The release of New Jersey’s Energy Master Plan (EMP) will be delayed until at least June 1, with adoption not expected until December. That announcement has just come from the Board of Public Utilities (BPU); the delay allows New Jersey to move forward on projects that run counter to the state’s ascribed goal of 100% clean energy by 2050.

Greenhouse gas emissions continue while we wait. The BPU approved rate cases for nine plans last May that included shore wind, energy efficiency programs, and electric vehicles all hang suspended in the balance. The BPU announced the delay, it approved $300 million annually in ratepayer dollars for new, cleaner energy projects. That decision commits New Jersey to buy 40 percent of its energy from nuclear for the indefinite future. Those subsidies will block the state from reaching the clean energy goals that are supposed to be laid out in the EMP.

New Jersey’s solar energy sector is on the verge of collapse: Solar Renewable Energy Certificates are running out and we are approaching the cost cap. The decision for accepting bids for 1,100 MW in offshore wind is scheduled for June.

New Jersey is considering eight new pipelines and five new power plants, all for fossil fuels. If approved, the state’s greenhouse gases will increase by 32 percent. It isn’t hard to suspect that the delay in the EMP is exactly what the fossil fuel industry would desire. The Empower NJ coalition, which includes the Sierra Club, has called on Gov. Murphy to place a moratorium on all fossil-fuel infrastructure projects in the state. (See article at right)

Moratorium on Fossil-fuel Projects: An Urgent Need

By Jeff Tittel, Senior Chapter Director (Jeff.Tittel@Sierraclub.org)

The US Department of Energy (DOE) defines a ZER home as “a high-performance home so energy efficient all or most annual energy consumption can be offset with renewable energy.” DOE, based on inputs from home performance professionals, suggests seven design characteristics of a ZER home: moisture protection, a high-performance heating and cooling system, complete package of high-efficiency components include water heating, appliances, lighting, and fans that save energy, a comprehensive indoor air quality system, solar ready construction, and enhanced quality assurance provided by independent inspections, testing, and warranty programs to ensure that your home is performant.

The Zero Energy Project, a non-profit educational organization, provides non-technical instruction to prospective home buyers, builders, designers, real estate professionals and advocates about zero net energy homes. It emphasizes that ZER homes are just like any homes — except better in providing comfort, resiliency, durability and quality. Both ZER and ZER+ homes are constructed to maintain superior indoor air quality, an important feature in NJ with its air pollution problems.

We live amid a rapidly worsening climate crisis, about which only government has the authority, resources, and duty to take action. Last year was the fourth hottest on record, globally, and the other of the top five years have all been since 2014. Recent reports show oceans warming 40% faster than previously thought. Impacts will be catastrophic: sea level rise, frequency and intensity of weather events, devastation of marine life, and agricultural turmoil. Human health impacts are already evident in New Jersey, with rising rates of asthma and tick-borne diseases such as Lyme.

On Feb 20th the Empower NJ – No Fossil Fuel Campaign released a special report, Fighting Climate Change in New Jersey: the Urgent Case for a Moratorium on all Fossil Fuel Projects. It details the danger, from five proposed power plant projects, eight new pipelines, of increased greenhouse gases, and of thwarting Murphy’s goal of 100% renewable energy by 2050. The report urges the creation of rules limiting CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions before any of these 15 projects is permitted in New Jersey. The Sierra Club is a member of Empower NJ, a coalition of 58 environmental, community, faith-based and other progressive organizations.

The report considers each of the 15 fossil fuel projects. If built, they collectively would increase CO2 and GHG emissions by 12% in 2 years or 32%. The five power plants would increase CO2 emissions from renewable energy generation by 75%. To regulate CO2 and GHG emissions, Empower NJ recommends withdrawal of permits on renewable projects (mostly solar and wind), reversing Gov. Christie’s regulatory rollbacks making it easier to build pipelines, and a fracking ban both in New Jersey and the entire Delaware River Basin.

Gov. Murphy has pledged action on climate change, but he has made little progress toward the 100% renewable goal. He must turn words into action. A moratorium on the 15 fossil-fuel projects would allow New Jersey to implement rules reducing GHGs and CO2, before any of them proceeds.

New Jersey governors have a history of using moratoriums to tackle pressing environmental issues. Gov. Byrne stopped New Jersey development until the Pinelands Act was approved. Gov. Kean preserved freshwater wetlands while awaiting approval of wetlands protections. Gov. Florio blocked new incinerators.

A moratorium is needed because many projects are moving ahead despite strong public opposition. Construction has begun on the 28-mile Southern Reliability Link pipeline, which would destroy environmentally sensitive land in the Pinelands. The Club is seeking a stay halting that construction, while also legally challenging a South Jersey Gas pipeline to the now-closed B.L. England power plant in Cape May Co. PennEast has been granted eminent domain to gain access to properties for its 120-mile pipeline, DEP granted permits for a new compressor station in Roseland, threatening that construction.

The proposed Meadowlands power plant, that would serve only New York City, has promoted opposition from surrounding communities. The Club is seeking a stay on the project, saying only that he will “not call balls and strikes” on the proposals. That, he said, is the DEP’s job. But the DEP is powerless to stop those projects until regulations are established on CO2, which New Jersey declared an air pollutant in 2005. Murphy isn’t just the umpire; he’s the owner! A moratorium is the only way to halt these projects and enable the state to achieve its 100% renewable goal by 2050. Otherwise, pipelines and power plants that began under Christie will become Murphy’s legacy.

Officials across the nation are not just talking; they are acting responsibly to reduce greenhouse gases. The Seattle county council adopted a six-month moratorium on major fossil-fuel infrastructure. Los Angeles officials just announced plans to shut down three gas-fired plants. Even staunchly Republican Arizona regulators extended a moratorium on new coal-fired power plants.

When Gov. Christie pulled us out of the North American 10-State Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) in 2011, New Jersey produced 12% of the pollution among the ten member states.

(Continued on page 4)
I've been hard at work fighting environmental battles! Just across the state border from Trenton, NJ, a company called Elcon has an application into the PA-DEP to build a toxic waste facility along the Delaware River. The proposal is only five minutes from my home, and I have concerns about health, safety, and impacts to likely be extremely negative. I've been spending countless hours reviewing the documents, speaking out during public comment, and encouraging my peers to write letters to the DEP. I am ecstatic to inform you that my community's hard work has paid off! The Falls Township (PA) Board of Supervisors has rejected Elcon's proposal and the PA-DEP has issued a draft decision to deny the permit! That is another environmental victory. I will be led a demonstration of a BlueBird electric school bus at my school, and I lobbi ed the school board to invest in this new school buses. In April I organized two community clean ups of local creeks. I've been mak ing short videos for my school's daily announcements regarding environmental issues in their communities. I include tips about sustainable habits. I'm currently writing a research paper about climate change. I would welcome the opportunity to consult with other high school environmentalists in New Jersey.

Our Committee was concerned that light rail would be difficult to get community support for the recreational path presented that the 15’ strip set aside for rail be land-sapped and land-banked for a future extension of the HBLR.

Our Transportation Committees strongly supports the concept of a recreational path along the ROW, but also urges that the planning path should allow for a future extension of the HBLR alongside. While preservation of the rail corridor for multi-use path would be supported under current federal rail-banking regula tions, our Committee was concerned that once NJ passes, and if a 15’ strip set alongside the existing bike trails there.

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Here’s the essential text of a proposed amendment to the New Jersey Constitution, authored by K. van Rossum (the Delaware Riverkeeper) and incorporated in proposed legislation (A3849/S2124). It is co-sponsored by Reps. Linda Greenstein, Kip Bateman, Nancy Pinkin, John McKeon and Daniel Benson.

“(a) Every person has a right to a clean and healthy environment, including pure water, clean air, and ecologically healthy habitats, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic qualities of the environment. The State shall not infringe upon these rights, by action or inaction.

(b) The State’s public natural resources, among them its waters, air, flora, fauna, climate, and public lands, are the common property of all the people and are inherited by future generations. The State shall serve as trustee of these resources, and shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all people.”

As explained in a statement titled “For the Generations,” authored by van Rossum and Greenstein, “While state constitutions across our nation guarantee the rights of free speech, freedom of religion, trial by jury, and many other fundamental freedoms, they do not recognize and protect our right to clean water, clean air and healthy environments. This same is true with our federal constitution.” They note that Pennsylvania and Montana do have such constitutional amendments, approved in the 1970s.

One argument for the constitutional route is to shift the focus of enforcement to the courts. The counter-argument might be the tendency for courts to become entangled in difficult with which the courts would have to decide whether 10 parts per billion of a chemical in drinking water is actionable, and how, and who should pay. We want a constitutional amendment.

I googled “Pennsylvania Green Amendment” - to learn what use has been made of the Amendment. Two court decisions seem most prominent: one in which the Amendment successfully forced all fracking fees to be used for environmental purposes. The other allows municipalities to forbid fracking on their territories. Nothing on plastic bags, Styrofoam, coal-fired power plants, solar energy, lead in drinking water, public transit, EJ, etc.

The Green New Deal is federal and something completely different: a 14-page resolution proposed by Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Ed Markey. It expresses a sense that it is the “duty of the Federal Government” to engage in a “green new deal” to address climate change. This legislation would preserve 8.7 million acres of majestic lands in southeast Utah: important cultural sites, soul-intrinsic value alone, is vital!

A consequence of the constitutional route of this protection is its alleged immu-

Editorial
NJ’s Green Amendment and the Green New Deal
By Dick Cobly (dick.cobly@stockton.edu)

Constitutional protections can be tricky: they have produced a nation beset with problems ranging from the effects of campaign contributions. Even the right to free speech (for which cause I was once arrested) under the First Amendment (Freer Speech Movement) has suffered restrictions on campuses which argue for the higher right for students to be protected from “unpleasant” speech, and on my own right to Free Speech--the liberal politicians appearing during election campaigns.

Update: Protecting Utah’s Red Rock Wilderness
By Deb Young (debyoung31@comcast.net)

In April, a coalition of wilderness supporters held meetings with our Representatives in Washington DC, asking for support and co-sponsorship for America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act. I’m delighted to report that our NJ representatives’ doors were open; as always, they listen, question and engage. It made me proud to be a New Jersey resident.

This legislation would preserve 8.7 million acres of majestic lands in southeast Utah: important cultural sites, soul-changing solitude, and majestic wilderness. We must bestow wilderness status on these lands and protect them from the plagues of irreplaceable cultural artifacts, and otherwise developed.

Many of our Congresspersons are champions: original co-sponsors of America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act this Congress. We urge Reps. Watson Coleman (D-12) and Van Drew (D-2) for their early support. We are hopeful for full representation on this Act. We have had the opportunity to spend time in these unique and majestic lands. I had thought I would grow accustomed to seeing the Milky Way, it will at least help some species where we live.

When I was 19, I spent some time near the desert in Israel, and noticed at night something I had never seen before: a pale white band of light stretching in an arc across the heavens. Eventually I realized I was seeing the Milky Way, the galaxy we spend our lives in. It turns out I was not alone. According to an article in the April 2019 issue of National Geographic, by Nadia Drake, nearly 80% of those living in North America can’t see the Milky Way. When Los Angeles suffered a city-wide power outage in 1994 due to an earthquake, many residents called emergency response centers to report a “mysterious cloud” overhead.

While most of us are aware that light pollution wastes energy, interferes with astronomy, and is aesthetically displeasing, some may not know that excessive night lighting can hurt many animal species, including birds (warblers, sparrows, jackuns), bats, and sea turtle hatchlings.

As remedies, we could install timers, motion sensors, and dimmers to reduce outdoor lighting, switch to compact fluo-

Chair’s Message
Light Pollution: Another Issue to Look At
By Richard Isaac (rissaac@nol.com)

References:

https://www.darksky.org/five-years-of-satellite-image-show-global-light-pollution-increasing-at-a-rate-of-two-percent-per-year/

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Fluorinated Contaminants in Drinking Water – New Jersey Takes Action

By Mark Fukayama (markesams@aqc.com), our Toxicology Advisor

The state of New Jersey is leading the nation in limiting exposure to perfluoroctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), two ubiquitous man-made chemicals commonly used in nonstick cookware, paper coatings, and food packaging materials, and fire-fighting foams that are reported to be safer for the environment. Efforts to regulate PFAS in food containers.22 In its lawsuit, the State alleges that DuPont could be a tough sell for decades about the health and environmental risks, but that they continue to do so. The State also alleges that “DuPont’s efforts to suppress scientific research on the hazards” and “mounted a campaign to control the scientific dialogue” on their PFAS products.21, 22

The actions by the DEF and Attorney General deserve praise and recognition, and all those jurisdictions now have a reasonable: The Tri-State Transportation Campaign issued a report, Road Pricing in London, Stockholm, and Singapore, indicating that all of those jurisdictions now enjoy improved public transit. I conclude by considering the question of a pervasive burden on poor people. New York State passed congestion pricing legislation after a study found that the overwhelming majority of automo- bile users harm themselves and others as they rush to work. The weeks, and some of the last moves, the Brooklyn were from middle or upper income households, suggesting that low- income families are not a worthwhile lifestyle for New Jersey residents.

So, because drivers don’t pay their way, New Jersey is leading the nation in limiting exposure to perfluoroctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), two ubiquitous man-made chemicals commonly used in nonstick cookware, paper coatings, and food packaging materials, and fire-fighting foams that are reported to be safer for the environment. Efforts to regulate PFAS in food containers.22 In its lawsuit, the State alleges that DuPont could be a tough sell for decades about the health and environmental risks, but that they continue to do so. The State also alleges that “DuPont’s efforts to suppress scientific research on the hazards” and “mounted a campaign to control the scientific dialogue” on their PFAS products.21, 22

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By Amelia Weeder (aweeder@comcast.net)

in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Protecting Alaska’s Coastal Plain,
has contracted with SAExploration to finance for thousands of years. The Coastal Plain is biologically intact, pristine wilderness. It is the birthplace of migratory birds from all 50 states and 5 continents. It is a true and nurturing ground and nursery for hundreds of species. (In 1985 seismic exploration and drilling mangled an entire coastal area…. 24/7, for months, non-stop. Thumper’ trucks, each weighing 90,000 pounds are deployed on schedule. But this time as well as other societal factors for this trend.)

You have a seat on the Planning Team that determines how much oil is removed from the Arctic National Wildlife Coastal Plain in any one year. The BLM has endorsed drilling in the coastal plain, leasing/drilling in the ANWR coastal plain. However, the Republican-controlled Senate will not consider a companion bill, so the seismic exploration and oil lease sales scheduled for this year continue to move forward, on schedule.

Sierra members have been successful in contacting their representatives and securing their support as co-sponsors for bill H.R. 1140, the Restore Protection Act, including new NJ Congressman Tom Malinowski (D-NJ-7). When we met with him, Rep. Malinowski had a firm grasp of the issues and well-defined, thoughtful positions. He not only co-sponsored BLM protection legislation, he also helped further our efforts, referring us to a congressional peer, Bonnie Watson-Coleman (D-NJ-12), who was recently seated on the House Interior Appropriations Committee.

The House Appropriations Committee controls the purse-strings for government projects. If the leasing/drilling mandated in the 2017 budget/tax act cannot, yet, be overturned, there are legislative methods that may be able to slow or stop the impending exploration/lease sale from you! As a constituent your voice carries weight! Please write to your representative about why the Coastal Plain deserves the highest degree of protection.

...It is important that your representatives hear from you! As a constituent your voice carries weight! Please write to your representative about why the Coastal Plain deserves the highest degree of protection.

Senator Jack Reed (RI) in 2011 and Congressman John Sarbanes (MD) in 2015, efforts to accomplish this goal seem to have stalled despite widespread support from local, state and national organizations including the Sierra Club (Stone & Barlow, 2005). While no comparable legislation has been introduced in New Jersey, that possibility always remains. So the next time you feel frustrated by family, friends or colleagues who disregard or dismiss your environmental concerns and activism, encourage them to reconsider and reminisce about positive experiences they have had with the natural world; try to identify environmental knowledge of relevance to their worldview and lifestyle priorities; and most of all, invite them on a Sierra Club Outing to connect with the wonders of nature first-hand!

The Jersey Sierran: July–September 2019

Issue Advisor’s Column

Do you ever get a blank stare when discussing Sierra Club issues to friends and family? This lament, expressed by a member after reading my first Jersey Sierran column, startled me by its focus on the relationship between environmental knowledge, identity and pro-environmental behavior.

I identify myself as an environmentalist and assume that, as a fellow Sierra Club member, you probably do too. But do you also self-identify as Green? A Tree Hugger? Naturalist? Conservationist? Outdoor recreationist? Environmental scientist? Teaching undergraduate business majors at a local university, I was surprised to hear very different reactions to each of these terms, with environmental and tree hugging most anathema to their self-identities and often met with derision and even outright hostility. Over time I became increasingly sensitized to any assumptions, judgements or expectations that may have crept unintentionally into my lectures; I made a concerted effort to create a space for open, honest discussion of all environmental values, feelings, and identities, whether or not students shared my perspectives.

By semester’s end most students were able to recognize and appreciate the relevance of sustainability to their lives and found personal motivations for adopting at least one new pro-environmental behavior.

This classroom experience exposed the widespread and false assumption that more knowledge will generate increased pro-environmental behavior, a “rationalist model” disproved by social science research time and again since the 1970s. Numerous theoretical frameworks have been used to study the relationship between attitudes and behaviors, proven to be surprisingly weak, and to better understand the role of knowledge in changing environmental behavior (Kollmuss & Agyeman, 2010; Ritchie, 2017). In particular, it has been shown that knowledge has the biggest impact on adults already concerned about the environment and for children and youth still in the formative stages.

One well-researched framework uses the Environmental Identity Scale to measure the extent to which nature has influenced the individual’s self-definition (Chaters, 2003). Another related but distinct measure is the Connectedness to Nature Scale (Mayer & Frantz, 2006) used to determine personal feelings of emotional, cognitive and experiential connection to the natural world. These scales are both good predictors of pro-environmental or “eco-friendly” behaviors such as recycling and energy conservation. Moreover, research suggests that strong identification with, and connection to, nature may also predict a decreased tendency to ignore and/or contribute to environmental degradation.

In 2008, author Richard Louw wrote a national best-selling titled Last Child in the Woods, in which he synthesizes decades of social science research to support his thesis that children must be given more opportunities to spend quality, unstructured time out-of-doors. He coins the term “nature deficit disorder” to describe how children are losing touch with nature, and blames excessive screen time as well as other societal factors for this trend. Lou’s seminal book inspired the movement called No Child Left Inside, which seeks to formally incorporate environmental literacy into the K-12 curriculum. Although federal legislation with this objective was proposed by Senator Jack Reed (RI) in 2011 and Congressman John Sarbanes (MD) in 2015, efforts to accomplish this goal seem to have stalled despite widespread support from local, state and national organizations including the Sierra Club (Stone & Barlow, 2005). While no comparable legislation has been introduced in New Jersey, that possibility always remains. So the next time you feel frustrated by family, friends or colleagues who disregard or dismiss your environmental concerns and activism, encourage them to reconsider and reminisce about positive experiences they have had with the natural world; try to identify environmental knowledge of relevance to their worldview and lifestyle priorities; and most of all, invite them on a Sierra Club Outing to connect with the wonders of nature first-hand!

An Unexpected Boon: the Mothers’ Milk of Politics

By Keith Ryzewicz, Chapter Communications Editor

The Young Democrats Club of Mountain Lakes High School (Morris Co.) had an important goal in mind for the school year just finished. Its members wanted to help the environment. They decided the best way to do it was to raise money for the New Jersey Sierra Club, and they were fully delivered. In February their advisor, Amy Harrington, sent us a check for $750, plus an additional $160 check from Kenny Graceco, owner of KGG of Towaco.

Now in its second year, the Club raised the money through a “Coffee House” show at the high school in January – featuring about a dozen performances from singers and musicians. Members also contributed baked goods. Harrington said Club members came up with the idea on their own. “They are so passionate and brilliant and accomplished. I felt more like they inspired me than the other way around. They have the big ideas, the inspiration. We support Governor Murphy’s proposals to restore a fair share of taxes on wealthy individuals and corporations. Last year’s temporary tax hike of 10.75% on those earning more than one million dollars brought in revenue that helped fund anti-pollution programs that affect our land, air, and water. The cutting back of air, water and other pollution controls was the only way it could be done. You can perhaps understand the move to privatize and outsource the management of our State Parks.

We want DEP’s complete budget to be restored. We must also stop diversions from the Legislature. On March 21, the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee held a hearing to discuss the proposed budget for FY 2020. The current 2,500 full-time staff members are cut by 500 in 2008, and 400 in the mid-1990s. Fifteen years ago there 1,014 people operating the State Parks, now we are down to 400. You can perhaps understand the move to privatize and outsource DEP programs, and to charge user-fees. DEP already has abandoned its oversight of pollution remediation, accepting $20 million in self-insurance payments. Certified Site Remediation Professionals hired by the contractors.

This budget adversely targets our environment, especially parts of New Jersey that suffer from soil pollution and contaminated water sources. Money once used for urban renewal and for the revitalization of brownfield sites might be given instead to non-profits or to wealthy suburban areas for vanity projects, such as butterfly gardens in Harding Township (Morris Co.). The diversion of these funds constitutes a regressive tax that hurts working families and the urban poor.

Today’s children in the legislature might have a major impact on the budget. According to A4578 (Land) / S3110 (Smith), $50 million from the General Fund would be allocated to DEP. The bill specifies natural resource projects, and to publicize the benefits of such projects. A $20 million fund would be set up to help people and places that suffered injury from Exxon’s pollution: Newark, Bayonne, and Paulsboro – not to plant trees in the Pinelands.

Money for open space would increase slightly under the other bill, S2920 (Smith) / A4477 (McKeon, Pinkin, Zwicker, Jasey). It would allocate funding by constitutional dedication of Corporate Business Tax revenues for FY2020 and thereafter to the amount of $500 million. The bill also requires the laws for open space and farmland preservation. We welcome money for capital repairs and improvements to our parks and open spaces.

New public transportation: Governor Murphy has signed the NJ Transit Oversight Bill into law. A 1% budget increase will add $100 million in funding, most of which is the $40 million stolen from the Clean Energy Fund. NJ Transit is also seeking another $60 million out of its capital for operations. This funding approach might be unsustainable. We support improvements for the transit system from the inside out.

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Conservation Chair:

Outreach Chair:

Environmental Justice:

Political Co-Chairs:

Co-Publicity Chairs:

Webmaster:

An open position is available: Membership Chair. Please contact Greg.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Skylands Group supports Green New Deal, Sunrise Movement, Sierra Club’s Ready for the Sunrise Campaign. The groups are advocates for an increased diversity of economic opportunities and for the revitalization of the New Jersey economy.

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

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

The Skylands Group thanks the Young Democrats of Mountain Lakes High School, as well as Kenny Graceco and everyone else who contributed to the fundraising campaign. Their efforts underscore the importance of getting more young people involved in environmental advocacy. It is also critical that we not only bear the brunt of climate change impacts in the years to come, but inherit the responsibility to do something about them. These high school students understand that, and are already taking action. “These young people are our hope for the future,” said Harrington. “They want to make the world a better, more equitable and safer place for all. They are fighting for their futures and that includes fighting to save the planet.”
There are several Gateway Group positions open. Please also join the Gateway Group on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gateway-Group-NJ-Sierra-Club/128998365842782.

OFFICERS:
- Co-Chairs: Suzanne Trimmel (973) 509-9385 suzanne.trimel@gmail.com and David Yennior 973-844-1384 dyennior@gmail.com
- Vice-Chair, Conserve'Ch: Caroline Kane 646-943-9003 ckanem78@verizon.net
- Secretary & Treasurer: Anne Hirs 973-844-1121 aanehrs@mtn.com
- Program Co-Chairs: Suzanne Trimmel (973) 509-9385 suzanne.trimel@gmail.com and Steven Yafet 908-354-2537 sfayet@gmail.com
- Publicity Chair: Open Position!
- Political Chair: Open Position!
- Chair: Bill Beren beren1@verizon.net
- Chair, Co-Chairs: Steven Yafet 908-354-2537 sfayet@gmail.com
- Recyling: Open Position!
- Water, Newark Issues: Chair: Bill Chappel 973-625-6490 chappel bill@gmail.com
- Passaic River Issues: Open Position!
- Elizabeth Issues: Open Position!
- Outings Chair: Open Position!
- Membership Chair: Open Position!
- WebMaster: Open Position!
-ってきた: Open Position!

Please contact Suzanne Trimmel or David Yennior, Gateway’s Co-Chairs, if you have ideas or suggestions for a meeting topic or program, or conservation project. We are very grateful for the contributions of Anna Whitely, John Beadle, Barbara Conover, ZaShah Klademi, Bill Chappel, Steven Yafet, Anne Hirs, Paula Borenstein, and Brenda Torsy. We invite YOU to join in our activism and ask your support as we strive to address the many issues facing our urban as well as suburban communities. Note several vacant positions listed above.

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

Hudson County Group

WEBSITE: http://www.sierrabc.org/new-jersey/hudson-county

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

E-mail: hudsonsonerabc@gmail.com

Instagram: @sierrabc_hg

OFFICERS: (*ExCom)
- Chair: David ‘Ace’ Case’ acace88@gmail.com
- Vice-Chair: Pramad Raju* modisone@gmail.com
- Secretary: Patricia Hilliard hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com
- Treasurer: Patricia Hilliard hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com
- Conservation Chair: John Ottomano* ottigo.pittsburgh@gmail.com
- Political Chair: Pramad Raju* modisone@gmail.com
- Ready for 100: Allyson Samuels allyson.samuels@sierraclub.org
- Delegate to ExCom: Pramad Raju* modisone@gmail.com
- Membership: Andrea Rodriguez aarodriguez87@gmail.com
- Publicity: Pramad Raju* modisone@gmail.com
- Outings/Events: Steve Kinsky* stevekinsky@comcast.net
- At-Large: Nancy Booth
- Webmaster: Jose Tejada
- Instgram: Maturetan 908-737-7700
- MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

July 21 (Sun): Hudson County Sierra Club Group Annual Picnic: 12 noon to 5pm at Liberty State Park picnic area at south end of park near Park Admin Office at the Green Reserve Tables. Look for the banner! Bring your favorite beverage and a “foundfood” or a dish you prepared yourself to share with others. No Alcohol Allowed in Park.

Outings: We will be doing nature walks in our local parks. Check the online calendar or social media for updates. Current Campaigns: Contact us if you are interested in helping with these:
- ﾌoratiorumMonday.: Call Gov. Murphy to tell him you want a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects in the state of NJ. Even here in Hudson County, we've seen enough of fossil fuel projects, especially in Hackensack and pipelines. Stop the Laclede/Meadows Plant Power - no more Fossil Fuel Projects! www.empowernewjersey.com
- Climate Change: #ReadyFor100 is a movement of people working to inspire our lead- ers to embrace a vision of healthy communities powered by 100% clean energy. We are building consensus to demand commitment to solutions to achieve 100% clean, renewable energy in NJ by the year 2050, or sooner. Get involved and be part of the solution.

Hackensack River Greenway: Sierra Club is working connect existing parks with new parks and trails, creating the green infrastructure of the future. Building our local communities, we're working to inspire our leaders to embrace a vision of healthy communities powered by 100% clean energy.

Loantaka Group

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

(Continued on page 8)
GROUP NEWS

OFFICERS: Group Chair (Acting): Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com Treasurer: Paul Sanderson 908-234-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com Secretary: Open Position!

Conservation Chairs: Morris County: Len Fariello len@wildlifeofnortheast.org Union County: Open Position!

Political Chair: Clea Carchia 908-892-7229 info@carchia.com Programs: Ailshi.Betha@gmail.com Fundraising Chair: Eric Hauser 732-669-0719 erichaiomass@gmail.com Outings Chair: Open Position!

Publicity Chair: Wynne Johanson 908-464-0412 johansons@comcast.net Membership: Bruce Ostrow 973-625-0972 ostrowb@gmail.com Webmaster: Wynne Johanson 908-464-0412 johansons@comcast.net

River Coor: Kathy O’Leary 908-647-2870 kolearypcnj@gmail.com

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

To find out our activities, go to: http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: are held on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St, Chatham. All members are welcome at Executive Committee meetings. Right now, we have no open positions on it! If you would like to find out more, please contact Paul Sanderson.

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

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

MEETING SCHEDULE:

July 10 & Aug 14: Summer - No meeting is scheduled.

Sept 11: To be announced - please visit our website for updates.

ACTIVITIES: The Loantaka Group is working with concerned citizens and local environmental organizations to protect open space and wildlife habitat in Morris and Union Counties, and to safeguard the water resources on which we all depend. In addition, the Group is actively involved in State-wide initiatives involving air quality, transportation and the environment. Volunteers are always welcome. Call Paul at 908-235-2414.

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

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

Website: http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/central-jersey. Or click from the NJ Chapter’s website. Please see the Outings List in this newsletter – or on Pineypaddlers.com.

OFFICERS: Group Chair: Joanna Pannone 609-443-6992 jpannoprokames@gmail.com Group Vice Chair: Xiaoping Du 609-443-6992 xiaoping_du@yahoo.com Secretary: Leona Fluck leona@pineypaddlers.com Treasurer: Steve Eisenberg steves@robinetum.net Programs: Joanna Pannone jpannoprokames@gmail.com Conservation Chair: Kip Cherry KipCherryTheSierraClub@gmail.com Recycling: Sylvia Ray nylyka222@gmail.com Trails: Dave Mattek MattekID@aol.com Webmaster: Open Position!

EDUCATION:

MEETINGS SCHEDULE: The Central Jersey Group is continuing with its popular monthly meetings at Mercer County Community College. MCCC is located at 1201 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, 08550. Plenty of parking will be available in the normally-closed lot at the entrance to the Student Center. Just drive around to the entrance and you should find the entrance-arm in the up-position.

Please rsvp to kipatthesierraclub@gmail.com so we buy enough pizza!

ON THE CONSERVATION FRONT: we have been fighting the Elon Toxic Waste Treatment Facility, proposed for Falls Township, PA, a half-mile from the Delaware River - with other environmental groups the issues are drinking water and air quality. Also 15/35/912, which would establish fire safety standards and protocols for certain light frame residential construction. We offered testimony to Hamilton Twp on a proposed solar field project on westbound to the plan calls for the destruction of more than 800 trees in a very wet location near Assunpink Creek. Robbinsville Boy Scouts will be helping with the Eastern Bluebird Nest Box and Trail Monitoring Program. We commented opposing the Meadowlands Power Plant. We are also working with the Transportation Committee’s Campaign for Electric School Buses. We are pipeline fighters against PennEast in the central and western part of the state. South Jersey Gas and New Jersey Natural Gas in the Pinelands, and the Pilgrim Pipeline in the North. These projects would all contribute to global climate change and endanger our local environment.

ment. At Governor Murphy’s State of the State address, the issue was for a moratorium on pipelines.

Outings: George and Leona Fluck conduct weekly outings. All the dates were not available at the writing of this article. Check Pineypaddlers.com, and the Outings section of this Newsletter.

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

Website: http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/RaritanValley/

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

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

OFFICERS: Chair and Conservation Chair: Gary Frederick 609-203-5382 gary frederick@3.com Membership: Open Position!

Political Chair: Daphne Speck-Barynski 732-390-5511 speckbary@aol.com

Publicity Chair: Open Position!

Secretary: Open Position!

Treasurer: Open Position!

Webmaster: Paul Ehrlich pefhrich@outlook.com

Outings/Events Co-Chairs: S. Parish - Brianne Cerioni, Bernadette Maher College Liaison: Open Position

Club liaisons: Brenda Bradley

Our monthly committee meetings are held on FOURTH WEDNESDAY of each month, from 7pm to 8:30, in New Brunswick. Meetings are free and open to the pub- lic. 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 gfriedserra@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' water and air.
2. Conservation and protection of the Raritan River basin.
3. Passage of and responsible enforcement of environmentally friendly zoning and development ordinances.
4. Prevention of conserved land from commercial or other development. We are for preservation of open space and preventing diversion of land from the state's Green Acres program to commercial development.

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

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

Website: http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/JerseyShore/

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

OFFICERS: Group Chair: Dennis Anderson 732-970-4527 dennis.maizao@aol.com Vice-Chair: Bob Grize 732-892-0084 nyuscwppb@aol.com Secretary: John Luard 732-708-9221 john.luard@gmail.com Green Co-Chairs: Faith Teitelbaum 732-515-5415 faithtei@aol.com and: Bob Sandberg 732-241-7757 Sandbergbob@gmail.com and: Stan Greberis 732-451-0082 grapefruit@msn.com Social Media Chair: Yasmim Soruas 732-808-4998 yasmim915@gmail.com Treasurer: Pat Fuschetto 732-308-4988 PatFuschetto@gmail.com Political Co-Chairs: Robin & Harold Zullow 732-708-9221 and: Stan Greberis 732-451-0082 grapefruit@msn.com and: Yasmim Soruas 732-808-4998 Yasmim915@gmail.com Outings Chair: John Luard 732-708-9221 Outings Leaders: Needful! Membership Chair: Bob Grize 732-892-0084 nyuscwppb@aol.com Program Chair: George Moffatt 732-544-1726 gmoffatt@aol.com and: Faith Teitelbaum 732-544-1726 gmoffatt@aol.com Climate Chair: Steve Miller 732-671-5917 SteveMiller@Comcast.net Fundraising Co-Chairs: Mark Fukayama 908-902-1555 markxmas@aol.com and: Faith Teitelbaum 732-515-5415 faithtei@aol.com

Jersey Shore Group Endorsements: Progress at Whal Pond Greenway – The Jersey Shore Sierra Club is a partner of the Whal Pond Brook Watershed Association, whose goal is to restore the banks and water quality of Whal Pond Brook and create a greenway from the Long Branch shore- line to the uplands in Tinton Falls. On October 18, 2018, we had the official opening of Ross Lake Park, the first Long Branch section of the greenway. It was a great day; participants were Long Branch Mayor, John Pallone, boy scouts from Troop 148, Scott Cardelle, our fabulous mason, and Chuck Fioca who created our trail.

Now we are turning our attention to the next section of the greenway which is in Ocean Township. It will include 350 acres which lie between Industrial Way West and W. Park Ave. The WPBWA, as a non-profit, has received permission from Ocean Township to hire a forester to tell us how to best manage the land and build a green- way: To help contact Faith Teitelbaum at faithtei@aol.com.

Please share this newsletter with a non-member friend, inviting use of the coupon on p. 12.

The Jersey Sierran: July–September 2019
MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS
Our general membership meetings take place at 6pm on the fourth Monday of the month at Brookdale Community College’s Lincroft Campus (BCC). We are delighted that the college has invited us to continue the joint meetings of Sierra members, BCC students and the public through 2019. Our meetings, billed by BCC as “Science Monday” and the Sierra as “Sierra Monday,” attract an average of 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 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 5pm. The programs start at 6:30pm.

To get to Brookdale, take GSP Exit 109 to Rte 520 West (Newman Springs Rd, which becomes E Main St at the Lincroft campus). Exit the traffic circle and follow E Main to the Friend’s Student Life Center, where the meeting usually is in the Twin Lights Rooms 1 and 2. Use parking lot 7. As you walk around the building complex, Walker will be on the slope to your left. If lot 7 is full, use parking lots 5 or 6. A campus map is at: http://www.brookdale.edu/DPHDFiles/MAPS/MAP_04_10_08.pdf.

June 24 – Yes, You can – The lecture will be turned over to Club members for reports on Group or individual projects completed, planned, and in progress; development of a park and nature preserve in Long Branch, letter writing campaigns to politicians, helping municipalities to reduce their carbon footprints, and overheading our Group’s electronic messaging to better communicate with our members.

July – Our Annual Picnic – All are welcome, bring a munchie. Check for date and details at https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/jersey-shore, or https://www.facebook.com/JerseyShore/NJSC.

August – No Meeting Scheduled – Go fishing, swimming, golfing, or just goof off.

Sept 23 – Rep. Pallone’s Energy Agenda – Rep. Frank Pallone (D-6th District), newly elected chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, will outline his committee’s energy plans. Pallone’s committee has jurisdiction over issues pertaining to energy in the classroom, access to clean energy information, and transportation. Pallone’s legislative agenda during his years in Congress has geared up the protection and restoration of environmental resources and making health care more affordable and accessible. And with more environmentally friendly members in the House, he has an opportunity to advance that agenda.

Speakers Contact - George Moffatt, Jersey Shore Program Chairman, 732-544-1726 or gmmoffatt@aol.com.

Ocean County Group

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

OFFICERS:

Acting Chair & Social Media:
Margaret Meissner-Jackson sylviaj1910@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair:
Lee Snyder pinelands1@hotmail.com
Outings & Env Ed'n:
Terrance Brown terrybrown@comcast.net
Recording Secretary:
Nancy Brown nancybrown24214@comcast.net
Political Chair:
Mary Margaret Piccolo greengroup1@optonline.net
Membership Chairs:
Ray & Cathy Kozier sekao@gmail.com
Fund-Raising Chair:
Joyce M. Isaza realtymstr@aol.com
Group ExCom Members:
William Rodgers and Peter Leighson JPreighson1@verizon.net

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: Held bi-monthly at the Skylark Cafe in Toms River, 4th Saturday July and August.

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

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

WEBSITE: http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/WestJersey/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseyGroupNJSC Log on and Like Us
Follow us on Twitter @WJSierracrab and Instagram @wjsierracrab

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:
Gina Carola 856-848-8851 ginaceee@verizon.net
Vice Chair:
Franz Zielinski ezinii@yahoo.com
Secretary:
Ellen Zinii ezinii@aol.com
Treasurer:
Trish Cemunts patri5210@gmail.com
Publicity Chair:
Alice Spaccarelli
Political Chair:
Linda Ribiano Linda_Mart31@yahoo.com
Pineland Rep:
Lee Snyder pinelands1@hotmail.com
Greenways:
Frank and Ellen Zinii ezinii@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair:
Stacey Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Debate Chair:
Aida Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Fundraising Chair:
Mike Brown 856-547-9221 eyebrowvernon@verizon.net
Outings Chair:
Mike Brown 856-547-9221 eyebrowvernon@verizon.net
Media Chair:
Tony Hagen hagenjohn@verizon.net
Social Media Coordinator:
Evan Kostka evankostka@gmail.com
and
Dayna Hovem daynahovem@gmail.com

GENERAL MEETINGS: are held 7:30 pm on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month, September through 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 41B to Rte 70 West. Follow the signs for Rte 41 (towards Pennsauken). At Rte 70 and 41, turn left into Newfield, then take the next left onto Rte 41 (Kings Hwy). Over cross Rte 70 and you will be briefly on Rte 154 (King's Highway). Take the next right onto Kings Hwy. After about 1 mile, you will cross Grove Rd (Indian King Tavern is on the right corner). After crossing Grove Rd, go two more blocks and turn right on to Friends Ave. Go one block to the Meeting House. Park at 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.

June, July and August – no meetings.
Join us please on a hike or paddling trip. Meetings resume on Sept 11.

Sept 11: New Jersey’s State Parks – Take a tour of New Jersey’s State Parks, Forests and Historic Sites via a slide show.

South Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:

Group, Outings Chair:
Tob Boghosian Open Position!
Vice-Chair:
Pol.
Conservation Chair:
Open Position!
Chair, Communications:
Open Position!
Chair:
Open Position!
Director:
Secretary/Treasurer:
Julie Akers julejakers56@gmail.com

Our consuming conservation issue, adopted just after the Group was founded in the 1970’s, continues to be protection of the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and our Group works to conserve the energy to prevent the passage of a plastic-bag-restricting ordinance in Longport, there’s lobbying work to be done in each of our other municipalities! (5 etc.) Many other South Jersey issues are described in previous issues of this Newsletter, available on the Chapter website.

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

Some Possibly Relevant Activities of Allied Organizations:

June 5, July, Aug 7 and Sept 4: (first Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Atlantic County Parks: Monthly meetings of a group which works to improve and promote the county’s parks.

June 5, July 3, Aug 7 and Sept 4: (first Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Atlantic County Parks: Monthly meetings of a group which works to improve and promote the county’s parks.

June 12 and Aug 14: (alternate second Wednesdays), 7pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries (another “Partnership River” under federal protection); Meeting place: George Luciano Center, Cumberland County College. Cumberland County development issues are commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Karla Rossini (C4) at 609-774-5853 or karla.rossini@camuacriver.org. Website: www.camuacriver.org.


June 26, July 24, Aug 28 and Sept 25: (fourth Wednesdays), 7pm: Atlantic Audubon Society is a lively member-organization with strong environmental programs and an excellent newsletter. More information on the web: www.atlanticaudubon.org.

July 23, 5:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association’s annual picnic cruise – Lene Park West: get yourself onto the electronic mailing list by contacting Lynn Mau, 856-69-2792 or email lynnnkmaun@comcast.net. On Sept 28 there will be an annual kayak/canoe outing on the River.

590.org South Jersey is an organization that opposes Climate Change, and that may or may not be extant. Leaders were (at least) Glenn Klotz and Glenn1949@gmail.com, and Ron Hutchison. Ron.Hutchison@Stockton.edu.

(continued on page 10)
GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

Singles Section

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

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

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

OFFICERS:
Interim Co-Chairs: Ron Pate and Jimi Oleksiat
Outings Chair: Joyce Haddad
Conservation Chair: Position open
Treasurer: Position open
Social Chair: Position open
Vice Social Chair: Jeff Soveolove
Programs: Position open
Publicity: Position open
Membership: Position open
Nominations: Position open

Executive committee members: Rozanna Fanelli, Joyce Haddad, Ron Pate, Jeff Soveolove, Daphne Speck-Bartynski

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

COMMUNICATIONS: The best way to be notified of upcoming events is to join our free listserv. Anyone may subscribe by going to: http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/ NJ5/SINGLES-NEWS.html and clicking on ‘Join or list the list’. You may subscribe and unsubscribe at will; directions on how to unsubscribe are at the bottom of each announcement. We recommend that the listserv is reviewed for new events a few weeks before each event. Events are also listed on the online calendar on the Chapter’s web site: sierraclub.org/new-jersey. You can also “like” us on Facebook. “Singles Group New Jersey Sierra Club” Activities will also be posted on Meetup.

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

HIKES AND OTHER OUTINGS: The Singles Section sponsors many outings, ranging from beginners’ level of hikes to advanced difficulty. Some of these are listed in 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 activism within the LGBT community through letter writing, phone calls, and other active support for environmental issues. Anyone is welcome to join our outings regardless of sexual orientation.

WEB SITE: http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/
MEETUP: http://www.meetup.com/njsierrach
FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/njsierragbt

OFFICERS:
Co-Chair: Robert Zitzman * robertmz@att.net
Co-Chair: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com
Secretary: OPEN POSITION – contact John or Robert if interested
Outings Co-Chair: Jonathan Wall * dojdwall@gmail.com
Outings Co-Chair: Robert Zitzman * robertmz@att.net
Webmaster/Listmaster: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com
Ex-Comm Member: OPEN POSITION – contact John or Robert if interested

(* Section Executive Committee Member)

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

Please see the website, and/or contact John Kashwick as above.

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

Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

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

More New Jersey events are posted on a web site: http://www.funntravel.com. In addition, a 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 web site http://www.sieraclub.org/new-jersey/fiftyplus-section.

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

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

Sierra Student Coalition

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

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

Introducing Children to the Outdoors Section

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

OFFICERS:
Chair: Marty Cohen peri41@gmail.com

In 2018 we took 58 students from Paterson’s Clemente Middle School on a hike in Harriman State Park. We had enough leaders and assistants to break the group in two - for two separate hikes, a lot more enjoyable for all involved than an H. M. Stanley expedi-

tion! The weather cooperated so, despite the challenging trails and hills, there were smiles all around.

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

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

On the Trail in Camden’s Gateway Park

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

As a national landmark, Admiral Wilson Boulevard in Camden has a speckled past. In the 1920s it was envisioned as a showcase accessway to the Ben Franklin Bridge, which crosses the Delaware River to Philadelphia. We trace architect Charles Wellford Leavitt was called in to give it appeal. A number of these floors were floated and lined an area for the foot of the bridge, and a conduit in the early automobile days to various points in South Jersey.

As all great visions go, it saw some wear and tear over time. And not a little degradation. The not-so-bad stuff includ-

ed a Sears department store, the husk of which was removed in 2013, and the world’s first drive-in movie theater, the brainchild of Richard Hollingshead Jr., which did not make much money from the rights to his invention. Time and urban sprawl transformed the area into a capitalist’s idea of appropri-

tate development: America’s first high-

way strip.

In the 1970s bad was headed up bad. First came a go-go club, then hourly rate motels (most notoriously the Oasis), more strip clubs, and liquor stores. Prostitution and other crime became rampant in the area. The more respect-
able businesses moved out.

Then the Republican Party decided to hold the 2013 presidential nominating convention in Philadelphia. The unsightly mess on Admiral Wilson Boulevard simply did not do. So then-Gov. Christie Bran
denburgh called in to restore the boulevard to its original beau-

ty. In time for the convention, the objec-

tions would not do. So then-Gov. Christie Bran
denburgh called in to restore the boulevard to its original beau-

ty. In time for the convention, the objec-

 Verdun opened there. He vowed never to drive (Continued on page 11)
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ON THE TRAIL (Continued from page 10)

Another plus: the Cross-Camden Trail is in the formative stages; it will traverse a 17-acre parcel from the Ben Franklin Bridge to the Atlantic County line at Hammonton, just south of Moorestown. The goal is to utilize Conntrack inbedded, in addition to public and utility property, for a route that will offer bicycling conditions that are friendly and enjoyable for all participants. Leaders determine qualifications to participate, adequacy of equipment, rules to be followed, and will not be liable to be proven false. Always proceed with due care and common sense in all instances. If you have any questions, your leadership will communicate to ensure that you are fully informed.

Jul 17 (Wed): National Hot Dog Day Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Hunterdon Co). 10am. We paddling 8 miles from Kingwood to the Delaware Water Gap. Great lunch break at the Hot Dog Man’s “Restaurant”: bring your own refreshments. Padding helmets required for all participants. Rentals are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-5754 or leona@pineypaddlers.com.

Jul 20 (Sat): Jockey Hollow Leader’s Choice (Morris Co). 9:45am. Meet at the Visitor Center for a 16km start. GPS address: 506 Teaneck Wick Rd, Montville 07042. This address is approximate! Leader’s directions depend on conditions and will be sent via email with the meeting location and the trail route. Please review the parking conditions and know where you will be parking. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jeff Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@Yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Jul 20 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River Water Gap (Warren Co). 9am. Let’s Go to The Gap! The Delaware River is a great place to start your week-long paddle! Paddlers are required to bring their own food. Logging skis are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-5754 or leona@pineypaddlers.com.

Aug 1 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 9am. We’re paddling 10 miles from Hawk River Bridge to Beaver Branch. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Mick’s Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental (609-720-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com). Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-5754 or leona@pineypaddlers.com.


Aug 14 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Barston River (Burlington Co). 10am. We’ll enjoy a later start on this beautiful canoe trip from Quaker Bridge to the Delaware Water Gap. We’ll use Finnmark canoes (available for rent) and paddling helmets. Bring plenty of water and a light snack. Great for beginners. Hike steady rains cancel. No pets please. Leader: Jeff Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@Yahoo.com.

Aug 18 (Sun): Hike Sharpe River Park, Wall (Monmouth Co). 10am. A circuit through the outer reaches of the park, we will enjoy the babbling brook that’s Sharpe River in this area. About 5 miles at an easy pace. Bring plenty of water and a light snack. The trail can be followed with the help of a map at the trail entrance. Meet at 10am at Speedwell Park, Morristown NJ 07960. Please put the following address into your preferred map engine: “Speedwell Park, Morristown NJ 07960”. Please call the Park Manager at 908-575-2189 if conditions warrant cancellation. Leader: Joyce Haddad: jkhaddad@juno.com. Wellspring at Garden State Park, NPS.


Aug 21 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 10am. We’ll paddle 16 miles from Piriny Point to Wrennym. Palace Outfitters will shuttle our group. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-5754 or leona@pineypaddlers.com.

Aug 26 (Mon): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River from Bordentown to Burlington – “Elicon Update” (Burlington Co). 10am. This is a 60-mile tidal trip from Bordentown to Buck’s County, Learn about the state of the river and a multi-industrial liquid hazardous waste treatment facility that is proposed by Elicon; sit in PA directly across from Bordentown, on the Delaware River Community News.

September

Sep 2 (Mon): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River on Labor Day (Hunterdon Co). 10am. We’re paddling 8 miles from Kingwood to the Delaware Water Gap on the Hot Dog Man’s “Restaurant” or buy your own lunch break! Padding helmets required for all participants, sporty skis recommended for kayakers. Rentals are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-5754 or leona@pineypaddlers.com.

Sep 7 (Sat): Montclair Mountain Preserve. Land Trust & Montclair University Student Sentinels and Princeton University Community Action (Mercury Co). 10am - 3pm. Lake Mercer was formed by the construction of a dam on the Desron Brook in 1907 in the Montclair山 University Campus Area for its 100th Anniversary Clean at Mercer County Park. Help clean up the lake and stream and remove trash from the tract. You can bring your own kayak/canoe to collect trash on the lake (MI jacks must be worn). Bring trash bags and gloves! Transportation will be provided. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-5754 or leona@pineypaddlers.com.

Sep 14 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Cayuga Co). 9am. It’s the Vigo Indian Fayday! We’ll eat cake and paddle 7 miles from One Pond to Dudley Park. Cedar Creek is one of the prettiest Pines streams in the area. Paddlers can rent from Cedar Creek Canoe, Kayak Rental (609-760-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com). Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-5754 or leona@pineypaddlers.com.
OUTINGS
(Continued from page 12)

Sep 14 (Sat): Turtleback Rock, South Mountain Reservation (Essex Co). 10am. We will start taking Turtleback Rock trail to look for the Essex County's largest and possibly the most diverse plant community. If the weather is good, we will go to the top of the mountain, 1,300 feet above sea level. To reach the trailhead, take exit 11 off I-287 and follow(approximately 1.5 miles). Leader: Jeff Tittel (848) 281-0303. Contact leaders to confirm the trip, meeting location, participation. George: 406-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Sep 15 (Sun): Walk at Sandy Hook, near Highlands (Monmouth/Ocean Co. 10am. Last summer at the shore, this walk is mostly in a mixed dwarf forest (just behind the dunes) with lots of wildflowers, and cedar, all within the National Recreation Area. Flora dry, flat, a portion (view ocean) is on the sandy ocean beach. Approx. 4 miles, easy pace, bring plenty of water, beginners welcome. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place (John C. Lord 732-715-0996). (karonna@yahoo.com) ..................Designer

Sep 19 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak Tuckerton Creek (Ocean Co); 10am. We’ll paddle Tuckerton Creek, starting at Tuckerton Reservoir Park, for an 8-mile expedition. 10am. Length: 4 miles. Bring your own soft-sided cooler. Box lunch provided. (W) (Continued from page 11)

Upcoming ExCom Meetings
All members are welcome to attend the monthly statewide ExCom meetings (details, held on SECOND SATURDAYS. Details, including agendas and travel instructions, are available from Richard, the Chapter (Best confirm) Conservation and/or Political Committee meetings usually start at 10am; Environmental Justice and Conservation and/or Political Committee meetings usually start at 10am; Environmental Justice Preservation Alliance has launched Pinelands Adventures and we’ll use Pinelands Adventures for our shutter- http://www.pinelandsadventures.org. Contact leaders to confirm the trip, meeting location and your participation. George: L699-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Sep 20 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Mercer Co). 10am. The trip is 10 miles from Lambertville to New Hope/Lambertville. Paddlers must register for all parks, spray skirts required for kayakers. We’ll stop at the Dog Man’s River “Restaurant”. Restrooms are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm the meeting location and participation George: L699-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Sep 29 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware and Raritan Canal on World Rivers Day (Somerset Co) 10am. A 10-mile journey along the Delaware and Raritan Canal. The D&R canal is a drinking water resource for almost 2 million residents of NJ. Our 7-mile round trip will be on the Guttentag – Blackwells Mills section of the canal. Restrooms are available from Green Eggs Adventures. To confirm participation: George: 406-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Sep 30 (Mon): American Equinox - Canoe/Kayak the Mullica River (Burlington Co), 8:30am. This is a Lorraine trip for experienced Paddle Club members. Contact leaders to confirm the round trip, meeting location and your participation. George: L699-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

To address changes@sierraclub.org, or 415-977-5653,
San Francisco, CA 94612

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http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/jersey-sierran.html

The Jersey Sierran: July–September 2019

MEMBERSHIP COUPON

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

The Jersey Sierran: July–September 2019

Outings Committee
Joe Testa; John Ottimone; S. Piastra, Laura Bagwell

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Claire Buechler; 609-622-7299

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Delaware River
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Gender, Equity, Populace Issues
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Land Use Issues
Laura Lynch (see left column)

Marine Issues
Bob Sandberg • sandberg@njacrn.com

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Tigercare
Sunil Somalwar (see left column)

Trexel Trail
Mark Fubusayama • sunil.somalwar@gmail.com

Trail leaders: Daniel Nott (732) 717-1342

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

Late summer at the shore. This walk is mostly in a mixed dwarf forest (just behind the dunes) with lots of wildflowers, and cedar, all within the National Recreation Area. Flora dry, flat, a portion (view ocean) is on the sandy ocean beach. Approx. 4 miles, easy pace, bring plenty of water, beginners welcome. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place (John C. Lord 732-715-0996). (karonna@yahoo.com) ..................Designer

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DEP Goes After Fluorochemicals, Holding Polluters Accountable

From a press release issued on March 29th, edited by Tony Hagen

Very few of New Jersey’s waterways meet swimmable, inhabitable, and drinkable criteria. They are prone to contamination by agriculture, industry, and rivers’ pollution. So it was good news in March when the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) proposed a rule amendment that would designate 74 additional miles of our rivers as river waterways (RW). C1 means that water quality must be maintained – with development discouraged where that quality would be impaired. Additionally, under the Flood Hazard Control Act, these waterways would be afforded 500-foot development buffers, up from 150 feet currently.

The proposed changes were filed as potential amendments to the Surface Water Quality Standards Rule (SWQSR). A similar change was last enacted in 2008, when the state gave 686 miles of waterways the C1 designation.

The changes would affect 67 municipalities in the Upper and Lower Delaware, Northwest, Raritan and Atlantic Coastal regions. The reclassifications include portions of the Pequest River in Warren County, the Salem River in Salem County, the South Branch of the Raritan River in Somerset and Hunterdon counties, the Lamington River in Hunterdon and Somerset counties, and the Ramapo River in Bergen County.

Public comment on the proposal was taken on April 8. The deadline for written comments was extended to June 3. Unfortunately, this extension afforded opponents of the inclusion of the river more time to organize their resistance and possibly discourage the DEP from adopting the changes. The waterways intended for reclassification are currently Category Two, the bottom tier in the anti-degradation SWQSR system, which affords some protection but allows water quality to deteriorate based on over-riding economic or social justifications. The highest classification is Outstanding National Resource Waters, which has been applied to waterbodies in the Pinelands and small parts of northern New Jersey.

Hunterdon County Freeholders are among those who have said they will fight the reclassification because of what they believe would be a negative impact on business- es and development. C1 won’t stop development, but it would require that develop- ment doesn’t pollute these rivers and streams, which are an essential natural resource to all points of New Jersey as well as wildlife and plants. Not only should this possi- bility be considered in the reclassification of these rivers, but also other protections should be afforded to more of New Jersey’s much-abused waterways, especially all waterways in the Highland which serve as important source of dependable water.

Another reason to support these C1 reclassifications is the help they would provide in restricting the laying of new fossil fuel pipelines across much of New Jersey.

DEP Should Move More Quickly on C1 Waterway Reclassification

From a press release issued on April 5th, edited by Tony Hagen

New Jersey’s Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has identified five companies in New Jersey with extensive PFAS contamination, directing them to fund hundreds of millions of dollars of assessment and cleanup.

The directive requires the five companies – Solvay, DuPont, Dow DuPont, Chemours and 3M – to produce a detailed accounting of their use of PFAS chemicals and their environmental impacts, collectively known as PFAS chemicals, in the State. The directive uses the authori- ties granted by New Jersey’s Spill Compensation and Control Act, Water Pollution Control Act and Air Pollution Control Act.

The Spill Act directive is one of the DEP’s most powerful tools. Earlier in March, the DEP established interim specific groundwater quality standards for both PFAS’s, at 10 parts per trillion, and will make 1ppt the actual standard. New Jersey is among the first states to regulate these compounds.

The health risks associated with these fluorocarbons include testicular and kidney cancer; liver tissue damage, weakened immune systems, increased cholesterol, and developmental problems including low birth weight, accelerated puberty and skeletal defects. Among other uses, these chemicals are primary ingredients of firefighting foam.

The companies are required to come up with a plan to clean up their toxic chemi- cal spills. If they don’t, DEP can assess damages.

DEP can consider impacts both to wildlife and drinking water.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency detected levels of at least 20 parts per billion in 14 drinking water systems, including Ridgewood Water, Fair Lawn, Garfield, Wallbridge, Wallington and Hawthorne. That’s 2,000 times higher than the 10ppt standard.

High levels were also found in Burlington County; in a stream that runs from a wastewater plant at the Maguire-Fort Dix-Lakehurst military base into Rancocas Creek.

In Salem and Gloucester Counties, the fluorochemicals found near the Solvay site were seven times over standard. XN have been found in fish caught even in the most pristine streams.

New Jersey’s standard for PFAS will be the strongest in the nation. More importantly, it will protect this state’s drinking water from the federal government’s inaction in its wisdom, the Trump Administration has declined to regulate PFAS’s.

We thank Gov. Murphy and DEP Commissioner McCabe for adopting strict stan- dards for PFAS’s. (However, we could suggest more than a dozen other chemicals, found in our waterways, that deserve stricter standards.)

Big Win for the Environment: B.L. England Has Closed

On February 27, RC Cape May Holdings, LLC, owner of the B.L. England Electric Generation Station at Beesleys Point, Cape May Co, informed the Appellate Court that, instead of repowering the plant with natural gas, it will be closed permanently, mak- ing the South Jersey Gas pipeline superfluous. (Indeed, the plant did close on May 1, and decommissioning is underway.) It is intended that contaminated soil at the 568-acre site will be removed by the end of 2019.

B.L. England was the last coal-fired plant in NJ, and the New Jersey Sierra Club has been urging its closure since 1998. With its outdated technology, the plant had been releasing thousands of tons of sulfur dioxide and other noxious emissions each year. It was the largest emitter of greenhouse gases in South Jersey, and was fined repeatedly for violating the Clean Air Act.

Now lets consider the South Jersey Gas Pipeline (SJG), which is tied to the Pennsif pipeline. Without B.L. England, there should be no need for these pipelines, and plans for their construction should be stopped. The Pinelands Commission, DEP and BPU approved the SJG pipeline so that it could fuel B.L. England. The Pinelands Commission has already informed SJG that its approval is void, and DEP and the BPU should also invalidate their authorizations. We have asked the Murphy Administration to develop a moratorium on gas pipelines – a necessary first step if Murphy is to honor his goal of 100% renewable energy by 2050.

NJ must transition to renewable energy; wind and solar, and it must create green jobs and a green economy. The BPU is considering three applications for offshore wind production. Among them, the Danish company Ørsted already holds a lease to develop a wind farm off Atlantic City, and is interested in using B.L. England’s electric- al switchyard to feed its power to the PJM Regional Grid. Ørsted proposes to gener- ate 1100 megawatts, twice B.L. England’s production.

Meanwhile, the Governor continues its lawsuit against SJG. We must be vigilant: RC Holdings could still sell B.L. England to another natural gas company, and SJG could submit another application for its pipeline.

Expansion of Federal Coastal Resource Zone Would Curb Sand Mining

From a press release issued on March 29th, edited by Tony Hagen

A proposed expansion of the federal Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS) by hundreds of thousands of acres along the East Coast could curb sand mining for beach replenishment in New Jersey, but is encountering major pushback from Jersey Shore towns and state authorities. The CBRS protects environmentally sensitive, relatively undeveloped areas where the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that exten- sive development is undesirable. The program restricts federal funding for develop- ment and access to those areas.

In New Jersey, the CBRS would restrict access to sand for beach replenishment, spilling fish and other wildlife, and leave natural shore boundaries to readjust them- selves in response to storms, coastal flooding, and erosion. CBRS protection would extend to an additional 71,352 acres of land and wetlands and other aquatic territory.

The proposal has inflamed the Cape May County towns of Avalon and Stone Harbor, whose life-blood is tourism and who fear loss of access to a sandbar at nearby Hereford Inlet. Should this sand become unavailable, or should federal funds for its removal be cut off, these towns might have to obtain sand from more distant and cost- ly locations. A combination of federal, state, and local funds are currently used in beach replenishment projects; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which takes charge of these efforts, would be hamstrung by CBRS restrictions. The N.J. Department of Environmental Protection and the Army Corps have opposed the CBRS expansion plan.

The Sierra Club applauds the proposed expansion of CBRS protection. It would give wildlife elbow room to thrive, avoid marine disruption, protect migratory bird routes, and allow block of sand and aquatics near the marshy Delaware Bayshore to expand in the expansion plan — and restrict shoreline development: reducing the dangers of sea level rise and storms generated by climate warming.

The New Jersey Sierra Club encourages you to visit this website here https://www. fws.gov/chr/maps/Hurricane-Sandy-Project-Batch-2.html.

Other sources:
https://www.coastalreview.org/2019/02/push-on-to-change-sand-rule-interpretation/
https://www.fws.gov/chr/maps/Hurricane-Sandy-Project-Batch-2.html
Wildfire Danger Growing in the Pinelands

From a press release issued by Chapter Director Jeff Titel on April 1

A wildfire that engulfed nearly 12,000 acres of the New Jersey Pinelands has been contained. No injuries or property damage were reported. The blaze that consumed 18 square miles of Penn State Forest (Burlington Co) serves as a fresh reminder of the danger of wildfires and the role that the failings of state policies play in increasing that danger.

(Office wildfires are essential to the ecology of the Pine Barrens. Their absence threatens many of the unique plants and animal species that are unique to that region. The trick is to manage fire so as to protect our own species at the same time as we preserve the native species.)

In recent summer, larger wildfires in the Pines are becoming worse and more frequent. This is partly because of climate change and over-pumping of aquifers leading to drier and more dangerous conditions. We also continue stupidly to build homes in the middle of the Pinelands through natural gas pipelines, such as NJN’s Southern Reliability Link, through the Pinelands could turn future forest fires into disasters if fire meets a flow of natural gas.

A 2016 article in Rolling Stone warned that America’s worst forest fire could happen in New Jersey: considering environmental conditions, ongoing development and pipelines. The proposed Heritage Minerals project would put 4,000 new homes into the middle of the Pinelands. Siting natural gas pipelines, such as NJNG’s Southern Reliability Link, through the Pinelands could turn future forest fires into disasters if fire meets a flow of natural gas.

Beach Access Bill Undercuts Public Access

From a press release issued by our Trenton staff on March 25th

The public beach access bill, S1074 (Smith) / A4221 (Pinkin), has been passed by both houses of the State Legislature. [As of April 30th, the Governor hadn’t signed it.] The bill protects the public’s right to access ‘tidal waters and adjacent shorelines.” Our objection is to last-minute amendments that substantially weaken the bill.

Here are the provisions:

1. The bill preserves the right of public access to “tidal waters and adjacent shorelines.”

2. The amended version reads as follows: “Pursuant to the public trust doctrine, the State of New Jersey shall protect, preserve, and safeguard the public’s rights and ensure reasonable and meaningful public access to tidal waters and adjacent shorelines.”

3. The change of language opens the bill to interpretation. Who “shall” protect the public: Deal, Avalon, counties, the DEP, or the developers? Whether it’s wealthy homeowners in Edgewater we have been battling for years for public access to the Hudson River, or shore-front residents of Long Beach Township, if the law becomes a “may” they are not going to do it.

Additional amendments apply specifically to the DEP: instead of giving it “the authority and the duty” to protect the public’s right of access, the obligation becomes a mere “shall,” instead of the “maximum extent possible,” the criterion becomes the “maximum extent practicable.” Practicability implies current practices or reasonableness. This means “practically” that nothing will change.

Other amendments state that, in determining the extent of public access that is required at a property, the DEP shall consider the scale of the changes to the footprint or use, the demand for public access, and any DEP-approved municipal public access plan or public access element of a municipal master plan.

There are too many places in Jersey where private beachfront homeowners want the protection afforded by public money, but they don’t want the public to be there.

We have asked Governor Murphy to conditionally veto the bill.
Parks Cannot Fix the Pension System

Interest in the privatization of New Jersey’s parks has increased as the Murphy administration evaluates how public assets could generate revenue for the state’s pension system. The NJ Department of Treasury has made a formal request for qualifications (RFQ) of a financial advisor to review a list of assets that might be monetized through such transactions as sale, lease, or naming rights. Those assets include roads, bridges, buildings, parks, and open spaces. While the chronically underfunded pension system needs money, the privatization of parks might jeopardize public service and access.

We are concerned that the lease or sale of these lands would break the public trust, for public access and for the enjoyment they provide to everyone. Commercialization might jeopardize public access to parks and historic sites, which constitute our heritage and our legacy. We cannot sacrifice them because of financial problems. As Jeff Titel has noted, privatization of these lands could open them up to any use, including the installation of pipelines and power lines.

Monetization schemes for state assets are nothing new in New Jersey: although public outrage has derailed several attempts. For years, lawmakers have promoted ideas for generating revenue. More than a decade ago, Gov. Corzine wanted to enable the privatization of state assets, such as the New Jersey Turnpike, to pay down debt. His plan to close nine parks brought protestors to the Statehouse steps. Gov. Christie proposed unsuccessfully the privatization of portions of public lands so that parks would be sold off.

The NJ Government has considered many strange ideas to commercialize public lands. Proposals for the area of Liberty State Park have included a casino, a Formula One racetrack, a marina, and a millionaire’s golf course. Revitalization efforts in Atlantic City have included the proposal of a NASCAR track on public land. DEP considered leasing part of the Meadowlands to Reardon Green located the park. DEP’s staffing cuts add to the current pressures to privatize state assets. Last month, DEP began seeking private vendors to manage concessions in some state parks because it doesn’t have the staff to handle those jobs. There are also talk about having private concessions in our parks, so long as they open to the public and are not overpriced. There are suitable ways to blend private ventures into parks, and for that assurance that respect for the parks mission is upheld.

The current interest in privatization has intensified after a nonpartisan commission of fiscal policy experts, assembled by Senate President Steve Sweeney, offered recommendations to make government more cost-effective, including the monetizing of state properties. The RFQ seeking a financial advisor signals support from Gov. Murphy to explore monetization.

The Sierra Club has safeguarded public lands for 125 years. Moreover, we have fought to protect them from commercialization. Taxpayers have invested heavily in our forests, parks, and beaches, and we expect our investment to be protected from private interests.

It is our position that privatization of state lands will not be enough unless there are major reforms. In the current fiscal climate, the idea of monetizing public assets could gain much support. We are troubled by all attempted projects that might endanger our parks and open spaces. Thus, we must continue our battle for land preservation. Privatization of public lands by profit-seeking individuals will not make Government more cost-effective.

Good News - U.S. Court of Appeals Grants Motion for Stay on PennEast Pipeline

From a press release issued on March 19th, edited by Joe Testa

The United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit granted the State of New Jersey their motion for a stay on the PennEast Pipeline. This means PennEast cannot start construction until the court case is decided, which could take up to three years. PennEast will be allowed to continue their surveys and apply for DEP permits.

PennEast would bring natural gas 110 miles from the Marcellus Shale Region of Pennsylvania through Hunterdon and Mercer Counties in New Jersey. It would threaten the entire Delaware River valley, including 91 acres of wetlands, 44 miles of forest, 88 waterways, and occupy 1,600 acres. Waterway crossings would include the Delaware River and the Delaware and Raritan Canal. The pipeline would cross 12 federal permits, PennEast lacks approval from the Delaware River Basin Commission.

When it comes to pipeline or other natural gas projects, the more we can delay, the better the chance it can be stopped. Solar and wind alternatives are becoming steadily less expensive, and electrical devices are becoming more efficient.

Other good news includes the closing of the B.E. England coal and oil power plant in Bay Way Co., where the black smoke from the chimney has been polluting the entire lower Passaic River. The plant has fitted with equipment that would have reduced its. It has a ripple effect on PennEast because it is a partner of SGE. SGE must now find somewhere to send its allotment for PennEast. This impacts the financial viability of PennEast.

While this is a victory for now, nothing is certain in court. That is why we need a moratorium on fossil fuel projects. The Murphy Administration can also stop the pipeline in its tracks by rejecting its 401 Water Quality Certificate. (See related articles: Fossil Fuel Projects – p1, and Trump Fast Tracking – p20)
Promoting a more energy efficient lifestyle has the potential, over time, to improve quality of life while significantly reducing land use and traffic congestion. When household costs reduce necessary work time. In this sense, the promotion of an efficient lifestyle and labor, I submitted to the House of Representatives an economic and financial incentives to promote transit alternatives. The resolution could have provoked a dismissive response: on union issues, even the most brilliant educators normally focus on the dollar acquiring higher compensation to pay for a lifestyle inferior to that of hamsters on a treadmill. But my colleagues had the capacity to listen and demonstrate leadership, for they passed the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED February 28, 2012 by the RVCC Faculty Federation:**

WHEREAS one of the constitutional responsibilities of the RVCC Faculty Federation is to advocate for better quality of life on campus for its members and non-members, including especially RVCC students; and

WHEREAS subsidies for driving, by subsidizing the market for transit alternatives, impose the cost burden of increased automobile dependence on the whole community; and

WHEREAS the setting aside of land for parking increases the cost of housing; and

WHEREAS overuse of automobiles to promote an inactive lifestyle and reduce the incidence of costly chronic disease; and

WHEREAS all these factors contribute negatively to quality of life, both on and off campus, for Federation members and non-members alike; and

WHEREAS public and private universities, municipalities, state and federal governments, and other jurisdictions, as well as private businesses and individuals, see a differential in solving quality of life issues and social responsibility issues through sustainability and pro-business policies; and

WHEREAS the RVCC Faculty Federation actively supports social responsibility through sustainability; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the RVCC Faculty Federation will endorse, and urge the RVCC administration to undertake with us, the following measures to decrease total automobile dependency:

1. Work with local officials to promote the use of traffic signal priority devices for public transit vehicles; and
2. Promote public education on usage of automobile user fees and charges; and
3. Join with advocates across the nation to end this practice.

**WHEREAS, A Labor and Transportation Perspective**

Lett’s elaborate on these cost reducing measures:

Dr. Michael Roizen, Chief Wellness Officer of Cleveland Clinic’s Lifestyle Institute (see attached) derived from nine years of experience with Cleveland Clinic’s 100th Birthday Campaign. Extrapolating from the cost savings achieved from the active employee wellness program, Dr. Roizen demonstrates that the promotion of an active lifestyle, which, he adds, can be achieved by the government $500 billion-1 trillion in health care costs over ten years.

Healthy lifestyles have the potential to reduce the demand for health services in old age. Multiple studies have found that the average person who engages in a healthy lifestyle suffers disease for a shorter period of time at life’s end (Comment on “The Lies of Market Rationality” – A Panel Review of Theories and Progress of Aging Res. 2011). Healthy lifestyles, therefore, can lead to a net reduction in costs rather than merely delay the onset of costly chronic disease.

With regard to housing, Jason Furman, chair of Pres. Obama’s Council of Economic Advisers, observed that controlling housing in regions with restrictions on housing supply ran about 50% higher than elsewhere (Barriers to Shared Growth: The Case of Land Use Policies and Economic rents, 11/20/15). Accordingly, the construction of housing on unneeded parking lots, and the resulting reduction in construction heights would reduce future housing costs.

Furman’s observation is consistent with conclusions reached in a 2002 Brookings Institution paper, The Link between Growth in U.S. Housing Affordability and increased housing supply in the 1950s significantly lowered housing prices. Supply matters.

Clearly, it is possible to lower the cost of living over time. In turn, lower household cost reduces necessary work time. In this sense, the promotion of an efficient lifestyle and labor, I submitted to the House of Representatives an economic and financial incentives to promote transit alternatives. The resolution could have provoked a dismissive response: on union issues, even the most brilliant educators normally focus on the dollar acquiring higher compensation to pay for a lifestyle inferior to that of hamsters on a treadmill. But my colleagues had the capacity to listen and demonstrate leadership, for they passed the following resolution:

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COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

(Continued from page 16)

shown to be comparable to pharmaceuticals in enhancing mood (see The exercise effect, American Psychological Association, 2017).

Mood enhancement can also be achieved through healthier diets. In a study of 1481 adults, participants who selected individuals over six years, individuals that went from eating almost no fruits and vegetables a year to eating a fresh produce daily experienced a strong increase in mood, as measured by the Beck Depression Inventory (Middlesex, Somerset, and Huntingdon). This improvement was seen even after controlling for age and gender. In other words, employees stand to save nearly $400/mo, a major out-of-pocket cost for them to achieve benefits in the form of cost savings sufficiently accrue to employees; they can't be taxed.

This is not only about construction of public employee housing. Our scenario would enable residents to pay lower rents in the community of housing people instead of having cars, i.e. using unused lots to expand housing capacity. New Jersey Future (a think tank) conducted an inventory of parking lots by NJ Transit stations, investigating the potential for building on those sites. And local governments should be starting a market for the transit alternatives that would free up parking lots. Specifically, I pointed out that, in most cases, investing in signal preemption, which turns red lights more appealing if drivers could utilize signal preemption, which turns red lights,

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The Jersey Sierran: July–September 2019

Providing incentives for residential energy upgrades businesses require a payback of three to five years when investing in energy effi- cient technologies, but a 30-year mortgage for $120,000 (800

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be made. Being a proud union member; I want public employees to be well-paid. I just don't want them to be paid for waste. In any case, employees will also experience gains under this scenario.

Ensuring That User Fees for Driving Don’t Pose a Burden Higher user fees for driving don’t have to pose a burden on companies or the public. The public has implemented first. New transit options make it possible to avoid the higher user fees for parking and check out the affordability of expanded transit options in order for those options to thrive, which is why the public have a voice in making decisions.

Having said that, let’s discuss methods for providing parking services for less than increased user fees for driving. One method is to have public transit vehicles utilize traffic signal priority and preemption devices. New Jersey transit vehicles are already authorized to use signal priority devices, which extend green lights.

Public transit vehicles would be even more appealing if drivers could utilize signal preemption, which turns red lights to green, but that’s prohibited under state law. The intent of the law, as explained to me by the legislative aide, is to ensure that individuals in areas that lead to promotions.

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COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

(Continued on page 18)
able position. They could "comparison shop", i.e. tell employers that they will accept jobs that provide sufficient earnings, rather than attempt to suppress, the black vote. Republicans, instead of trying to suppress black votes - should earn those votes by applying their own program. To do otherwise is to let's start by dis- cussing unemployment.

The contemporary conservative philosophers Roger Scruton also writes about leisure in connection with the environ- ment. Kevin Hassett, advisor to candidates McCain and Romney, and current chair of President Trump’s Council of Economic Advisors, testifies to a congressional committee in favor of a work-sharing bill during the October 27, 2010, hearing. A necessary condition for shorter hours is compensation for the staff and support- ers of the GOP - yields substantial reduc- tions in household costs. A Republican-Republican and/or conservative policies can be key to generating an expansion of transit housing, and racial minorities as members of an American history revolve around gender values. Nevertheless, implementing more ef- ficient transportation constitutes the single largest change required to combat global warming. Here's the point: While Donahue and Trump angrily oppose policies to combat global warming, policies to combat the necessary condition for bringing about the single largest 'change to save the planet' are supported by just about every environmentalist. Environmentalists should also point out that the main other initiative that is needed to reduce greenhouse gases, investing in efficiency/solar in buildings and industry, simply enables us to get by with less, rather than designating those actions as "progressive", or being just as environmentally harmful as the business community and some Republicans for user fees for driving. The NJ Chamber of Commerce, joined by The NJ Sierra Club: July-September 2019.
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP


Here at home, the Somerset County Freeholders have taken a stand on invasive species and energy upgrades in public buildings, saving taxpayers $500,000/year. Done that in a collegial manner. This idea of the institution of colleagues who discuss ideas in a collegial manner. This idea of the community college: Public education is needed to explain that some- times progress can most effectively be made at the state and local levels. While Americans feel helpful in the face of a gargantuan federal government, decision-making on transportation, housing, educa- tion, and crime is mostly a state or local decision. Units - national union leaders - are in the best position to bring labor back to its proper object - the happiness of its members. (...) Their leadership is exemplary in part because they have time to participate in the public education needed to make the community in a position to highlight another legitimate use of leisure time, i.e. civil discussion.

The connectedness to nature scale: A conceptual and an operational defi-

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BPU Approves PSE&G Nuclear Subsidy: Biggest Sellout in State History

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

BPU Approves PSE&G Nuclear Subsidy: Biggest Sellout in State History

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proposed fossil fuel projects in New Jersey: the Meadowlands Powerplant, and the

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Treasure Island project. Both actions were upheld in federal court.

out regard for what states or communities think.

Trump's moves on pipelines continues his record of promoting fossil fuels. He has taken

to a ban on offshore drilling was overruled in court, but that’s not stopping him. His coal-fueled push is on offense, and recent-rejection of Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines is back. He wants to subsidize coal and nuclear while reducing programs for solar and wind energy. He is undercutting environmental rules under NEPA, and ignoring court rulings that FERC must consider climate impacts in its strategic planning.

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