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Vol. 47, No. 4 Approximately 22,000 Members in New Jersey October-December 2018

Our Political Endorsements: Menendez for US Senate and Democrats in all 12 House Races

By Chapter Political Chair John Kashwick (jkashwick@gmail.com)

During the past two years we have seen an unprecedented assault on the environment by the Trump administration and the Republicans in Congress— gutting the Endangered Species Act, roll-backs to auto-emission standards, shrinking national monuments, and opening our offshore to oil and gas drilling.

It is URGENT that we now elect an environmentally-sane majority in both the House and Senate. We endorse, for re-election, environmental champion **Senator Bob Menendez** and all seven Democratic House incumbents: **Gottheimer, Norcross, Pallone, Pascrell, Payne, Sires, and Watson-Coleman**. In addition, we endorse all five Democratic candidates running in the Republican-held districts. All five are extremely competent and dedicated public servants who will make outstanding additions to New Jersey's congressional delegation:

Jeff Van Drew (District 2) hopes to replace retiring Rep. Frank LoBiondo. During our endorsement interview, Van Drew committed to protect federal public lands, oppose offshore drilling, and support renewable energy projects. He earned a B.S. from Rutgers University and a D.D.S from Fairleigh Dickinson Univ. Dental School. Concurrent with his dentistry practice, Van Drew has served for many years as a Township Committeeman, Mayor, Freeholder, and most recently, since 2008, state senator from the 1st legislative district, where he chairs the Community and Urban Affairs Committee.

Andy Kim (District 3), a Rhodes Scholar, worked for the State Department for 20 years under both George W. Bush and Barack Obama, serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He favors overturning Citizens United and has taken the "No Fossil Fuel Money" pledge. Kim is running against Rep. Tom "Tea Party" McArthur, whose environmental record is the worst in New Jersey: wanting oil and gas recovery from the Arctic National

Wildlife Refuge, and even commercial trade of elephant ivory. Kim understands the threat of climate change to our shoreline, and the need for cleaner air and water.

Josh Welle (District 4) attended the U.S. Naval Academy, followed by four deployments in the Middle East, Asia and Africa -- as Engineering Officer and Executive Officer. After military service he launched a software company. He holds degrees in political science, international relations and an MPA from the US Naval Academy, the Univ. of Maryland, and Harvard University's Kennedy School, respectively. We judged his responses to our endorsement questionnaire as "perfect." During his interview he described the dire effects of the climate change he experienced in his naval service. He intends to spearhead efforts to preserve our national parks, wilderness areas and combat international wildlife trafficking. He will be a much stronger advocate for the environment than incumbent Rep. Chris Smith.

Tom Malinowski (District 7) served under President Bill Clinton on the National Security Council, and then as Washington Director for Human Rights Watch. Then he was Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor under President Barak Obama. He's a hiker, last summer in Bears Ears National Monument. He has a good grasp of federal lands policy, recognizing the need to maintain the Antiquities Act. He pledged to support policies that protect our air and water, and incentivize the green technologies on which future jobs depend. He understands that climate change is a threat to national security. He has pledged not to accept campaign support from corporate PACs. Malinowski is challenging Rep. Leonard Lance, whose environmental record has increasingly deteriorated.

Mikie Sherrill (District 11), an open seat previously held by Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen) is a former federal prose-

cutor (working in the US Attorney's New Jersey office) and a former naval helicopter pilot, serving in Europe and the Middle East, where she described water scarcity and pollution as day-to-day concerns. Sherrill understands the threat that climate change poses, and the consequences of failing to take meaningful action to end our reliance on dirty fossil fuels. She would focus on green energy jobs instead of pipelines. She believes in facts and science. Her Master's degree in Global History is from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and her Law degree is from Georgetown Univ.

As Sierra Club members, it is a no-brainer to support these candidates to further our efforts to protect the environment. But we ask for more than just your vote: To achieve a wave to wash away the cynical and ignorant policies of the Trump Administration, each of us needs to speak to our neighbors, family members, work colleagues, friends and whoever else we encounter -- to vote for our endorsed candidates on Nov. 6.

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

For Senate: Robert Menendez (D)

For Congress:

District	Candidate
1	Rep. Donald Norcross (D)
2	Jeff Van Drew (D)
3	Andy Kim (D)
4	Josh Welle (D)
5	Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D)
6	Rep. Frank Pallone (D)
7	Tom Malinowski (D)
8	Rep. Albio Sires (D)
9	Rep. William Pascrell (D)
10	Rep. Donald Payne Jr. (D)
11	Mikie Sherrill (D)
12	Rep. Bonnie Watson-Coleman (D)

Also, please join us for canvassing weekend: Oct 13-14:

We plan to organize canvassing and/or phone banking events at various times throughout the weekend in the more competitive House districts. We may add additional dates and times (check our on-line calendar). To help, please contact me, John Kashwick, at jkashwick@gmail.com.

SIERRA CLUB BALLOT

2018 Election of Officers of the New Jersey Chapter, and its Groups

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

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

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

This year's five Chapter ExCom candidates were selected by a Nominating Committee consisting of Gina Carola, Bonnie Tillery and Jonathan Wall. (There was a mechanism for additional nominations by petition, but no such petitions were received this year.)

If the Sierra Club has your e-mail address in its records, you will receive in October a ballot by e-mail, and you may vote EITHER online, as described below, OR by this paper ballot. If you cast an online ballot, any paper ballot you mail in will not be counted. Online votes must be cast by December 1, 2018.

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

To vote online: click on the link in the e-mail you receive. If you have a joint membership, pairs of boxes are provided to enable each member to cast a separate vote. The ballot page will have links to the same candidate statements as are printed in this newsletter.

To vote by paper ballot: Please vote the ballot below; then clip the ENTIRE ballot on the heavy-dashed line, and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Dec 1, to **Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618**. PAIRS of boxes are to enable two members of family memberships to cast separate votes. **Note that a properly-clipped ballot will include the mailing label.** This is to verify your membership; it will

(continued on page 2)

Report from Trenton

Assignments for Commissioner McCabe

From a press release issued on June 19th, edited by Sylvia Kay

Gov. Murphy swore in DEP Commissioner Catherine McCabe last January, but petty politics prevented confirmation by the legislature for another five months! Finally now, she has the opportunity to restore New Jersey's reputation for environmental protection and to work towards 100% renewable energy by 2050.

(1) McCabe can accelerate New Jersey's rejoining of the Northeastern States' Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which has the potential to create revenue and jobs.

(2) She can instruct the DEP to resurrect previous (pre-Christie) rules for manage-

ment of flood hazards and water quality.

(3) McCabe needs to prepare for climate change and rising sea levels.

(4-6) The Commissioner should act to protect state parks and waterways, clean up toxic sites, and embrace a policy of environmental justice.

(7) She needs urgently to meet with the Pompton Lakes and other Highlands communities to restore protective environmental rules to the Highlands region with a roll back of Christie's septic density legislation.

(8) Don't forget that goal of 100% renewable energy by 2050, starting NOW!

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	Pipeline in South Jersey; Adieu Pruitt!

BALLOT

(Continued from page 1)

be removed before ballots are counted.

Chapter ExCom Ballot: Candidates for three-year terms. Their portraits and 100-word statements on this page. Name-order has been randomized. Please vote for UP TO THREE:

- Laura Lynch Howard Steinberg
 Angela De Sapio Paul Sanderson
 Sylvia Kay

Group Ballots

Please vote your GROUP ExCom ballot, below. Since Club rules require two more candidates than the number of positions to be filled, some ballots include those "extra" candidates as "write-ins."

Skylands Group: Candidates for six positions on the Group ExCom, who will serve for two years. Please vote for UP TO SIX:

- Greg Gorman Nicole Guerrieri
 Norene Haberski
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

South Highlands Group: Candidates for four positions on the Group ExCom, who will serve for two years. Please vote for UP TO FOUR:

- Karen Becker Dan Dolce
 Dawn Peterman Amy Weeder
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

North Jersey Group: Candidates for five positions on the Group ExCom, who will serve for two years. Please vote for UP TO FIVE.

- Buddy Jenssen Laura Tracey-Coll
 Mary Welsh Francie Goldstein
 Phoebe Gistrak
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Gateway Group: Candidates for Group ExCom: Please vote for UP TO THREE:

- Bill Chappel Caroline Kane
 David Yennior
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Hudson County Group: Please vote for UP TO FOUR candidates for two-year seats:

- Patricia Hilliard Seth Lubin
 John Ottomanelli Andrea Rodriguez
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Loantaka Group: Candidates for Group ExCom: Please vote for UP TO FIVE:

- Wynn Johanson Clea Carchia
 Kathy O'Leary Chris Fleischman
 Ahlia Bethea
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Central Jersey Group: Candidates for Group ExCom, 2-year terms: Please vote for UP TO THREE:

- Xiaoping Du Scott Fulmer
 Dave Mattek
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Raritan Valley Group: Candidates for Group ExCom: Please vote for UP TO FOUR:

- Gary Frederick S. Pasricha
 Daphne Speck-Bartynski Paul Ehrlich
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Jersey Shore Group: Candidates for Group ExCom: Please vote for UP TO FOUR:

- Jim Baye Bob Grize
 Pat Fuachetto Dennis Anderson
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Ocean County Group: Candidates for Group ExCom for 2-year terms. Please vote for UP TO FIVE.

- Margit Meissner-Jackson Laura Stone
 Terrance Brown Nancy Brown
 Margaret-Mary Piccolo Pete Leighton
 Elayne Leighton
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Candidates for Group ExCom for 1-year terms. Please vote for UP TO FOUR.

- William Rogers Annie Eilbacher Jones
 Kathy Kozakiewicz Ray Kozakiewicz
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

West Jersey Group: Candidates for two positions on the Group ExCom. 2-year terms. Please vote for UP TO TWO.

- Ellen Zinni Frank Zinni
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

South Jersey Group: Candidates for three positions on the Group ExCom. 2-year terms. Please vote for UP TO THREE.

- Tom Boghosian Dick Colby
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Ballot Statements

(Name-order has been randomized)

Laura Lynch

(Central Jersey Group):

I have been a member since 1996. I have been Conservation Chair for the West Jersey and Central Jersey Groups and the Chapter Conservation Chair. I helped stop the Millstone Bypass in Mercer County, Route 92 in Middlesex County, and Wal-Mart in Lawrence Township, Mercer County. I am the NJ Sierra Club liaison to several open space preservation groups. I am involved in long-term land use issues, from the PennEast Pipeline to neighborhood parks. I was the lead author of our Chapter's Beginner's Guide to Land Use and Open Space Preservation in New Jersey. I participate actively in decision-making at the Chapter level.



Howard Steinberg:

I have worked in public health for 34 years, helping protect families by organizing clinics, drug programs, and dealing with lead poisoning and other issues. I've been involved with environmental regulatory enforcement, protecting our air and water. I currently chair the Chapter's Environmental Justice Committee, and attend Executive Committee meetings as a non-voting member. I think, with my background and ability to work with people, I'd be an asset to the ExCom.



Angela De Sapio

(South Highlands Group):

I serve currently as the Biologist on the Group's Executive Committee. I'm committed to the development of and transition to Clean



Energy in New Jersey. I'm an avid protector of wildlife and to the protection of wildlife habitat. I currently volunteer at Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, a wildlife rehabilitation center dedicated to orphaned and injured wildlife. I work in different paid and volunteer capacities on open space, Farmland Preservation, and Forest Stewardship. I enjoy the outdoors throughout the seasons and look forward to seeing many outdoor recreational opportunities develop and succeed in NJ.

Paul Sanderson

(Loantaka Group):

I first joined the Sierra Club in the early 1990's and have served on the Loantaka Group ExCom as Membership Chair, Treasurer and Group Chair and Group Co-Chair during the following years. I also became the New Jersey Chapter Treasurer on January 1, 2017. I am an avid gardener and hiker, giving me an intense sense of caring about our environment. I credit my involvement and interest in politics to my activities with the Club, having participated in many candidate interviews and discussions to decide on political endorsements.



Sylvia Kay

(Central Jersey Group):

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



Conservation Report

Affordable Housing as an Environmental Issue

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

At a July 25th hearing in Trenton on affordable housing (AH), schools, infrastructure and racial and economic discrimination were discussed. But, for the most part, environmental issues were not. The hearing was the first of four that Assemblyperson Benjie Wimberly will hold at various locations in New Jersey. In attendance were many mayors, and AH advocates including Fair Share's Kevin Walsh. This came after more than a year of public meetings organized by Assemblyperson Holly Schepisi. Assemblyperson Jon Bramnick has also been holding public meetings. Bramnick had also planned a "Rally of the Reasonable" for Sept 20th in Trenton, which he has since called off.

Schepisi and Bramnick have both been urging that mandates for AH be taken out of the jurisdiction of the courts, and turned back over to an agency like the now-defunct Council on Affordable Housing (COAH). They are also calling for at least a six-month moratorium to accomplish this. Both of these recommendations are opposed by Fair Share Housing, which, after 15 years of delays,

is finally succeeding in forcing new AH units upon places other than New Jersey's cities.

Schepisi and Bramnick also want to bring back regional contribution agreements (RCAs). These permitted wealthier municipalities to satisfy AH obligations by making payments, usually to cities with much lower median incomes, to build AH. RCAs were eliminated about 10 years ago after a long battle by AH advocates. They also fly in the face of the Mount Laurel doctrine, which assumes that ALL municipalities have an obligation to provide affordable housing. And this is essentially where the charges of racism and discrimination come in, the institutional kind, as opposed to the personal animus kind.

At the July 25th hearing, Kevin Walsh did mention some of the options that municipalities have to minimize the impact of providing AH. Among them were working with non-profit builders who would build 100 percent affordable, or at least a higher percentage of affordable than would "for-profit" builders.

Now for the environmental impact! Meanwhile, back in my neck of the

Resolutions:

Approved by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in June, July and August, 2018

The new officers welcomed in Rich Isaac's Chair's Message, on page 3, were approved.

Additional political endorsements are included in John Kashwick's article on p.1. Our major criterion is to support U.S. Senate and House candidates (in this case, all Democrats) who will resist Pres. Trump's environmental onslaughts.

In June we joined 22 of the Club's roughly 70 Chapters in asking the Club's Board of Directors to "escalate forest protection, restoration, and responsible management as a method to fight climate change."

Also in June we also joined the "Divest New Jersey Coalition" by signing on to a letter to Governor Murphy requesting that State pension funds be divested from fossil fuel companies - and from banks which invest in those companies.

In July we joined an "Electrify New Jersey Coalition," seeking to (1) establish a commissioner-level task force, (2) encourage municipalities to convert to electric vehicles, (3) instruct NJ Transit to purchase electric buses, and (4) improve NJ Transit's public transparency in this regard.

In August we endorsed legislative efforts to implement a trial electric school bus program to assess the viability, long-term cost savings, and health benefits of deploying these vehicles in school bus fleets throughout the state

All our resolutions are now available online: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/chapter-resolutions.

woods, the Great Swamp Watershed Association has been giving presentations on the water quality of the Upper Passaic River. In 2017 they began testing a 14.5-mile stretch below the Millington Gorge. The results were not good.

From the outlet of the Great Swamp NWR, through Berkeley Heights to Summit, there has been marked deterioration in visual stream assessment, bacteria, water clarity and nitrogen, as well as phosphorous. The many wastewater treatment plants that discharge effluent into the river are high on the list of suspects.

What does this have to do with AH?

Basking Ridge, Long Hill, and Berkeley Heights all are in various planning stages for hundreds of units of housing each - to fulfill their court-mandated AH requirements. Some of these sites are in close proximity to the river, but all will increase the output of those wastewater treatment plants - which just happen to be several miles above the withdrawal site that provides drinking water for many of those municipalities.

This is just one small example of why it is important for the Sierra Club to engage in the debate over affordable housing requirements.

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

Editorial

Proposal for Electric School Buses

Collected by Dick Colby (dick.colby@stockton.edu)

Paul Ehrlich, our Clean Air Issues Coordinator, has written eloquently in this issue (page 4) about the dangers faced by children who ride diesel school buses five days a week. Here's his relevant paragraph:

"Most worrying are school buses with diesel engines: pollution in the cabin of the bus is higher than in the air ahead of the bus. Notably, the effects of pollution on children are worse than adults. The exact levels of pollutants are quite variable because of a complex interplay of many factors including age of the bus, condition, type of engine, the number of open windows, weather, and type of route (urban or rural, traffic volume, hills, etc.) as well as the level of pollutants from sources outside the bus (both ambient and caused by other vehicles). Some results appear counterintuitive such as an increase in cabin pollutants when the bus is idling. Adding to this unhealthy commute is the time spent waiting to step onto a bus that is idling, an especially toxic time when there is a group of buses."

It must seem strange to generations of parents who rode diesel buses for 13 years (K-12) - for all that to suddenly be declared so unhealthy that an expensive and immediate remedy should be mandated. Perhaps the argument needs strengthening by specific health-risk numbers - leading to numerical risk-benefit and cost-effectiveness conclusions. Of course there are more benefits than those to the riders of the buses: diesel engines pollute the air that all of us breathe.

For now, here's our resolution and supporting material, in full, that our volunteer ExCom leaders approved on Aug 11, drafted by the members of our Transportation Committee. The supporting material is the prodigious work of Karuna Jobanputra, Transportation Committee Vice-Chair, an expert in data analysis. I suggest it's worth communicating to your State senators and assemblypersons, and at least a silent thank-you to the members of our Committees, especially Karuna:

Resolution on Electric School Buses

WHEREAS, Modern, battery powered school buses do not emit harmful tailpipe emissions, thereby improving local air quality, and protecting our children's health by reducing their exposure to harmful air pollutants while boarding and riding in school buses, and

WHEREAS, over the life cycle of a school bus, these buses cost less to own and operate than diesel or CNG school buses, thereby saving New Jersey taxpayers money, and

WHEREAS, electric school buses will contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, especially if there is sufficient renewable energy to charge them,

THEREFORE, the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club strongly supports Senate Bill S2436 and Assembly Bill A3830 calling for a trial electric school bus program to be funded by monies from the Board of Public Utilities Societal Benefits Charge, the VW Mitigation Trust Fund, and/or other available funds.

Supporting Background Material:

The VW Mitigation Trust, a \$2.9 billion fund, is allocating \$72.2 million to NJ to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions in NJ. While NJ has not yet made any specific commitment on how these funds will be allocated, other states have already used other funding sources to purchase electric school buses. NJ Sierra Club believes that electric school buses offer a major

opportunity to improve the health of children, especially asthma sufferers, as well as reduce air pollution, taxpayer funded school transportation costs, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Pilot projects are needed to determine the best way to optimize the utilization of these buses in New Jersey. Electric school buses are in the early stages of development, and actual performance varies greatly depending on the environment in which they are being used; therefore, more real world experience and development is needed prior to the widespread adoption of these vehicles.

Project goals for the pilots include:

- measuring the performance of these buses under summer and winter weather conditions,
- determining their driving range per full charge under actual driving conditions, and
- learning how to best integrate these vehicles into a school district's daily operations, including installation of electric charging stations and developing training programs for bus operators and maintenance staff on the new equipment.

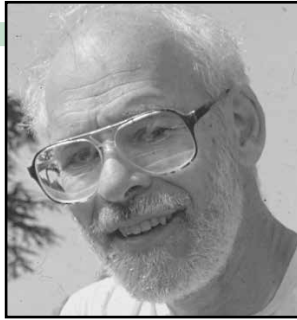
Concurrently, there are two pending electric school bus bills in the state legislature: A3830, which directs the BPU to fund electric school bus pilot projects, and S723, which increases the permitted width of school buses from 96 to 102 inches, thus providing more competition and choices in the bidding process. New Jersey Sierra Club urges the Legislature to pass and enact these two bills.

Specific Issues: Health Benefits

- The existing fleet of diesel school buses in NJ includes many vehicles that do not meet current clean air standards for diesel exhaust, which were last set in 2007.
- Children are especially susceptible to the adverse health effects of diesel exhaust pollutants and there is no safe level of exposure for school age children.
- Levels of these air pollutants are higher inside school buses than in the ambient air nearby.
- When school buses are idling the levels of air pollutants inside the bus are higher than when it is in motion; in addition, children waiting to board idling buses are exposed to high levels of pollution and even higher levels if several buses are in the same immediate area.

Environmental Benefits

- Electric vehicles have zero tailpipe emissions of Nitrogen Oxides, Particulate Matter, Carbon Monoxide, Carbon Dioxide, and Hydrocarbons.
- Electric vehicles are environmentally cleaner and safer than other alternative options such as CNG or electric/diesel hybrids.
- Replacing America's diesel school bus fleets with electric will have a significantly higher impact on overall air quality and global warming than replacing diesel transit buses; one study estimated that school buses emit 5.3 million tons of greenhouse gases each year, compared to 2 million tons for transit buses.
- Fuel efficiency for a 40-50 student capacity fully electric school bus is 17 mpg equivalent, compared to 7 mpg for a diesel powered bus and 9 mpg for a hybrid electric.
- Elimination of diesel fuel reduces the probability of pollution from oil spills and leaking fuel tanks.
- The use of renewable energy sources (i.e. solar or wind) to power electric vehicles will further reduce pollution from utility owned power plants which burn fossil fuel.



Chair's Message

Chapter Welcomes New Volunteers!

By Richard Isaac (risaacx@aol.com)



On behalf of our NJ Chapter, I welcome all our new volunteer officers and thank them for their interest and service:

Kristen Andrada, Chapter Solar Homes Coordinator

Kristen graduated Ramapo College of New Jersey with a BS in Environmental Studies. At Ramapo she served with the Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization and also became a beekeeper - founding the Ramapo College Beekeeping Club.

Inspired perhaps by the solar panels on her own family home, Kristen worked briefly for Green Mountain Energy as a sales agent. Now she looks forward to learning more about the intricacies and practical applications of solar energy.

Jim Andreano, Chapter Solar Homes Financial Director

Jim is already our Chapter's Faith-Based Issues Coordinator. His new role will take advantage of his many years of experience in the private sector as a CPA: performing audits, preparing financial statements, budget analysis and risk management.

For five years Jim has chaired the Board of a nonprofit organization in which interfaith congregations provide services to homeless families, and now to refugee families. Now retired, Jim hopes to apply his problem-solving experience to our new Solar Homes Project.

Shivani Patel, High School Coordinator

Shivani is now a high-school senior. She was inspired by Dr. Seuss's "The Lorax," about the destruction of a wonderful forest, and which includes the quote, "unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing will get better,

it's not." She also claims inspiration by the works of Sierra Club founder John Muir.

Shivani is well aware that she is only one person, but feels strongly that she should do what she can. In addition to becoming a vegetarian, she got everyone in her neighborhood to start recycling, organized community clean-ups at least once a month with the children she baby-sits, gives out mini flower seed packets in the springtime to students at school, and has painted and sold phone cases to raise money for the World Wildlife Fund.

Shivani has also produced a slide presentation, "Why We Should Care about the Environment", which has just been placed on our Chapter's web site.

Priti Thakker, Gender Equity Issues Coordinator

Another volunteer with a strong business background (co-founder of a marketing consulting company), Priti has suffered personally from gender inequality in the work place, and is a survivor of corporate sexual harassment. She is thus strongly motivated to expand access of women to a seat at the proverbial table - corporate and political - and to their making their own decisions. Her experience includes volunteer work fighting female feticide and infanticide and the gender gap in India, and other volunteer work in this country: in education and sustainable business management.

Priti intends to advance the Sierra Club's agenda in gender equity and the environment - by educating herself and her fellow members, spreading awareness more widely in the New Jersey community, and possibly collaborating with policy makers.

YOU HAVE MORE TO GIVE THAN YOU KNOW

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

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

JERSEY SIERRAN AVAILABLE BY EMAIL

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

Cost Benefits

- Lifetime cost of ownership for an electric school bus is estimated to be cheaper than current diesel powered buses due to the significantly lower cost of fuel and maintenance costs, thereby offsetting the higher initial purchase price.
- Electric vehicles do not need oil changes or emissions testing, there are fewer parts to break down, and there is less wear and tear on the braking system.
- The pilot project supported by the Sierra Club will help document these savings based on real world experience.
- Subsidies will be needed to help communities offset the significantly higher upfront purchase costs of electric school buses until such time that economies of scale associated with mass production will reduce manufacturing costs.
- Operation cost savings may allow communities to reallocate school funds to higher priority areas.
- The cost of electric power is more stable than diesel or gas fuel, making it easier for school boards to budget

expenses over time.

- Electric school buses powered by renewable energy sources may be able to generate revenue by selling excess electricity back to the grid.

Funding Sources

- VW Mitigation Trust and BPU funds may be allocated toward bus purchases.
 - Private sector funding options may be available from utility companies and manufacturers.
 - 15% of the VW Mitigation Trust Fund monies must be allocated to the installation of electric vehicle infrastructure such as charging stations; thus these funds may be used instead of taxpayer dollars to install charging stations in school bus depots.
- ### Timely Replacements of Obsolete School Buses
- Many school buses predate the EPA's 2007 diesel emission standards and are at the end of their economic life cycle.
 - Taxpayers in districts participating in the pilot project will avoid considerable replacement costs as well as receiving a much superior school bus.

Issue Coordinator's Report

Air Pollutant Exposure While on the Road

by Paul Ehrlich, Clean Air Issues Coordinator (p.w.ehrlich@gmail.com)

The generation of air pollution by internal combustion engines is a major factor in air quality. Less notice has been given to the concentrations of pollutants inside vehicles, which depends on pollutants generated by the vehicle itself ("self-pollution") plus other nearby vehicles, as well as regional/local ambient air quality. These issues have been intensively studied and the results, on average, are not good. I've written before (Oct-Dec, 2017) about air pollution effects on cyclists who share the road. In this article, pollutant exposure on the road will be examined in more detail.

Most worrying are school buses with diesel engines: pollution in the cabin of the bus is higher than in the air ahead of the bus. Notably, the effects of pollution on children are worse than adults. The exact levels of pollutants are quite variable because of a complex interplay of many factors including age of the bus, condition, type of engine, the number of open windows, weather, and type of route (urban or rural, traffic volume, hills, etc) as well as the level of pollutants from sources outside the bus (both ambient and caused by other vehicles). Some results appear counterintuitive such as an increase in cabin pollutants when the bus is idling. Adding to this unhealthy commute is the time spent waiting to step onto a bus that is idling, an especially toxic time when there is a group of buses.

Gasoline-powered cars also produce high interior concentrations of dangerous pollutants. As with buses, results can be quite variable depending on the car model, age, percentage of air recirculated, etc. In one study self-pollution is the source of 30% of PM2.5, particulate matter pollutants that include the especially toxic subset called ultrafine particles (also known as nanoparticles). In addition, New Jersey drivers frequently experience congested traffic. A study of pollution at traffic intersections showed that stopping at a traffic light with many other vehicles can result in as much as 29-times higher pollutant levels than when traffic flows freely. Thus, spending 2% of a car ride at traffic lights could result in 25% of the total pollutant exposure on the outside of a car. How much gets inside is of course variable but likely to be much increased.

Even though the air inside cars is frequently more polluted than the ambient level on a roadway are bicycle riders better off? Apparently not according to one study: cyclists inhaled more pollutants than car drivers even though higher pollutant levels inside cars was confirmed. A major contributor to this result is the much higher volume of air that enters cyclists' lungs. Predicting the effect on cyclists is difficult. Air pollution in urban

areas is known to be extremely variable in time and place: even 30 meters can separate areas with significantly different pollution levels and, as noted above, a traffic light can make quite a big difference. Portable pollution monitors were used to study the exposure of cyclists in Piacenza, Italy (a mid-sized city) according to the type of lane on which they were riding: same lane as cars, separated lane for cyclists, and a "green path lane" which was 50 meters wide with no cars. The average concentrations of nanoparticles in the green path lane was about 43% of the concentrations in the unseparated lane while concentrations in the separated lane were improved less than in the green path. However, there was no difference in the various lanes for the traditional measures of particulate pollution (PM10, PM2.5, PM1), which is likely due to high background concentrations in this area of Italy and the greater association of nanoparticle concentrations with traffic volume.

Studies addressing the health effects of "active commuting" (commutes by walking or cycling) frequently compare the benefits of exercise to the downside of exposure to pollution. Results depend on many factors. Besides distance from traffic and time of day (frequently associated with time of traffic congestion), other determinants of health risks from pollutants include temperature, wind velocity and direction, seasonal effects, structures on the sides of roads (such as urban "canyons" that affect pollutant dispersion), nearby trees and other vegetation, and characteristics of vehicles (diesel, gasoline, or electric-powered plus additional vehicle properties). The last point demonstrates the extreme complexity in predicting pollutant levels on a particular route: pollutants trapped in the wake of vehicles can react to form different pollutants with different effects. Thus, determining the healthiest route is best estimated by measuring levels of several important pollutants multiple times.

To summarize, riding in cars and cycling on roads will have adverse health effects of varying magnitude that could overcome the benefits of exercise. The best solution in the short term is to avoid congested areas and to travel at times when streets are less crowded. Electric vehicles, especially mass transit vehicles, will help significantly. In the long term adverse health effects will be significantly reduced by improving mass transit options, increasing the percentage of passengers transported by electric-powered vehicles, having cycling-only lanes lined with trees and shrubs, and creating electrification zones (areas where only electric vehicles are allowed).

Report from Trenton

Welcoming New Jersey's New No-smoking Law

From a press release issued by our Trenton staff on July 20th, and edited by Irene Gnarra.

On July 19, Gov. Murphy signed into law the smoking ban that the Senate (Sweeney, S2534) and Assembly (Calabrese, A3798) had just passed. This law extends the 2006 "New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act," which banned smoking in enclosed public places, from workplaces to restaurants, as well as school grounds. The new law also extends an earlier bill, signed by ex-Gov. Christie, that banned smoking at state beaches and state-owned parks. The new law, which will take effect in January, 2019, prohibits smoking of any type, including electronic

cigarettes, at all public beaches, boardwalks, and parks.

Everyone knows that smoking is bad for our health and the environment. According to a Fairleigh Dickinson Univ. poll, 75 percent of New Jerseyans oppose smoking and vaping on the state's public beaches, and our legislators acted on that information. While ex-Gov. Christie line-vetoed four earlier versions of the new bill during his eight years in office, many shore towns instituted their own bans. We applaud these towns: Asbury Park,

Letter to the Editor

GMO Science

Comment on Joanne Pannone's article in the July-Sept issue of this Newsletter, by Prof. Emeritus Gerald Soslau, Drexel Univ.

Joanne Pannone wrote an article clearly voicing her "informed" concern about the safety of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in the July-September issue of The Jersey Sierran. As a Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology I feel it important to address some of her statements that were supported by reports that have been found to have been faulty by highly regarded scientific individuals/agencies.

It should be stated at the outset that GMOs, like vaccines, are regarded by some individuals as agents against the natural order and they reject/fear them on religious or emotional grounds. This is an individual's right and I pass no judgment on them. However, when a scientist or organization presents data/conclusions based upon their bias to play upon the lay public's fears and lack of understanding of the issue, that is reprehensible. There is usually some truth in a falsehood, or a joke about a person that can then be presented as the whole truth. We have seen this time and again in statements from Trump and those who want to believe what they hear will believe without question. Please understand, I am not comparing Ms. Pannone to Trump. Her article, I am certain, was not intended to disseminate misinformation.

The truth about "genetic engineering" is that while scientists have learned to manipulate genes, *in vitro*, it has also been a natural phenomenon since the beginning of life on this Earth. Gene altering mutations occur naturally all the time, most are silent mutations while others result in a diseased state and some are beneficial. Beneficial mutations have contributed mightily to evolution of the species. Selection of genes has also been done for eons by humans who breed animals and plants for desired traits that result in altered genetic expression and altered proteins. The World Health Organization (WHO) and other regulatory organizations have never tested these altered animals/plants for allergenicity. However, GMOs are routinely tested for allergenicity and toxicities by many organizations worldwide.

The WHO has published answers to frequently asked questions (www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/food-technology/faq-genetically-modified-food) where they state: "While foods developed using traditional breeding methods are not generally tested for allergenicity, protocols for the testing of GM foods have been evaluated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WHO. No allergic effects have been found relative to GM foods currently on the market. GM foods currently available on the international market have passed safety assessments and are not likely to present risks for human health. In addition, no effects on human health have been shown as a result of the consumption of such foods by the general population in the countries where they have been approved."

They also state the value of GM foods: "GM crops available on the international market today have been designed using one of three basic traits: resistance to

insect damage; resistance to viral infections; and tolerance towards certain herbicides. GM crops with higher nutrient content (e.g. soybeans increased oleic acid) have been also studied recently. Future GM organisms are likely to include plants with improved resistance against plant disease or drought, crops with increased nutrient levels, fish species with enhanced growth characteristics. For non-food use, they may include plants or animals producing pharmaceutically important proteins such as new vaccines."

Pannone states "GMO [foods]...can have lower nutritional value." There is no evidence for this. The fact is that GM foods are identical to their non-modified food except to have a new protein introduced into their genome (cellular DNA). The new protein may play a role in protecting/enhancing growth of the plant, or, may contain amino acids (the building blocks of proteins) that are normally deficient in the proteins of the plant making the GM plant more nutritious. It should be noted that many individuals develop allergic reactions to natural food products such as nuts, fish, milk and gluten. These allergies normally persist for a lifetime and there is no concrete evidence that "it may take longer to outgrow.... allergies when consuming GMO foods."

Her statement that Monsanto's GM corn causes all kinds of health effects and cancer in rats were based upon published reports that have all been subsequently debunked by established scientific studies. "Séralini's conclusions (published in a journal in 2012) were impossible to justify given the statistical power of the study." Sprague-Dawley rats have a lifespan of about two years and have a high tendency to get cancer over their lifespan (one study found that over eighty percent of males and over seventy percent of females got cancer under normal conditions). The Séralini experiment lasted the normal lifespan of these rats, and the longer the experiment goes, the more statistical "noise" there is — the more rats get cancer naturally, regardless of what you do to them.

The claim about GM corn causing organ failure in rats stems from articles published in 2009 and 2012 by Dr. Joël Spiroux de Vendômois (et al). France's six scientific academies issued a rare joint statement in October 2012 denouncing the latter study as a similarly flawed "scientific non-event" that served to "spread fear among the public that is not based on any firm conclusion". The CDC in a report to the FDA found no antibodies to the Cry9c protein engineered into GM corn in any individual who claimed to be sickened by eating the corn. These findings do not provide any evidence that the reactions that the affected people experienced were associated with hypersensitivity to the Cry9c protein.

Finally, Ms. Pannone should have no fear that the honey her bees make might contain some GM proteins. The amount of protein in honey is extremely small and what protein there is, is made by the bees' bodies and not derived from the plants they frequent.

Avon-by-the-Sea, Barnegat Light, Beach Haven, Belmar, Cape May Point, Harvey Cedars, Lavallette, Long Beach Township, Long Branch, Longport, Point Pleasant, Sea Girt, Seaside Park, Ship Bottom, Spring Lake, and Surf City, for having banned smoking on their beaches.

Beyond the concern for public health, cigarette butts are harmful to fish, wildlife, seabirds, pets, and children: the nicotine and pesticides in their plastic fibers are toxic and non-biodegradable. An article published in the scientific journal "Current Environmental Health Reports" claims that approximately 4.5 to 6 trillion

cigarette butts litter our streets and beaches worldwide. They have been found in the stomachs of whales, sea turtles, and birds.

Yet another concern is that smoking has been the cause of many fires: destroying picnic tables, historic buildings, and forests.

We must inform residents and visitors of our new law, and ask them to join the Sierra Club in safeguarding our parks: so that they will welcome plants, wildlife, and birds as well as people. We thank our State Government for supporting our actions for environmental conservation.

Reports from Trenton

Win for Liberty State Park: No Millionaire's Marina

From a press release issued on June 1st

A proposal to build a 300-slip marina in the Caven Point area of Liberty State Park (Hudson Co) has been shot down by Governor Phil Murphy's Administration, according to a letter, dated May 24, from the DEP to a representative for Suntext Marina. The proposal would have allowed Suntext to lease (privatize) 45 acres (including land and water) at the south end of Liberty State Park.

We thank Governor Murphy for stopping this marina and protecting our park. The decision adds to another decision regarding a private golf course in Liberty State Park; see article below.

The Park, located on the Jersey City shoreline opposite Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty and Lower Manhattan, receives more than 7 million visitors a year, and is one of the most visited state parks in the country. It also houses the State Science Museum, and the former waterfront terminal of the Jersey Central Railroad, which welcomed immigrants fresh from Ellis Island, and was the eastern terminus of the Morris Canal, a major transportation artery before the coming of the railroads in the 1830s.

Liberty State Park is an oasis in one of the most densely populated areas in the entire country. It should be preserved for the people in the area who need to enjoy open space.

Now the Murphy Administration must do more to protect and preserve our parks. There is a \$400-million backlog of needed capital repairs and other improvements. The Christie Administration took money from parks to fund open space acquisitions, and then tried to privatize them to cover that shortfall.

Bear Hunt is not Needed

From a press release issued on July 23rd, and edited by Irene Gnarra

According to the latest report on black bears from the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, there are approximately 3500 bears in the state, or 87% fewer than in 2009. While bears have been seen in every county, the number of sighting reports has dropped by 83%, and damage and nuisance reports have dropped by 86%. Just two encounters with aggressive bears were reported in 2017, and four so far this year. These numbers show that there is no need for bear-hunting in northwestern New Jersey this year. Governor Murphy, who pledged during his campaign to cancel the hunt, has not yet announced his decision for the Fall, 2018, hunt.

The main purpose of the hunt, to eliminate aggressive and nuisance bears, has proved to be successful. More than 4,000 bears were killed in the ten hunts held between 2003 and 2017. During the 16-day black bear hunting period in 2017, more than 400 bears were killed, including some sows and cubs. Additional bears died in vehicle collisions. Because there are fewer bears able to reproduce, the Sierra Club believes that there are fewer bears in New Jersey than the figure provided by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Testifying at the Senate Budget Hearing, DEP Commissioner McCabe did not abide by Governor Murphy's promise to end the bear hunt. Instead, she supported ex-Governor Christie's five-year management plan that includes bear hunting. She intimated that the hunt would be legally difficult to cancel. We think that view is mistaken: Governor Corzine canceled the hunt in 2006, and the courts upheld his decision. Based on McCabe's comments, there will most likely be bear hunts until 2020. Neglecting her own Department's scientific evidence, McCabe seems to espouse the thinking of the sportsmen-dominated Fish and Game Council, which claims that the bear population will continue to increase in New Jersey because of the abundance of food sources.

The Sierra Club believes that the hunt is no longer needed to reduce the bear population. Rather, New Jersey should implement a comprehensive bear management plan that includes non-lethal techniques. It should also institute a statewide education program that teaches bear-safety. Materials such as those prepared by the Division of Fish and Wildlife—"Understanding Black Bears" and "New Jersey Black Bear Facts"—should be disseminated throughout the state and discussed in all schools. Residents should be taught to bear-proof their properties. Warnings should be posted at trailheads: describing proper comportment in bear country. Education is the key to coexisting with this unique predator.

Golf Course Rejected for Liberty State Park

From a press release issued on May 4th, edited by Sylvia Kay

We're delighted that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has rejected an application by Liberty National Golf Club to expand into the Caven Point area of Liberty State Park, which faces the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and lower Manhattan on Jersey City's waterfront.

The DEP labelled the Club's bid "nonresponsive" due to missing items, due to its failure to demonstrate that the proposed rent would be equitable to market value, and due to its lack of identifiable benefits for the public. Caven Point remains in the public trust, at least for the present. But, sadly, the DEP's response allows for a reapplication. Also sadly, it should not have been necessary to go to court in order to obtain public records of the Golf Club's proposal.

Caven Point is a vital environmental and recreational area of Liberty State Park, with a diversity of habitats and biomes - sandy beach, saltwater marsh, tide pools, mud flats and upland forest. It is a home for ongoing environmental programs, sports and birding enthusiasts. Of the 50 state parks in New Jersey, Liberty is probably the most accessible to, and used by, the residents of the most urban part of the state. The DEP ruling is a victory for those continuing to fight for a healthy environment and against privatization of public parks and recreation areas.

Victory for Clean Water: Murphy Vetoes DuPont Dirty Water Bill

Based on a press release issued on May 31

An interesting insight into the greedy ugliness of pollution economics arose in May, when Governor Murphy conditionally vetoed S879 (Sweeney)/A3116 (Burzichelli). The bill as written would have amended the definition of "existing major hazardous waste facility" in a piece of legislation known as the "Major Hazardous Waste Facilities Siting Act."

The proposed legislation would have allowed DuPont to reopen its Chambers Works facility in Salem Co, a closed waste-processing plant with a history of dumping toxic residues into Delaware Bay - for which DuPont paid a \$250,000 fine in 2011. The re-opening would have been allowed without imposition of the stringent controls that are required of new facilities. Murphy cited concern that "the bill does not contain specific safeguards to protect the health of our environment and the safety of our residents." Murphy's recommendations include amendments stating that all facilities must require necessary permits before resuming their operations. He also asks for language stating that all facilities "fully comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations."

It's a victory for clean water. All of the Governor's recommendations were incorporated into a revised version of the bill that was passed on July 3rd.

It's also a reminder that corporations such as DuPont need careful monitoring and regulation by government. DuPont was once the third largest discharger of reproductive toxins in the United States. We remember its attempt to bring VX Nerve Agent to the Chambers Works Facility for dumping into the Delaware River in 2004-2006, which we helped stop in 2007.

We still have major concerns with this facility, especially if it receives permission to treat fracking wastes. We have urged a complete ban on fracking activities by the Delaware River Basin Commission, including disallowing the dumping of fracking waste or taking water from fracking activities elsewhere.

Nearby Carney's Point is currently suing DuPont for \$1 billion for failing to clean up more than 100 million pounds of toxic chemicals, including PFOA, mercury, benzene and ethyl chloride that were dumped at the Chambers Works site.

The federal government is also going after DuPont to make it pay for the damages to the wildlife and habitats in Pompton Lake (Passaic Co), where DuPont operated a 600-acre factory. DuPont contaminated many waterways in that area, including the Wanaque River, Acid Brook, and Pompton Lake itself, a major backup reservoir. (See article on pg 13 - in the electronic supplement to this Newsletter.)

Sierra Club Endorsed Reed Gusciora for Mayor of Trenton

Based on a Press Release issued on April 27

On June 12th, Reed Gusciora won a runoff election for Mayor of Trenton, having received the Sierra Club's endorsement in April.

He had served in the New Jersey General Assembly since 1996, representing the 15th Legislative District, which includes portions of Mercer and Hunterdon Counties, including the Capital City of Trenton. At the time of his election he was also a municipal prosecutor in Princeton, Lawrenceville, and Hopewell boroughs, and a professor at the College of New Jersey. His website notes that he moved to Trenton from Princeton in 2011 because he believed in the city's potential, drawing on his childhood experiences.

For more than two decades, Gusciora has been a strong advocate for the development and revitalization of Trenton. His campaign platform included his intention to reshape and remediate the City, making it more attractive for people to live in. Now he will take on the illegal trash dumping problems in Trenton, and improve the city's clean energy infrastructure.

His record in the Assembly was outstanding: authoring and sponsoring bills providing cleaner drinking water, especially in schools where lead was a contaminant, establishing New Jersey's Electronic Waste Recycling Program, and, more recently, imposing fracking and fracking waste bans. He also sponsored the Historic Tax Credit legislation that was unfortunately vetoed by ex-Gov Christie.

Gusciora defeated seven other candidates in his bid for mayor. Since none of them received 50% of the votes in the election on May 8th, there was a runoff election on June 12th. Then, with a turnout of only 22%, he took 52% of that turnout.

He has his work cut out: Trenton's infrastructure water quality problem is an example of New Jersey's ongoing water crisis. Trenton has old, leaky lead pipes. The water treatment system keeps breaking down and the treatment doesn't always work. Reed has pledged that fixing Trenton's water works will be his administration's top priority. He proposes to establish a Mayor's Caucus, including the leaders of the communities served by Trenton Water Works, in order to facilitate the necessary updates to its facilities and operations.

In order to boost the city's green economic development, Reed believes that Trenton should be New Jersey's green energy economic center. He has said that mitigating flooding is critical to the City's economic future, especially as the effects of man-made climate change exacerbate the severity of natural disasters. To combat climate change, Reed's administration will commit to the goals of Sierra Club's Ready for 100 Campaign where the city would transition to 100% renewable energy.

We are delighted for him!

Reports from Trenton

We Opposed Gov. Murphy's Signature on a Bill Subsidizing Nuclear Power

From a press release issued on May 23rd by Senior Chapter Director Jeff Tittel, and edited by Joe Testa

Gov. Murphy has signed legislation subsidizing PSE&G's nuclear plants (S2313/A3724) in exchange for legislation providing solar renewable energy standards (S2314/A3723). Shame on you, Governor, for selling out ratepayers and clean energy with the biggest corporate giveaway in state history: \$300 million a year for ten years!

The deal means that New Jersey will stay hooked on nuclear power – at the expense of renewable solar and wind. It will torpedo the Governor's own promise of 100% renewable energy by 2050. The so-called green renewable energy standards bill was created as cover for the nuclear handout.

Ironically, the bills were signed at a solar farm, since they will end NJ's solar program and crash the market a year from now. PSE&G's nuclear plants, in Salem Co, don't need the money. The bill was signed before PJM (our regional power transmission organization) released its power supply auction results. If the auction makes the plants profitable by 2024, they won't need the subsidy – but this bill has already locked in the subsidy. PSE&G can also double-dip and get federal aid through FERC or PJM.

The nuclear subsidy bill also lacks language to protect workers. The subsidies should require an annual financial review, clawback provisions, a ten-year sunset provision, and clear participation by the NJ Division of Rate Council. It also does not require that the nuclear plants be replaced with renewable energy when they eventually close.

The "green" bill does not cap coal, oil, gas, pipelines, or nuclear, but does unfairly place a cap on renewable energy, limiting the amount we can use in the state. (You can guess who must have written it!) A year after signing these bills, the solar SREC program will end. Thus, despite having once been a leading state for solar power, our solar market will collapse completely. This could lead to the bankrupting of many renewable energy projects.

Our allies in the environmental community agree. On May 23rd, we were joined by Environment New Jersey, Clean Water Action, NJ Citizen Action; AARP-NJ, and Delaware Riverkeeper Network issuing a statement condemning this action.

Sierra Club Supports Offshore Wind at BPU Stakeholder Meeting

From a press release issued by our Trenton staff on July 19th, edited by Irene Gnarra

On July 19th, New Jersey's Board of Public Utilities (BPU) hosted a Public Hearing at Mercer County Community College – to begin implementing the Offshore Wind Economic Development Act (OWEDA). The Board proposes to create Offshore Renewable Energy Credits (OREC), a funding mechanism. The BPU provided nine questions to facilitate bids from contractors for an initial supply of 1,100 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind electricity.

Ex-Gov. Christie signed OWEDA in 2010. In 2015 he received "territory" for the wind farms when the Federal Government auctioned 344,000 acres of Atlantic Ocean seabed off the New Jersey shore. Only one "bid" was submitted then; Christie rejected it because of its cost, and he discouraged all other likely bidders.

Enter Gov. Murphy! The BPU's new plan supports Murphy's Executive Order No. 8 of January, 2018, directing state agencies to begin implementing the 2010 OWEDA goal of 3,500 MW of offshore wind by 2030.

We think it wise for the BPU to hold informative meetings to engage the public, garner support from stakeholders, and develop positive relationships with developers. But we are disappointed by the timidity with which the BPU is proceeding. Its work appears to be a replay of events of previous years. Why has there been so little progress toward the construction of offshore wind farms? We need to get the finances, environmental studies, and impact assessments now. Delay may cost us federal tax credits. It has certainly cost us new jobs, venture capital investments, and the use of renewable energy.

Studies to locate the best places for wind turbines were completed six years ago. New Jersey's ideal location, with its shallow ocean depth and high wind speeds, offers the potential for offshore wind to meet 1/3 of its electrical needs. Offshore turbines could power 1.2 million homes with clean energy. At this point, the BPU should solicit proposals for the initial 1,100 MW. Developers should be able to decide whether they want to pursue the entire project of 3500 MW or just a part of it. To assure an open and transparent process, all companies capable of bringing the project to fruition should be encouraged to submit their proposals to provide, install, and maintain turbines, as well as their plans for transmitting the electricity to the shore.

A member of the Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Consortium, New Jersey should be able to profit from technical and legal advisors who might guide in the development and maintenance of our wind farms. Also, Rhode Island, the only state on the Eastern Seaboard with an offshore wind farm, could serve as a model. Proposed in 2008 and generating electricity since 2016, it demonstrates that wind farms offer significant economic and environmental benefits.

A major threat to New Jersey's offshore wind goals is recent legislation that increases the subsidies for our three nuclear power plants – to the tune of \$300 million annually to PSE&G. Those three plants are competitors of offshore wind, not to mention their environmental irresponsibility!

We must advocate for offshore wind; it is the most reliable and cost-effective form of power.

More important, we must address the problems of climate change, as we are vulnerable to sea level rise and super-storms. A wider moratorium on the burning of fossil fuels in the production of electricity would also alleviate health-related problems from air pollution.



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
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Outings Chair:	Dave Alcock	dwhoob@hotmail.com
Outreach Chair:	Joanne Mogan	jojommorgan@yahoo.com
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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; 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.

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.

Oct. 3 (Wed): Shad Migration and Shad Farming: Michelle DiBlasio, The Nature Conservancy's Watershed Restoration Coordinator will present on Shad fish migration and present on the conservation efforts to rehabilitate the Musconetcong River. Steven Meserve, a 4th generation Shad fisherman and owner of Lewis Fishery will present on the renewal of the Shad industry in our region.

Nov. 7 (Wed): To Be Announced (See web site or Meetup page)

Dec. 5 (Wed): Yosemite Service Project: Come and hear Al Rylak present on his service project at one of our most celebrated National Parks. Hear Al's tales of tending to the great Sequoias, maintaining trails and fostering friendships with other passionate forest volunteer caretakers from his trip earlier this year.

OTHER EVENT:

Oct. 10 (Wed): Executive Committee/Planning Meeting. 7:30 pm, At the offices of Dr. Jonathan D. Wall, 21 Water St, 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	jefrap@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:	<i>Open position!</i>	

(* 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.

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

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

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

Gateway Group

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

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

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

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

OFFICERS:

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

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

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

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

Hudson County Group

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

OFFICERS: (*=ExCom)

Chair:	David 'Ace' Case*	acecase88@gmail.com
Vice-Chair:	<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
Ready for 100:	John Ottomanelli*	otto.pittsburgh@gmail.com
Delegate to ExCom:	Hugh Evans*	HLEvans.Sierra@gmail.com
Publicity Chair:	John Ottomanelli*	otto.pittsburgh@gmail.com
Membership Chair:	Andrea Rodriguez	aarodriguez87@gmail.com
Events:	Steve Krinsky	stevekrinsky@comcast.net
ExCom-at-Large:	Nancy Booth*	boothnancy2011@hotmail.com
Webmaster:	John Ottomanelli*	otto.pittsburgh@gmail.com

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Autumn Nature Walk. Sun, Oct 7; 10am-Noon. Liberty State Park, 200 Pesin Dr, Jersey City. Join us to enjoy autumn's splendor in Liberty State Park's popular Caven Point Cove along the shoreline and open fields, still looking like they did in Henry Hudson's time! Free and open to the public. Visit the NJ Sierra Club website and the Hudson County Sierra Club facebook page to find out more and to RSVP.

Hudson County Group Executive Committee Meeting. Sun, Nov 18; 12:30-2pm. Hudson County Community College Library, 71 Sip Ave, Jersey City. Regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Hudson County Group. Free and open to the public.

Hudson County Book Group. Thurs, Nov 29; 6:30-8pm. WORD Bookstore, 123 Newark Av, Jersey City. The Book Group meets every other month to read and discuss literature about environmental justice, conservation policy, climate change, sustainable development, etc. The selection for this meeting is Extreme Cities: The Peril and Promise of Urban Life in the Age of Climate Change by Ashley Dawson. Visit the NJ Sierra Club website and the Hudson County Sierra Club facebook page to find out more and to RSVP.

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

Loantaka Group

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

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

(Continued on page 8)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

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:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
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:

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.

Oct 10: Michael Watson, NJ Chapter of The Climate Mobilization will give a presentation about Recent Victories for Our Climate.

Nov 14: To be announced

Dec 12: Come to our annual Holiday Party. We have a gathering where we mingle and listen and try to find out what issues are important with our members. We ramp up the refreshments and hone our listening skills, so come out and enjoy some time with us.

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:

Sept 12: MCCC Student Center Room 104, 6 pm: Dr. Alain Kornhauser, ("Self-driving Cars") presents Opportunities for Central Jersey.

Oct 10: MCCC Student Center Room 104, 6 pm: Jim Waltman. Executive Director of the Watershed Institute discusses The Water Challenge of Our Time: Polluted Stormwater Runoff.

Nov 14: MCCC Student Center Room 104, 6 pm: Russell Juelg, Senior Land Steward, New Jersey Conservation Foundation and author of New Jersey Pinelands Threatened and Endangered Species, gives us a new view of the Sexy Trees of South Jersey.

Dec 12: MCCC Student Center Room 104, 6 pm: Carl Pellegrino, US Environmental Protection Agency - Region 2, shares his experiences in Puerto Rico, the enchanted Island since the devastation.

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

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

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

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

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

OFFICERS:

Chair and Conservation

Chair:	Gary Frederick	609-203-3382	gary.frederick3@gmail.com
Membership:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Political Chair:	Daphne Speck-Barynski	732-390-5311	speckbartyn@comcast.net
Publicity Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
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:	Bob Grize	732-892-0684	nyucwnyppb@aol.com
Secretary:	John Luard	732-708-9221	John.Luard@gmail.com
Conser. Co-Chairs:	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445	faithte@aol.com
	and:	Bob Sandberg	732-241-7757
	and:	Stan Greberis	732-431-0082
Social Media Chair:	Yazmin Sourias		
Treasurer:	Pat Fuschetto	732-308-4588	fusche40@yahoo.com
Political Co-Chairs:	Robin & Harold Zullo		
Outings Chair:	John Luard	732-708-9221	John.Luard@gmail.com
Outings Leaders:	Needed!		
Membership Chair:	Bob Grize	732-892-0684	nyucwnyppb@aol.com
Program Chair:	George Moffatt	732-544-1726	gmoffattgt@aol.com
Climate Chair:	Steve Miller	732-671-5917	SteveMiller@Comcast.net
Fund-raising			
Co-Chairs:	Mark Fukayama	908-902-1555	markexams@aol.com
	and:	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445
Publicity Chair:	Open Position!		
High School			
Coordinator:	Open Position!		
Letter-writing			
Committee:	Mark Fukayama, Steve Miller and Stan Greberis		

JERSEY SHORE GROUP NEWS:

Progress at Whale Pond Greenway - The Jersey Shore Sierra Club is a partner of the Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association, whose goal is to restore the banks and water quality of Whale Pond Brook and create a greenway from the Long Branch shore-

line to the uplands in Tinton Falls. The four-year effort, a classic citizens' response to local pollution problems, involves local residents; members of the Sierra and other environmental groups; the Long Branch Environmental Commission and other municipal, county and state environmental and elected officials; Monmouth University; the Monmouth County Historical Commission; and the occasional mechanical muscle of local municipal public works employees.

Recently, Long Branch Scout Troop 148 sponsored a day-long cleanup of Ross Island and its small stone shed, a "folly" from when Ross Island was part of a 19th Century estate.

Help Needed for Other 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. For Whale Pond cleanups, contact Faith Teitelbaum at Faithtei@aol.com. Alas, pollution never ends; we are in constant need of volunteers.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

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

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

Sept 24: The Constitution and the Environment: Maya K. van Rossum, head of the Delaware Riverkeeper organization, will discuss her book, "Green Amendment," in which she argues that to protect the environment, we should use the bedrock of state and federal constitutional law to expand our environmental protections, rather than push for specific state and federal regulations.

Oct 22: The Decline and Resurrection of the Raritan: Narrated by actor Avery Brooks, this hour-long DVD documentary tells the story of New Jersey's Raritan River, a water source badly contaminated for over 200 years, and the extraordinary efforts to clean it up. The film reveals how government agencies, corporations, environmentalists, developers, scientists, and lawyers have clashed for years in their attempts to deal with the aftermath of extensive pollution and environmental neglect. Rescuing the River takes you down the lower ten miles of the Raritan, giving you a close, unflinching look at four notoriously toxic sites and why it is so vexing to fix the problems.

Nov 26: DEP's Plans for NJ: Mrs. Christine McCabe, newly appointed 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 hope the new administration will vigorously protect the environment.

Dec 2: Holiday Party: 2-5 pm at the home of Dennis Anderson, who has generously hosted these events for years. Open to all Sierrans. Admission: Nothing!! But we urge you to bring a favorite dish, whether appetizer, entrée, main dish, or dessert, as well as soda, wine and beer. Please let Dennis know in advance at dennisaza@aol.com so we don't wind up with five tofu dishes. Dennis's house is at 6 Maple Avenue, off Middlesex Road, Matawan. Use MapQuest or your GPS for directions, but beware, there are two Middlesex Roads in Matawan. If you get lost, call him at 732-970-4327. If members of other Sierra Groups are in the neighborhood, please stop by and say hello.

Ocean County Group

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

OFFICERS:

Acting Chair &

Conservation Chair:	Margit Meissner-Jackson	sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair & Treasurer:	Laura Stone	Laura36@yahoo.com
Outings & Envl Ed'n:	Terrance Brown	terrybrown@comcast.net
Recording Secretary:	Nancy Brown	nancybrown624@comcast.net
Political Chair:	Margaret Mary Piccolo	gogreenp1@yahoo.com
Membership Chairs:	Ray & Cathy Kozakerich	raykozak@comcast.net
Social Media Chair:	Annie Jones	AnnaLeighEilbacher@yahoo.com
Fund-Raising Chair:	Joyce M. Isaza	realtymstr@aol.com
Group ExCom Members:	William Rodgers	
And:	Peter Leighton	JPLeighton1@verizon.net

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

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

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

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

Follow us on Twitter @WJsierraclub

and Instagram @wjsierraclub

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Gina Carola	856-848-8831	ginacee@verizon.net
Vice-Chair:	Frank Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Secretary:	Ellen Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Treasurer:	Trish Clements		patri3210@gmail.com
Publicity Chair:	Anne Caridi		annecaridi@yahoo.com
Political Chair:	Linda Rubiano		Linda_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.

Oct 10: Hydroponics 101 - Valerie Brown will explain the basics of hydroponics from the initial capital investment to the daily monitoring and harvesting. Also, a discussion of Camden County's program to address the food desert in Camden and future expansion.

Nov 14: Jessica Franzini, Associate Director of Community Initiatives at Camden Lutheran Housing will discuss the neighborhood improvement projects that she is working on in Camden.

Also, in this month of Thanksgiving, please bring a non-perishable item for donation to the South Jersey Food Bank. Cans of soup, fruit, vegetables. Box of cereal. Boxed meals such as Mac and Cheese. Bottles of juice, baby food, canned milk.

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

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

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

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:

Oct 3, Nov 7 and Dec 5: (first Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Atlantic County Friends of the

(continued on page 10)

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

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

Parks (FoP): Monthly meetings of a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Park System. All are welcome. Warren Fox Nature Center (WFNC*), Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor, Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 3½ miles south of Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280. FoP will host "Plein Air in Atlantic County Parks," an art exhibition and speaker series at the Art Gallery at Atlantic Cape Community College, Mays Landing. Details on the web site. November weekend: date tba: Roadside cleanup in Estell Manor. The December FoP meeting will be a pot-luck holiday feast, starting at 6pm.

Oct 10 & Dec 12: (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.

Oct 17 & Dec 19: (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.

Oct 24, Nov 28 and perhaps Dec 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.

Oct 28, 10am at Atlantic County's Estell Manor Park: FoP-sponsored Mushroom Foray, led by the NJ Mycological Assn. See the FoP website.

Nov 27: (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.

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.

Sept 29: 2 pm: Stonewall National Monument and LGBT History Tour: Guided tour of the monument and nearby LGBT historic sites led by Tatiana Orlov, Senior Program Manager for National Parks Conservation Association. Learn how the monument was created and what you can do help ensure its legacy. The walking tour should last 60-75 minutes. We'll meet for lunch before or a snack afterwards-time and location TBD. Space limited-check our Meetup page for availability and meeting location.

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 peli4191@gmail.com

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

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

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

On the Trail A Tree Grows for Greg Auriemma

Ocean County Group members are especially invited to explore the Traders Cove Marina and Park, in Brick Twp (Ocean Co), where a new memorial tree and plaque were inaugurated on Aug 27th, honoring the founding Chair of our Ocean County Group, Greg Auriemma, Esq. Greg died while hiking alone in the Presidential Range of New Hampshire's White Mountains, in July, 2017. The address is 40 Mantoloking Road.

Photo (and content) credit: David Yennior.



Outings

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

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS (roughly north to south)

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

Note: Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your Jan-Mar 2019 trip write-ups by Nov 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 |

bring plenty of water, beginners welcome, supportive footwear recommended. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com. (JS)

Oct 12 (Fri): Pinelands Month - Canoe/Kayak the Batsto River (Burlington Co). 9:30am. We'll enjoy a Fall Foliage Pinelands paddle from Quaker Bridge to Batsto Lake. Pinelands Preservation Alliance has launched Pinelands Adventures and rental boats are available as well as private boat shuttling. 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)

Oct 13 (Sat): Turtleback Rock, South Mountain Reservation Hike (Essex Co). 10am. We will start at Turtleback Rock trailhead. See the Essex County Parks Commission web site https://www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/south-mountain-reservation for directions. 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. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@Yahoo.com.

Oct 13 (Sat): Splitrock Hawkwatch Hike, Farny State Park, Splitrock Reservoir (Morris Co). 10am. https://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/farny.html. The hike will cover 7 miles in 4 hours. Hilly terrain, moderate difficulty. Features: Splitrock Reservoir, The Hawkwatch, Saint Patrick's Cemetery, Spooks, Devils, Beaver Pond. Facilities: Port-A-John at the parking lot. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch. 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>

Oct 14 (Sun): Roebling Museum Tour and Village Walk (Burlington Co). 10am. A former gateway to the Roebling Mill, the main gate museum building was once the passage point for thousands of workers entering the steel mill each day. The 7,000 sq. ft. building now houses five galleries, Investors Bank Media Room, offices, lobby, gift shop and Ferdinand Roebling III Archives of the Roebling Museum. Two short documentary films run continuously. There is a Museum Admission Fee. Option to take the RiverLine to Roebling. Contact leader to confirm meeting time and for meeting location. Bring lunch and snacks. Please RSVP and put "Sierra" in the subject line: Joanne Pannone: (609)443-6992, jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (C)

Oct 14 (Sun): Pine Meadow Lake Hike at Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. Moderate 8-mile hike combining different trails to some beautiful views of Harriman Park and lakes at peak of fall foliage. Trails include some rocky terrain and several short ascents/descents (300-400ft) Rain/increment weather will cancel. Bring lunch, snacks and lots of water. Hike limited to 12 participants who must pre-register via email. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com.

Oct 17 (Wed): Richard J. Coffee Mercer County Park Hike (Mercer Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. We'll hike along Mercer Lake and walk the woods trails. Bring beverage, lunch and snacks. Leashed dogs are welcome. Meet at the Parking Lot next to Grandparents Grove. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Oct 20 (Sat): Pinelands Month - Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 11am. The section we paddle will depend on weather conditions. Experienced cold weather/water paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and details. Option for early breakfast at the Vincentown Diner. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct 24 (Wed): Pinelands Month - Hike the Franklin Parker Preserve (Burlington Co). 10am. 5-6 miles, easy pace on the Yellow Trail. The acquisition of the Franklin Parker Preserve in 2003 by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation was a momentous occasion in conservation. This 9400-acre preserve is a keystone piece of land, linking the expanses of Brendan Byrne, Wharton, and Penn State Forests and creating a more contiguous Pinelands National Reserve. Meeting at Speedwell entrance off Rte 563, Woodland Twp. Leashed dogs are welcome. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Heavy rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct 27 (Sat): Hike Turkey Swamp Park, Freehold (Monmouth Co). 9:30 am. Forest and the meandering Manasquan River will greet us. About 5 miles, easy pace, mostly level, some roots; bring plenty of water. Beginners welcome, supportive footwear recommended. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com. (JS)

Oct 28 (Sun): Early Halloween Hike at the Jamesburg Park Conservation Area (Middlesex Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. The Jamesburg Park Conservation Area was some of the first lands that Middlesex County acquired using Green Acres funding for open space protection in the early 1970's. It protects both the underground resources of the Old Bridge Sands aquifer, and a unique pine barrens habitat in Middlesex County. Meet at Helme Mill Park on Maple St in Helmetta. Inclement weather cancels. Option for late lunch at "The Diner." Leashed dogs are welcome. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

NOVEMBER

Nov 4 (Sun): "Fall Back" Bicycle Ride at Duke Farms (Somerset Co). 10am. Approx. 5-6 miles; leisurely day with stops along the way. Duke Farms serves as a model of environmental stewardship in the 21st Century. Meet at the Farm Barn Orientation Center. Bring lunch and beverage on the ride. Bicycle helmets must be worn. Bicycles can be rented with helmets! Directions: www.dukefarms.org/. Rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

Nov 7 (Wed): Fall Foliage Hike at Monmouth Battlefield State Park (Monmouth Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. Monmouth Battlefield State Park is the site of one of the largest battles fought during the Revolutionary War - on June 28, 1778. Meet at the Visitors Center, 16 Business Rte 33, Manalapan. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Leashed dogs are welcome! Inclement weather cancels. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Nov 10 (Sat): Jockey Hollow Leader's Choice Hike (Morris Co). 10am. Meet at the visitors' center. Leader's choice of trails depending on conditions at Jockey Hollow National Park in Morristown. See http://www.nps.gov/morr/planyourvisit/directions.htm for directions and information. Bring lots of water, a snack, and wear hiking boots. Heavy/steady rain cancels. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Nov 17 (Sat): Norvin Green Forest Hike, Ringwood (Passaic Co). 10am. https://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/parks/norvin.html. 7-mile hike in 5 hours, in rugged terrain, some steep sections. Features: spectacular views from High Point Mountain and Will Monroe Loop. Visit Roomy Mine. Facilities: Port-A-John in the parking lot. No pets, no beginners. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch. 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.

Nov 17 (Sat): Hike Huber Woods Park, Middletown (Monmouth Co). 9:30am. We will walk the hickory and oak forest with occasional distant views of the Navesink River. About 4 miles at an easy pace, some ups and downs. Beginners welcome, supportive footwear recommended, bring plenty of water. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com.

Nov 18 (Sun): Hike at the NJAS Plainsboro Preserve (Middlesex Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. The Preserve has wildlife exhibits, a reference library and the Nature Store is a great source for field guides, optics, etc. Bring water and snacks. Meet at the Nature Center, 80 Scotts Corner Rd, Cranbury. Directions: www.njaudubon.org/Centers/Plainsboro/. Option for late lunch at Romeo's Restaurant. Inclement weather cancels. Dogs are not permitted. Co-Leaders: Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com; Joanne P: jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (RV)

Nov. 24 (Sat): Island Pond Hike in Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. 8-mile moderate hike includes some rocky terrain, several short ascents/descents through woods with some beautiful views. Bring lunch, snacks and lots of water. Hike will be cancelled for rain/increment weather. Group limited to 12 people who must pre-register directly with leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com.

Nov 25 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the D&R Canal from Bulls Island to Prallsville (Hunterdon Co). 11am. Work off those Thanksgiving calories with this 6-mile round-trip paddle. Experienced winter paddlers only. Bring lunch and hot beverage. Too cold, then we'll hike the towpath! Contact leaders to confirm participation and logistics: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

DECEMBER

Dec 2 (Sun): Hike at Duke Island Park (Somerset Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. Duke Island Park includes trails which are part of the Raritan River Greenway. We'll meet at the Visitors Center which is located near the main parking area, and houses the Park Ranger office and the restroom facilities - Old York Rd., Bridgewater. Inclement weather cancels. Bring snacks, water and lunch. Leashed dogs are welcome. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

Dec 5 (Wed): Hike at Jakes Branch County Park (Ocean Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. Jakes Branch has a nature center with hands-on exhibits and an observation deck that offers a 360-deg view of the Pinelands. Leashed dogs are welcome. Meet at Jakes Branch Park, 1100 Double Trouble Rd, Beechwood. Option for late lunch at Shady Rest Restaurant. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

(continued on page 12)

SEPTEMBER

See the archived July-Sept issue of this Newsletter on the Chapter website: www.SierraClub.org/New-Jersey/.

OCTOBER

Oct 1 (Mon): Pinelands Month - Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. 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.mickscaerental.com). Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct 4 (Thur): Pinelands Month - Guided Hike at Double Trouble State Park/Village (Ocean Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. Originally a cranberry farm and packing plant, the former company town called Double Trouble is a window into past and current industries in the Pinelands. Andrew Anderson, Historic Resource Interpretive Specialist, will be our guide. Meet at Double Trouble State Park, Pinewald-Keswick and Double Trouble Rds. Leashed dogs are welcome! Bring lunch and beverage. Heavy rain cancels. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct 8 (Mon): Columbus Day Hike at Thompson Park Conservation Area (Middlesex Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. Thompson Park stretches south from Thompson Park and Schoolhouse Rd along the Gravel Hill. It is dominated by heavily wooded forests and lowland swamps along Manalapan Brook. Parts of the area also continue to support local agriculture, with farmers growing corn and soybeans. The Park offers passive activities such as hiking, walking, bird watching and photography. We will meet at the Thompson Park Trailhead near the Off-leash Dog Area on Fir Drive, Monroe Twp. GPS Coordinates: N 40° 20' 3.753", W 74° 26' 8.556". Inclement weather cancels. Option for late lunch at Fiddleheads Restaurant. Leashed dogs are welcome. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

Oct 12 (Fri): Hike Hartshorne Woods, Middletown and Highlands (Monmouth Co). 9:30am. Enjoy mature woods, some distant views. 4 or 5 miles, easy pace, a hill to start, then some ups and downs,

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.



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

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

Dec 8 (Sat): Hike Cheesequake State Park, Old Bridge (Middlesex Co). 9:30am. We'll explore the extensive marsh on a boardwalk, as well as the adjoining woods. 4 or 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)

Dec 8 (Sat): Hartshorne Woods Park Hike, Highlands (Monmouth Co). 10am. <https://www.monmouthcountyparks.com/page.aspx?ID=2524>. The hike will cover 8 miles in 4 hours. Moderate to easy. Features views of the Lawrence River; moderate hills, little or no snow in winter. Facilities: Port-A-John near the parking lot. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch. Sneakers are allowed. 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.

Dec 8 (Sat): Whitesbog Village Fall Hike (Burlington Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace on sandy trails. Join us for Whitesbog's 3rd year celebrating the holidays as they welcome visitors to explore the many historic buildings! Handmade Arts & Crafts exhibitors will be spread throughout the village, kid crafts in the art gallery, a candy cane hunt and a special visit from you know who! Wagon rides into the bogs, hot cocoa and warm apple cider, live music and even more! Loads of fun for the entire family!!!! Last December the Tundra Swans were on the bogs. Bring lunch and beverage. Leashed dogs are welcome. Directions and information: www.whitesbog.org. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 16 (Sun): Celebrate the Upcoming Winter Solstice – Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. The trip section depends on weather conditions. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 19 (Wed): Hike Historic Smithville and Tour Smithville Mansion (Burlington Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. After the hike we'll tour the Mansion decorated for a Victorian Holiday (small fee) by local garden clubs. Option: late lunch at Vincentown Diner. Meet at Smith's Woods at Historic Smithville Park, East Railroad Ave, Easthampton. Leashed dogs are welcome. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Dec 21 (Fri): D&R Canal Hike on the First Day of Winter (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. It's the first day of winter - let's take a walk on the towpath from Bordentown to Trenton. Leashed dogs are welcome! Meet at the RiverLine parking lot in Bordentown City. Option for late lunch at Heart of Bordentown (HoB) Tavern. Inclement weather cancels. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Dec 26-31: Patriots Week in Trenton - History of the American Revolution in NJ (Mercer Co). Learn about the American Revolution during Patriots Week. Every day of the week offers fun and history for the entire family. See the First and Second Battles of Trenton Reenactments and participate in Walking Tours of the Trenton Battlefields. Check website for events: www.patriotsweek.com. Contact us to meet for various events! Leona F: leona@pineypaddlers.com or Joanne P jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (C)

JANUARY

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

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.

No meetings in September and December. Oct. 13 and Nov. 10 both at the Reformed Church of Highland Park, 19-21 S. 2nd Ave. (about a mile north of the New Brunswick train station)



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

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Reports from Trenton

DEP: Reject South Jersey Gas Permit Extension

From a press release issued on June 20th, edited by Joe Testa

South Jersey Gas has applied for an extension of two state permits for their proposed natural gas pipeline through the Pinelands to fuel an old electric power plant at Marmora in Cape May County - a Freshwater Wetlands general permit as well as an individual Waterfront Development permit. This pipeline would irreversibly harm wetlands and streams, and threaten one of the largest reservoirs of fresh drinking water on the East Coast.

It's been five years since the permits were originally issued, and the project has not moved forward because we've been in court fighting them. The permits were granted under rules that have since been withdrawn; they are therefore deficient. The law requires that the DEP reject them. We urge the DEP to throw out these permits and require new applications.

Under the Pinelands Act, land uses in the Forest Area are strictly limited. The presence of the BL England power plant near the Pinelands isn't sufficient to justify a new gas pipeline feeding it. Rather, the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan requires a larger scale benefit primarily to the residents and communities of the Pinelands. Re-fueling BL England would not have that primary outcome, since its electricity will enter the PJM (regional) power grid and be distributed all over the state.

The Sierra Club is suing the Pinelands Commission over its approval of this pipeline. PSE&G wants to ram this project through to keep the power plant open. PJM has admitted that BL England is superfluous to its reliability concerns, and has even taken steps to prepare for BL England's shutdown. There is no need to approve a pipeline to a power plant that is no longer needed.

We also believe that the original permits were issued improperly. There were omissions in the application, problems with the CAFRA permits, and they failed to properly examine secondary and cumulative impacts (such as impacts on water quality due to the filling in of wetlands). The DEP should make amends for its previous shoddy work by rejecting this application now.

The pipeline would also undermine Governor Murphy's intention for 100% renewable energy by 2050. The DEP has the authority and duty to reject a proposed development that would harm public welfare and the environment. This pipeline is opposed by thousands of New Jersey citizens, including four former Governors. We urge the DEP to deny the permit-extensions.

Cascade of Corruption Sweeps Pruitt Out of EPA

From a press release issued on July 5th, edited by Joe Testa

Scott Pruitt's resignation as director of the US Environmental Protection Agency was a rare welcome event in Pres. Trump's Administration. His legacy was the dismantling of environmental protections to the benefit of corporate polluters.

In little more than a year, Pruitt undid 40 years of environmental regulations. Never mind his \$800,000 security detail, a \$36,000 military jet flight to New York, \$40,000 to fly to Morocco, etc; the real scandal was his damage to the EPA. He tried to cut its budget by a third, getting rid of its entire Environmental Justice office. He even signed a directive to delay chemical plant safety standards, putting people directly in harm's way.

Pruitt is a climate change denier who was working for the fossil fuel industry instead of the people of the United States.

Instead of draining the swamp, Pruitt became the swamp monster.

Member Report

New Options for Electricity without Fossil Fuels

Contributed by Gaylord Olson, of our Central Jersey Group, on July 28 (gg_olson@yahoo.com)

With a new political environment in Trenton, we can look forward to the possibility of significantly improving the supply and storage of electrical power in New Jersey. Here are some directions for this:

1. Community solar projects. This allows for significantly lower cost of energy due to the economy of scale in comparison with rooftop solar (as much as a factor of 2.8), and it allows for full participation of anyone and everyone in the state. Keep your house shaded by trees: it reduces your cost of air conditioning and increases the resale value.

2. Acquire solar power from bodies of water. In other countries there is expanding use of what is known as "floating solar farms". An up-to date description is here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floating_solar/ and here: <http://www.powermag.com/floating-solar-panel-industry-makes-a-splash/>

China and India seem to be leading in this type of development. Systems are being built with power levels as high as 150 megawatts (MW). There is rapid (near exponential) growth in this form of generation.

3. Expand offshore wind farms. Currently, nearly all of the largest offshore wind farms are in just two countries: Germany and the United Kingdom.

Here's a full list: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Offshore_wind_power.

If it works in Europe it can also work all along our Atlantic coast. We need to give maximum support to this type of clean power.

4. Plan for new forms of large-scale energy storage. With the large expansion of solar and wind power, both of which are intermittent, there is a need for either fossil fuel as back-up power or larger and more cost-effective energy storage. Most people probably think "batteries" when they think of energy storage. Yes, for cars, cell phones, and flashlights: batteries are the best choice. But for large scale storage within the electricity power grid, there is only one practical cost-effective choice today, and that is pumped storage hydro-electricity - pumped hydro for short: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pumped-storage_hydroelectricity.

Worldwide today, pumped hydro represents over 95 percent of grid storage capacity. Most pumped hydro systems use a low elevation reservoir - perhaps from a dam on a river - in combination with an artificial (man-made) reservoir at the top of a nearby hill. A pump-turbine pushes the water up for storage (when

Hands across the Sand – Protecting Our Coast!

Based on a press release

On Saturday, May 19th, New Jersey residents including government officials and members of the Sierra Club, Clean Ocean Action, and the Surfrider Foundation, joined hands across Bradley Beach (Monmouth Co) in opposition to offshore drilling and seismic testing. This was one of hundreds of synchronized events globally, including one at Atlantic City, to raise awareness about the dangers of dirty fuels and the need to speed the transition to available, affordable clean energy solutions.

Hands Across the Sand is an annual international grassroots event designed to demonstrate local opposition to the exploration for and transport of dirty fossil fuels. Expected in New Jersey were the following political leaders: Bradley Beach Mayor Gary Englestad, Council Member John Weber, State Senators Robert Singer, Steve Sweeney, Steven Oroho, Dick Codey, and Bob Smith, and Assemblypersons John McKeon, Nancy Pinkin, Reed Gusciora, David Wolfe, and Joann Downey.

The Sierra Club's Don't Rig Our Coastal Economy report found 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. An oil spill off the coast of New Jersey could trigger an even more dramatic decline in tourism.

Pompton Lakes Superfund Status Blocked

From a press release issued on June 4th, edited by Sylvia Kay

Reneging on earlier positions, Governor Murphy and the DEP are opposing Superfund status for the Pompton Lakes (Passaic Co) neighborhoods still affected by toxic lead, mercury, and other wastes from an old DuPont munitions factory. Catherine McCabe, DEP Commissioner, recently stated that it is preferable to simply require that DuPont pay for remediation of the 450 homes affected by DuPont's toxic sludge, rather than wait for Superfund designation and its procedures.

Since 2008, toxic gas has been seeping up from ground water into the basements of those Pompton Lakes homes. DuPont's current remediation plan has a five-year date of completion, which will leave some residents exposed to carcinogens.

Contamination at the 600-acre DuPont site was acknowledged by the DEP in 1980 - when lead and mercury were found in the waterways and lake sediment. The contamination has gotten into the 200-acre Pompton Lake, as well as nearby waterways including the Acid Brook and Wanaque Rivers. This river flows into the Wanaque Reservoir - becoming drinking water for both Bergen and Passaic Counties.

DuPont may be planning new construction on part of its "cleaned up" industrial site, such that remediating the homes of Pompton Lakes residents may not be a priority. Residents have been demanding attention since 2011, but were ignored by ex-Gov. Christie's Administration and now Murphy. The new Governor is not being proactive. He did not consult Pompton Lakes homeowners before refusing the Superfund application. He has not considered that Pompton Lake's toxicity "score" is more than double that required for Superfund designation. Where are you, Gov. Murphy?

the wind is blowing and/or the sun is shining). To recover the energy as electricity at other times, a turbine-generator operates from the return flow of water downhill. Many people assume that all possible locations for pumped hydro have already been evaluated, so we are near its limit. This may not be correct: it's wrong to assume a need for a reservoir at the lower level of the system. A naturally flowing river would serve just as well, saving the cost of building a dam as well as the environmental disturbance. This is not a new idea! There are at least three examples operating today, all in Germany: Sackingen, along the Rhine River, Waldshut, also along the Rhine, and Geesthacht, along the Elbe River. These are full, utility-scale, pumped hydro systems with hundreds of MW of power; the Geesthacht plant was commissioned in 1958, 60 years ago. What storage batteries can we expect to have a 60-year lifetime?

Anyone who has hiked the Appalachian Trail past Sunfish Pond in Warren County - and looked down at the nearby Delaware River - can see that this idea can be applied here just as in Germany. The same could be said for many locations along the Hudson River. To advance

this idea, it would be interesting to find the very best locations in North America: where a river has high nearby hills, along with a sufficient volume of flow, so that the volume needed for a pumped storage system is a small fraction of the flow in the river. There is already a pumped hydro system in New Jersey just east of Sunfish Pond, but it uses a dam for its low reservoir: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yards_Creek_Generating_Station.

Another variation on the theme of pumped storage is "off-river or closed loop pumped hydro." In this case all that is needed is a high hill next to a low valley (no river). Two separate artificial reservoirs would be built, (although a natural lake could also be used at either location). There is a very active study of closed loop pumped hydro by groups in Australia, and some also in the United States.

In all forms of pumped hydro, there would be at least one large body of water: thus also suitable for floating solar electricity generation. Combining these different ideas could offer a more cost-effective way to expand both generation and storage - to the point that we could realistically use nothing but solar, wind, and hydroelectricity for all future grid electrical power.