittel, Senior Chapter Director, and edited by Joe Testa



As we've done with every new Governor, we are taking a look at Gov. Murphy's first 100 days to assess how his environmental policy is shaping up. In a sharp contrast with his predecessor, Gov. Murphy wants to move forward on protecting our environment, recognizing the threat that climate change and sea level rise pose, and the importance of clean energy efforts. He has started to deliver on some of his commitments including blocking offshore drilling, promoting environmental justice, and promoting offshore wind power. On the other hand, he has also broken commitments and done some things to undermine progress on the environment and clean energy. There is a long way to go to achieve the goals set out in his election campaign.

Positive Actions include:

- Appointing Catherine McCabe as DEP Commissioner. McCabe has integrity and professionalism, as well as many years of experience protecting the environment.
 - Signing an executive order for developing 1100 MW of offshore wind power, beginning the process of reaching our offshore wind power goal of 3500 MW by 2030.
 - Signing an executive order to incorporate environmental justice considerations into state agencies, departments, and plans.
 - Signing an executive order to rejoin the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).
 - Supporting a complete ban on fracking and fracking activities in the Delaware River basin.
 - Enacting a new law banning offshore drilling in state waters and bringing ashore oil drilled in federal waters off our coast.
 - Halting logging on Sparta Mountain, though this may only be a temporary halt.
- There are a number of campaign commitments that have been left unacted upon or are at risk from actions of the Administration. These include:
- Raiding the DEP budget with a 14% cut. This year the agency is allocated \$275 million, down from \$321 million last year, even though the DEP takes in \$120 million more than it spends.
 - Diverting \$80 million from the DEP and \$6 million from operations. Murphy promised to utilize 100% of the Clean Energy Fund to advance energy efficiency, grow the clean-energy economy, create clean-energy jobs, and drive down carbon emissions. Instead, \$140 million from the CEF is being diverted in this year's budget - including \$50 million for lights in government buildings. This is a direct contradiction to his campaign promise to stop stealing from these funds.
 - Backing away from banning fracking waste in the Delaware River basin, and failing to take concrete action to block pipeline development.
 - A lack of accountability over where funds from \$272 million in environmental settlements are going, and zeroing out money for lead testing in schools.
 - Opposing our challenge of the Exxon settlement, despite previously calling the settlement unfair.
 - Failing to aggressively pursue Natural Resource Damage (NRD) claims. There is \$200 million taken into the DEP from natural resource damages but nothing in the budget allocating it towards environment programs.
 - Taking \$69 million of the \$141 million the state will receive from Volkswagen's settlements for air-pollution violations and cheating on emissions tests. This funding is supposed to be going to clean air initiatives, including electric vehicle programs - not

money for the budget's general fund.

- Stretching out the process for rejoining RGGI to take two years. In that time, New Jersey will miss out on revenue and green jobs. The administration wants to spend the money we receive from RGGI on planting trees and grass instead of targeting funds for environmental justice communities.
- NJ Transit's attempts to lease the Hoboken Dry Dock tract for the operation of a ferry maintenance and repair facility. The city wants to acquire this area for public open space. The issue appeared on the NJ Transit agenda until outrage caused them to suspend the proposal.
- The DEP testified in opposition of creating a strong standard for 1,2,3-TCP in drinking water. These chemicals have been found in wells in of places in New Jersey. The state has not yet set a standard for these chemicals in our water.

Areas which still need to be addressed:

- The Governor has supported legislation that is green-cover for a giant nuclear subsidy. In reality, the "green" energy bill will significantly undermine renewable energy in New Jersey and possibly destroy our state's solar program altogether. Murphy had opposed the nuclear subsidy. The bill has reached his desk and we hope he vetoes or CVs it.
 - A dangerous bill that would allow DuPont to increase pollution is on the Governor's desk. This bill will put more pollution into the Delaware by creating a loophole that redefines a hazardous waste facility, allowing them to dump toxic chemicals. We are asking the Governor to veto this bill.
 - The proposed North Bergen Liberty Generating Project in the Meadowlands would be one of the largest power plants in the state and cost \$1.5 billion. It would encourage fracking in Pennsylvania and send electricity to New York City. We need Murphy to stop this project.
 - Actions need to be taken to stop the annual bear hunt
 - Update the Energy Master Plan (with the goal of 100% clean energy by 2050), the Water Supply Plan, and state's outdated building codes.
 - Require fossil fuel infrastructure projects demonstrate whether there are market-based, cost-effective and clean alternatives (to delay or avoid the project).
 - Reinstate the Office of Climate Change
 - Reduce incidence of childhood lead poisoning and providing improved services for children already affected.
 - Upgrade the state's aging water infrastructure, including drinking, waste, and storm water.
- Supporting legislation that allows for the creation of local and regional storm-water utilities and subsequent user-fee collection, to support infrastructure and management
- Freeze all pending DEP rule proposals, including Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Zone Management, and Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA) rules, until they can be thoroughly reviewed to ensure strong environmental protections are in place. The Governor should order the DEP to review all water regulations that have been weakened over the last 8 years and reverse any rollbacks to those protections
 - Appoint people to environmental entities such as the Pinelands Commission and Highlands Council consistent with their conservation mission, and respect their independence to protect these critical resources.

Overall Grade for Governor Murphy's First 100 Days: C

This 'C' grade is still a vast improvement over Governor Christie's record. We are optimistic that government policies for the environment in New Jersey can, and will, get better. We believe that Murphy's grades will increase as we work to fight climate change, protect our environment, and promote green energy, making up for 8 years of inaction under Christie. We're also confident that under Murphy, New Jersey can stand up against Trump's rollbacks. We want to work with the administration so that its grades keep going up over the next four years.

Victory for Our Coast: Murphy Prohibits Offshore Drilling

From a press release issued on Apr 20

Governor Murphy has signed A839 (Land) into law, prohibiting offshore oil and gas drilling in State waters, and forbidding the DEP from issuing permits and approvals for activities associated with such drilling. We consider it a legitimate response to federal policies adopted by the Trump Administration, which is proceeding with seismic testing, an initial step.

The new law will also stop oil and drilling infrastructure from being transported from offshore into New Jersey. This is an important step to protect our coasts. We have thanked the Legislature for passing this bill, and Governor Murphy for signing it into law.

The Trump Administration has introduced the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program), under which the Interior Dept. would auction oil and gas drilling rights in the Arctic Sea, the Atlantic Ocean, the eastern Gulf of Mexico and possibly US Pacific waters during the years 2019 to 2024.

An oil spill or leak would be disastrous for our state's environment and economy, jeopardizing our \$38 billion coastal economy and fishing industry. We follow California in adopting this kind of legislation, and hope that New York, Maryland and other eastern states will follow our lead. April 20th marked the eighth anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion off the coast of Louisiana. The oil slick covered more than 880,000 acres: the size of the New Jersey Pinelands.

This law will make it easier for us to focus on offshore wind and other renewable technologies. Offshore wind is the most cost-effective form of offshore power, with the potential to meet 1/3 of our electrical needs.

The Sierra Club has published a "Don't Rig Our Coastal Economy" report - noting that New Jersey's coastal tourism industry supports nearly 500,000 jobs, and one out of every six of the state's jobs are linked in some form to its shoreline. Visits to the area generate \$16.6 billion in wages and add \$5.5 billion to the state's tax coffers. During the summer of 1988, when medical waste washed up onto a 50-mile stretch of New Jersey's shore, tourism dropped off significantly and the area directly lost at least \$1 billion in revenue. Think what an oil spill would do!

DEP Should Reject Heritage Minerals Project in Manchester

From a press release issued on Feb 8, edited by Maggie Yilmaz

Our Chapter opposes a massive sprawl development project in western Ocean Co. Hovson Inc. wants to build 4,000 housing units on the former Heritage Minerals quarry in Manchester Twp, between Lakehurst and Whiting. The site falls under the jurisdiction of the Coastal Area Facilities Review Act (CAFRA).

This is currently the largest development being planned in New Jersey. It will have tremendous environmental impacts ranging from water pollution - to over-pumping the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer - to destruction of open space - to air pollution. We call on the DEP and Gov. Murphy to reject it.

The site is forested, and contains streams and wetlands right in the middle of the Pinelands, which is a UN biosphere reserve. The proposal violates land-use regulations of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan and CAFRA. It would require major extension of sewer lines in the Pinelands and discharge two million gallons of sewage a day.

It would increase runoff and flooding to surrounding upland areas, while drying out streams and wetlands. It would impact Barnegat Bay. The site also includes 45 acres contaminated with radioactive uranium and thorium.

Worse, this development would be an excuse to build the 30-mile, 30-inch Southern Reliability Link (SRL) pipeline, which would supply it with natural gas. This pipeline would originate in Chesterfield (Burlington Co), and promote additional development throughout Ocean County. Do we need another Toms River, Lakewood, or Cherry Hill?

Report from Trenton

Gov. Murphy's Proposed Budget

From a press release issued on Mar 28

A public hearing on the State Budget for the year starting this October has been held by the Assembly Budget Committee. It includes initiatives for clean energy and fighting climate change, but it continues the pattern of slashing the DEP's budget. This year the agency is allocated \$275 million; down from \$321 million last year. The proposal also diverts \$140 million from the Clean Energy Fund.

After years of cuts, the DEP will lose money again: \$80 million from NJ Transit, \$50 million to replace lighting in government buildings, \$2 million from the BPU, \$5 million transferred to implement RGGI. All this from the Clean Energy Fund that was meant to support home weatherization, energy efficiency and green jobs. Ever since Christie was Governor, the Clean Energy Fund has become the state's ATM. He took \$1.5 billion from it, now we are taking more.

The DEP budget has been cut 40% over the last 10 years; now it is being cut again, by another 14%. Worse: the loss is from operations: \$213 to \$207 million. According to the DEP's online database, total enforcement actions issued from 2008 to 2013 fell by 77%, and site inspections dropped 80% under Christie. Perhaps most seriously, lead is not being removed from drinking water. It should be important to build up morale and funding in the Department that's been disheartened and slashed over the last eight years.

Ironically, these cuts parallel an increase in the State's environmental income! There's \$200 million from the Exxon-Mobil gas station settlement, \$75 million from Volkswagen, and new tax income accompanying RGGI. In addition, the corporate business tax increases by 4% for DEP programs. None of this is showing up in the DEP budget.

We cannot increase renewable energy and support energy efficiency programs if the BPU's funding is flat. Without staff, it will be impossible for it to implement 100% clean energy by 2050.

The Sierra Club went after former Gov. Christie's budget when it raided funds and cut programs. Sorry to report that Murphy's budget is too similar. We need the Legislature and the Governor to find the resources that are necessary for the environment and for a greener economy.

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West Jersey Clean-up

Report from the West Jersey Group, supplied by Group Chair Gina Carola

On April 5, some of our members filled several bags of recyclables and trash in the Wharton State Forest, and also pulled out some tires that had been left by people who use the Pine Barrens as a convenient dump. We also came upon a TV and Computer graveyard and pulled 4 TVs and two computer monitors out of the underbrush to be toted away by the Forest staff.

On April 7, we joined high- and middle school students from Camden to help the New Jersey Tree Foundation plant trees at the new Cooper's Poynt Waterfront Park in Camden. This new park, adjacent to the Benjamin Franklin Bridge, is being built on the site of the former Riverfront Prison.



West Jersey Group Vice-chair and Camden native Frank Zinni with NJ Tree Foundation Director Lisa Simms.



Group News

FROM
AROUND
THE
STATE

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

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

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

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

Skylands Group

(Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

Web-site: <http://SkylandsGroup.org>

Or click from the NJ Chapter's web-site.

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

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

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

Chair: (12/31/18)	Greg Gorman	ggorman07419@embarqmail.com
Vice Chair: (12/31/19)	Susan Williams	SkylandsGroup@gmail.com
Secretary: (12/31/18)	Norene Haberski	habersn@yahoo.com
Treasurer: (12/31/19)	Jeri Doherty	bjd8974@gmail.com
ExCom at large: (12/31/19)	Dave Alcock	dwhoob@hotmail.com
	(12/31/18) Nicole Guerrieri	sosaysnicole@gmail.com
	(12/31/19) Mindy Geary	mwillimas@yahoo.com
	(12/31/19) Joanne Mogan	jojommorgan@yahoo.com
	(12/31/19) Anthony Riccardi	anthony.j.riccardi@gmail.com
Conservation Chair:	Greg Gorman	ggorman07419@embarqmail.com
Outings Chair:	Dave Alcock	dwhoob@hotmail.com
Outreach Chair:	Joanne Mogan	jojommorgan@yahoo.com
Political Co-Chairs:	Nicole Guerrieri	sosaysnicole@gmail.com
and:	Susan Williams	SkylandsGroup@gmail.com
Programs Chair:	Mindy Geary	mwillimas@yahoo.com
Co-Publicity Chairs:	Jeri Doherty	bjd8974@gmail.com
and:	Joanne Mogan	jojommorgan@yahoo.com
Webmaster:	Nicole Guerrieri	sosaysnicole@gmail.com
Open position available: Membership Chair – please contact Greg!		

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

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

We offer a variety of opportunities for the public to learn about and connect with their natural environment, including informative films and speakers at our monthly general meetings; exploration of the great outdoors on hikes, edible plant tours and picnics;

There's an electronic bi-weekly Chapter Alert Service. Sign up at www.scnj.convio.net.

public outreach via town tabling; and visits to schools to teach students about the environment. Our hope is to foster a love of and deep respect for our great outdoors.

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

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

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

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

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

South Highlands Group (Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties)

WEBSITE: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/south-highlands/>
MEETUP: <http://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/>
FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/53817136187/>

OFFICERS:

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

Unless otherwise noted, meetings and outings are free and open to general public, but donations are accepted. Please check our web site, Meetup page, or Facebook page (see above for URLs) as these as topics, dates, times, and venues are subject to change. (* Group Executive Committee Member)

GENERAL MEETINGS: All our general meetings are held at the North County Library, 65 Halstead St, Clinton, 08809, on the first Wednesday of each month. Meet and Greet at 7pm followed by program at 7:15 pm. Meetings are free but donations are gladly accepted. There are no programs in July and August.

July & Aug: No General Meetings

Sept. 5 (Wed): Wilderness Symposium: 7pm. Join us for an informative discussion about various wilderness proposals including the need for wildlife corridors to connect our increasingly fragmented natural lands and threats to our federal lands from the Trump administration and Congress. District 7 Congressional Candidate Tom Malinowski is scheduled to speak.

OTHER EVENTS:

June 9 & 30th (Sat): Yoga for Spreading Your Wings, Kimberly Borin, EdD–Located in the Clinton Conservancy Butterfly Garden on Sat, June 9th & 30, Noon to 1pm. Adjacent to Water St Municipal Parking Lot, Clinton.

July 11 (Wed): Executive Committee/Planning Meeting. 7:30 pm, At the offices of Dr. Jonathan D. Wall, 21 Water Street, Clinton. The meeting is casual and informative. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about the Club, hear about and discuss issues, plan future events, and become more active. (Please contact jonwall@jonwall.com or sign-up on Meetup)

North Jersey Group (Bergen and Passaic Counties)

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

Officers:

Chair & Treasurer:	Buddy Jenssen *	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Vice Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>	
Secretary:	<i>Open position!</i>	
Conservation Co-Chair:	Mary Walsh *	blehlwalsh@hotmail.com
Conservation Co-Chair:	Laura Tracey Coll *	lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com
Political Chair:	Jermaine Spence *	spencejermaine@hotmail.com
Political Associate:	Phoebe Gistrak *	p-mg@att.net
Air Quality Issues:	Laura Tracey-Coll *	lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com
Climate Issues:	Jeff Rapaport	jeffrap@optonline.net
Fundraising Chair:	Francie Goldstein *	franciegoldstein@gmail.com
Membership Chair:	Buddy Jenssen *	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Outings Co-Chair:	Ellen Blumenkrantz	eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Outings Co-Chair:	Mary Walsh *	blehlwalsh@hotmail.com
Programs Chair:	Buddy Jenssen *	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Publicity Chair:	Marty Cohen	martincohen@verizon.net
Social Media Coor:	Ariana Schanzer	arianaschanzer@gmail.com
Trail Maintenance:	Marty Cohen	martincohen@verizon.net

Webmaster/Listmaster: *Open position!*
 (* Group Executive Committee Member)

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

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

In early December the Passaic County Board of Freeholders announced at their meeting that there will be no disk golf at Rifle Camp Park. The director announced that "they have listened to the people." It seems that the consistent representation at every meeting and our 2500 signatures against the disk golf had an effect. The director also praised the passion and perseverance of all involved.

On January 15th, the Group showed the movie "Up From the Ashes" at the Ethical Culture Society in Teaneck. Some 50 people attended and stayed for a discussion afterwards. The event was well-publicized on our Facebook page, where 47 people had indicated their interest.

The Long Swamp issue is in limbo, as the neighboring buildings have hired a lawyer to prevent construction of a 14-story building (down from 17) between them. According to Laura Tracey-Coll, the developer imagines he is going to get a permit to do it. Finally, the Group continues to reach out to new and present members with social events. In early December we had an event at Brix City Brewery, where we introduced our new beer mug with the Sierra Club logo (free to newly signed up members). A severe snow storm kept the attendance down, but we will continue the outreach on February 25th, at Veggie Heaven in Teaneck, from 5 to 7pm.

There will also be more showings of two movies this winter, and a panel discussion on solar panels in May. In June we will have a picnic most likely at Rifle Camp.

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 northjerseysierraclub@gmail.com.

Trail Maintenance: If you would like to be notified of our trail maintenance outings, please send Marty Cohen (peli3141@gmail.com) an email.

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:

Chair:	Suzanne Trimel	973-509-8335	suzanne.trimel@gmail.com
Vice-Chair:	David Yennior	973-844-1384	dyennior@gmail.com
Secretary:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Treasurer:	Anne Hirs	973-844-1121	annehirs83@gmail.com
Program Co-Chairs:	Suzanne Trimel	973-509-8335	suzanne.trimel@gmail.com
	ZaSah Khademi	201-618-8572	zasah@aol.com
and	Steven Yafet	908-354-2537	syafet@gmail.com

Publicity Chair: *Open Position!*

Conservation Co-Chairs:	ZaSah Khademi	201-618-8572	zasah@aol.com
and	David Korfhage	973-932-0742	drkorfhage@gmail.com
Political Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Fundraising Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Membership Chair:	Steven Yafet	908-354-2537	syafet@gmail.com
Water, Newark Issues Chr:	Bill Chappel	973-623-6490	chappel.bill@gmail.com
Recycling Issues Chair:	Lyle Landon	201-247-0288	lylelandon@aol.com
Passaic River Co-Chairs:	Brenda Toyloy	973-856-7056	brendatoyloy@yahoo.com
and:	Jeff Weiss	973-650-1030	bonefish5000@gmail.com
Elizabeth Issues Chair:	Paula Borenstein	908-289-3584	brdandmkt@aol.com
Outings Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Group Executive Committee:	David Yennior, Bill Chappel, and ZaSah Khademi		

Please contact Suzanne Trimel, Gateway's Chair, if you have any ideas or suggestions for a program in the future. The Gateway Group is 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.

The Gateway Group invites YOU to join in the activism and asks your support as we strive to address the many issues facing the urban as well as suburban communities.

Gateway has been involved in the recent **Massive Climate March in NYC**, stopping more surface parking lots in Newark, banning Fracking Fluids in Elizabeth, cosponsoring a GMO documentary, a proposed development in Verona, a church expansion in Cedar Grove, the Pilgrim Pipeline, Keystone XL Pipeline, Fracking, Newark's Covanta Incinerator, Passaic River Restoration Community Advisory Group, Maplewood Green Day, formerly the West Orange Seton Hall project, the Newark Water Wars, advocating

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GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

for NJ Sierra endorsed candidates for State and National Offices, and supporting other environmental groups.

There are several vacant positions listed, along with a full list of officers. For further information about upcoming activities, volunteer opportunities, or to discuss any concerns please contact Suzanne Trimel: 201-247-5057.

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

Hudson County Group

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

OFFICERS: (*=ExCom)

Chair:	David 'Ace' Case*	acecase88@gmail.com
Vice-Chair:	<i>Open position! Email Ace to volunteer!</i>	
Secretary:	Patricia Hilliard*	hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	<i>Open position! Email Ace to volunteer!</i>	
Political Chair:	Seth Lubin*	sthlubin@gmail.com
Conservation Chair:	Jon Perrelle*	jonperelle@gmail.com
Delegate to ExCom:	Hugh Evans*	HLEvans.Sierra@gmail.com
Publicity Chair:	John Ottomanelli*	otto.pittsburgh@gmail.com
Membership Chair:	Patricia Hilliard*	hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com
Programs/Events Chair:	Steve Krinsky	stevekrinsky@comcast.net
ExCom-at-Large:	Nancy Booth*	boothnancy2011@hotmail.com
Webmaster:	John Ottomanelli*	otto.pittsburgh@gmail.com
Art Design:	Ann Marshall	ann.marshall@gmail.com

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Third Annual Potluck Picnic. Sunday, July 15; 11am-4pm. Liberty State Park, 200 Pesin Dr, Jersey City. Bring your favorite dish with enough to share, or bring a purchased item: cookies, pie, watermelon or bag of chips etc. Feel free to bring your own utensils to reduce waste. Liberty State Park at the picnic area behind the Admin Bldg; look for the GREEN tables.

Hudson County Book Group. Thursday, July 26; 6:30-8pm. The Book Group will meet to read and discuss literature about environmental justice, conservation policy, climate change, sustainable development, etc. Look for updates on the NJ Sierra Club website and the Hudson County Sierra Club facebook page.

Hudson County Executive Committee Meeting: Sunday, Aug 19; 12:30-2pm. Zeppelin Hall Beer Garden, 88 Liberty View Dr, Jersey City. Regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Hudson County Group. Free and open to the public.

Loantaka Group

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

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair (Acting):	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
Treasurer:	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
Secretary:	Scott McCarthy	813-767-5593	hi_risescott@earthlink.net
Conservation Chairs:			
Morris County:	Len Fariello		len@wildlifepreserves.org
Union County:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Political Chair:	Clea Carchia	908-892-7229	info@cleacarchia.com
Programs:	Ahlia Bethea		ahlia.bethea@gmail.com
Fundraising Chair:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
Outings Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Publicity Chair:	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
Membership:	Bruce Ostrow	973-625-0792	ostrowb@gmail.com
Webmaster:	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
Upper Passaic			
River Coor:	Kathy O'Leary	908-647-2870	kolearypcnj@gmail.com
Energy Issue Coor:	Chris Fleischman	908-956-4855	chris.fleischman@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:

July: Summer vacations - no meeting

August: Summer vacations - no meeting

Sept 12: Meet your next Congresswoman, Mikie Sherrill! Mikie Sherrill is running for the NJ 11th District Congressional seat, which is currently held by Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen. Mikie will discuss her positions and then there will be a Q&A session.

ACTIVITIES:

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

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

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

OFFICERS:

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

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

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

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

MEETING SCHEDULE:

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

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

WEBSITE: <http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/Raritan-Valley/>
FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/RaritanGroupNJSC/>

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

OFFICERS:

Chair and Conservation			
Chair:	Gary Frederick	609-203-3382	gfredsierra@gmail.com
Membership:	Gurdon Hornor	678-920-8620	ghornor@yahoo.com
Political Chair:	Daphne Speck-Barynski	732-390-5311	speckbartyn@comcast.net
Publicity Chair:	Dani Levis		
Secretary:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Treasurer:	S.Pasricha		
Webmaster:	Paul Ehrlich		p.w.ehrlich@gmail.com
Outings/Events			
Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
College Liaison:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Bee affairs:	Brenda Bradley		

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

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

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

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

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Dennis Anderson	732-970-4327	dennisaza@aol.com
	6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747		
Vice-Chair & Secretary:	John Luard		jfluard@gmail.com
Conservation Co-Chairs:	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445	faithtei@aol.com
and:	Bob Sandberg	732-241-7757	Sandberg00@gmail.com
Social Media Chair:	Yazmin Sourias		yazming915@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Pat Fuschetto	732-308-4588	fusche40@yahoo.com
Political Chair:	Lara Zillow		lzillow@optimum.net
Outings Chair:	John Luard	732-708-9221	John.Luard@gmail.com
Outings Leaders:	<i>Needed!</i>		
Membership Chair:	Bob Grize	732-892-0684	nyucwnyppb@aol.com
Program Chair:	George Moffatt	732-544-1726	gmoffattgt@aol.com
Climate Chair:	Steve Miller		stevemiller@comcast.net
Fund-raising Co-Chairs:	Lois Blake	732-863-5917	lqblake@optonline.net
and:	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445	faithtei@aol.com
Publicity Chair	Lara Zillow		lzillow@optimum.net
High School Coor:	Lara Zillow		lzillow@optimum.net

JERSEY SHORE GROUP NEWS:

Rockin' for Whale Pond – The Jersey Shore Sierra Club and the Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association recently were the beneficiaries of a wildly successful concert that featured nine local bands at the Long Branch Elks Club, in collaboration with the Long Branch Boy Scouts Troop 148, to raise funds to restore the banks and water quality of Sierra's Whale Pond Brook project. The plan is to clean up the brook and create a nature walkway from the Long Branch oceanfront to the uplands in Tinton Falls. The sell-out crowd at the benefit jammed the Elks Hall for several hours to hear the music that paid a tribute to the three B's – the Beatles, Bruce and Bob (Dylan, for any youngsters' benefit).

Ross Island Park, one of the highlights of the nature Whale Pond Brook's many environmental features – in addition to the beautiful Sierra Club-funded butterfly garden – received so many compliments that it was chosen to be part of the Long Branch Historical Tours program. We've also developed a pictorial guide to the watershed, which will soon be posted on the Group's Sierra web page and other social media.

Help Needed for Cleanups: If you would like to participate in cleanups of our local waterways, please contact Laura Bagwell at l.bagwell3@verizon.net. Laura focuses on the Red Bank area watersheds. In this effort, we work with the Navesink Swimming River Group which, since 2002, has removed more than 20 tons of debris from our local banks and streams. Alas, pollution never ends; we are in constant need of volunteers.

GENERAL 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 2018. 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 modest free buffet is available for students and adults at 6 pm, and the program start at 6:30 pm.

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/MAAPS/MAP_04_08.pdf.

Please see our website at <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/jersey-shore> for a schedule of our meetings.

July: Group Picnic – See our website (above) for details. Everyone is invited to this potluck social that encourages just convivial conversation.

August -- No meeting – Relax and enjoy the summer. See 'ya on the beach!

Sept 24: DEP's Plans for NJ – Mrs. Christine McCabe, newly nominated Commissioner of NJ's Department of Environmental Protection, will discuss her plans and those of Gov. Phil Murphy to protect NJ's fragile environment. The state's previous administration loosened many of the state's environmental regulations, in addition to cutting the DEP budget, much to the chagrin of environmentalists who now hope the new administration will vigorously protect our environment. The environmental community is delighted that the Governor has appointed a committed environmentalist to head the DEP.

Ocean County Group

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

OFFICERS:

Acting Chair, Vice-Chair & Conservation Chair:	Margit Meissner-Jackson	sylviaj1910@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>	
Outings & Envl Ed'n:	Terrance Brown	terrybrown@comcast.net
Fund-Raising Chair:	Joyce M. Isaza	realtymstr@aol.com
Recording Secretary:	Margaret-Mary Piccolo	gogreenp1@yahoo.com
Group ExCom Member:	Nancy Brown	nancybrown624@comcast.net
Group ExCom Member:	William Rodgers	
Group ExCom Member:	Laura Stone	laura36@yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Held bi-monthly on the SECOND MONDAY of the month at CAPONE's.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: Held bi-monthly at the Skywalk Cafe in Toms River, except July and August. In July, we held our annual BBQ Fund-Raiser. August is an "outings month."

ACTIVITIES & ISSUES: With all of the environmental challenges we face at the local, state and national levels our group is focused on a number of critical issues. Locally and state-wide we're fighting a myriad of over-development issues and our Group with our allies is working hard to **save Barnegat Bay and the Pinelands**, two natural gems in Ocean County.

With Pres. Trump's seemingly limitless assault on our environment, we're also engaged in several national issues. Over 140 people from "Ocean" attended the **People's Climate March** in April. And we work closely with the Alaska Wilderness League, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and Appalachian Voices to protect those respective sacred areas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on our activities and upcoming events contact our group Chair or visit our web site.

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseyGroupNJSC> Log on and Like Us
Follow us on Twitter @Wjsierraclub and Instagram @wjsierraclub

OFFICERS:

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

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.

Sept 12: Recycling Houses in Camden – Pilar Hogan of Saint Joseph's Carpenter Society will bring us up to date on their most recent accomplishments in Camden where there is a great need for affordable housing.

The West Jersey Group does not meet in June, July or August. Please join us on a hike or paddling trip. Meetings resume on Sept 12.

South Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:

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

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

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

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

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

Some Possibly Relevant Activities of Allied Organizations:

Aug 1 and Sept 5: (first Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Atlantic County Friends of the Parks: Monthly meetings of Friends of the Parks, a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Park System. All are welcome. Warren Fox Nature Center (WFNC*), Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor, Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 3½ miles south of Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

Aug 8: (alternate second Wednesdays), 7pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries (another "Partnership River" under federal protection): Meeting place: 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@cumaucriver.org. Website: www.cumaucriver.org.

Aug 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.

July 25, Aug 22 and Sept 26: (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.

July 24 and Sept 25: (alternate fourth Tuesdays) 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: get yourself onto the electronic mailing list by contacting Lynn Maun, 856-649-2792 or email lynnkmaun@comcast.net.

350.org South Jersey is an organization that opposes Climate Change, and that tries to hold monthly meetings at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Pomona Rd (Rte 575) opposite the Stockton College campus in Galloway Twp, Atlantic Co. Contact Glenn Klotz: glennk1949@gmail.com, or Ron Hutchison: HutchisR@Stockton.edu.

Singles Section

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

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

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

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

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

OFFICERS:

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

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

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

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

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

SOCIAL GATHERINGS:

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

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

HIKES AND OTHER OUTINGS:

The Singles Section sponsors many outings, ranging from beginners' level to advanced difficulty. Some of these are listed in this newsletter; others are announced only on our listserv and the Chapter's online calendar. See the Outings section of this Newsletter for singles outings led by Jimi Oleksiak and Jeff Sovelove. Please join the listserv to receive notification of all of our outings (see above for instructions on how to subscribe).

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

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Section

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

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

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

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

OFFICERS:

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

(* Section Executive Committee Member)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

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

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

Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

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

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

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

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

Arline Zatz is the editor and Chair of the Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section. She can be reached at azatz@funtravels.com, 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 (p.w.ehrlich@gmail.com).

Sierra Student Coalition

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

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

Introducing Children to the Outdoors Section

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

OFFICERS:

Chair: Marty Cohen pe14191@gmail.com

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

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

On the Trail Under Development: Essex-Hudson Greenway



From a press release issued on May 1 by Essex Co. Freeholder President Brendan Gill

Several of our Gateway and Hudson County Group members have contributed to this 11-mile effort, led by the NJ Bike & Walk Coalition and the 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance (911 NMT). The Greenway is a rail-trail conversion of the "Old Boonton Line," between Montclair and Jersey City, and passing through Glen Ridge, Bloomfield, Bellville, Newark and Kearny. It was described in an article on p.4 of the Jan-March issue of this Newsletter. It would be included in a much longer, 1350-mile, trail connecting the three places damaged on Sept. 11, 2001: Ground Zero in New York City, Shanksville Pennsylvania and The Pentagon in northern Virginia.

The collaboration is proposed as a fitting tribute to the innocent lives lost in

the 9-11 terror attacks, but also as an important step in the development of the Essex-Hudson Greenway. The 911 NMT Alliance will partner with the NJBWC to develop it into a shared use path for walkers, joggers, and bike riders.

Sixteen percent of the population of New Jersey will benefit directly from this trail. The impact on quality of life, health, and economics, along with the chance to remind people both young and old about the tragedies of 9-11, make this an amazing opportunity.

Freeholder Gill and the NJBWC have worked to generate support for the project, including with the Friends of the Ice & Iron Rail Trail, Bloomfield Open Space Fund, Bike & Walk Montclair, and many other stakeholders along the route.



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

Outing Leaders: Please send Oct-Dec 2018 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 Aug 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 Oct-Dec 2018 trip write-ups by Aug 10.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jul 11 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Mercer Co). 9am. We're paddling 14 miles from Firemen's Eddy to Bordentown. This trip takes us into the tidal Delaware through the Trenton Falls along the Capital City of Trenton. We've paddled this trip for many years and this year we will celebrate the closure of the Mercer Generating Station. Operation of this plant killed millions of aquatic creatures, including the endangered Atlantic Sturgeon due to its single-pass cooling system. Thank the NJ Sierra Club, Delaware Riverkeeper and Earthjustice and their members! Paddling helmets required for all participants, spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Rentals are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Jul 14 (Sat): Jockey Hollow (Morris Co). 10am. Leader's choice of trails depending on conditions at Jockey Hollow National Historic Park, near Morristown. See <http://www.nps.gov/morr/planyourvisit/directions.htm> for directions and information. DO NOT follow the directions to Washington's Headquarters. Bring lots of water, a snack, and wear hiking boots. Meet at the Visitors' Center. Heavy/steady rain cancels. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Jul 14 (Sat): Three Lakes Hike and Swim, Delaware Water Gap NRA (Warren or Sussex Co). 10am. <https://www.nationalparks.org/explore-parks/delaware-water-gap-national-recreation-area.htm>; <https://www.nps.gov/dewa/planyourvisit/blue-mountain-lake-trail.htm>. 7 miles in 4 hours plus swimming time, in hilly terrain on Grassy Woods Roads Required: hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch. No pets. **Features:** Blue Mountain Lake, Hemlock Pond, Crater Lake, Appalachian Trail. **Facilities:** Restrooms at the Blue Mountain Lake parking lot and at Crater Lake. **Registration required via Web:** <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/sierra-singles>. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: The_Hikist@mac.com.

Jul 14 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River on Bastille Day (Hunterdon Co). 9am. We're paddling 10 miles from Riegelsville to Kingwood Access. The proposed route of the Penn East Pipeline (for fracking gas) will cross from PA thru Riegelsville, destroying the environment and the fragile ecosystems of the Sourland Mountain in Hunterdon. Paddling helmets required for all participants. Rentals are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. Frenchtown is celebrating Bastille Day! Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jul 16 (Mon): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. We're paddling 10 miles from Godfrey Bridge to Chips Folly Campground (takeout fee). Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental: 609-726-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jul 19 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak the Batsto River (Burlington Co). 10:30 am. We'll enjoy a later start on our 7-mile Pinelands paddle from Quaker Bridge to Batsto Lake. We'll use Pinelands Adventures for our trip shuttle: www.pinelandsadventures.org. Contact leaders to confirm the trip, meeting location and your participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jul 25 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 10am. We'll paddle 10+ miles from Penny Pot to Weymouth. Rental boats are available from Palace Outfitters, which will shuttle our group. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jul 30 (Mon): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am. We'll paddle 7 miles from Ore Pond to Dudley Park. Rental boats are available from Cedar Creek Campground: www.cedarcreeknj.com/kayak-canoe. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

AUGUST

Aug 3 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Hunterdon Co). 9am. We're paddling 15 miles from Kingwood Access to Lambertville; lunch break at the Hot Dog Man's River "Restaurant"; bring or buy lunch. Paddling helmets required for all participants; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Rentals are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Aug 4 (Sat): Patriots Path Stroll (Morris Co). 10am. NO RESTROOM FACILITIES. Come take an easy stroll on Patriots Path in Morristown. This 5 mile stroll will start from the Speedwell Lake parking lot, across the street from Historic Speedwell. See the Morris County Parks website (<http://www.morrisparks.org>) for directions or Google Speedwell Park, Morristown. Please bring plenty of water and a light snack. Great for beginners. Heavy/steady rain cancels. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Aug 4 (Sat): Hike Thompson Park, Middletown (Monmouth Co). 9:30 am. Enjoy the nearly flat woods surrounding Swimming River Reservoir. 4 or 5 miles at an easy pace, beginners welcome, supportive footwear recommended, bring plenty of water, a maximum of 15 adults. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com. (JS)

Aug 8 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Crosswicks Creek (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 10:30 am. We'll enjoy a weekday tidal trip - no shuttle. Meet at Bordentown Beach end of Park St. Participants must have their own boats; rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip information and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Aug 11 (Sat): Hike and Swim at Harriman State Park, (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. 7 mile hike over hilly terrain, with views of two lakes and surrounding mountains. About 5 hours including swim time.. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. No pets. Facilities: Port-A-John in the parking lot. <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/145>; <http://www.rocklandtimes.com/2016/07/07/breakneck-pond-a-hidden-gem-in-harriman/>. Registration required via Web: <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/sierra-singles>. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: The_Hikist@mac.com.

Aug 11 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Tidal Maurice River (Atlantic Co). 10am. The Maurice is a nationally recognized Wild and Scenic River and its environment supports a great variety of plant and animal life, including Ospreys and Bald Eagles. We'll paddle 10 miles on the tidal Maurice River. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Aug 15 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 9am. We're paddling 10 miles from Hawkin Bridge to Beaver Branch. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental 609-726-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Aug 21 (Tues): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River from Bordentown to Bristol - A Tale of Two River Cities! (Mercer/Bucks Cos). 10:00am. This is a 10-mile tidal trip from Bordentown to Bucks County. On this trip learn about the risks of a raw industrial liquid hazardous waste treatment facility (directly across the river from Bordentown) that is proposed by Elcon, a wastewater recycling company. Kayaks must be 12 ft or over; spray skirts recommended. We can expect power boat traffic and boat wakes. Bring lunch and water. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Aug 24 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am. We'll paddle 7 miles from Ore Pond to Dudley Park. Rental boats are available from Cedar Creek Campground: www.cedarcreeknj.com/kayak-canoe Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Aug 29 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 10am. We'll paddle 7 miles from Weymouth Furnace to Lake Lenape. Rental boats are available from Palace Outfitters. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

SEPTEMBER

Sep 1 (Sat): Turtleback Rock, South Mountain Reservation (Essex Co). 10am. We will start at Turtleback Rock trailhead. See the Essex County Parks Commission website for directions or Google "Turtleback Rock Picnic Area": <http://www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/south-mountain-reservation>. Bring lots of water, and wear hiking boots. We will take the Orange Trail down to Hemlock Falls and also see the famous Turtleback Rock. Heavy/steady rain cancels. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Sep 1 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Hunterdon Co). 9am. We're paddling 8 miles from Kingwood Access to Bulls Island; lunch break at the Hot Dog Man's River "Restaurant"; bring or buy lunch. Paddling helmets required for all participants; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Rentals are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Sep 6 (Thurs): Mercer Park - Land and Water Cleanup - Sierra Club Water Sentinels and Princeton University SVC (Mercer Co). 10am to 1pm. Lake Mercer was formed by Assunpink Dam #20 and is part of the Delaware River Watershed. Join the NJ Sierra Club and the Princeton University Student

(continued on page 12)

JULY

Jul 7 (Sat): Hike Manasquan Reservoir Park, Wall Twp (Monmouth Co). 9:30 am. 5 miles, mostly through woods with water views. We will visit the Environmental Center during the walk. Beginners welcome, supportive footwear recommended, bring plenty of water. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com. (JS)

Jul 8 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 8am. Yes, we're meeting early because it's a summer weekend - to paddle 8 miles from Lake Oswego to Harrisville Lake. Meet at Lake Oswego. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe/Kayak Rental: 609-726-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Care for more Club involvement? You can sample (and subscribe to) several specialist Club national electronic newsletters by logging on to: insider@sierraclub.org, currents@sierraclub.org, www.sierraclub.org/population, and www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming.



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

Vice-Chair and Political Chair
* John Kashwick (201) 660-8820
jkashwick@gmail.com

Conservation Chair
Greg Gorman
ggorman07419@embarqmail.com

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

Secretary and Council (CCL) Delegate
* Joe Testa
Testa-j@live.com

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

Co-Vice-Treasurers
* George Denzer (609) 799-5839
GDenzer73@gmail.com
Sunil Somalwar
sunil.somalwar@gmail.com

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

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

Webmaster
Nicole Guerrieri
SierraClubNicole@gmail.com

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

Programs Chair
George Moffat
gmoffatgt@aol.com

GIS (Geog. Info. Systems) Chair
Denise Garner
jcreedst@msn.com

Chapter Environmental Impact Analyst
Laura Sliker
LauraL.Slyker@gmail.com

Environmental Education Chair
Heidi Klingbeil
klingbeilh@msn.com

Environmental Justice Committee
Howard Steinberg, Chair howz1648@hotmail.com
Jim Andreano, Paul Ehrlich, Hugh Evans, Gary Frederick, Barbara Greenfield, John Ottomanelli, Renee Pollard, Maria Santiago, Jermaine Spence, Suzanne Trimel, Ivan Jorge Wei and Kimi Wei

High School Coordinator
Lara Zullo • LZullo@optimum.net

Transportation Advisor
Steve Lax • zevson2004@verizon.net

Introducing Children to the Outdoors Coordinator
Marty Cohen • peli3141@gmail.com

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

Other ExCom members at large
* Laura Lynch njsierraclub@gmail.com
* Lee Snyder (see right column)
* Ken Johanson (908) 464-0442
kjohan@comcast.net

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

Fundraising Committee
Ken Johanson**, Joan and George Denzer, Paul Sanderson

Personnel Committee
Rich Isaac**, Joan & George Denzer, John Kashwick, Ken Johanson, Paul Sanderson

Legislative Coordinator
Ken Johanson (see above)

Litigation Oversight Committee
Ken Johanson

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

Information Technology Committee
Joe Testa**, Sunil Somalwar, Nicole Guerrieri, Laura Sliker, Evangelina Pena, Abdel Alfahham & Dylan Frost

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

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

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

Community Solar
Dick Colby (see left column)

Delaware River
Gina Carola (see left column)

Delaware Water Gap
Ashley Baldwin • AshleyEBaldwin@gmail.com

Environmental Health Advisor
Howard Steinberg • howz1648@hotmail.com

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

Genetically Modified Organisms
Joanne Pannone • Jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.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

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

Gender, Equity & the Env't (Population) Issues
Christine Sadovy • ChristineGuhl@gmail.com

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

Renewable Energy
Chris Fleischman • chris.fleischman@gmail.com

Risk Assessment Analyst
Bill Murphy • RedBankBill@gmail.com

Tiger Conservation
Sunil Somalwar (see left column)

Toxicology Advisor
Hugh Evans • HLEvans.Sierra@gmail.com

Transportation Committee Chair
Chair: Bill Beren • Beren1@verizon.net
Vice Chair: Karuna Jobanputra • swarajkj@gmail.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 (201) 660-8820
jkashwick@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

Administrative Assistant: Taylor McFarland
taylor.mcfarland@SierraClub.org

Communications and Legislative Coordinator: Jamie Zaccaria
Jamie.Zaccaria@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.

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

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

Volunteers Council for their 9th Annual Cleanup at Mercer County Park. Help us pick up litter and trash as we enjoy a scenic walk along Lake Mercer and the lovely wooded trails. Or you can bring your kayak/canoe to collect trash on the lake (life jackets must be worn). Bring lunch and water. Bring gloves; trash bags will be provided. Contact leaders to confirm the cleanup: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Sep 8 (Sat): Palisades to The Cloisters via George Washington Bridge Urban Hike (starts in Bergen Co). 10am. The hike will cover 8 miles in 4 hours on paved paths and park walkways. Features: the Palisades, the Hudson River, the George Washington Bridge, the Cloisters. Facilities: Restrooms at the parking lot for the Palisades and Fort Tryon Park, NY. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch required. Sneakers are allowed. <http://www.njpalisades.org/rossdock.html>; <https://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/fort-tryon-park>. Registration required via Web: <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/sierra-singles>. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: The_Hikist@mac.com.

Sep 12 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Mercer Co). 10am. 10 miles from Kingwood to Bulls Island. Paddling helmets required for all participants; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. We'll stop at the Hot Dog Man's "River Restaurant". Rentals are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip, meeting location and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Sep 14 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am. It's the Virgo b'day paddle!! We'll eat cake and paddle 7 miles from Ore Pond to Dudley Park. Cedar Creek is one of the prettiest Pines streams. Boats can be rented from Cedar Creek Campgrounds: www.cedarcreeknj.com or 732-269-1413. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Sep 16 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 9am. We'll paddle 8 miles from Lake Oswego to Harrisville Lake. Meet at Lake Oswego. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe/Kayak Rental: 609-726-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com/ Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Sep 23 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware and Raritan Canal on World Rivers Day (Somerset Co). 9:30 am. World Rivers Day is a global celebration of the world's waterways, observed every last Sunday in September. The D&R Canal is a drinking water resource for almost 2 million residents of NJ. Our 7-mile round trip will be on the Griggstown-Blackwells Mills section of the canal. Rentals are available from Griggstown Canoe and Kayak Rental. Bring lunch and water. Please register with leaders for details and to confirm the trip: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

Sep 26 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Mullica River (Burlington Co). 8:30 am. This is a 12-mile trip for experienced Pines paddlers; expect downfalls and portages. Pinelands Preservation Alliance has launched Pinelands Adventures and we'll use Pinelands Adventures for our shuttle: <http://www.pinelandsadventures.org>. Contact leaders to confirm the trip, meeting location and your participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Sep 29 (Sat): Hike Allaire State Park, Wall Twp (Monmouth Co). 9:30 am. An early fall walk in this mostly pine forest. About 5 miles, easy pace, some ups and downs, bring plenty of water, beginners welcome, supportive footwear recommended. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com. (JS)

Sep 30 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the D&R Canal (Mercer Co). 9am. It's Autumn and we're paddling the 12-mile section of the Canal from Cherry Tree Lane to Kingston. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting logistics: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

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

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

July 14, August 11 and September 8, all at the Reformed Church of Highland Park, 19-21 S. 2nd Ave. (about a mile north of the New Brunswick train station)



Dick Colby (dick.colby@stockton.edu).....Editor
Assisted by Irene Gnarra, Joe Testa and Maggie Yilmaz
Karen Brown (karonna@yahoo.com)Designer
Paul Sanderson (paulmsanderson@aol.com) Publisher

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

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Reports from Trenton

Gov. Murphy's Roaring Start: A Good Week for the Environment

From a Press Release issued on Feb 2, edited by Maggie Yilmaz

The week of Jan 29 was good for the environment. In his first full week in office, Governor Murphy signed an Executive Order to put New Jersey back into the Northeastern States' Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and another one to begin the construction of offshore wind turbines. He also proposed a full ban on fracking in New Jersey and dropped the suit previous Gov. Christie had filed against the EPA's Clean Power Plan. To top it off, the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Plant announced that it will close in October of this year.

RGGI is a ten-state compact to reduce climate change, air pollution and fund clean energy projects. In 2015 Christie pulled NJ out of RGGI – without consulting the Legislature. RGGI had created almost 1,800 jobs and reduced pollution. Our withdrawal had cost us more than \$100 million. \$500 million awaits us when we rejoin. That money will help environmental programs, expand renewable energy, create jobs, reduce greenhouse gases, and help middle class families save money on their electric bills.

On Jan 30th, Murphy cancelled a lawsuit against the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan. In the previous March, President Trump had signed an Executive Order to eliminate the plan, despite the fact that carbon pollution from fossil fuels is linked to life-threatening air pollution like the smog that triggers asthma attacks. A consortium of environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, is challenging the Trump Administration's repeal of this Plan.

On Jan 31st, Murphy signed an Executive Order to pursue NJ's offshore wind goal of 3500 MW by 2030. The Order directs the Board of Public Utilities to find a funding mechanism. Christie had signed the Wind Economic Development Act, but never produced financing for it.

On Feb 1st, Governor Murphy sent a letter to the Delaware River Basin Commission stating New Jersey's position on their proposed fracking policy. (The Upper Basin includes the Marcellus Shale formations in Pennsylvania and New York State – that contain natural gas.) Murphy will only support the policy if it absolves New Jersey from responsibility for accepting frack water. This will protect the drinking water for more than three million people in NJ.

On Feb 2nd, Exelon Generation Corp. announced it would close the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Station in October, a year ahead of schedule, and a decade earlier than it is licensed for. Oyster Creek has been a safety threat to Ocean County, polluting Barnegat Bay with heat – killing thousands of fish over the years. The plant has suffered inspection violations, tritium (radiation) leaks, compressor failure, pump failure, and drywall liner erosion. Shutting it down will reduce algal blooms, improve fish populations and help restore the overall ecosystem of Barnegat Bay.

This first week was good, but there is much more ahead of us: electric vehicles, clean energy, the “plastics” problem, fixing public transportation, Environmental Justice, and protections for clean air, clean water, and open space.

Murphy Commits to Rejoining RGGI

From a press release issued on Feb 26, edited by Joe Testa

Governor Phil Murphy has formally notified governors of states that belong to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) of his administration's commitment to rejoining the regional climate change compact. RGGI is currently comprised of Delaware, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont. This follows the Governor's January Executive Order putting our state back into the initiative. There is legislation pending implement RGGI, and to also prevent future Governors from pulling out.

By working with the governors of the region, New Jersey has taken an important step towards a greener future and fighting back against climate change. Our residents have seen the impacts of climate change firsthand and demand action.

A report by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners found that, before Gov. Christie pulled us out of the compact, New Jersey's participation in RGGI created \$151 million in economic value and almost 1,800 jobs in the state. Throughout the region, RGGI saved customers \$1.1 billion on their electric bills and \$174 million on gas bills, offsetting the \$912 million paid by customers. RGGI's energy efficiency programs helped keep \$765 million in the regional economy instead of going to out of state fossil fuel interests.

The money collected from RGGI will help environmental programs, expand renewable energy, create jobs, reduce greenhouse gases, and help middle class families save money on their electric bills. In neighboring New York, RGGI has generated \$700 million for investment in clean energy and energy efficiency and created 16,000 new jobs since the program started. They are investing \$300 million in a clean energy bank to give out loans to businesses with revenue from the RGGI program.

With the Trump Administration's constant rollbacks of environmental regulations and denial of climate change, it's more important than ever that New Jersey create strong environmental and clean energy goals. Rejoining RGGI is just the beginning. It's up to the states to work together to reduce greenhouse gasses because the fossil fool in the White House won't.

Monster in the Meadowlands: Murphy Must Reject Proposed Power Plant

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

The Diamond Generating Corp. is looking for NJDEP approval to build a gas-fueled power plant in the Meadowlands. The proposed \$1.5 billion North Bergen Liberty Generating Project would be one of the largest power plants in the state, sending electricity to New York City. The plant would go on a 15-acre parcel near Railroad Avenue on the banks of Bellman's Creek in an industrial section of the town.

Putting a giant natural gas power plant in the heart of the Meadowlands is a terrible idea. Not only would it threaten an already sensitive ecosystem, but it would pollute our air and water and seriously undermine our renewable energy goals. The DEP cannot approve permits to allow this plant to ruin the Meadowlands near communities already overburdened by pollution.

These types of plants are monsters of air pollution, emitting heavy metals and chemicals such as ammonia and nitrogen oxide. Natural gas power plants are not a clean bridge fuel as some people claim – they are a bridge to the 1950's.

Our environmental justice communities already have some of the worst air quality in the nation. Building another massive gas power plant will only exacerbate their health problems. We have serious ozone pollution in New Jersey; almost every county that conducts monitoring has a failing grade for ozone. Our ozone levels are so high that it may put sensitive individuals at risk, including children, the elderly and people suffering from asthma, heart disease and other lung ailments.

A monster plant like this would use millions of gallons of water per day for its cooling system. The resulting steam will carry downwind heavy metals like lead, algaecides and fungicides, and volatile organic compounds. This will have significant impacts on environment around this facility. The companies that make cooling towers warn that this chemical drift could kill plant life near cooling towers.

This project must be examined in context with the other infrastructure it would connect to, and lead to being built in New Jersey. There would be more pipelines and compressor stations, including the proposed Gateway Project expansion. Despite our state having an oversupply of natural gas, fossil fuel interests are continuing to push for more gas pipelines and infrastructure. Much of this gas is likely to go out of state or to export, not to service the people of New Jersey.

The Meadowlands is an oasis of nature, an environmentally sensitive area in one of the most developed places anywhere in the country. In the Meadowlands you can be kayaking between salt grass and then turn the corner to see the New York skyline. Its resources are important for flood control, fisheries, and migratory birds. Even though it has a toxic legacy, the contaminated sites and landfills are being cleaned up and it is getting better; overdevelopment is now a big threat.

With this plant the company makes the money, New York gets the gas, and New Jersey gets stuck with the pollution and climate and health impacts. We need the Murphy Administration to step in and stop this project from destroying New Jersey's Meadowlands and undermining our goals for clean energy.