The North Jersey Group has a duly elected nine-member Executive Committee, as follows:

Co-Chairs: Diane Scarangella: dascart@hotmail.com and Buddy Jensen: buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Treasurer: Buddy Jensen: buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Secretary: Laura Troy: ltoy1019@gmail.com
Political Chair: Sandi Libert: libertisandi@gmail.com
Outings Chair: Mary Walsh: bfhewalsh@hotmail.com
Conservation Chair: Judy Greene: jgueen547@gmail.com
Climate Change Chair: Jeff Rapaport: jefrap@optonline.net
Marketing/Publications Chair: Jan Barry: janbarry61@hotmail.com
ExCom Member: Bob Weiss: bobweiss1967@gmail.com

You can also join North Jersey Sierran members at the following Earth Day 2020 events:

• Earthfest Overpeck 2020: Sat, Mar 28, 6:30-10pm: Meet & Greet - at Ghost Hawk Brewing Company, 321 River Rd #6, Clifton 07014. Join North Jersey for conversation and great beer. Meet our members and learn about what North Jersey Sierra is doing to make change. Take action to stop climate change, preserve parklands and natural spaces, support renewable energy, halt our dependence on fossil fuels, and connect people to nature through outdoor activities.

• Hudson County Earth Day: Apr 25, Liberty State Park.

• Earth Day 50th Anniversary Celebrations: April 26, Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 445 Van Nostand Av, Englewood, 2-4pm.

• Earthfest Overpeck 2020: May 17, “New” Overpeck Park, 40 Fort Lee Rd, Leonia 07605.

You can also join North Jersey Sierran members at the following Earth Day 2020 events:

• Ramapo College Global Earth Day: Apr 22, Teach-In at the College.
• Northern Valley Earth Fair: Apr 25, 11am-4pm, Norwood Public School, 177 Summit Street, Norwood.
• Hudson County Earth Day: Apr 25, Liberty State Park.
• Earth Day 50th Anniversary Celebrations: April 26, Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 445 Van Nostand Av, Englewood, 2-4pm.
• Earthfest Overpeck 2020: May 17, “New” Overpeck Park, 40 Fort Lee Rd, Leonia 07605.

Please check our Meetup page, Facebook page, or web site for newly posted meeting and events. You can also email us at njnorthjerseysierraclub@gmail.com.

COMMITTEE OPENINGS: The North Jersey Group seeks members for the following committee:

• Conservation Committee: We assist people in the community with grassroots efforts to prevent destruction of natural habitat in Bergen and Passaic Counties and surrounding areas. Help us by finding and reviewing public records, circulating petitions, going door-to-door with lawn signs, speaking in public meetings, attending and organizing press conferences. The choice of activity is up to you. No activity or time commitment is too small. Make your voice heard. If interested contact Mary at bfhewalsh@hotmail.com or Judy at jgueen547@gmail.com (Committee Co-Chairs), or Diane at dascart@hotmail.com (Group Co-Chair).

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

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

• Publications/Marketing Committee: Are you creative? Do you love graphic design, writing press releases and short stories, contacting newspapers and radio, using Instagram, facebook, twitter, snapchat? We need you! If interested, contact Jan (Committee Chair) at janbarry61@hotmail.com.

Outings Committee: Organize and lead hikes, snowshoeing, kayaking and other of your favorite outdoor activities on trails and locations of your choice. Trips can vary in length, level of difficulty and location. If interested, contact Mary at bfhewalsh@hotmail.com (Committee Chair) or Buddy (Group Co-Chair) at buddy.jenssen@gmail.com.

Trail Maintenance: If you are interested in combining outdoor activity with actions that restore hiking trails and preserve the natural environment, please contact Marty at martincohen@verizon.net

Dated material do not delay
By Allison L. Fabrizio (allisonl.f1190@gmail.com), our High School Liaison
Kicking Off 2020 with the tric public utilities and various govern- goals. New Jersey already waives the 7% tor, but maintain and advance the Garden law will not only help elevate the sustain-
S-2252/A-4819. The margins were biparti-
Earth Day Turns 50
Up amid the social unrest of the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement, so views on nature and Mother Earth. to write essays and poems expressing
demonstrations with bell jars pro-
Earth Day, “Who will stand for the trees?”

The Jersey

Almost 21,000 Members in New Jersey April–June 2020

Nonprofit Organization-Sierra Club
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Vol. 49, No. 2

by Gorman Greg (gorman7149@barnabargmail.com)

Earth Day Turns 50

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High School Liaison’s Report

Editors: David L. Frenkel (davidlf784@gmail.com) and Christine M. Swanger (cs@sierraclub.org)

NEW SERVICE FOR MEMBERS
The Sierra Club now has a member portal where you can update your member record, including your preferences for receiving different types of Club communica-

High School Liaison’s Report

Kicking Off 2020 with the Passing of the Electric Vehicle Bill

On January 13th, the NJ Legislature passed the electric vehicle bill S-2252/A-419. The margins were biparti-
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Thank you for Your Support!

The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club wishes to thank all those who provided the financial support with chapter financial during 2019. As in prior years, our members and supporters were there when we needed them the most. Listed below are the names of those who contributed $100 or more during the calendar year. But please be assured that all contributions are very much appreciated, regardless of the amount.

Our Taxonomy Advisor's Report on some Fluorocarbons
‘Dark Waters’ – A Battle Cry for Action

By Mark Fukuyama (markesxans@gmail.com)

The movie ‘DARK WATERS’ tells the scary but true story of a legal battle that exposed the truth. Adapted from Nathaniel Rich’s 2016 New York Times magazine article, the film ‘Dark Waters’ was released in Nov, 2019, the movie follows corporate lawyer Robert Bilott’s decades-long suit against DuPont for poisoning its workers at its nearby Washington Works facility, as well as the residents of the surrounding communities, with perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

The movie unfolds with the unassuming lawyer struck by the plight of Wilbur Tennant, whose farm is next to DuPont’s PFOA dumping ground, and who suspected that his cows were dying from an unknown poison released into the creek, a sea of water that ran downhill, cascading from the waste site. Tennant videotaped vivid scenes of his cattle suffering from diseases. Blackened hooves and abnor- mal organs; his original footage is shown in the movie. Bilott took on Tennant’s case in 1998, only to lose and then win, only to lose, then win again.

Bilott learned that DuPont was a member of a large family of perfluoroalkyl sub- stances (PFAS) used in many consumer products including as fireproofing agents, stain resistant carpets, and firefighting foam. At that time these manmade chemicals were not considered to be hazardous, but there was little information to support their safe use. Obeying a court order, DuPont had to disclose thousands of documents, hoping to bury Bilott in paperwork. But the documents showed that DuPont and 3M, the maker of the related substance perfluorooctanesulfon- ic acid (PFOS), had conducted studies testing potential health effects of PFAS, and that PFOA had infiltrated the water system at high levels causing serious harm to workers and residents in the surrounding communities. A protracted David-versus- Goliath class action lawsuit ensued, with Bilott suffering physically and finan- cially. In the end, Bilott wins his class action lawsuit, DuPont is forced to pay $16 million in 2017 .

In early January, the House passed H.R. 555, the PFAS Action Now Act. It would require the EPA to designate cer- tain PFAS as hazardous pollutants. It would create, and established manufacturers of PFAS with limited safety data would be required to conduct further studies. Despite our continued exposure to these substances, and the threat to our health, Donald Trump has threatened to veto the PFAS Action Now Act should the Senate pass it.

I highly recommend ‘DARK WATERS’, especially for those not as familiar with toxicology, and all elected offi- cials should see this movie.

Footnotes
4 Ibid. N1
5 https://www.cbsnews.com/2015/12/01/ darkwaters/
6 https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-infor mation-pfa
7 https://www.epaw.com/research/ national-pfas-testing/
8 https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/ PFAFacts.html
9 https://www.epa.gov/news-and- analy sis/2019/01/08/terminals-cohasset -water-testing
10 Ibid. N1
11 https://ccen.org/environment/ persistent-pollutants/short-chain-long-chain -PFAS/7/15
12 https://dailymail.co.uk/89078/ trumps-threatens-eto-as-house-consider s-pfas-action

Electrovillians

energy issues. Doug Malleo, director of New Jersey (an affiliate of Environmental America) responding to this statement-new-jersey-legislature-passes-electric-vehicle-bill-making-state
direct your gift to a special Club program or to the New Jersey Chapter.

Beverley & Stuart Lieberman Robert Lightburn Ludwig G. H. Hesse ual organs; his original footage is shown in 2017.3

PFOS and PFOA. 11

energy issues. Doug Malleo (director of New Jersey (an affiliate of Environmental America) responding to th
You may have read in the previous issue that the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club has early-endorsed all the New Jersey Democratic nominees for the House and Senate, including Jeff Van Drew in the 2nd (my) Congressional District. The District is geographically the largest in the State; it includes all of Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem Counties, and southern parts of Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Ocean Counties. That means it is the most rural of our Congressional Districts. It contains the smallest percentage of college graduates, the largest percentage of unemployed voters, and probably the largest percentage of gun owners. It is one of the most Republican counties in the state, voting for Donald Trump in 2016 by four percentage points.

I think I’ve had a good rapport with all “my” (2nd District) congresspeople, in my role as Political Chair of the South Jersey Group, including Van Drew’s two long-term predecessors, Bill Hughes (D) and Frank LoBiondo (R), both champions of environmental protection and endorsed by the Club. Van Drew, a member of the House Natural Resources Committee, has been a strong advocate for protecting wilder- Manumuskin. Now we come to strange doings. The handwriting has been on the wall: that Van Drew’s chance for re-election this November, as a Republican in a District that will go overwhelmingly to Donald Trump, can be predicted as slim. So he crossed over. No doubt his “undying allegiance” to Trump was required by the deal for the support that will get him re-elected. Call it corruption if you like. I can speak from experience in suggesting that the first level of political corruption is the chimera that one is good at the job and deserves to continue at it. As you might expect, the Club is in the process of reconsidering our early endorsement of Van Drew. The process requires multiple steps, including approval by the Club’s national Political Committee, and it demands silence until then. So more can or will be said here. More next issue! I have resisted my Club colleagues’ advice not to publish this editorial because to me it has impor- tant human interest value.

It’s easy to see the world as split between the forces of Good and Evil, God and the Devil, Light and Darkness, Jesus and Satan, (and for some - Burroughs and Saxxons), and Indians, Democrats and Republicans. The Sierra Club used to endorse Republicans, especially in New Jersey. The pathology of President south to my favorite American political thinker, Lincoln Steffens (1866-1931), but I couldn’t find one. Steffens came to admire the sound politicians he exposed, explaining their peccadilloes as necessitated by laws of human nature and economics. All the reforms promoted by him and his muckraking colleagues dur- ing the Progressive Era (1903-14) were designed to make the system less corrupt, but as President Trump says, there are still some crooks in the pond.

We’ve had our eye on Van Drew since he was Mayors Dennis Twp (Cape May County) and Dennis Whiting in the Cape May (NJ) ”stand opposing the extension of a superhighway, NJ Rte 55, across the wet- lands of southern Cumberland County. His opposition didn’t last long, unfortu- nately, as he joined the Republican party. As does, incidentally, that of Chris Smith, our remaining Republican, representing the 4th District.

We are very proud of our volunteers and the work they do. We have highlighted some of them here, including Judy Colby, who has been an advocate in the areas of education, environmental and social justice. This back- ground has not only prepared her to be President of our Chapter, but also in- cluding equitable access to resources and opportunities for all children regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status and disability; it has also given her a superb back- ground to Chair our Chapter’s Environmental & Social Justice Committee.

We are very proud of our Chapter that is plac- ing the chairmanship of our E&SJ Committee in great hands. We are also proud of our Environmental & Social Justice Committee Vice-Chair, Maria Santiago, who has been an educator for 22+ years. She has been an advocate in the areas of education, environmental, and social justice. She is also a successful landscape photographer who has focused on the NJ Pinelands. She has written published articles regarding the Pinelands and the history of those efforts in the second. She is currently an Educator Diagnostian [Specialist and case manager in a Child Wiss Team, and has been an educator for 22+ years. She speaks English, Spanish, and French with fluency. In 2010 she served on the Board of Trustees of the Barack Obama Green Charter High School in Plainfield.

I’m glad to say that our Chapter continues to support our remaining Republican, representing the 4th District, incidentally, as he quickly discovered the large percentage of unemployed voters, and probably the largest percentage of gun owners. It is one of the most Republican counties in the state, voting for Donald Trump in 2016 by four percentage points.

With 20 years in broadcasting, 10 in Marketing, a B in Economics, a Master’s in Social Work, and a self-developed writing skills, Judy clearly has a lot to offer, and I’m glad that she’s now on speaking!

Very welcome to our new members!

New Volunteers!

New Volunteers!

Nature & Environment

Sustainable Lifestyle

Tree Planting

Sustainable Lifestyle

Plant a Tree

By Sylvia Kay, our Zero Waste Coordinator sakaykay222@gmail.com

Help alleviate global warming and purify the air you breathe! Plant a Tree.

Science tells us that our current cli- mate change is affecting the health of our planet. Forests help combat climate change. They absorb primarily from an excess of greenhouse gases created by burning fossil fuels, and from deforestation. They are also a major source of that fossil fuel pol- lutants.

Trees make major contributions to sta- bilizing our climate by absorbing carbon dioxide. It is the most important greenhouse gas. Trees act as reverse lungs, using CO₂ to manufacture and expire oxygen.

• Forests can offset 10 to 20 percent of the country’s greenhouse gas emissions annually.

• At one acre or more of mature trees absorbs as much CO₂ as is produced by driving a gasoline-powered car 20,000 miles. An 12 acre forest can absorb an amount of CO₂ equivalent to that released by 1.8 million vehicles.

• If you can’t buy a shiny red Tesla or make a lush rainforest in 2020 – plant a tree.

Footnotes:
7. https://www.fws.gov/pow/points/urls/1

Chair's Message

The Chapter Welcomes Our New Volunteers!

By Richard Isaac, Chair Chair (risaac21@gmail.com)

I am confident that our Chapter is plac- ing the chairmanship of our E&SJ Committee in great hands. We are also proud of our Environmental & Social Justice Committee Vice-Chair, Maria Santiago, who has been an educator for 22+ years. She has been an advocate in the areas of education, environmental, and social justice. This back- ground has not only prepared her to be President of our Chapter, but also in- cluding equitable access to resources and opportunities for all children regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status and disability; it has also given her a superb back- ground to Chair our Chapter’s Environmental & Social Justice Committee.

We are very proud of our Chapter that is plac- ing the chairmanship of our E&SJ Committee in great hands.

Resolutions: Approved by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in January and February, 2020

January: Rich Isaac was elected to his 9th year as our Chapter Chair, and the other officers listed below were also elected. Judy Colby was re-elected to the position Reduce_Greenhouse_Gases_Hm

Footnotes:

Transportation Report

Solar Renewable Rail – a Gamechanger!

By Tim Sevener, of our Transportation Committee (orbit7er@gmail.com)

White progress has been made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in other sectors.

Transportation lags it now responsi-

ble for 42% of NZ’s CO2 emissions. That’s be- cause cars and trucks run primarily on fossil fuel or nuclear power plants.

But consider that 500,000 New Jerseyns already commute electrically: on electric buses and commuter trains.

But consider how that electrici-ty is generated: mostly in fossil fuel or nu-

clear power plants.

Elsewhere in the world, electric trains are increasingly getting their power from renewable sources: solar and wind. After 30 years of being in the planning phase, Germany finished in 2018 the 37 km long solar tunnel in Germany. India is expanding its rail sys-

tems in the country’s eastern states. Germany just announced a 42 MW solar farm to power trains in eastern Germany. Austria also now has 100% renewable Electric Rail, and the first 2 km of Austrian rail tracks are全线 on solar panels above the tracks. Germany just announced a 42 MW solar farm to power trains in eastern Germany. India is expanding its rail sys-

{}
As of Dec 19th, hunters had killed 305 bears in 2019. The bear hunt; but, instead of eliminating it completely, he extended the 2019 season.

Bears would be able to sell that knowledge, and access rights to their land, to hunters. Protecting endangered species. Bizarrely, property owners who can learn of the location of bears, but not to scientists pursuing scholarly research, nor environmentalists wishing to protect bears, wild canids, snakes, and exotic species. Only “affected property owners” may build a strong case for the protection of bears.

7:10-3.2(a)4, which protects from disclosure any information that might enable the general public to locate and harm bears, and freezing CAFE standards for [automobile fuel efficiency] would result in 41,000 deaths and 1.67 million cases of asthma over a decade. Trump has diminished programs for removing lead from drinking water, refused to set standards for dozens of other water pollutants such as PFOS, and abandoned Superfund site clean-ups and acknowledging their climate impacts.

Trump’s actions are not unopposed. The Sierra Club and other organizations are suing him over dozens of rules he is trying to weaken, from Waters of the United States to coal ash to offshore drilling. We are also fighting his Administration for hiding scientific reports, holding private meetings with lobbyists, and the Mexican Border Wall, as well as challenging his permits for projects like the Dakota Access Pipeline, LNG terminals, and water projects. The Obama Administration banned chlorine pyridines, a pesticide known to cause cancer in children, but Trump lifted the ban after receiving a $1 million contribution from a Dow Chemical executive. Even though we won on chlorpyrifos, Trump is still keeping chlorpyrifos on the market.

What Trump is doing to the environment is a High Crime and worse than a Misdemeanor. No matter what happens in Washington, we will fight to Make America Green Again.

SI Gas Pipeline Nightmare Continues

From a press release issued on Jan 10, and edited by Sylvia Kay

We hoped the Pinelands Commission would finally reject the South Jersey Gas Company pipeline application. However, by a vote of 4-3, they rejected a resolution “Addressing the Remand of the South Jersey Gas Company Application Due to a Significant Change in Material Fact.”

Final action on the SJ Gas pipeline has thus been blocked, and resurrection of the Pipeline proposal enabled. This despite the Attorney General’s request for rejection, noting that it fails to meet the criteria for Pinelands approval. The Club also won a motion demanding reconsideration of the pipeline application by the Pinelands Commission.

The pipeline through the southern Pinelands was originally intended to repower the B L England Electric Generating Plant in Marmora, Cape May Co. But this old plant has now been permanently closed, eliminating the need for the pipeline. So South Jersey Gas cooked up a new rationale, claiming it would improve “system resiliency.”

The Pinelands Commission’s decision shows South Jersey Gas is not interested in applying for a buyer for B L England. Sadly, the Commission is still controlled by Governor Christie’s appointees who are favorable to pipeline applications. A year ago, Governor Christie nominated Judy Selkay to the Pinelands Commission, to replace Gary Quinn and Bob Barz, respectively. Murphy also re-nominated Ed Lloyd as a Commissioner, and appointed Rick Prickett as the new Chair. But the State Senate has not confirmed them. The Governor should fight harder for final approvals, so that the Commission’s January vote can be rescinded.

DEP Blocks Public Access to Wildlife Information

From a press release issued on Dec 19th, and edited by Irene Gnarna

In a stealth operation, without public input, the DEP has amended a rule, N.J.A.C. 7:10-3.2(a)4, which protects from disclosure any information that might enable the general public to locate and harm certain species of wild animals, including black bears, wild canids, snakes, and exotic species. Only “affected property owners” may have access to this data on animal sightings, dens, nests and other signs of habitation.

Online real estate websites selling potential property purchases, but not to scientists pursuing scholarly research, nor environmentalists wishing to protect endangered species. Bizarrely, property owners who can learn of the location of bears would be able to sell that knowledge, and access rights to their land, to hunters. The rule change appears to promote hunting, since it denies information to those who might wish to oppose the bear hunt. Governor Murphy has voiced opposition to the bear hunt; but, instead of eliminating it completely, he extended the 2019 season. As of Dec 19th, hunters had killed 305 bears in 2019. The New Jersey Sierra Club believes that it was foolish to continue that hunt. New Jersey should adopt a bear management plan that protects their habitats and educates people in bear country to coexist with them, resulting in a stable bear population. Also, the Murphy Administration should accept transparency in rulemaking!
GROUP NEWS

Secretary: (12/31/20) Norrena Haberski norrenahaberski2@gmail.com
Treasurer: (12/31/19) Jody Dethery bd98974@gmail.com
ExCom at large: (12/31/19) Dave Alcock dwhool@hotmail.com
(12/31/20) Nicole Guerrieri SieratClubNicole@gmail.com
(12/31/19) Scott Diemani chrisdunbar45@gmail.com
(12/31/19) Chris Dunbar
(12/31/19) Joanne Morgan jojommorgan@yahoo.com
(12/31/19) Anthony Riccardi anthony.j.riccardi@gmail.com

Conservation Chair: Greg Gorman ggoorman071491@embarqmail.com
Outreach Chairs: Dave Alcock dwhool@hotmail.com
Environmental Justice: Joan Mogan jojommorgan@yahoo.com
Political Co-Chairs: Susan Williams SkylandsGroup@gmail.com
and: Nicole Guerrieri SieratClubNicole@gmail.com
Co-Publicity Chairs: and: SieratClubNicole@gmail.com
Webmaster: Nicole Guerrieri SieratClubNicole@gmail.com

Open position available: Membership Chair – please contact Greg!

GENERAL MEETINGS: SECOND TUESDAY of each month and open to the public. We meet 7pm 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 hall meetings or via schools to teach children 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, and celebrate winter holidays in December. All our events are free of charge and open to the public.

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

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

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

The Skylands Group also opposes the Munsonhurst Planned Residential Development, those found in Wantage and Vernon.

June 3 (Wed) We Are the Sierra Club Join us for a video, pizza party and postcard writing campaign. Officers and volunteers for the Hunterdon Warren group briefly discuss what we do and the current issues club is working on. This is an excellent program for new members and long-time members alike to get more involved with the Club, in the especially important election year. We will discuss how best to support our endorsed candidates.

OUTINGS AND OTHER EVENTS:

Mar 21 (Sat): Heritage Park Walk and Talk with Skylunds Preservation Alliance. 11am. Near the 11.2 acre Tobias Farm where there is a proposal to build a massive warehouse, hike the pastural Heritage Park. Learn about sites in Hunterdon and Warren counties that in jeopardy of becoming Mega-Warehouses. The hike will end with a postcard writing to oppose the development—please bring a blank post card if you have one. Bring snack and at least 1-2 quarts of water. Hiking boots recommended. We will walk approximately five miles through relatively-level pastoral terrain. Rain or snow cancels (check our web site if in doubt). Meet at Heritage Park parking lot, Vliet Farm Rd., Bethlehem Township. RSVP required. (Please email jonwall@jonwall.com or sign-up on our web site.)

Apr 8 (Wed): Executive Committee/Planning Meeting. 7:30 pm. The Office of Director Jonathan D. Wall, 21 Water Street, Clinton. The meeting is casual and informative. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about the Club. Hear about and discuss issues, plan future events, and become more active. (Please contact jonwall@jonwall.com or sign-up on our web site.)

Apr 25 (Sat): Earth Day at Echo Hill Park. 10 am - 5 pm. Join fellow Sierraans as we table at the annual Hunterdon County Earth Day event at Echo Hill Park. Volunteer to help or stop by to say hello. For more information, please contact Amy Weeder at awedeer@comcast.net.

June 17 (Wed): Winery Tour and Talk. 7 pm. Learn about the interesting story and the inspiration behind the Villa Milagro winery which began as a 104-acr corn field. The owners will share with us their experience and challenges in their attempts to grow grapes organically. Wear comfortable shoes and a jacket - weather permitting we will take a tour of the vineyard. Optional wine-tasting after presentation for $5 per person. Villa Milagro is located at 35 Country Road 627 (aka Rieglesville-Warren Glen Rd.), Phillipsburg, NJ. Visit their website at https://www.villamilagrowineries.com/contact for directions. RSVP Required. Space is limited. Please sign up on our website.

July 12 (Sun): Save the Date: Sierra Club Member Fundraiser for Congressman Tom Malinowski. Details in our next issue.

CURRENT ISSUES:

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

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

THE JERSEY SIERRAN: APRIL–JUNE 2020

The Jersey Sierran: April–June 2020

Each Group is invited to designate a Group Environmental Justice Officer

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North Jersey Group

(Bergen and Passaic Counties)

The North Jersey 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 hall meetings or via schools to teach children about the environment. Our hope is to foster a love of and deep respect for our great outdoors.

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The Skylands Group also opposes the Munsonhurst Planned Residential Development, those found in Wantage and Vernon.

Editor’s note: The North Jersey Group News published in the print edition of this newsletter was incorrect, and has been removed here.

Gateway Group

Serving Hillsdale, 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/1289885638412782.

OFFICERS:

Co-Chairs: Bill Beren 862-285-8754 beren1@verizon.net and David Yennior 973-814-1384 dyennior@gmail.com

Last updated: April–June 2020
Raritan Valley Group  
(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)  

OFFICERS:  
Group Chair and Conservation Chair: Gary Frederick  
   gfredsiria@gmail.com  609-203-5382  
   and:  
   Membership: John Miraglia  
   johndworks5@aol.com  
   Political Chair: Teresa Callahan  
   teresa.callahan@thomsonreuters.com  
   Publicity: Open position!  
   Treasurer: S. Paritscha  
   spjerry@gmail.com  
Webmaster: Paul Elfhich  
   p.w.elfrich1@outlook.com  

Outings & Events:  
Co-Chairs: S. Paritscha  
   Brianne Cercone  
   Bernadette Maher  

College Liaison: Open position!  

Beach Affairs: Brenda Bradley  

Our monthly meetings are held on FOURTH WEDNESDAY of each month, from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Inquiries 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 gfredsiria@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 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 gfredsiria@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)  

OFFICERS:  
Group Chair: Dennis Anderson  
   732-970-4327  
   dennisua@aol.com  
   and:  
   Secretary: John Luard  
   732-708-9221  
   John.Luard@gmail.com  

Con. Co-Chairs: Faith Teitelbaum  
   732-515-5441  
   and:  
   Bob Sandberg  
   732-241-7757  
   Sandberg09@gmail.com  

Social Media Chair: Yazmin Soursia  
   732-431-0082  
   yazming1915@gmail.com  

Treasurer: Jim Baye  
   jimbaye@optonline.net  
   and:  
   Robin & Harold Zullow  
   drzullow@optonline.net  

Outings Chair: John Luard  
   732-708-9221  
   John.Luard@gmail.com  

Outings Liaison: Open Position!  

Membership Chair: Wael Kaj  
   waelkaj@gmail.com  

Program Chair: George Moffatt  
   732-544-1726  
   gmoffatt@aol.com  

Climate Chair: Steve Miller  
   732-671-9917  
   Steve Miller@comcast.net  

Co-Chairs:  
   Mark Fukayama  
   908-002-1555  
   markfuxama@aol.com  

   and:  
   Communications  
   Faith Teitelbaum  
   732-515-5445  
   faithtei@aol.com  

Ms. Fukayama is recreating the Monmouth County Beekeeping Extension Program. She will discuss its origin and importance.  

May 25 -- From STEM to Root to Branch -- Dr. Marion McClary, a behavioral/physiological ecologist at Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU), will describe the college’s STEM program geared to encourage high school students to consider careers in the sciences. STEM is a special curriculum created to teach students science, technology, engineering, and mathematics as closely interconnected disciplines. Dr. McClary’s STEM program is specifically tailored for urban minority students, who are under-represented in the four technical fields.  

June 22 -- Yes, YOU Can -- Presentations by Sierra Group members and others will include important environmental programs that they are personally involved in. These include the continued development of the six-mile-long Whale Pond Park from Long Branch to Eatontown; programs to encourage local, state, and federal officials to initiate community-wide programs that combat global warming and to create new open spaces; and public relations efforts, such as letter writing and petitions, to let our environmental officials and elected officials know we want protections for our environment and not for corporate profits.  

SPEAKERS’ CONTACT:  
George Moffatt, Jersey Shore Program Chair, 732-544-1726 or gmoffatt@aol.com.  

Ocean County Group  

OFFICERS:  
Acting Chair & Conservation Chair: Margit Meissner-Jackson  
   sybilj1910@yahoo.com  
   Vice-Chair & Treasurer: Laura Stone  
   laurastone56@yahoo.com  
   Outings & Env Ed’n Chair: Margaret Wells  
   margaretwells242@comcast.net  
   Recording Secretary: Nancy Brown  
   nancynbrown242@comcast.net  
   Political Chair: Mary Jo Piccolo  
   gogreend31@yahoo.com  
   Ray & Cathy Kozierich  
   raykoziak@comcast.net  

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS  
Our general membership meetings take place at 6pm on the FOURTH MONDAY of the month at Brookdale Community College’s Lincroft Campus (BCC). We are delighted that the college has invited us to continue the joint meetings of Sierra members, BCC students and the public through 2020. Our meetings bill Brookdale 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 Gospton 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 Student Life Center (SLC), where the meeting usually is in the Twin Lights Rooms I and II. Use parking lot 6. 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 available at http://www.brookdale.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/Map_04_08.pdf.  

March 23 – Our Betrayed Wilderness – Tim Whitehouse, Executive Director of PEER (Public Environmental for Environmental Responsibility), an environmental voice for public officials, will discuss the threats and giveaways of public lands, even in our national parks, to the extractive industries and other commercial corporations. The preservation of open spaces, begun under President Theodore Roosevelt, has been dealt with as ‘America’s Best Ideas’ and is now corporatized. The corporations now quietly eye our preserved lands as ‘America’s Best Cash Cows.’  

April 27 – Yes, WE Can – Several Brookdale Community College scholars will explain their college’s environmental projects. Haley Preylich, who also is a NASA Scholar, will discuss ‘What Happens When Harmful Algal Blooms Vanish?’ Algae can harm marine life by depleting oxygen, and some algae are even toxic. Sebby Freeman will describe the details “Brookdale’s Campus Biodiversity Project.” And, closer to home, San Scaggs will describe “Making a School out of the Woods.” In addition, BCC will be re-creating in our own homes. Also, the BCC Biology Department and Biology Club will describe some of the college’s Earth Day projects. “50 Acts to Celebrate 50 Years of Earth Day” These projects include “Tempestes” knitting projects that track the Earth’s warming temperatures, creating a digital greenhouse library, conducting hydroponics studies, constructing pollinator (read “bug”) habitats, and creating sustainable fashions.  

April 27 and May 25 – Meetings – Sierra members are encouraged to participate in the college’s ‘Soles4Souls’ shoe drive by bringing old but wearable shoes to the April or May ‘Science Monday’ meetings. Your contributions will go to the needy.
West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:
- **Group Chair:** Gina Carola 856-848-8851 gincarola@verizon.net
- **Vice Chair:** Frank Zinni ezfzini@aol.com
- **Secretary:** Ellen Zinni ezfzini@aol.com
- **Treasurer:** Tricia Sevigny para312@gmail.com
- **Publicity Chair:** Anne Caridi annecaridi@yahoo.com
- **Political Chair:** Linda Rubiano linda_maritza@yahoo.com
- **Plinian Rapes:** Lee Snyder plinian1@hotmail.com
- **Greenways Coordinator:** Frank and Ellen Zinni ezfzini@aol.com
- **Conservation Chair:** Stacey Aylay thunderswel@galaxy@yahoo.com
- **Delegation Chair:** Addy Aylay thunderswel@galaxy@yahoo.com
- **Membership Chair:** Mike Brown 856-547-9221 eyebrown@verizon.net
- **Fundraising Chair:** Open position! Call Gina to volunteer . . . 856-848-8851
- **Smart Growth Chair:** Open position! Call Gina to volunteer . . . 856-848-8851
- **Programs Chair:** Open position! Call Gina to volunteer . . . 856-848-8851
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- **Media & Communications:** Tony Hagen hagenjohon@verizon.net
- **Social Media Coordinator:** Open position! Call Gina to volunteer . . . 856-848-8851

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 856-848-8851 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 on Rte 41 South). Go over Rte 70 for 1/2 mile 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 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.

Mar 11: Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) - Travis Hammill, the Eastern Division Chair, will offer a short presentation on the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and recent/ongoing legislation (e.g., AB 1221). Everyone is welcome to join us.

Mar 12: Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) - Travis Hammill, the Eastern Division Chair, will offer a short presentation on the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and recent/ongoing legislation (e.g., AB 1221). Everyone is welcome to join us.

Mar 13: Horeseshoe Crabs, Oyster Reefs and the Wetlands. Zach Nickerson, the leader, will announce the variety of restaurants in different locations. Jimi Oleksiak, the leader, will announce the variety of restaurants in different locations.

Mar 17: Dinner and Program. Join us for dinner the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, at a variety of restaurants in different locations. Jimi Oleksiak, the leader, will announce the variety of restaurants in different locations.

Mar 24 and May 26: (alternating fourth Tuesdays), 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Wasshed Assn. Activities centered on protecting the Wild & Scenic Recreational River. We welcome. (Note: the May 26 meeting will be a Frog Walk, place and time TBA.) Warren Fox Nature Center (WFNC*), Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor, Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 3/4 miles south of Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers, 609-453-5280. Website: https://www.facebook.com/AtlanticCounty-Friends-of-the-Parks.

Apr 8 and Jun 10: (alternate second Wednesdays), 7pm: Bi-monthly meeting of the Board of Directors to elect officials and to discuss and implement river management strategies. Open to the public. WFNC*. Contact Julie Akers, 609-453-5280.


Apr 26 is Earth Day – at the Atlantic County Utilities Authority, Egg Harbor Twp. The Group offers a “presence” in the big tent; at the booth of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Assn. Please visit.

Singles Section

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

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

Some Possibly Relevant Activities of Allied Organizations:

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(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

WEBSITE:
- http://sierrachel.org/new-jersey/WestJersey/
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseyGroupNJSCC

Log on and like us, and follow us on Twitter @WJSierrachel and Instagram @wjsierrachel

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GENERAL 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.

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In fresh waters, possibly willing to lead trips. Julie Akers is also active with Atlantic County Friends of the Parks, and 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 other groups (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. (If you know an Atlantic County Freeholder, please consider lobbying him/her to take this historic county project. (3) With the passage of a plastic-bag-restricting ordinance in Longport, there’s lobbying work to be done in each of our other municipalities (4 etc.) Many other South Jersey issues are described in previous issues of this Newsletter; available on the Chapter website.

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

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**GROUP NEWS**

(Continued from page 9)

Library (Essex Co.). 6pm. Come enjoy film and lively discussion on topical environmental issues. 90 S Fullerton St. Montclair. Leader: Ron Pate: <ronnajamespate@gmail.com>

HIKES AND OTHER OUTINGS:

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

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Section

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

WEB SITE: http://www.sierrabc.org/new-jersey/LGBT/
MEETUP: http://www.meetup.com/njsierraclub/
FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/njsierrablack

**OFFICERS:**

Chair: William Parish * jkashwick@gmail.com to be included in the list.

Vice-Chair: Andrew Bevacqua * awbevacqua@gmail.com

Secretary: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Outings Chair: Robert Zitzman * robertmz@yahoo.com

Fundraising: Matthew Lang * matthewflang58@gmail.com

Webmaster/Listmaster: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com

(* Section Executive Committee Member)

**MEETINGS AND EVENTS:**

Apr 7 (Tue): Executive Committee Conference Call. 8pm. This is our quarterly meeting to discuss issues and plan events for next quarter. Check our web site for details and dial in information.

Apr 18 (Sat): Stonewall National Monument Tour. 10:30 am. Celebrate National Park Service History. Check web site for details and to register.

Apr 20 (Sat): Join us for a ranger-led tour of the first national monument dedicated to LGBTQ history. Check web site for details and to register.

Other outings: see www.sierrabc.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.

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

**Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section**

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

More New Jersey events are posted on a web site: http://www.fantravels.com. In addition, monthly Buy & Sell newsletter is sent out to members free of charge, in which they can list items they are seeking 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 the web site http://www.sierrabc.org/new-jersey/senior-section.

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

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

**Sierra Student Coalition**

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

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

**Inspiring Connections Outdoors**

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

Reminder: You can save trees by opting to receive this newsletter electronically. Just e-mail Dick.Coby@Stockton.edu with “Electronic JS” in the subject line and your 8-digit membership number in the text.

**GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS**

(Meghly north to south)

Loantaka: Kevin O’Hearn, loh0730@aol.com
Central Jersey: Leona & George Fluck, loona@ympgaddies.com
Raritan Valley: Vacant
Jersey Shore: John Luard: John.Luard@gmail.com
Ocean County: Teresa Brown: 943-332-7301
terrybrown@comcast.net
West Jersey: Vacant
South Jersey: Tom Boghosian, boghosian1@verizon.net

**On the Trail In Glacier National Park – A Name in Jeopardy**

By Ken Lefkowitz, a member who lives in Medford (Klelfkowiz@aol.com), and took the photo

Over the past three years, my wife and I have been on a schedule to visit the magnificent western National Parks. Each was spectacular and awe inspiring. However, hiking in northwestern Montana's Glacier National Park this past September was the experience we will never forget.

We began our adventure on the Park's eastern side at the Two Medicine area. A boat ride across Two Medicine Lake led to a hike through the vast pine forests with an understory of buckbrush bushes that provided quite a satisfying treat when picked along the trail. Buckbrush berries are one of the staples for grizzly bears as they store fat in preparation for their hibernation duration.

The locals also delight in the buckbrush berry harvest, serving treats such as buckbrush pie, syrup, pancakes, and ice cream. Along the trail we spotted a male moose resting in the brush, its padded dyes as wide as a truck. The hike ended at Twin Falls that proved true to its name. Another hike led to Red Eagle Falls with water rushing from the middle of a cliff. Fog and clouds obstructed the view of huge peaks, presenting a haunting beauty of their own.

Next, we traveled to the Many Glacier area where a boat ride across Swift Current Lake culminated in a steep hike over a another boat ride across Lake Josephine. We were treated to a view of Salamander Glacier and Falls, a spiritual experience made even more poignant because the glaciologists predict that all of the Park's glaciers will be gone by 2030, a mere decade away.

Our next stop was St. Mary's area, named after its lake. At our lodge we were treated to the sight of black tailed magpies with long blue iridescent tails. Most other birds were already gone, migrating to warmer places for the winter. We hiked on a high ridge along sparkling clear St. Mary's Lake, ending at Barring Falls. The next day we hiked a somewhat steeper trail to downclimb St. Mary's Falls. As with our other hikes, the steep cliffs rise directly from the lakeshore, presenting a spectacular view of rock, water and sky. Many of the cliffs were snowcaped, in spite of global warming, although a Mule male moose, wandering in the shallows of the lake, provided an enchanting wildlife scene on our hike.

After St. Marys, we drove the famous Going to the Sun Road, traveling east to west across the Park. Stopping to see Jackson Glacier, a fraction of its former size, was a wondrous experience that brought tears to my eyes, knowing that it, like all the glaciers in the Park, is receding at a rapid rate and will soon be gone.

We drove the switchbacks over the Continental Divide, our eyes were treated to views of mountain peaks and valleys of indescribable beauty. At Lake McDonald we hiked its falls and on the Trail of the Cedars, which proved as breathtaking as the others we had taken. Through much research, I was even able to find the site of the CCC Camp where my father served in the 1930s.

Our trip to Glacier was an experience of a lifetime. The landscape is unrivaled. Fantastic crystal clear lakes, rivers, and waterfalls with jagged cliffs rising around them, many rimmed with snowfields, and some with glaciers, abound. The dense forests, populated with towering lodge pole and tamarack pines, and black tailed squirrels, were a distant reminder of the NJ Pinelands back home, although quite different.

And yet the experience was bitter sweet, with the knowledge that climate change will alter the landscape in many ways over the next decade, the most devastating being the disappearance of all the glaciers, the Park’s namesake. Even residing nearly a continent away in coastal NJ, one can shudder at the prospect.

**Outings**

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

**Apr 1 (Wed): A Lighthearted Day, No Pranks: Hike in Mercer County Park (Mercer Co).**

10am. 4–5 miles, easy pace. We will hike in Mercer County Park and enjoy the sights of spring. Bring water, snacks and maybe a_sandwich_.

**Apr 1 (Wed):** Turtleback Rock, South Mountain Reservation (Essex Co).

George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Foundation was a momentous occasion in conservation. This 9400-acre preserve is a keystone piece of pine forest. Easy pace, some ups and downs, bring plenty of water, beginners welcome, supportive foot Gear.

Contact leaders to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com. (JS)

**Apr 2 (Thu): Cherry Blossom Festival Hike, Bellville/Newark (Essex Co). 10am.**

This is a hike on "The Jewel of the Pinelands" and maybe we'll see Pitcher Plants in bloom. Meet at Lake Oswego, 180 N. Belleville Blvd., Bellville, N.J. 07003. Rental kayaks are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and river section we will be paddling. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**Apr 3 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co).** 10am.

This hike will cover 6 miles in a hour fully in tennis great views of Paterson. After hiking Garret Mountain we will meet at the Great Falls in Paterson for lunch and visit the Great Falls. For more information contact leaders or visit www.mickscanoerental.com Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**Apr 4 (Sat): Cherry Blossom Festival Hike, Bellville/Newark (Essex Co).** 10am.

The hike will cover 6 miles in a hour fully in tennis great views of Paterson. After hiking Garret Mountain we will meet at the Great Falls in Paterson for lunch and visit the Great Falls. For more information contact leaders or visit www.mickscanoerental.com Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**Apr 15 (Wed): Hike the Pole Farm (Mercer Co).**

10am. 4–5 miles, easy pace. The trails are challenging in places, but rewarding in views. Bring plenty of water, and bring a sweater. We will hike near the Pole Farm, a 300-acre nature preserve.

Contact leaders to confirm trip and details. Option for early breakfast at the Vincentinn Diner. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**May 27 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co).**

10am. This is a 609-726-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com Contact leaders to confirm trip and river section we will be paddling. George F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**May 15 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co).** 9:30am.

The river section we'll be paddling is from Lions Club to the end of the Pinelands. Rental kayaks are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**May 10 (Sat): Hike Garrett Mountain to the Great Falls. Woodland Park/Paterson, (Passaic Co).**

This hike will cover 6 miles in a hour fully in tennis great views of Paterson. After hiking Garret Mountain we will meet at the Great Falls in Paterson for lunch and visit the Great Falls. For more information contact leaders or visit www.mickscanoerental.com Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**May 13 (Tue): Hike in Luminous to Sesame: A Walk in a Deciduous Forest (Monmouth Co).**

10am. 4 miles, easy pace. A walk in a deciduous forest in the spring. Bring plenty of water and a snack.

Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**May 15 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co).** 9:30am.

The river section we'll be paddling is from Lions Club to the end of the Pinelands. Rental kayaks are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**May 23 (Sat): Hike in Luminous to Sesame: A Walk in a Deciduous Forest (Monmouth Co).**

10am. 4 miles, easy pace. A walk in a deciduous forest in the spring. Bring plenty of water and a snack.

Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**June 1 (Mon): Canoe/Kayak the Tidewater Delaware (Burlington/ Bucks Co).**

10am. This is a scenic trip on one historic city to another. Bristol is the oldest town in Bucks County and the bridge towers in PA. We can expect power line traffic and train wakes. Kayaks must be 11 in. or every spray skirts recommended. Bring lunch and water. Current Siemens Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. John Luard@johnluard.com. (JS)

**June 1 (Mon): Cutlass Creek, Black Rock State Park (Burlington Co).**

10am. Easy hiking along the edge of Cutlass Creek. Bring water and snacks.

Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**June 2 (Sat): Pyramid Mountain (Morris Co).**

10am, 5 miles, easy pace. The trails are challenging in places, but rewarding in views. Bring plenty of water and a snack. Hiking boots recommended. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**June 4 (Mon): Hike to the Bearsden, Great Falls of the Passaic River.**

10am. Easy hiking along the edge of Cutlass Creek. Bring water and snacks.

Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**June 6 (Sat):** Fox Hollow Woods, Middlebush (Somerset Co.).

2pm. We will walk the brick laid and oak forest with occasional distant views of the Navesink River - boxes and pit for placed wood. About 4 miles at an easy pace, some road crossing. Beginners welcome, support footgear recommended. Bring plenty of water. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@johnluard.com. (JS)

**June 7 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Bucks Co).**

9am. We're paddling 10 miles from Beirgefield to Kingwood Access. The proposed route of the East Penn Pathway with "fishing" will go on a few roads with heavy traffic. Bring a hat, sunscreen, and plenty of water!

Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**June 12 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co.).**

9am. Double Trouble State Park was established in 1964 to protect the Cedar Creek watershed and now features over 8,000 acres of Pines.
Habitats. We paddle 7 miles from Cape Pond to Dudley Park. Rental boats are available from Cedar Creek Canoes: http://www.cedarcreeknj.com/kayak-canoes. Contact Leaders to confirm trip and participa-
tion and George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Outings

Joan & George Denzer, Paul Sanderson, Ken Johanson, Joel Denzer

Conservation and/or Political Committee meetings usually start at 10am; Environmental Justice

Advertised products and services carry no Club endorsement.

Opinions, unless otherwise attributed, are of the writer only.

June 14: Canal/Kayak the Delaware River on Flag Day (Hudson Co). 10am. We’ll paddle 8

members to attend these monthly statewide deliberative panels, held on Saturday/SUNDAYS. Details, including agendas and travel instructions, are available from Rich Isaac, the Chapter Chair. (Best confirm!)

For information on Special Topics, please contact Bonnie Tillery, Jeff Tittel and John Kashwick.

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

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The Chapter website, http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey, has been upgraded to provide much useful information.

April 11: Hamilton Township (Mercer Co.) Public Library, 1 Justice Samuel Alito Jr. Way

May 9: Chatham Library, 124 Main St.

June 13: Reformed Church of Highland Park, 19-21 S. 2nd Ave.

Members please send address changes to: chsou西方 (@sierraclub.org) or 166 East 14th St., New York, NY 10003. 

New Jersey Chapter Leadership


Outings (Continued from page 12)

June 15 (Sat). Lewis Morris Park Hike, Mendham (Morris Co). 10am. Meet at the Summit lake upper parking lot at 9:45. We’ll explore most of the yellow trail marked “Mendham Mountain Trail” and “Mendham Brook Trail.” RT (2.6 miles from Kingwood to Bulls Island. Paddling helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended. Inclement weather cancels. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sozzi, HickoryWoodside.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

June 17 (Wed). Canal/Kayak the Crosswicks Creek (Burlington/Mercer Co). 11am. We’ll enjoy a 3-mile paddle – one of the finest in the region. Lunch, snacks and beverages. Contact Leaders to confirm the trip and meeting location.

June 19 (Fri). Canal/Kayak the Batsto River (Burlington Co). 9:30am. Tomorrow is the First Day of Summer! Enjoy a Tranquil Paddle. Paddles will be provided, but bring your own kayak if you prefer. Meet at Batsto Lake. Paddles Preservation Alliance has launched Pinelands Adventure and we’ll use Paddles Adventures for our shuttle: http://pinelandsadventures.org. Rental boats are available. Contact Leaders to confirm the trip and your participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

June 21 (Sun). Canal/Kayak Lake Owego (Burlington Co). 10am. Join us as we enjoy a leisurely on Lake Owego and explore the upper reaches and we bring boaters and Fragrant Water Lilies This is a great paddle for anyone interested in kayaking or canoeing as well as experienced paddlers too. Boats can be rented from Sticker’s Dunmore Canoes, or www.stickers boon-cal.com. Contact Leaders to confirm trip and participation. Bring lunch and beverages and snacks. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

June 24 (Wed). Canal/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 10am. This is a 9-mile trip on the “Egg’s Pot to Weymouth Furnace. Palace Restaurant & Outfitters will provide our shuttle service. Reservations are available: 609-626-9452, or www.thepalaceoutfitters.com. Contact Leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

June 25-28: Overnight trip to Scenic Stratton Mountain, Vermont. We will bike, hike, kayak and yoga. Swimming pool, hot tub and sauna on premises. All-inclusive food and accommodations. Spa services also available at additional cost. Please contact leader if interested by May 15. Leader: Ron Pac-ordland1@hotmail.com.

June 28 (Sun). Canal/Kayak with your Paddos on the Wading River (Burlington Co). Join us

for a Sunday trip on the Wading River. Boats can be rented from Mick’s Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental 609-26-1380, or www.mickscanoeren-tal.com. Contact Leaders to confirm trip and river section we are paddling George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Outings

Ellen Blumenkrantz. (see left column)

June 12: Reformed Church of Kingstown, 295 Washington St. (Monmouth Co).

June 16: Senior Chapter Director: Jeff Tittel

Chapter Office 609-656-7612

Fourth Saturday

Chapter Office 609-656-7612

145 West Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618

Usually followed by a meeting of the Conservation Committee.

May 9: Fossil Butte Hike, Somerville (Hunterdon Co).

Chapter Office 609-656-7612

Fourth Saturday

Chapter Office 609-656-7612

145 West Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618

 usually followed by a meeting of the Conservation Committee.

Chapter Office 609-656-7612

Fourth Saturday

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145 West Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618

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North Jersey Group News Addendum

The North Jersey Group seeks members for six volunteer committees. Please contact the Chair of the Committee below if you are interested in joining dedicated people taking meaningful action in Bergen and Passaic Counties, throughout the state.

COMMITTEE OPENINGS Outings Committee: Organize and lead hikes, snowshoeing, kayaking and other outdoor activities on trails and locations of your choice. Trips can vary in length, level of difficulty and location. Immediate contact: Mary at biehlwalsh@hotmail.com (Chair) or Buddy (Group Co-Chair).

PUBLICATIONS/Marketing Committee: Act now! Do you love graphic design, writing press releases and short stories; contacting newspapers and radio; using Instagram, facebook, twitter, Snapchat? We need you! If interested, contact Jan (Committee Chair) at janary61@hotmail.com.

Conservation Committee: We assist people in the community with grassroots efforts to prevent destruction of natural habitat in Bergen and Passaic Counties and surrounding areas. Help us by finding and reviewing public record locations, circulating petitions, going door-to-door, attending and organizing press conferences. The choice of activity is left to you. Conservation group is too small. Make your voice heard! If interested contact Mary at biehlwalsh@hotmail.com (Chair) or Buddy (Group Co-Chair) at biehlwalsh@hotmail.com (Group Co-Chair).

Climate Change Committee: The objectives of the Climate Change Committee are to educate the public on greenhouse gases, discourage new fossil fuel facilities (like the Meadowlands and NJ Transit gas-powered plants) and encourage the use of renewable energy. Slowing down climate change may give scientists time to find solutions to this crisis. Our committee works in conjunction with other environmental groups to support a transition to renewable energy. Your help in spreading it is closer to the climate, safer, and healthier world for our children and grandchildren - be a part of this effort! For information or to sign up, contact Jeff (Committee Chair) at jeffrispolonline.net.

Legislative Action Committee: We recommend candidates for political office in Bergen, Passaic and Hudson Counties (where there is overrepresentation). Learn where our elected officials and candidates for office stand on environmental issues by examining their voting records and interviewing them. You can phone bank, or otherwise, work from your home, or visit candidates and their representatives in their offices. Canvass door-to-door for endorsed candid- ates. The way you contribute is up to you. But know there is work to do. If interested, contact Diane (Acting Chair & Committee Co-Chair) at libertiansd@gmail.com.

Event Planning and Membership Committee: We need a new Committee Chair and additional members! Do you have an interest in organizing an event on a particular topic? Like speaking with other people about environmental issues and concerns? This committee is for you! We seek someone who is dedicated to the environment, believes in the Sierra Club, is enthused about the actions we take, and wants to help to move forward through program planning and the recruitment of new members. If interested, contact (Committee Chair and additional member) Betty South at biehlwalsh@hotmail.com (Group Co-Chair) at biehlwalsh@hotmail.com or Diane at lascat@hotmai- l.com (Group Co-Chair).

Climate Change Committee: The objectives of the Climate Change Committee are to educate the public on greenhouse gases, discourage new fossil fuel facilities (like the Meadowlands and NJ Transit gas-powered plants) and encourage the use of renewable energy. Slowing down climate change may give scientists time to find solutions to this crisis. Our committee works in conjunction with other environmental groups to support a transition to renewable energy. Your help in spreading it is closer to the climate, safer, and healthier world for our children and grandchildren - be a part of this effort! For information or to sign up, contact Jeff (Committee Chair) at jeffrispolonline.net.

Legislative Action Committee: We recommend candidates for political office in Bergen, Passaic and Hudson Counties (where there is overrepresentation). Learn where our elected officials and candidates for office stand on environmental issues by examining their voting records and interviewing them. You can phone bank, or otherwise, work from your home, or visit candidates and their representatives in their offices. Canvass door-to-door for endorsed candid- ates. The way you contribute is up to you. But know there is work to do. If interested, contact Diane (Acting Chair & Committee Co-Chair) at libertiansd@gmail.com.

Event Planning and Membership Committee: We need a new Committee Chair and additional members! Do you have an interest in organizing an event on a particular topic? Like speaking with other people about environmental issues and concerns? This committee is for you! We seek someone who is dedicated to the environment, believes in the Sierra Club, is enthused about the actions we take, and wants to help to move forward through program planning and the recruitment of new members. If interested, contact (Committee Chair and additional member) Betty South at biehlwalsh@hotmail.com (Group Co-Chair) at biehlwalsh@hotmail.com or Diane at lascat@hotmai- l.com (Group Co-Chair).

The old state Legislative session ended on Jan. 13, without a vote by the Assembly on the comprehensive Senate bill (S2276, Smith/Greenstein) that would have restricted the use and availability of single-use plastic bags in stores. So a new bill will have to be introduced in the new session.

The Senate bill would have applied to both plastic and paper single-use carryout bags both for retail and food service businesses, and would also have regulated polyurethane foam plastic and barred food service businesses from offering single-use plastic straws. All these plastics are made from natural gas. Until the Legislature acts, plastics will continue to pose a serious public health and environmental problems. They are not recyclable, and degrade very slowly. Plastic bags clog storm drains and accumulate in detention basins, and find their way onto beaches and into oceans, where they can strangle and suffocate birds, fish and whales. Their intermediate degradation acts, called microplastics, contaminate our water supply. Polyurethane breaks down into toxicogenic chemicals such as benzene and styrene, which have been found in breast milk.

We need a statewide ban. More than 80% of our trash is plastic. Thankfully, some municipalities have taken the initiative by banning these items. 58 NJ towns have insti- tuted plastic bans, another 18 have passed ordinances that are not yet in effect, and dozens more are in the process of doing so. Jersey City will be the largest city in the state to implement a ban on single-use, disposable plastic bags. Atlantic County has banned them from its parks. S2276 was stopped by special interests, including lobbyists for the paper, plastic bag, and the oil and gas industries. The Club will double its efforts to have the Legislature pass a statewide plastic ban in the new session.

Drinking Water Quality Institute: No Meetings

From a press release issued on Dec. 19th, and edited by Irene Gnarra

After failing to meet for five years during the Christie Administration, Gov. Murphy announced that the Drinking Water Quality Institute could now meet regu- larly. Alas, the most recent meeting was on Dec. 19, 2018.

Why is this important? A panel of academic scientists, government officials and water quality executives, the DWQI is charged with protecting our health. Its spe- cialists are charged with making health-based risk assessments to ensure that our drinking water is safe to drink. They determine acceptable limits of contaminants for toxins and other carcino- gens, and can advocate for modification of existing water quality standards. They con- sider chemical substances linked to birth defects, developmental problems, cancers, and other health complications.

In 2010, they determined that eleven chemicals needed new regulatory standards, including perchlorate, chromium, perfluorinated chemicals, and arsenic. Sadly, the DEP has not yet acted on those recommendations. Meanwhile, new contaminants have been found in New Jersey’s water supplies. Some counties have unique problems: e.g. vola- tile organic chemicals, cyanobacteria in reservoirs, and lead in Newark and Camden. Reports from the Drinking Water Quality Institute showed that five hundred water systems are in the state. In Bergen County, fourteen drinking water systems have lead levels of 5 ppb or higher on 20% of sampling rounds. This means the DEP has determined the liver and kidneys, was found in the Wasque Reservoir. The EPA estimates that NJ contains 3900 sites in which contaminated groundwater affects nearby drinking water wells. The compounds trichloroethylene and perchloroethylene, which cause birth defects and respiratory problems, have been found in wells. The New Jersey Private Well Act restricts lead levels for private well water to 5 ppb. Unfortunately, the Trump Administration trumped this standard by permitting the federal standard for lead in drinking water to be increased to 15 ppb.

Like Christie before him, Murphy appears to be siding with the chemical industry and others rather than listening to health professionals. This is a public health and environmental concern, which should start with the DWQI doing its job.
Reports from Trenton

Increased Goal for Offshore Wind: 7500MW by 2035
From a press release issued on Nov 19th, and edited by Irene Gnaida

Last November, Governor Phil Murphy and the First Lady welcomed Vice President Al Gore to the Liberty Science Center to witness the signing of an Executive Order increasing New Jersey’s offshore wind goal to 7,500 Megawatts by 2035. They agreed that offshore wind is one of the most reliable and cost-effective ways to reduce greenhouse gases and get renewable energy to scale, as well as providing green jobs.

This Executive Order is a win for the environment, a win for the battle against climate change, and a win for our economy. 7,500MW will power close to 3,2 million homes—almost half the homes in the state. And while this is one of the biggest offshore wind goals in the world, it is merely an opening for further progress on wind energy. It takes just 1,100MW of offshore wind to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide and oxides emissions by close 1,5 million metric tons.

But, given the climate crisis, we should aim for 12,500MW of wind, not 7,500, and 100% renewable energy by 2050.

Offshore wind will create thousands of jobs, including in construction and operation. Two companies have been approved to begin this work: Atlantic Shores and Ørsted, of Ocean Wind LLC. The power will be brought ashore and connected to the PJM grid at the former Oyster Creek nuclear station (Ocean Co). In June, Ørsted won approval from the BPU to build its 1,100MW, $1.6 billion offshore wind facility about 15 miles offshore from Atlantic City.

Meanwhile, there are proposals for two new fossil fuel power plants in the Meadowlands area. We hope that the Murphy Administration will cancel those plans, as well as plans for five pipeline projects in NJ, which would undermine offshore wind.

Murphy Must Do, Not Talk
From a press release issued on Jan 14, and edited by Tony Hagen

In his State of the Address, Gov. Phil Murphy described many initiatives to move us forward on environmental and mass transit issues, but these fall short of the goal posts. We need less talk and more action. The state government needs to address improper recycling and environmentally dangerous disposal of construction debris near waterways, residential developments and other inappropriate sites.

In his speech, the governor talked about corporisation of climate change education into the K-12 school curriculum. It is good to see educators and our youth embracing this critical issue.

Murphy mentioned that the state set an ambitious goal of 7,500 megawatts of wind powered energy generation by 2035—more than double the previous goal. However, to make this happen, funding and incentive programs must be robust. Further, an immediate moratorium is needed on new fossil fuel infrastructure and generation development, and the Murphy administration hasn’t acknowledged this.

The New Jersey Energy Master Plan must emphasize renewable energy development, and the definition of renewable must not be diluted by nuclear energy or energy produced from incineration. The current definition specifies that meeting targets for renewable energy mean only 26% of the electricity, while over 50% is still dependent on fossil fuels.

Murphy talked about reforming NJ Transit to get trains on time, reduce breakdowns, and improve capacity for commuter crowds. Still, NJ Transit funding has been reduced over the past decade, and the agency continues to invest in dirty fuel buses and trains. These will worsen conditions in environmental justice communities, as well as contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

New Law on “Dirty Dirt”
From a press release issued on Jan 21st, and edited by Tony Hagen

The state Department of Environmental Protection has not always had the muscle it needs to address improper recycling and environmentally dangerous disposal of contaminated soil and debris. To remedy this, Gov. Phil Murphy has signed into law a “dirty dirt” bill that gives the DEP power to oversee and regulate these activities more closely.

Multiple reports by the Special Commission of Investigation exposed a rampant illegal dumping trade. The report detailed illegal disposal of contaminated soil and construction debris near waterways, residential developments and other inappropriate venues across the state. The report noted organized crime intrusion and other unscrupulous activity in New Jersey’s solid waste and recycling industries. The new law will require extensive background checks across the solid waste and recycling industries and prohibit the involvement of people with unsuitable backgrounds or questionable character. The law also provides for the creation of an inter-state information sharing system that would facilitate enforcement of solid waste and recycling industries.

Examples of abuse abound. Last year, after months of court battles, Joseph Wallace was repeatedly found in connection with accusations for disposal of potentially lethal kinds at a Vermont site without regard for the types of contaminants involved. Samples showed the presence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls, and other compounds hazardous at low levels.

In Kearny, a landfill owned by the New Jersey Sports and Exhibition Authority was cited for illegally accepting liquid sewage sludge material from a local wastewater treatment plant. The town was overwhelmed with the odor of this material.

Big Win: Keegan Landfill Will Permanently Close
From a press release issued on Dec 20th, and edited by Joe Testa

Governor Murphy announced on December that the NJ Sports and Exposition Authority (NSSEA) and Kearny were working toward a settlement that will result in the permanent closing and capping of the Keegan Landfill (Hudson Co). According Kearny Mayor Michael Pavia, the site is 2.5 miles south of Route 30 and the east side within two years.

This is a big win for the environment and for the people who have been fighting this horrible nightmare in Kearny. People living nearby have had trouble breathing because of the hydrogen sulfide coming from the sewage sludge dumped illegally by the NSSEA. The NJSEA must be held accountable for cleaning up its mess.

The NSSEA has already been fined for the hydrogen sulfide emissions. (Rotting dry-well is also a major contributor to those emissions.) A Hudson County judge ruled that the landfill must close permanently, because it presents a clear and immediate danger, but the NSSEA then appealed to keep it open. Taxpayers should not have had to sue a government agency that was polluting their town.

In another landfill proceeding - in Roxbury (Morris Co) - after hundreds of complaints about noxious sulfur odors from homeowners whose properties surrounded the Fentmore landfill, the DEP declared a health emergency and seized control. The DEP should have done the same for the Keegan landfill. The two cases are similar, but the DEP did not treat them the same. The DEP shouldn’t make that mistake again.

GAO Report: Alarm Bell on Superfund Sites & Climate
From a press release issued on Nov 19th, and edited by Joe Testa

In November, the US Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported that at least 66 percent of Superfund sites in the US are vulnerable to climate change impacts. The report also cites 118 such sites in the state of New Jersey. This includes the Cornwall Superfund site in South Plainfield (Middlesex Co), Crown Vantage (Hunterdon Co), and Diamond Alkali in Newark (Essex Co). The independent, non-partisan GAO used mapping software to identify areas that may be impacted by flooding, storm surge, wildfires, and sea level rise within a 0.2-mile radius of each Superfund site.

The report is a wake-up call to action. New Jersey has more Superfund sites than any other state, and we are one of the states most impacted by climate change and sea-level rise. Many of our Superfund sites are near the coast or on streams, rivers, and bays. Most of them are being capped instead of being cleaned up properly. Capping in flood-prone areas is dangerous because flooding undermines the cap and leaches toxins into ground- and surface water. When these sites flood, caps will fail, and toxic chemicals will escape into groundwater, streams, rivers, and basements of homes and other buildings. Storm surges will produce disasters. We should ask the EPA for cleanups, not capping, even if it will cost more. We need to ask for the protection of human health as well as of the environment.

The report’s “paradigm shift” strategy is designed to get Superfund sites off the list without actually cleaning them up.

Sea-level rise is happening at an alarming rate in New Jersey. Hurricanes Sandy, Irene, and other major flood events have destroyed homes and other structures near floodplains. Storm surges will produce disasters. We should ask the EPA for cleanups, not capping, even if it will cost more. We need to ask for the protection of human health as well as of the environment.

NJSEA. The NJSEA must be held accountable for cleaning up its mess.

Solar Farm Preserved After 20 Year Battle
From a press release issued on Nov 25, and edited by Sylvia Kay

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is buying the Holly Farm site in South Jersey and will take over the 244-acre parcel from the Field Hockey Association, which received the property in a 1997 tax deal.

The property is near the southern edge of the Pinelands, in biodiverse habitat for threatened and endangered species including the Pine Barrens Treecreeper, Southern Gray Treefrog, Northern Pine Snake, Cooper’s Hawk, Barred Owl, Bald Eagle, Dotted Skipper and Red-Headed Woodpecker.

The 244-acre property is part of a 4,000-acre acquisition package. The NJDEP is also purchasing land in Millville, Cumberland Co., in the watershed of the Maurice Wild and Scenic River between Menantico and Manumuskin Creeks. This represents a major victory for the preservation of open space and the protection of varied habitats and species in New Jersey.

In 2010, the Christie Administration’s Board of Public Utilities narrowly authorized the property, the parcel became a de facto golf course, and the club would be closed. The state then purchased the property from the Field Hockey Association for $2.5 million. The property is being sold to the NJDEP for $1.6 million. The NJDEP is also purchasing land in Millville, Cumberland Co., in the watershed of the Maurice Wild and Scenic River between Menantico and Manumuskin Creeks. This represents a major victory for the preservation of open space and the protection of varied habitats and species in New Jersey.
The Sierra Club’s Failures and Successes in 2019, and its Priorities for 2020

By Chapter Director Jeff Tittel, as reported to the Chapter Executive Committee at its January 11th reorganization meeting.

2019 was a year of many accomplishments and disappointments at the state, local, and national levels. In New Jersey, the Murphy Administration has been frustratingly weak on climate change and sea-level rise. New Jersey continues to be dependent on gas-fired and oil-fired power projects, and has failed to repeal a single Christie-era rule.

The Sierra Club’s Failures and Successes in 2019, and its Priorities for 2020

Here are what I think should be our 2020 Legislative Priorities to the nation for the reduction of environmental staff.

• The Board of Public Utilities final Energy Master Plan fails to address our climate emergency.
• The Sierra Club is suing the BPU and the Pinelands Commission for approving the Southern Reliability Link pipeline, and the Murphy Administration has refused to issue a stay. This means the pipeline could be built before we have a chance to stop it.
• Murphy has made three nominations to the Highlands Council and five nominations to the Pinelands Commission, but the Senate has yet to approve them.
• The DEP has denied permits for Williams Transco’s Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE) three times without prejudice, which means that Transco can (and does) keep reapplying.

2019 Environmental Wins

• New Jersey’s new smoking ban, which prohibits smoking on public beaches and state parks, went into effect on July 1, 2019. It bans smoking from beaches and state parks.
• B.L. England, the last major coal-powered plant in New Jersey, closed after more than 50 years of burning fossil fuels.
• The DEP purchased Holly Farm, near Vineland (Cumberland Co), an ecologically important area in the Pine Barrens and Delaware Bayshore forest region – a 207-acre farm.
• The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit ruled that the PennEast Pipeline cannot use state lands. This will delay the project for at least two years and could possibly stop it or cause it to be rerouted.
• The DEP granted permits for the Roseland Compressor Station even though the DEP has acknowledged that the site is unneeded and will create more pollution and flooding in the region.

2019 Environmental Losses

• The DEP purchased Holly Farm, near Vineland (Cumberland Co), an ecologically important area in the Pine Barrens and Delaware Bayshore forest region – a 207-acre farm.
• Murphy raised New Jersey’s offshore wind goal to 7,500 Megawatts by 2035.
• The BPU awarded the state’s first offshore wind project – for 1,100 Megawatts – to Ørsted, setting the record for the single largest award for offshore wind in the U.S.
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Getting Rid of the Solar Cost Cap: We are headlining a crisis for solar energy. We need to do something about the cost cap before the cap is exceeded on the solar program ends. We should be completely getting rid of the cap. We don’t have caps on corn or tar from coal, nuclear, oil, or gas. Having a cap on solar energy makes no sense.

Community Solar: Community solar is important for our environment and economy because it allows anyone to subscribe to an off-site solar installation. This allows people who are unable to install solar panels on their own property benefit from clean energy. The BPU has not made any progress toward making solar energy quality, as well helping whole areas go off the grid, saving money and reducing air pollution. For years, New Jersey has been blocking it from happening and now that it finally is, we need to do it right. We should be creating a robust solar program that will create thousands of jobs in the solar sector.

Green New Deal: Climate change impacts are worse and happening faster. New Jersey is seeing more flooding and more health impacts from climate change. Our state is also battling damaging fossil fuel projects like offshore drilling, natural gas pipelines, pipelines, and fracking enough to be enough to the point where the Green New Deal resolution is the first comprehensive step towards creating policies and programs in place to reduce our climate impact. We need to transition our economy to a greener and cleaner economy.

Bottle Bill: Every year we pick up 6 million pounds of cans and bottles and other floutables along our roadways. A Bottle Bill is a critical step that provides incentives for consumers to reduce or eliminate water waste and decreases state recycling costs. New Jersey recycles 50% of cans and bottles while Michigan, with a Bottle Bill, recycles 97%

Chlorpyrifos Ban: The state legislature and Governor Murphy should be moving to ban chlorpyrifos so that our health, especially our children’s health is protected so that the insects that destroy our crops can create more pollution and flooding in the region.

Prevent Backsliding to State Environmental Protections:

• 100% renewable electric energy by 2050; no nuclear, no petroleum, no natural gas, no biogas.
• Immediate moratorium on new fossil fuel electricity.
• Legislation incentivizing electric buses and tracks.
• Environmental Justice legislation, to include affordable housing.
• No limit on Community Solar.
• Getting rid of Solar Cost Cap.
• NJ Green New Deal.
• Returnable Bottle Bill deposits on glass and plastic bottles.

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Dangerous insecticides like chlorpyrifos are destroying our bee population and are harmful to children and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to its damaging effects.

Coalition Against Federal Ratepayer Protection and CAFA Rules: Climate impacts are getting worse but what is even more alarming is that the Murphy Administration has shown no sense of urgency to strengthen mitigation programs that will protect this state from climate change, or even the next storm. Instead of action, the state is still building in flood prone areas, they have failed to fix CAFA rules, and are proposing to build a sewer plant in Fortescue. We must start taking real actions to fight climate change now. We are still the only state in the region without a Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan. We need to move forward with a Coastal Commission, and DEP needs to say “no” to all new fossil fuel projects.

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Coastal Commission and Fixing CAFA Rules: Climate impacts are getting worse but what is even more alarming is that the Murphy Administration has shown no sense of urgency to strengthen mitigation programs that will protect this state from climate change, or even the next storm. Instead of action, the state is still building in flood prone areas, they have failed to fix CAFA rules, and are proposing to build a sewer plant in Fortescue. We must start taking real actions to fight climate change now. We are still the only state in the region without a Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan. We need to move forward with a Coastal Commission, and DEP needs to say “no” to all new fossil fuel projects.

Strengthening Public Beach Access Rule: People of New Jersey have a right to access and use our state’s beaches and waterfronts. But those rights are too often violated by towns in NJ. Towns are denying people from getting to their beaches by failing to provide things like bathrooms and parking lots. We are concerned the rules in the Public Beach Access Rule are too weak and do not address the needs of people who want to use our beaches. Towns that have been denying access or making it difficult for people to access beach es will continue to do so. Too many communities want our money, but they don’t want us on their beaches. We need to make sure that DEP requires towns to not only provide access to public beaches, but amenities like bathrooms and parking lots.

(Continued on page 16)
Protecting Our Drinking Water: There are too many problems in New Jersey from one county to the next. Whether it is PFOAs, volatile organic chemicals, cyanobacteria in our reservoirs, or lead. For too long, New Jersey has failed to adequately protect its drinking water and is putting the public at risk. Our Water Supply Master Plan is still outdated, and DEP has yet to adopt strict standards for hazardous chemicals in our drinking water. The Drinking Water Quality Institute, the agency that is responsible for setting standards and protecting public health, has not met in over a year. Water quality standards for dangerous chemicals like PFOAs, PFOs, lead, 1,2,3-TCP, need to be adopted. We also need to work on fixing our lead problem.

Urban Park Funding: For years, state parks and parks in urban areas have been significantly underfunded. It is critical that the Murphy Administration and the state legislature find a more equitable way to fund our parks and open spaces. Fast-growing places like Jersey City and New Brunswick need more funding for their parks. We need money to open new parks and plant trees and restore natural habitats in the parks we have. We need more money for capital improvements in all of our parks. That will require a more stable source of funding.

Bear Management: The 2019 NJ Black Bear hunt killed a total of 315 bears. The bear hunt was initially created to get rid of aggressive and nuisance bears, but bear sightings and nuisance numbers have dropped by 12.5%. New Jersey needs to transition to a real management plan, one that includes strong education and uses warning signs in the region, education materials at trail heads, enforcing not feeding bears, and garbage management. There needs to be warning signs in bear country with post at all trailheads with Do’s and Don’ts in bear country. We also need to teach people how to bear-proof their property, including the importance of having no garbage at night and bear proof containers. These will do a lot more to manage the bear population than having an unnecessary hunt.

Here’s my Regulatory Agenda for 2020:

• Gov. Murphy needs to reverse Christie’s rollbacks, such as the Waiver Rule, Flood Hazard Rules, Stormwater Rules, Wetlands Rules, and CAFRA rules.
• The Administration needs to introduce rules to address climate impacts and climate change:
  - Update rule for adaptation and mitigation.
  - Introduce rules to implement renewable energy programs.
  - Start regulating CO₂, greenhouse gases, and black carbon.
  - DEP needs to move forward on designating C1 streams for drinking water and recreation.
  - DEP needs to set stricter standards for offshore air pollution and standards for lead in our drinking water instead of following federal rules.
• DEP needs to adopt the PFAS standards that they set last year.

Reverse Christie’s Rollbacks: So far, Murphy’s DEP has failed to reverse Christie’s rollbacks that weaken protections for clean air, clean water, and climate change. The Christie rollbacks weakened NJ’s Flood Hazard Rules, Waiver Rule, Stormwater Rules, Wetlands Rules, Stream Encroachment Rules, CAFRA Rules, and Coastal Zone Management Rules. Given our environmental problems, not being Christie is just not enough anymore.

Climate Change: New Jersey is already seeing the impacts of climate change – with chronic flooding, storm surges, and sea level rise. We are still the only state in the region without a Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan. Instead of promoting more fossil fuel projects, we need renewable energy such as solar and wind. The DEP has had the authority to set standards for CO₂ and greenhouse gases since 2005. It needs to move immediately to set these standards, including regulating the Air Pollution Control Act and Title V permits to stop new electric plants and reduce existing pollution.

The DEP Needs to Set Standards to Protect Our Environment: Last year, it designated 749 miles of waterways as C1 streams for ecological value and fishery resources. However, it failed to designate C1 streams for drinking water and recreational value. It has also defaulted to federal rules on offshore air pollution, and standards for lead in our drinking water at 15ppb. Our lead standards need to be lowered to at least 5ppb, or ideally 1ppb. The DEP has set strong standards for PFAS in our drinking water, but it has yet to adopt them.