2019 was a great year for our endorsed incumbents in Assembly races—all were victorious. It was a “no-so” year for our endorsed challengers in Assembly races: none were successful—but their average vote was 8 points higher than four decades of increasingly lower votes from 39 to 44% relative to 2015 (the previous state-level midterm election). In other races, our endorsed candidate Linda Hynes won her freeholder race in Burlington County and Melanie Marano has won her fight race for Somerset County freeholder.

Let’s move on to 2020—year of the Big Bang.

We’ve survived three years of the Trump presidency, despite his efforts to foul our clean water and poison our air, shrink National Monuments, and endanger animals on the brink of extinction—all the while denying climate change. There’s hope, at least, thanks to an environmentally-friendly House of Representatives which is now taking action to arrest the slide into environmental chaos.

A “green wave” swept across the nation in 2018, sprouting in New Jersey. Four Congressional seats were flipped in that state that year, adding to the seven seats already held by our environmental candidates. And they won the election in the 3rd District by just under 4000 votes. This District (which includes Burlington and Ocean counties) is rated a tossup in 2020, and will be targeted for pickup by Republicans. Our incumbents are Jeff Van Drew in the 2nd District (southern New Jersey) and Tom Malinowski in the 7th (Hunterdon and parts of five other counties)—both of these races are expected to be competitive. Malinowski already has a well-known opponent and Van Drew a well-funded opponent. The other New Jersey pickup in 2018 was Miki Sherrill in the 11th District.

Each of these Representatives towers over her or his Republican predecessor. Rather than turn a blind eye to reality, they legislate to expand wilderness, fund wetlands, and national parks in the Midwest, including Campbell Gap, Mammoth Cave, the Great Smoky Mountains, and Hocking Hills. Later, in Dublin, I got to the Burren (a 2500-year-old limestone karst formation) and explored the wide variety of beautiful natural areas that New Jersey has to offer! I also learned about New Jersey’s environmental prospects and gained experience in environmental legislation in the Statehouse. I am enjoying learning more about renewable energy by 2050 or sooner. New Jersey’s DEP has the authority to regulate greenhouse gases (GHG) but they have chosen not to.

Governor Murphy may be committed to 100% Clean Energy, but he now defines it to include natural gas electricity—with carbon sequestration, incinerators, and biomass. He may be inching forward on offshore wind, but it is not happening fast enough. His $500 million nuclear subsidy takes money away from renewable energy, electric vehicles and energy efficiency programs. NJ’s solar program is on the verge of collapse. The RGGI cap is too high, does not target benefits to EJ-overburdened communi-
ties, and the money can be spent subsid-
ing new natural gas power plants. Our state pension program has divested from guns but is still investing in fossil fuel. NJ should be using fossil fuel companies on climate impacts, as other states are doing.

Greta Thunberg called for 80% reduc-
tion in GHG emissions by 2050 world-
wide. Murphy is not. Greta calls for an immediate halt to fossil fuel projects; the Murphy Administration will not stay the SRL Pipeline, and has approved four gas pipelines, two gas power plants, and an LNG terminal, and permits are pending for 15 other fossil fuel projects.

Gov. Murphy claims to support the climate change movement—but he doesn’t support the Green New Deal, 100% renewable energy, zero carbon, or a moratorium. He wrongfully claims not to have the power to order a moratorium on fossil fuels. In the last 40 years, six NJ Governors have imposed moratoriums. Governor Byrne put one on development in the Pinelands until the Pinelands act was passed. Kean did similarly on wetlands before the Wetlands Act was passed, and Whitman froze development to improve water quality planning.

The NJ Sierra Club calls for 100% renewable energy by 2050, carbon by 2050, and reopening the Office of Climate Change and Adaptation.

Our Heroes Feted at Annual “Appreciation Day” Party, Nov 17

Supplied by Ken Johanson

Our awards in 2019 were Freshman Congressman Tom Malinowski (D 7) for opposing pipelines and offshore drilling, Kevin Brown, a union leader who promotes green jobs and lead pipe removal, Ananya Singh, a 16-year-old environmental activist, and Paul Sanderson, our Volunteer of the year: Chapter Treasurer, Group Chair, Publisher of this newsletter, and much else. Photos will be in our April-June issue.

Welcome Megan Steele, the Chapter’s new Administrative Assistant—with the usual interview:

What’s your environmental background?

I earned a BS in Ecology and Evolution from The Ohio State University and an MS in Environmental Science from Trinity College, Dublin (Irish Republic). I grew up on a small farm near Cincinnati, Ohio, exploring its 200 acres of forests and pastures while my parents worked the fields. My family hiked and explored many state and national parks in the Midwest, including Cumberland Gap, Mammoth Cave, the Great Smoky Mountains, and Hocking Hills. Later, in Dublin, I got to the Burren and Wicklow Mountains, to Krka National Park in Croatia and Nikko National Park in Japan. I worked as Information and Communications Assistant for a music nonprofit in Dublin, and later as a GIS Technician for the Irish Department of Agriculture.

What environmental issues concern you the most?

My graduate study was on sustainable urban development, and included a literature review of nature-based solutions in European cities; my dissertation was on quantifying and increasing urban biodiversity in North Dublin. Land preservation - this is a new idea for me—probably because I grew up on a farm that was on protected land. I am also interested in habitat conservation and clean energy technologies.

What does your Sierra Club job consist of?

I am excited to be working with Jeff Titel and the team in the Club’s Trenton office! I hope to bring my experience in communications and my environmental science education to this position.

I will be improving our social media presence, creating media material, scheduling events, and lobbying for environmental legislation in the Statehouse. I am enjoying learning more about New Jersey’s environmental prospects and gaining experience in environmental policy. And, of course, I can’t wait to explore the wide variety of beautiful natural areas that New Jersey has to offer! I’m looking forward to a variety of tasks.

Our goal is to build a greener, healthier, and more sustainable New Jersey. I want to help create a more just society in which the money can be spent subsidizing new natural gas power plants.

On the Trail with Inner City Children . . . . 10
Winter Outings . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 11-12
Leaders, Meetings, Membership Form . . . .

More in our Electronic Supplement (pp. 13-16):

- Adapted from an op-ed article by Jeff Titel, Director of the NJ Sierra Club
- More on fossil fuel, voting, lobbying, requests, and more
- More about the organization, our campaigns, and our policies
The Council of Club Leaders (CCL) consists of one representative from each of the twelve regions of the Sierra Club across the country. I am your representative from the NJ chapter and attended this year’s membership meeting in September at Sierra Club HQ. The Board of Directors is the official national governing body of the Sierra Club; it meets about once a year. These meetings are a major forum for the exchange of ideas among the leaders of the Club. The next 3 vote-getters elected to one-year terms. If the bylaw amendment is not approved, the Board will hold a special election to fill the vacant positions. Ballots are available at the Club office, or mailed to you. If you have not received a ballot by the deadline, please call or write to Club officers. If you vote by both paper and electronic ballots, the paper ballot will not be counted. Yes No

Canditates for positions on the Group ExCom Consistent advocacy on behalf of the Group, and the growth of renewable energy to compete with fossil fuels. The PJM rule-change also expands the ability to use energy storage on the grid scales. The PJM rule-change also expands the ability to use energy storage on the grid scales.

The PJM rule-change also expands the ability to use energy storage on the grid scales. This is to verify your Group membership. If you have a 4-digit code after the hyphen at the end of your mailing label, or as deduced otherwise, you are a member of that Group, as shown on your mailing label, or as deduced otherwise. You must choose between voting online and voting by paper ballot.

To vote by this paper ballot, please vote your Group’s portion of the ballot below, then clip the ENTIRE ballot on the perforation line, and return it your own envelope, to arrive by Feb 1, 2020, to: Sierra Club Ballot, 143 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618. Boxes of pairs are to enable both members of a joint membership to cast separate votes. Note that a properly-clipped ballot will include the mailing label overleaf. This is to verify your Group membership; it will be destroyed before ballots are counted. If you vote by both paper and electronic ballots, the paper ballot will not be counted.

The Group ExCom has proposed changing the number of members on the Group Executive Committees (ExComs), by the addition of a joint membership, the second member of which must be a member whose email address and has permission to stop Williams’ NESE pipeline project. I have devoted thousands of hours co-founding Central Jersey Safe Energy Coalition, addressing hundreds of NESE’s dangers, working with attorneys, elected officials, and environmental groups, as well as it’s been delayed 1 year.

If you vote by both paper and electronic ballots, the paper ballot will not be counted. The Group ExCom has proposed changing the number of members on the Group ExCom to increase political success. My environmental involvement began in 2016. Determined to make sense of the乱糟糟 pipeline project, I have devoted thousands of hours co-founding Central Jersey Safe Energy Coalition, addressing hundreds of NESE’s dangers, working with attorneys, elected officials, and environmental groups, as well as it’s been delayed 1 year.
Editorial
A Rock Falls on I-80
By Dick Cobly (dick.cobly@stjohnton.edu)

The mile-180 westbound, approaching the Delaware Water Gap and the bridge into Pennsylvania, follows the Delaware River upstream through what was an ancient river, now a swamp, where one of us (D.C.) had a turn in 1976. You see a wall of stone, a stone algal reef that was ground by the river as long ago as the Miocene. We honor them with early development. We honor them with early national parks, curb climate change, and time comes, is to trot down to the cam- social media. All Club members ought to calls, knocking on doors, and posting on these and one fatality. They were quick to community relations specialists, led by NJDOT Acting Director Jessica Franzini, who contributed details to this editorial, including two sentences in quotation marks, and approved its publication. The new regulations permit the infl- ed details of 28 rockfall “incidents” since 2001, resulting in 14 motor vehicle crashes and two fatalities. These regulations are very quick to explain that the proposed $47M construction cost is federally funded and ded- icated to rockfall mitigation. If it isn’t spent on this project, it will be spent on another rockfall priority in the state.

They are also careful to assure us that traffic on I-80 would continue unimpeded during the construction period, by temporarily shifting all four lanes. We were shown options for the appearance of a 60-foot, inclined stone berm that would be constructed to catch the falling rock, including vegetation alternatives, along with shorter 5-10 foot rock berms along the project area.

The two mayors were clearly unim- pressed, preferring the “no build” option, one estimating that the current lifetime risk of a rockfall for a heavy commuter on I-80, is one in three million. (Of course that translates to one seventeenth of a statistical death as often as three million daily commuters navigate the road. Guessing once a decade? Perhaps in line with the USGS statistics reported by the team: 25-50 deaths per year nationwide from falling rock.) And of course there are other benefits from rockfall mitiga- tion: fewer non-fatal incidents and the reduced cost of highway maintenance. ‘FY1 – the Annual Average Daily Traffic on I-80 in this area is just over 55,000 vehi- cles per day in both directions.’

One of us asked how many deaths it takes at a road intersection to merit a traffic light. Answer: ‘All requests for traffic lights on state roadways are investigated by the NJDOT to determine if they are warranted.”

Several years ago, the Club took a posi- tion for “no build.” But that was before the current options were scoped, and when it was thought that the project would impact the Appalachian Trail. Our primary concern is usually to protect wil- derness, which includes native animal and plant wildlife, and (to a lesser extent) the views experienced on the trail.

In the grand scheme of things, I suggest this is not now an issue for us.

Resolutions: Approved by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in September, October and Nov, 2019

National parks, curb climate change, and protect our shores from oil and gas develop- ment. We honor them with early endorsement for re-election in 2020, along with our other seven “tenured” Executive Committees. It is becoming harder to find members willing to serve as Executive Committees. It is becoming harder to find members willing to serve as Executive Committees. It is becoming harder to find members willing to serve as Executive Committees. It is becoming harder to find members willing to serve as Executive Committees. It is becoming harder to find members willing to serve as Executive Committees. It is becoming harder to find members willing to serve as Executive Committees. It is becoming harder to find members willing to serve as Executive Committees. It is becoming harder to find members willing to serve as Executive Committees.

One thing you can do is take Debbie Young’s advice (p.4): Another, when the time comes, to fill your local or state paign office of your Congressperson and start stuffing envelopes, making phone calls, and tagging onto this on social media. All Club members ought to get involved in the Congressional races in 2020, especially the competitive ones. For more information, please contact me at political.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org.


Even though New Jersey has a list of rare and endangered plant species, these plants are not yet protected by state law. Assemblymen Herb Conway and Kevin霍沃斯 have introduced the Endangered and Threatened Plant Protection Act, which will offer protec- tion to New Jersey’s rare plant species.

New Jersey is home to 114 listed native plant species, of which 18% are currently at risk for extinction. Unlike animals, rare plants do not have state- wide protections and do not have a rec- ognized threatened category. Plant pro- tections do exist regionally under Highlands and Pinelands legislation, but even those regulations don’t cover all of our rare plant species.

This legislation would protect our rare plants from intentional damage and sale or transport — with some exceptions. The bill would also establish a threatened cat- egory for plants, using language that is consistent with that of other states and the federal government. It would also direct the commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to establish an “Endangered and Threatened Plant Species Advisory Committee.”

This committee would be tasked with developing conservation plans for priority rare species, extending the list of species as appropriate, and then shortening the list as protection efforts prove successful. Biologists have long been aware of New Jersey’s extraordinary flora. Yet we lag far behind other states in rare plant protections. Though densely populated, the state boasts dramatic floral diversity, due in part to its geological diversity.

Our plant diversity is under threat from 2006 to 2016, 26 species were added to the state list, and six went federal extant. Four species of plants exist only in New Jersey, and we harbor 42 globally rare species.

Pass the NJ Endangered & Threatened Plant Protection Act
by Ryan Rebozo PhD, Director of Conservation Science, NJ Conservation Foundation, and published with the approval of our Chapter Conservation Committee and Editorial Board

Legislative Entreaty
Pass the NJ Endangered & Threatened Plant Protection Act
by Richard Isaac (risaacx@aol.com)

A Well Earned Thank You – and a New Volunteer Opportunity
By Richard Isaac (risaacx@aol.com)

Thus now we have a new volunteer opportunity: for an individual who would like to provide some of the excite- ment of the great outdoors.

Marry would be glad to serve as a regional representative to anyone willing to take over from him.

The position requires training (COLT 101) – plus the first aid certification of all outliers – plus familiarity with local Club policies and procedures per- taining to the Chapter’s ICO Program.

If you’re interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact me: (H) 973-510-5497 and/or richard. isaac@sierraclub.org.

ELECTION RECAP
(Continued from page 7)

national parks, curb climate change, and protect our shores from oil and gas devel- opment. We honor them with early endorsement for re-election in 2020, along with our other seven “tenured” Executive Committees. It is becoming harder to find members willing to serve as Executive Committees. It is becoming harder to find members willing to serve as Executive Committees. It is becoming harder to find members willing to serve as Executive Committees. It is becoming harder to find members willing to serve as Executive Committees. It is becoming harder to find members willing to serve as Executive Committees. It is becoming harder to find members willing to serve as Executive Committees. It is becoming harder to find members willing to serve as Executive Committees. It is becoming harder to find members willing to serve as Executive Committees.

Sept: We urged reconstruction and enlargement of the new Port Authority Bus Terminal, in New York City, as the environmentally best way to improve pub- lic transit for commuters into and out of Manhattan.

Oct: More political endorsements for the General Election on Nov. 5.

Electoral Trusts: Approved by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in September, October and Nov. 2019

Sept: We urged reconstruction and enlargement of the new Port Authority Bus Terminal, in New York City, as the environmentally best way to improve pub- lic transit for commuters into and out of Manhattan. We allowed the Raritan Valley and Central Jersey Groups to downsize their Committee, the members of which are:

- Eric Houghtaling (Chair, D, 11), Adam Goldstone (D, 12), Matthew Milam (D, 1) and Parker Staweta (D, 11), and
- Ronnie Pepper (D, 12), Matthew Milam (D, 1) and Parker Space (R, 24). It has not moved since it was introduced on March 18, 2019. Contact the members of this committee and let them know you want to see this bill passed through committee. Then let your senator know you want to see a sen- ate version of this important legislation.

YOU HAVE MORE TO GIVE THAN YOU KNOW

Maybe you can’t make a gift to protect the environment during your lifetime, but you can become a financial benefactor and leave the Sierra Club a substantial bequest. You can even direct your gift to a special Club program or to the New Jersey Chapter.

For information about making a bequest to the New Jersey Chapter call Paul Sanderson at 908-233-2414
Skies are Empty and Eco-Anxiety is On the Rise

By Claudia Mausner, (C.Mausner.PhD@gmail.com)

I read and reread the statistics because I couldn’t believe my eyes: “The number of birds in the United States and Canada has fallen by 2.9% in only 19 years” (Zimmer, 2019, p. 9/19/19). Sure, I had noticed fewer migrating birds in flocks overhead; bird feeder with fewer visitors and less species diversity; longer stretches on forest hikes unaccompanied by bird song. Loss of habitat due to rising sea levels, warming temperatures, ocean acidification and the myriad other climate-related changes are mounting quite an assault on the bird population, part of the notorious “sixth mass extinction.”

When faced with such daunting statistics, along with direct experience, it is not surprising that unconscious defense mechanisms shift into high gear. Both prolonged and acute stress may leave us “stunned,” “afraid” and “appalled” by the “staggering” numbers in this ground-breaking research published in the journal Science and reported in the New York Times. These strong emotional reactions may be reflected in the newly coined term eco-anxiety, defined as “chronic fear of environmental doom” (Lertzman, 2017), or “a mental-health-related condition characterized by denial or defense mechanisms such as denial or apathy can be provoked by these alarming findings. Based on her sociological research into environmental change, Kari Norgaard, Ph.D., reminds us that “people don’t care and it’s not that they don’t know, but it has to do with how we manage our lives” (Norgaard cited in Flamm, 2019). How ironic that defense mechanisms which evolved to protect our psychological health can prevent us from taking action to stem our physical demise.

With the growing academic literature for references to eco-anxiety, I happened upon a transformative book for people care enough to title Confessions of a Recovering Environmentalist (Kingsnorth, 2017). After years of ecocentric thinking and demonstrations that left him depressed, cynical and burned out, the author describes his journey from the ‘comfortable’ English suburbs to the rural Scottish countryside, where they found a new way of life, far removed from their ‘eco-centric’ values. Kingsnorth offers a stinging rebuke of mainstream environmentalism by redefining the current paradigm, shaped by the supposedly ‘neutral gaze of Science’, uses “mind-numbing numbers . . . as if the world were a giant spreadsheet that needs only to be balanced correctly” (44-45).

Psychoanalytic research conducted by Renee Lertzman, and published in her book Environmental Melancholia (2016), supports Kingsnorth’s thesis. Her findings debunk the “rational actor model” embedded in environmental movement, with its false premise that modest, good intentions, and large data will deepen environmental concern and spur people to action (Fisher, 2016).

Too often people who work apathetic are “shamed” or “patronized” by environmentalists according to Lertzman; her research suggests that a “confrontational and participatory” strategy approach to discourse may elicit clinical anxiety and foster increased engagement.

Environmental journalist Joanna Macy and psychologist Chris Johnstone (2012) have found that eco-anxiety can also be exacerbated by lack of community, as people frequently encounter social resistance from the culture’s taboos against discussing that which is too depressing. More than 15 years of scholarship in this vein, Macy has developed “deep ecology” workshops that energize and empower people to participate as “survivors” in the healing process, “outrage, alarm, grief, guilt, dread, and despair” (07) at our current environmental predicament. In working with local communities she has created ceremonies to honor destroyed ecosystems or extinct species, and has organized “study-action groups” in which members learn about environmental issues, spread newfound knowledge to their communities, use this knowledge to implement environmental changes, and actively support one another in maintaining a strong commitment to the group’s work.

Kingsnorth appeals cautiously optimistic in suggesting that, “when things fall apart, the appetite for new ways of seeing is palatable” (p. 9). After rearing from his own burnout, the author realized that activism should be redefined to include the role of creative work and the importance of living in synch with one’s pro-environmental values. He urges environmentalists to use narratives – not just numbers – since people “think primarily in stories” (69), and is adamant that new narratives are needed to replace the myth of progress, the myth of human centrality, and the myth of our separation from nature’ embedded in mainstream, middle-class society (predominantly white) environmentalists reside (Kingsnorth, 283). A similar sentiment is also echoed by Lertzman who reminds us that, “In rising to the challenge of playing our best role, we discover something precious that both enriches our lives and adds to the healing of our world. An oyster, in response to trauma, grows a pearl,” (p. 39).

It is time to bring in new blood and “counteract those thoughts that could ultimately fuel your paranoia” (2017).

To get more, and have fun, you will celebrate your way out of despair, and actively work with “collaborative and participatory” approaches to stem our physical demise. To foster mental health and eco-anxiety, I encourage you to honor destroyed ecosystems or extinct species, and to organize “study-action groups” in which members learn about environmental issues, spread newfound knowledge to their communities, use this knowledge to implement environmental changes, and actively support one another in maintaining a strong commitment to the group’s work.

Eco-philosopher Joanna Macy and psychologist Chris Johnstone (2012) have found that eco-anxiety can also be exacerbated by lack of community, as people most often do not care and it’s not that they don’t know, but it has to do with how we manage our lives” (Norgaard cited in Flamm, 2019). How ironic that defense mechanisms which evolved to protect our psychological health can prevent us from taking action to stem our physical demise.

With the growing academic literature for references to eco-anxiety, I happened upon a transformative book for people care enough to title Confessions of a Recovering Environmentalist (Kingsnorth, 2017). After years of ecocentric thinking and demonstrations that left him depressed, cynical and burned out, the author describes his journey from the ‘comfortable’ English suburbs to the rural Scottish countryside, where they found a new way of life, far removed from their ‘eco-centric’ values. Kingsnorth offers a stinging rebuke of mainstream environmentalism by redefining the current paradigm, shaped by the supposedly ‘neutral gaze of Science’, uses “mind-numbing numbers . . . as if the world were a giant spreadsheet that needs only to be balanced correctly” (44-45).

Psychoanalytic research conducted by Renee Lertzman, and published in her book Environmental Melancholia (2016), supports Kingsnorth’s thesis. Her findings debunk the “rational actor model” embedded in environmental movement, with its false premise that modest, good intentions, and large data will deepen environmental concern and spur people to action (Fisher, 2016).

Too often people who work apathetic are “shamed” or “patronized” by environmentalists according to Lertzman; her research suggests that a “confrontational and participatory” strategy approach to discourse may elicit clinical anxiety and foster increased engagement.

Environmental journalist Joanna Macy and psychologist Chris Johnstone (2012) have found that eco-anxiety can also be exacerbated by lack of community, as people
American Dream Opens to Problems and Confusion

By Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club

The grand opening for part of the American Dream Mall, in the Bergen County Meadowlands, occurred on October 25. The Mall took more than 17 years to build. Construction workers were still working on other parts of the Mall. The waterpark and ski / snowboard facility were scheduled to open by early December, and the retail portion in March. When finished, there will be 3 million square feet: 55% for entertainment and 45% for retail. There are 11,000 parking spaces, plus 22,000 shared with nearby MetLife Stadium on event days.

As more of the Mall opens, we anticipate that the American Dream will become the American Nightmare with respect to traffic. Malls are dying across the country. In New Jersey, the American Dream Mall has been opened for 30 years, and more than 20 million square feet of retail and entertainment space has been completed. The site is on land protected for NJ Transit.

The American Dream plan that would cost $1-2 billion, but NJ Transit is crumbling. That money could have been used to finish the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail, or for other important improvements for NJ Transit. The Mall and Ciba-Geigy were abandoned by Johnson & Johnson, and the land was acquired by EDF Renewables, plans to lease 166 acres to generate 35 MW of solar power, while the EPA and DEP to impose a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects. More than a dozen such projects are currently underway: they will increase the state’s GHGs by over 52%. We should be capitalizing on renewable wind and solar energy instead of building natural gas pipelines, like NESE, that don’t even provide power for New Jersey.

In order to fight climate change, New Jersey needs to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) and take bold action against fossil fuels. That is why we ask Governor Murphy to impose a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects. More than a dozen such projects are currently underway: they will increase the state’s GHGs by over 52%. We should be capitalizing on renewable wind and solar energy instead of building natural gas pipelines, like NESE, that don’t even provide power for New Jersey.

While Governor Murphy touts that he is doing more about climate change than any other governor, other governors are running circles around him. Gov. Cuomo (New York) and Gov. Inslee (Washington State) are going 100% carbon free by 2040 and by 2050, respectively. In contrast, other states are becoming more vulnerable to renewable, while states with large carbon footprints like Pennsylvania do not want to impose any GHGs. We can meet the Paris Accords, stop fossil fuel infrastructure, and move to a green economy.

To see the report, visit https://bit.ly/2NrMFiH

Seventh Anniversary of Hurricane Sandy: NJ More Vulnerable Now

By Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club

October 29th was the 7th anniversary of Hurricane Sandy’s passage over New Jersey; its impact will long be remembered. Many of the affected are still homeless. But future storms will be much worse! A Rutgers study predicts sea level rise of almost three feet by 2100, which will cause more intense storms and severe hurricanes.

Just this past October, Tropical storm Melissa eroded more than a dozen New Jersey beaches. Some lost half a million cubic feet of sand. We will spend millions of dollars to repair that sand.

We think New Jersey needs to develop a comprehensive plan for the shore that includes adaptation to climate change, preparation for sea level rise, and restoration of natural ecosystems. There is no current program that requires towns to protect and maintain their dunes. We should also be increasing our coastal buyout programs to move more people out of harm’s way.

Since Sandy, New Jersey has built 4,524 new homes in high flood risk zones. Counties like Atlantic and Monmouth have the greatest numbers of new homes built in flood zones. (See our report on the Zillow study on the left side of this page.)

There are some direct and immediate actions that the Murphy Administration could take. Murphy could create a cabinet-level committee to coordinate all agencies in coastal resiliency and reduce greenhouse gases. This includes updating state regulations to include climate impacts, re-doing the Water Supply Master Plan, and using up-to-date data in our modeling and planning. The Murphy Administration needs to strengthen important water protections and regulations including the Flood Hazard Rules, Water Quality Management Planning Rules, CAPRA and Wetlands. New Jersey also needs a Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan.

Sea level rise and climate change require a multi-state approach. We must protect coastal ecosystems with natural flood storage like flood basins, sea cliffs and green roofs, rather than concrete walls that only redirect flooding to somewhere else. We need to rebuild marshes to fix problems of the past: implementing green building codes, energy efficiency standards and retrofitting stormwater systems to do so.

Toms River Approves State’s Largest Solar Farm: Dirty Site, Clean Energy

By Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club

In October, the Toms River (Ocean Co.) Planning Board approved a proposal to build New Jersey’s largest solar farm on the former Ciba-Geigy Superfund site. Construction could start as early as 2020. Toms River Merchant Solar LLC, a subsidiary of EDF Renewables, plans to lease 166 acres to generate 55 MW of solar power, enough electricity for over 6,500 homes.

This is an important project that will take one of the dirtiest sites in New Jersey and turn it into clean energy. It is a step in the right direction; we need to build large solar installations on toxic and brownfield sites instead of building them on green fields. The 1.25 square mile Ciba-Geigy property is the largest continuous piece of undeveloped land in Toms River. The EPA has been overseeing cleanup at the site since it was placed on the National Priorities List in 1980.

While the solar farm project moves forward, it is critical for the EPA and DEP to work together to make sure the site is properly cleaned up. They should not use the solar farm as an excuse to stop work on the site. The EPA should not work because there are still high levels of toxic and cancer-causing chemicals in the groundwater, and tens of thousands of tons of wastes still remain in the site’s landfill. The people of Toms River have been suffering from the contamination coming from this site for too long; they deserve a full cleanup.

Plastic Ban in Camden Co. - Statewide Ban Needed

By Sylvia Kay

On Sept 17, the Camden County Freeholders approved a ban on the use of plastic bags, straws, foam (polystyrene) food containers, utensils, and other single use plastic items at county facilities and events. The ordinance requires merchants to charge a minimum of 50 cents per bag or single use plastic items at county facilities and events. The ordinance is significant, a state-wide ban would be a more effective remedy for the immense environmental and health problems associated with accumulating plastic waste.

Plastic items, including microplastics (5mm or less), are not polluting just the Pacific Ocean. Rutgers scientists recently found densities of approximately 28,000 to 29,000 pieces per square meter of surface in the Passaic and Raritan Rivers. More than 80% of the trash found on beaches at the New Jersey shore is plastic. Microplastics have entered aquatic food chains and drinking water across the state. Foam containers contain toxins including stearate, which has been linked to cancer.

Groups are arranged in rough geographical sequence: North to South

**Skylands Group**
(Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

**Web-site:** http://SkylandsGroup.org or click from the NJ Chapter’s web-site.
**Facebook:** https://www.facebook.com/SkylandsNJSC
**E-mail:** ggorman@7419@embarqmail.com; Phone: 973-886-7980

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

**Chair:** (12/31/20) Greg Gorman ggorman@7419@embarqmail.com

**Vice Chair:** (12/31/19) Susan Williams gorman7419@embarqmail.com

**Secretary:** (12/31/20) Nonene Haberski nhaberski@embarqmail.com

**Treasurer:** (12/31/19) Jeri Doherty bjd9974@icloud.com

**ExCom at large:**
- (12/31/20) Nicole Guerrieri njacquin@yahoo.com
- (12/31/20) Scott Dierman scott.dierman@comcast.net
- (12/31/19) Chris Dunbar chrisdunbar458@gmail.com
- (12/31/19) Joanne Morgan jojommorgan@yahoo.com
- (12/31/19) Anthony Ricardi anthony.j.ricardi@gmail.com

**Conservation Chair:**
- (12/31/20) Greg Gorman

**Outings Chair:**
- (12/31/19) Dave Alcock dwhoob@hotmail.com

**Outreach Chair:**
- (12/31/20) Joanne Morgan jojommorgan@yahoo.com

**Environmental Justice:**
- (12/31/20) Susan Williams SkylandsGroup@gmail.com

**Political Co-Chairs:**
- (12/31/20) Nicole Guerrieri

**Co-Publicity Chairs:**
- (12/31/20) Jeri Doherty bjd9974@gmail.com

**Webmaster:**
- (12/31/20) Nicole Guerrieri

**Open position available:** Membership Chair – please contact Greg!

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** SECOND TUESDAY of each month and open to the public. We meet from 7:30pm at the Unitarian Fellowship, 1 West Nelson St., Newton.

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

The Skylands Group is currently in reorganization. It is currently managed by a Steering Committee consisting of:

- Buddy Jensen
- Diane Scarangella
- Mary Walsh
- Jeff Rappaport
- Sarah Liberti
- Bob Weiss
- Jan Barry

Each Group is invited to designate a Group Environmental Justice Officer.

**Skylands Group: North Jersey Group**

**Web-site:** http://www.njsierran.org
**MEETUP:** http://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/
**FACEBOOK:** https://www.facebook.com/groups/sierraclub.northjersey/

**OFFICERS:**

**Chair:** Jonathan Wall * jonwall@jonwall.com
**Vice Chair:** Celeste Martin * onecentral@mac.com
**Secretary:** Amy Weeder * aweeder@comcast.net
**Conservation Chair:** Nancy Carringer * nancarringer@yahoo.com
**Political Chair:** Karen Becker * karbecker@gmail.com
**Children’s Programs:** Kim Sturm * storiesofsoxrown@mac.com
**Environmental & Social Justice:** Barbara Grant * angela.desapio@gmail.com
**Outreach:**

**WEBSITE:** http://www.sierrclub.org/new-jersey/hunterdonwarren
**MEETUP:** http://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/
**FACEBOOK:** https://www.facebook.com/groups/sierraclub.northjersey/

**General Meetings:**

Jan 8 (Wed): WANTED: Dark Skies (Tentative): Turn the lights off and get ready to see the universe expand before you! Astroguides will discuss the impacts of light pollution on the environment and how we can take steps to reduce light pollution. Meet and greet to follow. Welcome all!

Feb 5 (Wed): The North Fix: It’s not all fun and games. Kimberly Borin, EdD, will discuss the spiritual, biological and physical reasons why immersing yourself in the joys of the outdoors will bring peace and healing to your mind, body, and spirit!

Mar 4 (Wed): The Nature Fix: It’s not all fun and games. Kimberly Borin, EdD, will discuss the spiritual, biological and physical reasons why immersing yourself in the joys of the outdoors will bring peace and healing to your mind, body, and spirit!

**Current Issues:**

- Oppose Mega-Warehouses.
- Oppose development projects which would adversely affect the ecology of a Natural Heritage Priority Site in Franklin Twp (Sussex Co).

**Group News:**

- **Group Executive Committee Meeting**
- **Ready for 100 Campaign** and projects to move toward a Clean Energy Economy.
- **Healthy Forests.**

**Group Environmental Justice Officer:**

Nicole Guerrieri SierraClubNicole@gmail.com

**Webmaster:**

Dave Alcock dwhoob@hotmail.com

**Outreach:**

Buddy Jensen buddy.jensen@gmail.com

**Outreach:**

Diane Scarangella diascat@hotmail.com

**Outreach:**

Mary Walsh mbwalsh@hotmail.com

**Outreach:**

Jeff Rappaport jeff@joysontline.net

**Outreach:**

Sarah Liberti dfilis0774@yahoo.com

**Outreach:**

Bob Weiss

**Outreach:**

Jan Barry

**MEETINGS AND EVENTS:**

Unless otherwise noted, meetings and events are open to the public.

Please check our Meetup page, facebook page, or website for meeting dates, times, and topics (see above for URLs). You can also email us at northjerseysierran@gmail.com
Gateways Group
Serving Hillsdale, Elizabeth, and Essex County (except for Livingston, Millburn and Roseland)

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

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

Please also join the Gateway Group on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gateway-NJ-Sierra-Club/1298958526642782/ for updates.

OFFICERS:
- Co-Chairs: Suzanne Trimmel 973-509-8835 suzanne.trimmel@gmail.com
  and
  David Yennior 973-844-1384 dyennior@gmail.com
- Vice-Chair: Caroline Kane
- Secretary/ Treasurer: Anne Hirs 973-844-1121 annehirs@msn.com
- Program Co-Chairs: Suzanne Trimmel 973-509-8835 suzanne.trimmel@gmail.com
  and
  Steven Yaffet 908-554-2557 stevenyaffet@gmail.com
- Publicity Chair: Open Position!
- Political Chair: Open Position!
- Fundraising Chair: Caroline Kane
- Membership Chair: Open Position!
- Water, Newark Issues: Bill Chappel 973-625-6400 billchappel@gmail.com
- Recycling: Open Position!
- Passaic River Issues: Open Position!
- Elizabeth Issues: Open Position!
- Outings Chair: Open Position!
- Group Executive Committee: Open Position!
- Water, Newark Issues: Bill Chappel 973-625-6400 billchappel@gmail.com
- Recycling: Open Position!
- Passaic River Issues: Open Position!
- Elizabeth Issues: Open Position!
- Outings Chair: Open Position!
- Group Executive Committee: 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 Whiteley, John Beadle, Barbara Conover, Zabib Thakemedi, Bill Chappel, Steven Yaffet, Anne Hirs, Paula Borenstein, and Brenda Toyloy.

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

CONSERVATION NEWS:
- We have filed an objection to a proposal, by the Essex County Parks Department, of a $16 million Grizzly Bear Exhibit, an $8 million amphitheater, and all future major development at the Turtle Back Zoo, located in the South County Parks Department, of a $16 million Grizzly Bear Exhibit, an $8 million amphitheater, and all future major development at the Turtle Back Zoo, located in the South Mountain Reservation, which was created as a nature reserve!

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

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

To find out our activities, go to: http://sierrachug.org/new-jersey/loantaka/
To join our e-mailing list, go to: http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/nj-loantaka-news.html

Executive Committee Meetings are held on the first TUESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St, Chatham. All members are welcome to attend Executive Committee Meetings. Right now, we have open positions on it! If you would like to find out more, please contact Paul Sanderson.

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

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

For more information, please contact Paul Sanderson at 908-812-3531.

E-mail: paulsander96@aol.com

Web-site: http://www.sierrachug.org/new-jersey/loantaka/
GROUP NEWS

Chapter’s website: Please see the Outings List in this newsletter – or on Pineypaddlers.com.

OFFICERS:
Group Chair: Joanne Panonne jpmteadowbrook@gmail.com
Group Vice Chair: Xiaoping Du xiaoping_du@gmail.com
Secretary: Leona Fluck leona@pineypaddlers.com
Outings Coord: George and Leona Fluck
Treasurer: Arlene Ceterski
Programs: Joanne Panonne
Conservation Chair: Kip Cherry kip_the_silverbird@yahoo.com
Recreation: Sylvia Kav
Wildlife: Dave Mattek
Webmaster: Open Position!
Education:

MEETINGS SCHEDULE: The Central Jersey Group is continuing with its popular monthly meetings at Mercer County Community College from September through April. We meet at 6 pm in the Student Center Room sc104. Parking across from the Student Center in the parking lots at the back of the college. Everyone is welcome, but please RSVP to kip@thepinehurst-club@gmail.com so we can buy enough pizza!

Outings are listed in the Sierra and at Pineypaddlers.com. Join George and Leona, weekly, for hikes, kayaking or biking. Join Dave Mattek forging a trail from the bottom of NJ to the top. Find us on Facebook.

We lobby at the State House for laws to fight pollutants and climate change. We need a moratorium on pipelines and fossil fuel projects. Support Empower NewJersey!

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

Jersey Shore Group Happenings:
Progress at Whale Pond Greenway – The Jersey Shore Sierra Club is a partner of the Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association, whose goal is to restore the banks and water quality of Whale Pond Brook and create a greenway from the ocean at Long Branch to the uplands in Tinton Falls.

We are working with the Long Branch Green Team in Long Branch. In Ocean Township we are aiming to create a trail in the Whale Pond Preserve, part of 350 acres of open space in the section of the Whale Pond single hanged by Rte 35, Industrial Way West, 18, 16, 14, 12, 10, 8, 6. The WPBWA, as a nonprofit, has engaged a forester to tell us how to best manage the land. To help: contact Faith Teitelbaum at Faithite@aol.com.

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

We meet at BCC to: share our speakers with environmentally-concerned BCC college students, the general public, and other environmental organizations. A buffet is available for the students and adults at 6pm. The program starts at 6:50pm.

To get to Brookdale, take GSP Exit 109 to Rte 520 West (Newman Springs Rd, which becomes E Main St at the Lincroft campus). Exit the traffic circle into the campus and follow the signs to the Warner Student Life Center (SLC), where the meeting usually is in the Twin Lights Rooms I and II. Use parking lot 7. As you walk towards the building complex, Warner will be down the slope on your left. If lot 7 is full, use parking lots 5 or 6. A campus map is at http://www.brookdales.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP_04_18.pdf.

Dec 1: Our Group Holiday Party – While this is the time for edibles, white roses, holly boughs, and pomeliters (but don’t eat those), you are invited to bring safer alternatives to those, and if you wish, share a little refreshment. We will enjoy the company of Sierra Group members and visitors, including officers, members, and others who maintain our club. The password? “Happy holidays!”

Jan 27: Climate Change and Wildlife – Dr. Catherine N. Duckett, Associate Dean of the School of Science at Monmouth University, will explain the impact that global warming is having on today terrestrial and marine animals, and the growing threats they may face in the near future. These threats can also have a major impact on homo sapiens who hunt and fish for sustenance and survival.

Feb 24: Solar Power On the Rise – Guy Downers, a consultant for the solar installation firm, Sea Bright Solar, will discuss the various assistance programs, both federal and state, available to homeowners to spur pollution-free solar power. He also will discuss employment opportunities in the solar industry, as compared to the fossil fuel industry, and the efforts of the fossil industries and some legislators to thwart the growth of solar energy.

Mar 25: Speaker TBA

May 18: STEM’s Beckoning Horizons – Biology professor Dr. Marion McClary, Jr. of Fairleigh Dickinson University, will explain an integrated nationwide curriculum to educate our high school students, teachers in the STEM fields, as well as college students interested in these fields, who will address the Monmouth community. Our BCC liaison is Dr. Patricia Dillon, biology professor in the college’s Science Department.

The cooperative effort between Sierra and BCC extends the “reach” of both organizations into the Monmouth community. Our BCC liaison is Dr. Patricia Dillon, biology professor in the college’s Science Department.

We meet at BCC to: share our speakers with environmentally-concerned BCC college students, the general public, and other environmental organizations. A buffet is available for the students and adults at 6pm. The program starts at 6:50pm.

To get to Brookdale, take GSP Exit 109 to Rte 520 West (Newman Springs Rd, which becomes E Main St at the Lincroft campus). Exit the traffic circle into the campus and follow the signs to the Warner Student Life Center (SLC), where the meeting usually is in the Twin Lights Rooms I and II. Use parking lot 7. As you walk towards the building complex, Warner will be down the slope on your left. If lot 7 is full, use parking lots 5 or 6. A campus map is at http://www.brookdales.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP_04_18.pdf.

Dec 1: Our Group Holiday Party – While this is the time for edibles, white roses, holly boughs, and pomeliters (but don’t eat those), you are invited to bring safer alternatives to those, and if you wish, share a little refreshment. We will enjoy the company of Sierra Group members and visitors, including officers, members, and others who maintain our club. The password? “Happy holidays!”

Jan 27: Climate Change and Wildlife – Dr. Catherine N. Duckett, Associate Dean of the School of Science at Monmouth University, will explain the impact that global warming is having on today terrestrial and marine animals, and the growing threats they may face in the near future. These threats can also have a major impact on homo sapiens who hunt and fish for sustenance and survival.

Feb 24: Solar Power On the Rise – Guy Downers, a consultant for the solar installation firm, Sea Bright Solar, will discuss the various assistance programs, both federal and state, available to homeowners to spur pollution-free solar power. He also will discuss employment opportunities in the solar industry, as compared to the fossil fuel industry, and the efforts of the fossil industries and some legislators to thwart the growth of solar energy.

Mar 25: Speaker TBA

May 18: STEM’s Beckoning Horizons – Biology professor Dr. Marion McClary, Jr. of Fairleigh Dickinson University, will explain an integrated nationwide curriculum to educate our high school students, teachers in the STEM fields, as well as college students interested in these fields, who will address the Monmouth community. Our BCC liaison is Dr. Patricia Dillon, biology professor in the college’s Science Department.

The cooperative effort between Sierra and BCC extends the “reach” of both organizations into the Monmouth community. Our BCC liaison is Dr. Patricia Dillon, biology professor in the college’s Science Department.

We meet at BCC to: share our speakers with environmentally-concerned BCC college students, the general public, and other environmental organizations. A buffet is available for the students and adults at 6pm. The program starts at 6:50pm.

To get to Brookdale, take GSP Exit 109 to Rte 520 West (Newman Springs Rd, which becomes E Main St at the Lincroft campus). Exit the traffic circle into the campus and follow the signs to the Warner Student Life Center (SLC), where the meeting usually is in the Twin Lights Rooms I and II. Use parking lot 7. As you walk towards the building complex, Warner will be down the slope on your left. If lot 7 is full, use parking lots 5 or 6. A campus map is at http://www.brookdales.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP_04_18.pdf.
GENERAL MEETING MEMBERSHIP: Held bi-monthly at the Skywalk Cafe in Toms River, except July and August.

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

West Jersey Group
(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

WEBSITE: http://sierrclub.org/new-jersey/west-jersey/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseyGroupNJSC
Log on and Like Us
Follow us on Twitter @WestJerseyClub and Instagram @wjsierrclub

OFFICERS:
- **Chairman:** Dick Colby 609-965-4453 dick.colby@stockton.edu
- **Secretary:** Ellen Zinni ezinni@as.com
- **Treasurer:** Trish Clements jzinni@verizon.net

Publicity Chair: Anne Cardi
- **Elements:** Lee Snyder
- **Media Coordinators:** Frank and Ellen Zinni
- **Conservation Chair:** Mike Brown
- **Membership Chair:** Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continues to consume the energies of those few offi-
- **Delegate at Large:** South Jersey Group
- **Programs Chair:** Aida Ayala
- **Media & Communications Coordinator:** Tony Hagen
- **Social Media Coordinator:** Open position! Call Gina to volunteer. 856-848-8851

Mailing Address:
West Jersey Group
2000 Cooper Road
Woodbine, NJ 08270

Gina Carola 856-848-8851 ginaceee@verizon.net

OFFICERS:
- **Chairman:** Dick Colby 609-965-4453 dick.colby@stockton.edu
- **Secretary:** Ellen Zinni ezinni@as.com
- **Treasurer:** Trish Clements jzinni@verizon.net

Publicity Chair: Anne Cardi
- **Elements:** Lee Snyder
- **Media Coordinators:** Frank and Ellen Zinni
- **Conservation Chair:** Mike Brown
- **Membership Chair:** Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continues to consume the energies of those few offi-
- **Delegate at Large:** South Jersey Group
- **Programs Chair:** Aida Ayala
- **Media & Communications Coordinator:** Tony Hagen
- **Social Media Coordinator:** Open position! Call Gina to volunteer. 856-848-8851

Mailing Address:
West Jersey Group
2000 Cooper Road
Woodbine, NJ 08270

Gina Carola 856-848-8851 ginaceee@verizon.net

OFFICERS:
- **Chairman:** Dick Colby 609-965-4453 dick.colby@stockton.edu
- **Secretary:** Ellen Zinni ezinni@as.com
- **Treasurer:** Trish Clements jzinni@verizon.net

Publicity Chair: Anne Cardi
- **Elements:** Lee Snyder
- **Media Coordinators:** Frank and Ellen Zinni
- **Conservation Chair:** Mike Brown
- **Membership Chair:** Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continues to consume the energies of those few offi-
- **Delegate at Large:** South Jersey Group
- **Programs Chair:** Aida Ayala
- **Media & Communications Coordinator:** Tony Hagen
- **Social Media Coordinator:** Open position! Call Gina to volunteer. 856-848-8851

Mailing Address:
West Jersey Group
2000 Cooper Road
Woodbine, NJ 08270

Gina Carola 856-848-8851 ginaceee@verizon.net

OFFICERS:
- **Chairman:** Dick Colby 609-965-4453 dick.colby@stockton.edu
- **Secretary:** Ellen Zinni ezinni@as.com
- **Treasurer:** Trish Clements jzinni@verizon.net

Publicity Chair: Anne Cardi
- **Elements:** Lee Snyder
- **Media Coordinators:** Frank and Ellen Zinni
- **Conservation Chair:** Mike Brown
- **Membership Chair:** Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continues to consume the energies of those few offi-
- **Delegate at Large:** South Jersey Group
- **Programs Chair:** Aida Ayala
- **Media & Communications Coordinator:** Tony Hagen
- **Social Media Coordinator:** Open position! Call Gina to volunteer. 856-848-8851

Mailing Address:
West Jersey Group
2000 Cooper Road
Woodbine, NJ 08270

Gina Carola 856-848-8851 ginaceee@verizon.net

NEWS:
The West Jersey Sierra Club joined the NJ Tree Foundation & the NJ Conservation Foundation to plant trees at Gateway Park in Camden on Oct. 19.

The smiling face on the right is Camden native and West Jersey Group Vice-Chair Frank Zinni. With him is the prettiest girl in Barrington and her father who responded to a Facebook request for help in planting trees to improve the airshed in Camden. Photo courtesy of Tree Foundation & the NJ Conservation Foundation.

GENERAL MEETINGS: are held at 7:30 pm on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month, September thru May, at the Quaker Meeting Hall on Friends Ave in Haddonfield.

Inclement weather may cancel. Please call 856-848-8851 if unsure.

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

Dec 11: Join us for our Year-End Wrap Up and Holiday Party. Bring a favorite munchie to share as we discuss our successes and ongoing efforts from 2019 and plan for 2020. Door prizes and great camaraderie.

Jan 8: NJ Tree Foundation Update - Meredith Brown will update us on the spring and Fall 2019 seasons, as well as what’s ahead for the Spring 2020 season.

Mar 11: Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) - Travis Hammill, the Eastern Regional Director. Travis will talk about Southern Utah/Western Nevada, some Possibly Relevant Activities of Allied Organizations:
- **Feb 5 and Mar 5:** (first Wednesday), 6:30pm: Atlantic County Friends of the Parks: Monthly meetings of a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Park System. All are welcome. WFNC. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-5280. Website: http://www.facebook.com/AtlanticCountyFriendsOfTheParks.
- **Feb 12 and Apr 15:** (alternate second Wednesdays), 7pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries (another “Partnership River” under federal protection): Meeting Place: George Luciano Center, Cumberland County College. Cumberland County development issues are commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Karla Rossini (CU) at 609-771-5853 or karla.rossini@cumacamerice.org. Website: www.cumacamerice.org.
- **Feb 19 and Apr 15:** (alternate third Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council Representative of the 12 municipalities discuss river management strategies. Open to the public. WFNC. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-5280.
- **Jan 22, Feb 26 and Mar 25:** (fourth Wednesdays), 7pm: Atlantic Audubon Society is a lively member-organization with strong environmental programs and an excellent monthly on-line newsletter. Membership is free. Meetings are in the Galloway Twp Library, 306 E Jimmie Leeds Rd. Website: www.AtlanticAudubon.org.

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

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

We’re a friendly, active group of individuals who enjoy biking, hiking, 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 Patte and Jimi Okskist
- **Outgoing Chair:** Joyce Haddad
- **Conservation Chair:** Position open
- **Treasurer:** Position open
- **Social Chair:** Position open
- **Vice Social Chair:** Jeff Sovelove
- **Publicity:** Position open
- **Membership:** Position open
- **Nominations:** Position open
- **Executive committee members:** Rozanna Fanelli, Joyce Haddad, Ron Patte, and Jeff Sovelove

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

COMMUNICATIONS: The best way to be notified of upcoming events is to join our free listserv. Anyone may subscribe by going to: http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/SJ/SINGLES/news.html and clicking on “Join or leave the list.” You may subscribe and unsubscribe at will. Directions on how to unsubscribe are at the bottom of each email announcement. We recommend joining the listserv to receive announcements for all of our events a few weeks before each event. Events are also list on the online calendar on the Chapter’s web site: sierraclub.org/new-jersey. You can also “like” us on Facebook: “Single Group New Jersey Sierra Club.” Activities will also be posted on Meetup.
GROUP NEWS (Continued from page 9)

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

Jan 14 (Tue): Singles Dinner: Summit Thai, East Hanover (Morris Co). 6:30pm. Registration Required: Please RSVP via Sierra Club web site: Start with the NJ Sierra Club web page: https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/home_calendar. Scroll down to the calendar of events and click on the “Singles Dinner at Summit Thai” and click on “RSVP” Leader: Rozanna Fanelli <efadan1@aol.com>.

Jan 16 (Thu): Singles Movie: Montclair Environmental Film series, Montclair Public Library: 50 South Fullerton St. Montclair. 6pm. Come enjoy film and lively discussion on topical environmental issues. Leader: Ron Pate <ronaldjamespate@gmail.com>.

Feb 11 (Tue): Singles Dinner: Mj’s at Butterdown Manor, Matawan (Monmouth Co). 6:30pm. Registration Required: Please RSVP via Sierra Club web site: Start with the NJ Sierra Club web page: https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/home_calendar. Scroll down to the calendar of events and click on the “Singles Dinner at Butterdown Manor” and click on “RSVP” Leader: Elly Faden <efadan1@aol.com>.

Feb 20 (Thu): Singles Movie: Montclair Environmental Film series. Montclair Public Library (Essex Co). 6pm. All members welcome. Come enjoy film and lively discussion on topical environmental issues. 50 S. Fullerton St. Montclair. Leader Ron Pate <ronaldjamespate@gmail.com>.


Mar 19 (Thu): Singles Movie: Montclair Environmental Film series. Montclair Public Library (Essex Co). 6pm. Come enjoy film and lively discussion on topical environmental issues. 50 S Fullerton St. Montclair. Leader Ron Pate <ronaldjamespate@gmail.com>.

HIKES AND OTHER OUTINGS: The Singles Section sponsors many outings, ranging from beginners’ level of hikes to advanced difficulty. Some of these are listed in the Outings section of this newsletter; others will be announced on our 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 hikers are required to sign a liability waiver.

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

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

OFFICERS:
Chair: William Parish * williamparish@gmail.com
Vice-Chair: Andrew Bevacqua * andrewbevacqua@gmail.com
Secretary: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com
Treasurer: Jonathan Wall * docjwall@gmail.com
Outing Chair: Robert M. Steeves * rutamaug1@gmail.com
Fundraising: Matthew Lang * matthewlang58@gmail.com
Webmaster/Listmaster: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com

(* Section Executive Committee Member)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:
Jan 23 (Thu): Executive Committee Conference Call. 8pm. This is our quarterly meeting to discuss issues and plans for events for next quarter. Check our web site for details and dial in information.

Jan 26 (Sun): Cross-Country Ski Outing. Time and Location TBD. Check web site for details and to register.

Feb 29 (Sat): Schechman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary Walk and Talk. Join us for a guided walk at the Sanctuary in Bernardsville, NJ. Check web site for details and to register.


Other outings: see www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/ for outings listings. You may also receive updated information by joining our email list. Please contact John at jkashwick@gmail.com to be included in the list.

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

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

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

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

Paul Ehrlich is the Vice-Chair (peterhlich-NJ@outlook.com). He co-edits the Essays Section of the Senior Section website. They are a weekly to monthly listing of events for the New Jersey Sierra Club, and focus on environmental issues, including reports of environmental-related news that may not be easily accessed by many members, opinions on how to deal with environmental threats, and who or what the threats are, and what 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: Open! Position!

Also known as Inner-City outings, ICO is a public service program that provides out-of-door trips to children, active in 50 of the NJ’s 59 Chapters, including the New Jersey Chapter since at least 1998. Marty Cohen has led our participation for most of that time, producing about five trips per year for students in the Clemente Middle School in Paterson. He has asked to be replaced. We will provide training leading to certification. Who wants to become a leader? Or does someone want to be assisted in your outings, helping to insure that all the time traversing the same trails that we use - but the children listen? Not only did our volunteers work to keep the children (and indeed all of us) safe, but to engage the children: they made our outings wonderful.

ICO is a great program. Everyone who attends one of our outings is quick to attest to the great values that the children receive from participating, and to the enjoyment of being with children in the woods. Like most children from cities and suburbs today, the children of Paterson seldom, if ever, experience a wild forest. We are blessed with such a natural area in the Palisades Interstate Park (at Harriman). This is a domesticated county park (wonderful in its own right), but an almost pristine 55,000-acre wilderness area complete with fauna of all sorts (deer, wild turkeys, raptors, vultures, rattlesnakes, copperheads, other snakes, bears, coyotes, and tons more), rugged trails, steep cliffs, pristine lakes, grand vistas, solitude.

Do the children learn anything from a hike in Harriman? Hah! Yes! Fear! They are initially afraid of the unknown, but this is quickly overcome, as they realize they are capable of meeting most of nature’s challenges: rock hopping across a skinny trail, giving room to a rattle snake, cold, or not, knowing they can trust their own brains and bodies. They learn that in the wilderness the weather must be respected, that there is no indoor. If it’s not in your pack it doesn’t exist.

On the Trail
New Leadership Needed for ICO
Statement from Marty Cohen, Retiring Chair, August 20, 2019

For a considerable time now, the New Jersey Section has been unable to maintain a sufficient staff of dedicated and qualified leaders. We have been fortunate in the past to have been able to volunteer to assist on our outings. But while their services are greatly appreciated, they are not qualified ICO leaders.

In our program, we have many leaders, most of whom are volunteers. Some volunteers have an extensive knowledge of the outdoors, and while their services are greatly appreciated, they are not qualified ICO leaders. Besides me, our current certified leader staff consists of one person who happens to work during the week. An additional volunteer is willing to pursue leader certification.

The only client (youth service agency) we currently partner with is Clemente Middle School in Paterson, which provides us with 40 students plus chaperones for each outing. As we like to keep experiencing nature as personal as can be practical, we divide the group in two. So, outings with Clemente require two sets of leaders to guide 20 students each, on a weekday.

It is my considered opinion that we should not rely on an inexperienced newcomer and an 85-year-old to implement our programs. Accordingly, I have resigned as NJICO Chair.

I want to thank everyone who has helped NJICO alive over the years. Without naming them, these people come from the national office and the state chapter of the Sierra Club and, of course, those who kept NJICO vital before I became involved. Many were never participants in our outings, helping to insure we didn’t lose anyone, or even more than slightly injure anyone (adults are injured all the time traversing the same trails that we use - but the children listen!).

Not only did our volunteers work to keep the children (and indeed all of us) safe, but to engage the children: they made our outings wonderful.

ICO is a great program. Everyone who attends one of our outings is quick to attest to the great values that the children receive from participating, and to the enjoyment of being with children in the woods. Like most children from cities and suburbs today, the children of Paterson seldom, if ever, experience a wild forest. We are blessed with such a natural area in the Palisades Interstate Park (at Harriman). This is a domesticated county park (wonderful in its own right), but an almost pristine 55,000-acre wilderness area complete with fauna of all sorts (deer, wild turkeys, raptors, vultures, rattlesnakes, copperheads, other snakes, bears, coyotes, and tons more), rugged trails, steep cliffs, pristine lakes, grand vistas, solitude.

Do the children learn anything from a hike in Harriman? Hah! Yes! Fear! They are initially afraid of the unknown, but this is quickly overcome, as they realize they are capable of meeting most of nature’s challenges: rock hopping across a skinny trail, giving room to a rattle snake, cold, or not, knowing they can trust their own brains and bodies. They learn that in the wilderness the weather must be respected, that there is no indoor. If it’s not in your pack it doesn’t exist.
ON THE TRAIL

exist. They learn that ICO leadership would not expose them to real danger. In NJ, birders count 4300 bird species. The bear attacks in the last 150 years, in the U.S. only one in 50 million people per year. The book documents thefatality from traffic acci- 
dents-40,000 per year. Do the children learn that ICO volun-
teers and their teachers chaparejons go out 6 miles in 3.5 hours in moderately hilly terrain. Facilities: There is a Port-A-John near the parking plenty of water. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com. (JS)

meanders through woods along Pond Run. Bring snack and drink. Tables and rest rooms are available.

Jan 4 (Sat): Hike at Veterans Park (Mercer Co).

Year with the NJ Sierra Club. The section we paddle will depend on river conditions. Experienced cold water, a snack, and wear hiking boots. Heavy/steady rain cancels. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey G & Blumenkrantz, the Chapter Outings Chair) before February 28.

NOTES ON OUTINGS: All Outings are generally open to Club members, guests and anyone interested in outings. Unless otherwise noted, the outings are free and the public. All participants must sign liability waivers on ALL OUTING ROSTERS. Please confirm your attendance by contacting the leader below at least 1 week in advance. Unless a phone number is provided, we may assume that it will take place, unless the schedule indicates otherwise. Indecision suppliers - check the yellow pages or call the trip leader.

Please arrive early at the meeting place so that the outing can start on time. For day hikes, lunch (at least a light snack) is a must. Ensure that you have your medicine, weather, and clothing gear and clothing. For cold-weather hikes, study over-the-sho window or boots should be worn. For all hikes, please be prepared to help with group cooperation will help assure a safe and pleasant outing.

We expect to take 4-5 hours for fun in the snow. There is a full-service cross country ski center at the park. Canoes are available, trips do not require advanced paddling experience.

January 2020

Jan 1 (Sun): New Year's Day Paddle on the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. Ring in the New Year on the Wading River. NJ Riverkeepers will provide instruction and guidance on cold water paddling only. Enjoy a suet getaway after the cold trip. Bring something to share. Hikers are welcome to join on after the paddle! Please contact leaders to confirm participation and details. George & Leona; Leona 609-259-3754 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

Jan 4 (Sun) Hike at Veterans Park (Mercer Co). 10am. 4.5 miles, easy pace. Ledged sloops are welcome. Please contact the leader before you go into the park. We will meet at the Thompson Park Trailhead near the Off-Leash Dog Area on Fir Dr, Monroe Twp. GPS Address: 270 Mendham Rd, Morris Twp, NJ 07960. moderate one. See the Morris County Parks Commission website http://www.morrisparks.net/index.php/ parks/lewis-morris-county-park for directions. GPS Address: 270 Mendham Rd, Morris Twp, NJ 07960.

Jan 5 (Sun) Hike at Veterans Park, Wall (Monmouth Co). 1pm. After a circuit through the outer reaches of the Wall Township golf course, we will take a promenade back through the woods, past the Wall Reservoir, and along the Wall River to a picnic area. Light refreshments will be served. (JL - Central Jersey) (JS - Jersey Shore) (G - Gateway) (L - Loura) (NT - North Jersey) (R - Raritan Valley) (S - South Jersey) (NJ - New Jersey) (RT - River Touring) (ACCD - Atlantic Chapter) (continued on page 12)
OUTINGS
(Continued from page 19)

motion and registration please contact Joanne P. and note “Sierran” in the e-mail subject line: gmaisbrooks@gmail.com, or 609-456-6922. (C)

Mar 15 (Sun): Bike Turkey Swamp Park, Freeland (Monmouth Co). 3pm. Forest and the meandering Manasquan River will greet us. About 4 miles, easy pace, mostly level, some roots, can be muddy, bring plenty of water. Supportive recommenders. Contact leader to register and meet leader place: John Lourdel. (Sj)

Mar 15 (Sun): Hike at Estell Manor (Atlantic Co). 10am-5.6 miles, easy pace. Meet at the Warren Farm Nature Center, 107 North Warren Rd, Estell Manor. Bring plenty of water, snacks for our lunch break during the hike. Ledged dogs are welcome! Inclusion wallet disaster can. Please contact leaders to confirm hike: Lena and George L and/or lorraineperry@sierranet.org (W)

Mar 22 (Sun): World Day for Water. Canoe/Kayak Lake Oswego (Burlington Co). 10am. Join us for a day on Lake Oswego and it’s upriver, siteshers. Water World is held daily on March 22, and is one of the major fundraising events for the Sierra Club. The event on the Interim management of freshwater resources. New Jersey’s 7,700 million gallon Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer is a vast reservoir of fresh water that underlies South Jersey and all of the Pinelands. On Thursday, July 11, the NJDEP filed a second challenge to a controversial plan for a Sommik pipeline, known as the SRL, through the ecologically sensitive Pinelands Reserve area along the Pinelands. Sierra Club Pinelands Preservation Alliance and other environmental groups have raised concerns that the project will impact clean water, and to contribute to climate change and carbon emissions. Bring lunch and beverage and snacks. Please contact leaders to confirm the trip and participation. Experienced cold water paddlers only. Rental boats are not available. Leaders: Mona Luisa and George L 201-735-7773, or lorraineperry@sierranet.org. (W)

Mar 29 (Sun): Hike at Maurice River Bluffs Preserve (Camden Co). 10am, 5 miles, easy pace. The Nature Conservancy protects more than seven miles of pristine shoreline along the Maurice River Bluffs, a majestic picturesque overlooking the river. (W) Upstreaming maurice-river-bluffs/Bring binoculars, water and snacks. Option for lunch at Lolo’s Restaurant in Readvisske. Leaders: Mona Luisa and George L. (W)

Mar 29 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 10am. The section we paddle will be between State Route 60 and the New Gloucester Road. Experienced cold water paddlers only. Rental boats are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and details. Option for early breakfast at the Vincenzo Dine: George L and/or 609-299-5734, or lorraineperry@sierranet.org. (W)

Upcoming ExCo Meetings

All members are welcome to attend these monthly statewide policy deliberations, held on the first SATURDAYS. Details, including agenda and travel information, are available from Richard, the Chair (best confirm!)

Copyright 2020

Permission to reprint (with source acknowledgement) is granted to other Sierra Club entities.

TheJerseySierran: January–March 2020

The Jersey Sierran is published quarterly by the Sierra Club’s New Jersey Chapter.

46 West Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618

The Jersey Sierran is published quarterly by the Sierra Club’s New Jersey Chapter.

45 West Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618

Printed on Recycled Paper

Copyright 2020

Permission to reprint (with source acknowledgement) is granted to other Sierra Club entities.

The Jersey Sierran is published quarterly by the Sierra Club’s New Jersey Chapter.

46 West Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618

Printed on Recycled Paper

Copyright 2020

Permission to reprint (with source acknowledgement) is granted to other Sierra Club entities.

The Jersey Sierran is published quarterly by the Sierra Club’s New Jersey Chapter.

46 West Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618

Printed on Recycled Paper

A moratorium on the development of fossil fuel infrastructure in New Jersey is needed.2,3,4,5 A recent study indicates that if this rise continues, the 2015 Paris Agreement target of less than 2°C temperature change will be virtually impossible to achieve.6

A recent study points to production and use of shale gas and oil, especially in North America, significantly contributing to the increasing global atmospheric levels of methane.7 Methane is considered a bigger factor than biogenic sources, such as wetlands or livestock, that had previously been reported to be major contributors.8

Although scientists will be debating the source of methane and industry sectors that emit methane must reduce emissions. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) advised in October, 2018, that methane emission levels must be reduced by 55% or more by 2050 to keep below a 1.5°C temperature change.9 Achieving this goal will be especially challenging as methane levels have been rising rather than decreasing as noted above.6

Scientists have called for the use of a top-down (TD) method10 for determining the EPA national inventories of greenhouse gas emissions, for which levels are used to make policy decisions, has consistently underestimated the amount of natural gas emitted.11,12,13

This has been attributed to sparse and unreliable activity data, poorly characterized and highly uncertain emissions from production, flaring, and leakages, and costly measurement programs, and unaccounted fugitive emissions.14

Scientists have called for the use of top-down (TD) emission measurements15 to establish policies as it provides climate structure given the potential for significant exacerbating climate change far beyond the Paris Agreement goal. References (2019 references are bolded).


10 IPCC, Summary for Policymakers.

11 In Global warming of 1.5°C Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 2018, https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/

12 A bottom-up approach involves measuring or modeling emissions of individual methane emitters such as oil and gas wells, landfills, and cattle farms, and extrapolating using emission factors to regional and national scales.


18 As of 2018 a top-down approach uses aircraft or tall towers to measure atmospheric methane concentrations and build an inventory account for atmospheric transport in estimating regional scale emissions. Estes, R.E., et al. (2017).


20 On September 20, 2019, more than four million people marched on their governments worldwide to demand action on the climate emergency. The protests were led by Greta Thunberg as part of a series of actions leading up to the United Nations Climate Summit. The protests were largely fueled by students who were alarmed and fed up with the corporate and political stonewalling we see in the U.S. and across the globe to take any meaningful action to save our planet.

As if to highlight how far the Koch clan, ExxonMobil and other fossil-fuel protectors will go, six weeks later, on Nov 5, the Trump administration began taking active steps to remove the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement.

Protesting, writing letters, organizing and lobbying are all great ways to fight the climate crisis. But if you're too young to vote, meaning Gen Z (ages 18-22) and Millennials (ages 23-59) are to make a real difference, the ballot box is the most powerful place to do it. Voting is the only way to put in place the politicians who will fight the climate crisis and save our planet.

Deregulatory trends are good but not enough: Leading to the 2020 election, the voting trends suggest that, while more people will vote, the election may be a tough one. In the 2018 midterm election, nearly 120 million people voted nationally, which is 10 million more than in the 2014 midterm election. The increase in voters came from a rise in party switching, 18% from immigrants who became new citizens. The great voter turnout was fueled by opposition to Trump, and concerns over the direction of the country, particularly when it came to immigration policy, the election crisis, and the rights of all citizens, particularly minorities, LGBTQ, and women’s rights. In the 2019 New Jersey primary, voter participation was only 36%. Although that was a great increase from previous elections, the far fewer number of younger voters still lagged that of older voters, who tended to vote in greater numbers and more in support of Pres. Trump. That is critical to understanding why the 2020 election is supposed to produce record voter turnout. But younger voters need to keep registering as they turn 18, and they and Millenials need to show up to vote.

Raising your voice, creating headlines and expressing alarm on social media can only go so far. Only getting out to vote works better than removing bad politicians from office, and casting a vote for your favorite candidate.

So tell your voting-age kids, your Millenials, your students or anyone who is listening, if you are not yet registered to vote, go to https://www.state.nj.us/empowernj/index.html and from there you can vote or check your registration status. If you need to vote, you can find your polling place using the NJ Secretary of State’s voter search tool. All this seems like the most powerful thing you can do to fight the climate crisis and save our planet.

If you didn’t receive an electronic Sierra Club ballot last Fall, and would like to receive future ballots electronically, as well as membership renewal notices, please send your email address up-to-date? If you didn’t receive an electronic Sierra Club ballot last Fall, and would like to receive future ballots electronically, as well as membership renewal notices, please send your email address up-to-date? If you didn’t receive an electronic Sierra Club ballot last Fall, and would like to receive future ballots electronically, as well as membership renewal notices, please send your email address up-to-date?

Your Email Address (please spell your name and address number accurately if you know it) is membership@sierraclub.org.
Act—please contact their offices and our 11 Democratic members of the Delaware Water Gap to Morristown and our state parks in New Jersey. From the log of needed maintenance, and New Jersey's parks are no exception. From the aesthetic and other leisure activities— and their members have let them. The Restore Our Parks Act—please contact their offices and thank them for their support of our national parks!

By John Kashwick, Wildlands Issues Coordinator (political.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org)

"Restore Our Parks" Act

In June of 2017 the Delaware Riverkeeper showed me her Chevy Volt. They came on the market in 2008. It looked like a Prius but it didn’t have a combustion engine. It was a plugin. She is one of the greatest environmental champions I know. So I bought my Volt and on a full charge I get 65 miles from the battery then it automatically turns on a generator. Then I can go a total of 420 miles until the next recharge and fill up. My daily driving barely turns on the generator. To date, I have driven 41,000 miles. The AAA estimates that driving costs 40¢/mile. That would be a cost of approximately $20,000. There is my savings. Electric is cheap, especially when you install solar panels. Plus, you don’t pay sales tax (over $200) on the purchase of an electric vehicle and get a healthy Federal tax credit up to $7000.

I want to have a healthy environment with clean air. Air pollution is mostly invisible. Batteries are clean. This picture is this morning’s energy dashboard in my Volt. It makes me smile. Dennis Anderson and his wife, Carol, of the Shore Group own all-electric Tesla’s. They traded up from the Volt. Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker (D-16) has owned an all-electric Nissan Leaf for several years.

By Joanne Pannone, Chair of our Central Jersey Group (jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com)

Reports from our Members

Support the “Restore Our Parks” Act

How I Saved $20,000 on Gas

By Faith Teitelbaum and Stan Greberis, Conservation Co-Chairs of our Jersey Shore Group

The Fitness Club Industry Needs to Go on a Diet

Where does the water go when you empty your pool? Do you run a hose from your pool down to the street? That would send it into a storm drain, but do you know where the outlet is? Storm drains do NOT lead to a sewage treatment plant. Storm drains typically outfall into the nearest body of water, for instance our beautiful Takanassee Lake in Long Branch, in the Whale Pond Brook watershed.

So what should you do?

Swimming Pool Waste Water

By By Laura Piraino, of our Hudson County Group (laupiraino6@gmail.com)

The Fitness Club Industry needs to go on a Diet

By Laura Piraino, of our Hudson County Group (laupiraino6@gmail.com)

Large workout areas are filled with rowing machines, treadmills, ellipticals, with equipment left on all day, whether it is being used or not. Air conditioning units run non-stop- and members can stay very cool... while they sweat. Bright lighting shines down in air-conditioned space- and members - and may in fact double in the next 10 years. Air conditioning units run non-stop and people often forget to turn them off when they leave.

Marketing research completed in 2018 by Nielsen, Mc Kinsey and Cone Communications has been marching out another important trend in the United States: a growing demand for companies that are going green. 3 out of 4 companies that are going green. 3 out of 4 Millennials, 51% of Boomers and 85% of Gen Z are now purchasing green. 31% of all U.S. consumers rewarded companies that have taken steps to reduce global warming in 2018; and 76% of all consumers want businesses to act specifically on climate change. Among the top sustainability purchasing drivers are for products “known for health and wellness benefits.”

The fitness apparel industry is responding to this new demand. Patagonia, Nike, Adidas and others are making progress with a wide array of sustainability measures. These include improved recycling, repair, resale, increasing efficiency, adding renewable energy and utilizing post-consumer waste materials in manufacturing. GlobalSportsMatters.com reports that sports league associations like the NFL, NBA, NHL, and the MLB are also pursuing sustainability plans, including efforts to green stadiums and merchandise.

Yet surprisingly, the fitness industry continues to build and operate inefficient facilities, despite the opportunity to benefit from sustainability best practices established in other industries. Large desalination waste and consumer products are also purs...
Trump Tries to Kill Endangered Species Act

From a press release issued on Aug 12, and edited by Irene Gnarra

The Trump Administration has been dismantling environmental and wildlife protections by not prioritizing the interests of industry and big business over the concerns of scientists and environmentalists. Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, a former oil and gas lobbyist, claims that his revisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 “modernize” policies. Rather, those modifications weaken protections for endangered species and their natural habitats, and will cause environmental degradation.

The new regulations forbid consideration of climate change when assessing the viability of species. Economic factors are allowed to determine whether a plant or animal should be protected. The degree of risk – threatened, vulnerable, or endangered – will not be respected, since species may be placed on or removed from the list arbitrarily.

The new regulations undercut the work of the US Fish and Wildlife Services, as well as the processes of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Bernhardt’s announcement was hailed by industry groups, including oil and gas companies, utilities, ranchers and real estate developers. They are now free to exploit habitats of vulnerable species. New Jersey is especially affected, since we have relied on federal protections in our fights against harmful proposals.

For example, the Pennsilt Pipeline would destroy the habitats of our endangered species. We especially fear the extinction of the dwarf wedgemouss, bog turtle, and red knot. To compensate for the loss of federal protection, we ask the Murphy Administration to adopt replacement regulations at state-level.

EPA Repeals Drinking Water Protections

From a press release issued on Sept 12, and edited by Irene Gnarra

On September 12, the US-EPA announced its repeal of the 2015 rules protecting the quality of drinking water, known as WOTUS (Waters of the United States). Environmental groups are in court contesting the action. A hallmark of the Obama Administration, WOTUS regulated the quality of the water in tributaries that feed rivers – providing wetlands that filter pollution, safeguarding habitats for fish and wildlife, and absorbing floodwaters.

The EPA expanded the number of waterways under protection, excluding intermittent streams and tributaries, and isolated wetlands that are not directly connected to large bodies of water. Now polluting industries, developers, mining companies, agri-businesses, pharmaceutical companies, and other corporate polluters will be free to establish their own rules and possibly ignore the harmful effects of their operations.

The new EPA regulations will impact New Jersey negatively. We expect more flooding, filling in of wetlands, and pollution with storm water runoff and sewage from other states coming into our rivers and reservoirs.

The Murphy Administration must set new standards for safe drinking water. NJ-DEP must establish water quality standards for Wetland and Flood Hazard rules, and it must tighten rules on headwater areas and the connectivity of streams. New Jersey must oppose short-sighted decisions and adopt sensible regulations that assure protection for our streams, wetlands, and waterways.

Toxic Algae Bloom in the Fall – Salem, Sussex, Burlington & Passaic Cos. Impacted

From a press release issued on Oct 4

2019 seems to have been a record year for closures of freshwater lakes because of blooms of blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria. These organisms thrive in polluted waters with high ratios of phosphorus to nitrogen, i.e. in which the pollution originates from household or industrial rather than agricultural sources. (That’s because, unlike green algae, they can “fix” nitrogen from the atmosphere.)

The affected lakes include Lake Owassa in Sussex County, Smithville Lake in Burlington County, and also in Salem County, Memorial Lake in Woodstown, East Lake and Avi Mill Pond in Pilesgrove, Daretown Lake in Daretown, Elmer Lake in Elmer, Salem River, and Slabtown Lake.

Some of our largest and most popular recreational lakes were affected last year: lakes adjacent to Hopatcong State Park and Greenwood Lake were or are still above NJ Health Advisory Guidance Levels. The DEP needs to establish stream buffers and enforce Total Maximum Daily Load standards to limit pollutants in our lakes. We need tougher rules on stormwater management and to bring back Septic Management Districts. New Jersey also need to reduce development and sprawl in environmentally sensitive areas.

In North Carolina, three dogs died due to the same bacteria that shut down swimming at several New Jersey lakes last summer. Shortly after swimming, they started to seize and died three hours later.

Lake Closures Expose State Park Shortfall

From a press release issued on July 24, edited by Joe Testa

In Summer, 2019, we ran out of places to swim in New Jersey – because of two failed policies. For years, the DEP has not adequately protected waterways or funded parks that are only as good as the public’s funding: about 8% of the north and central parts of the state; four of them were closed intermittently because of toxic algal blooms. Many state parks had to turn people away by 10am on summer weekends because they were filled to capacity.

Shutdowns and advisories at some of the largest and most popular lakes continued to occur as the Summer progressed: Lake Hopatcong, Greenwood Lake, Spruce Run Reservoir, Wharton State Park, Rosedale Lakes in Mercer County, Sunset and Deal Lakes in Monmouth County, and Lake Mohawk in Sparta.

New Jersey hasn’t opened a new swimming area since Waywayanda in 1981. Constructing a swimming area required at Monksville Reservoir was abandoned in 1984 for lack of funds. Greenwood Lake has a state park, but the beach and bathhouse there were never built. The state bought a KOA campground in West Milford with a swimming area, then closed it.

New Jersey has passed on many chances to buy new recreation and swimming areas – from owners who wanted to sell below market value to preserve recreational use – but they were told there wasn’t the money to maintain and operate them. Under Gov. Whitman (1995-2002) the focus of the Green Acres program went from parks and people to buying open space such as farms and forests. As part of that change, the park staffing from 1,000 to 400, where it remains. Perhaps this policy was devised to keep urban residents from coming out for recreation in wealthy suburban and rural areas.

Some lost opportunities include Suntan Lake in Riverdale, which had a lake and a giant swimming pool, and is now a Home Depot; Fountain Spring Lake in Ringwood, now an exclusive golf camp; Hudson Guild in Byram, which has three lakes and is now an exclusive hunting lodge; and Crystal Springs in Hamburg, which is now a massive resort. McDonald’s Beach in Pooquock is closed and threatened with development.

Money for parks continues to be withdrawn. The annual $50M budget for capital repairs and parks was cut to $8M. The lack of money has produced a $25M backlog of emergency park repair needs. Over the last decade the parks budget is down 40%.

Remaining swimming areas are being overgrown by algae. That’s a direct result of the state failure to protect our waterways. There are no watershed management programs, no attention to stormwater and failed septic tanks. Nothing to address nutrient loads, and no Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs) standards to limit pollutants. The DEP has made the nutrification of lakes a ‘low priority because it does not directly relate to human health issues.” That’s wrong.

Stopping the algae crisis will require a comprehensive approach. There are short-term, environmental, and fiscal ways the state can choose to reduce algae blooms. We need to reverse Christie-era rollbacks that weakened water protections, and strengthen rules on stormwater management, flood hazards and sewage for better quality planning. We should restore Septic Management Districts and extend stream buffers, and retrofit stormwater systems in existing developments. We must also fix aging infrastructure and reduce nutrients from failed septic systems, leaky sewers and combined sewer overflows.

17 million people visit parks in New Jersey each year, generating $4 billion in recreation tourism. That demand needs attention. Since 1892 the Sierra Club has fought to “explore, enjoy, and protect” our nation’s wild places and open spaces. That mission includes making sure that our parks are available for people. We will continue that fight.

DEP Asks for Climate Data Long Overdue

From a press release issued on Sept 17, edited by Sylvia Kay

The DEP has just requested that higher-education institutions share research findings on climate change and sea-level rise that will help New Jersey strengthen its resilience strategies for global warming. This was proposed two years ago, so it seems that the DEP is waking up. Rutgers in particular has strong programs in climatology and land-use planning, and administers a state-wide lay data-collecting program with the acronym corncobs. The new request has an action deadline of September 30, 2020, and is for all studies either in progress or completed within the last five years.

New Jersey is the only East Coast state that does not currently have a plan for climate resiliency. We think there needs to be a multi-state approach, with a mechanism for updating data and regulations. The DEP needs to:

- regulate CO2,
- request the NJ Office of Climate Change. It needs to:
  - update adaptations for sea-level mitigation,
  - update a shore protection plan,
  - fix CAI/AI loopholes,
  - establish a Coastal Commission,
  - update Flood Hazard Rules,
  - update Wetland Code,
  - update Water Quality Management Planning Rules,
  - update the NJ Swamp List,
  - update building codes, and
  - advance energy efficiency

New Jersey is one of the states most vulnerable to sea level rise, impacting both private and commercial properties. The Union of Concerned Scientists reports that more than 62,000 New Jersey homes, worth more than $26 billion, will be at risk by 2045. These numbers grow to 251,000 homes, worth $107 billion, by the end of the century. We lead the nation in the number of commercial properties projected to be at risk of chronic inundation in 2045. It’s time for the Murphy Administration to move aggressively.

The Jersey Sierraan: January–March 2020

15
Battle against PennEast Pipeline

From a press release issued on Oct 11, and edited by Irene Gnana

On January 1, New Jersey will again become a partner in the northeastern states’ Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), and this will generate a large pot of money from the sale of CO₂ emission allowances to power companies. The idea is that by limiting the sale of those allowances, power companies will be forced to invest in cleaner forms of energy. Furthermore, the proceeds of the allowances will be invested in projects that further reduce CO₂ emissions. In October, the Murphy Administration announced a series of public workshops to help decide how that money will be invested.

The New Jersey Sierra Club is pleased to see us back in RGGI, but we are concerned about how the money will be used. Under NJ’s global Warming Solutions Fund Rule, it will be divvied between the Department of Environmental Protection, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. The following seven target areas have been identified: clean transportation, New Jersey’s Green Bank, community clean energy microgrids, net-zero energy solutions for waste management, beneficial role of NJ forests in the carbon cycle, sequester “blue carbon” in coastal habitats, and clean tech innovation. At the same time, the devil is in the details. The decision process has to be open, and the environmental goals have to be made clear. We must not, for example, rebate or subsidize power companies so that they can further invest in fossil fuel technologies. Energy efficiency, community solar, and electric vehicle infrastructure need to be clearly in the running, as well as other green technology, such as wave and offshore wind energy.

We hope the DEP will keep its commitment to the community and stakeholder process to target benefits to environmental justice (EJ) communities. It is critical that RGGI revenue targets EJ communities that receive a disproportionate amount of pollution. That should include jobs.

During our previous RGGI participation, New Jersey gained $151 million in economic value and almost 1,800 jobs. We also achieved greenhouse gas reduction of 10% in the first three years. Here is a document that explains the intended destination of money acquired through sales of CO₂ allowances: https://bit.ly/32fctUQ. And here is the latest report on the success of the RGGI among partners in the New England and Mid-Atlantic states: https://bit.ly/2ph6ltX.

AG & DEP Target Polluters in EJ Communities

From a press release issued on Oct 25, and edited by Tony Hagen

Six civil filings recently, by the Department of Environmental Protection and Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal, have hopefully put a chill down the spines of ne’er-do-well business owners who think they can leave a toxic legacy and get away with it. Attorney General Grewal, have hopefully put a chill down the spines of ne’er-do-well business owners who think they can leave a toxic legacy and get away with it.

Grewal said the lawsuits against current and past business owners in Trenton, Camden, Newark, East Orange and Kearny are intended to put meaning behind the words “environmental justice,” which is a movement to give inner city residents the same entitlements to a clean, healthy, and safe environment as residents elsewhere.

In Newark, Nanes Metal Finishing Company, of 4th St, allegedly allowed TCE (trichloroethylene) and PCE (perchloroethylene) to leach into the soil. These chemicals are linked to kidney dysfunction, respiratory tract irritation and cognitive and neurological effects. The DEP has spent $500,000 on cleanup so far and wants to recover the costs.

Saint Marie Dry Cleaners of Chestnut St in Trenton allegedly created an unhealthy mess by allowing PCE to leach from underground tanks, affecting nearby homes. The property was foreclosed; the DEP now seeks at least $400,000 for remediation. Those responsible for the contamination allegedly didn’t follow through with the required cleanup. The DEP hopes to compel them to finish the job.

At a Chestnut St property in Camden, current and past owners allegedly ran an unlicensed solid waste dump. Scrap metals, construction and demolition debris, dirt fill and discarded materials are present in abundance. The state seeks a court order requiring the removal and proper disposal of the solid waste by year’s end, as well as the imposition of civil penalties.

The DEP and the AG are also seeking enforcement actions against Schofield Cleaners of West State St, Trenton, Auto Scrap of Stover Ave, Kearny, and Gas Mart of North Park St in East Orange. What offenses these businesses allegedly committed is unknown. It appears the DEP released them.

Scape state officials...