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However, in October, in a clear and well-thought out strategy was put in place when the Governor released the state’s first Climate Change Resiliency Strategy, which is separate from TCI, but these will make it clear: We need to act. Other policies have been under consideration, including the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI), but these wouldn’t go far enough or prioritize environment justice communities. We need to make sure the ACT rule stands on its own and is completely separate from TCI, which is a false solution that distracts from real policies our communities urgently need. Electrifying our transportation sector could help avoid 6,300 premature deaths, 93,000 asthma attacks, and 16,000 lost workdays, saving $72 billion in health care costs. The state needs to adopt a strengthened form of the ACT rule quickly so that we can begin to address this major source of air pollution.

For more, original cp-rd, visit bit.ly/StarLedgerTrucks

New Jersey Chapter Endorsements and Results: 2021 State Elections

Election Results (w = won election)

**Governor**
- Phil Murphy

**District NJ State Senate**
- 5 Sen. Silvia Cruz-Perez
- 6 Sen. Troy Singleton
- 11 Sen. Vin Gopal
- 15 Sen. Linda Greenstein
- 15 Sen. Shirley Turner
- 16 Asm. Andrew Zwicker* 
- 17 Sen. Bob Smith
- 19 Sen. Joseph F. Vitale
- 20 Sen. Joseph F. Cryan
- 20 Christine Clarke*
- 21 Sen. Richard Codey
- 22 Asm. Gordon Johnson*

**District NJ State Assembly**
- 7 Asm. Herb Conaway Jr.*
- 7 Asm. Carol A. Murphy
- 11 Asm. Joann Downey
- 12 Asm. Robert D. Clifton
- 14 Asm. Daniel Benson
- 15 Asm. Anthony S. Verrelli
- 15 Asm. Verlina Reynolds-Jackson
- 16 Asm. Roy Freiman
- 17 Asm. Joe Danielsen
- 18 Asm. Stanley Ramaley
- 21 Asm. James Kennedy
- 21 Asm. John F. McKeon
- 23 Asm. Mila Jasey
- 25 Asm. Angelica M. Jimenez
- 28 Asm. Raj Mukherji
- 31 Asm. Thomas P. Giblin
- 34 Asm. Brittni Zimmerlake
- 35 Asm. Benjie E. Wimberly
- 37 Asm. Shavonda Sumter
- 37 Asm. Clinton Calabrese
- 38 Asm. Gary S. Schaer
- 38 Asm. Chris P. Tulley
- 38 Asm. Lisa Swain

* Denotes newcomer

### Adopt ACT Rule to Reduce Diesel Exhaust and Harmful Pollutants

By Maria Lopez-Núñez and Renée Pollard

Maria Lopez-Núñez is the Deputy Director of Organizing and Advocacy at the Ironbound Community Corporation, Renée Pollard is the Environmental and Social Justice Chair at the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club. This column was adapted from an op-ed published on NJ.com July 24, 2021.

States across the nation have serious problems with pollution, including exhaust from vehicle traffic impacting communities of color more harshly than white communities, and New Jersey is no exception.

During our annual truck count, we watch thousands of trucks rumble through Newark’s Ironbound, a vibrant, multi-ethnic community sandwiched between the airport and the Passaic River. All this pollution means that many neighbors here struggle with asthma and other respiratory issues and are at higher risk for heart disease.

This isn’t a problem we see in wealthier, predominantly white communities such as Montclair and Summit. Newark is next to the largest port on the East Coast and is littered with warehouses that attract cavalcades of dirty diesel trucks amounting to more than 1.4 million trips a year. These trucks emit nitrogen oxide (NOx), particulate matter (PM 2.5), black carbon, and other dangerous pollutants.

In Newark, one in every four children has asthma, which is three times higher than the national average. The New York-Newark metro area is the second worst in the world for ozone smog.

The studies and health impacts and our lived experiences make it clear: We need to act.

Other policies have been under consideration, including the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI), but these wouldn’t go far enough or prioritize environment justice communities. We need to make sure the ACT rule stands on its own and is completely separate from TCI, which is a false solution that distracts from real policies our communities urgently need. Electrifying our transportation sector could help avoid 6,300 premature deaths, 93,000 asthma attacks, and 16,000 lost workdays, saving $72 billion in health care costs. The state needs to adopt a strengthened form of the ACT rule quickly so that we can begin to address this major source of air pollution.

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### Harmful Pollutants

Adopting a version of California’s Advanced Clean Trucks rule (ACT) as it was introduced in 2018 could help address these problems. This rule requires that 10% of all heavy-duty trucks and buses by 2025 be zero-emission. This policy was introduced in California to address the disproportionate amount of pollution found in communities of color and low-income communities.

In July 2020, Gov. Phil Murphy signed a historic multi-state truck and bus memorandum of understanding (MOU) that commits our state to phase out dirty trucks and buses while prioritizing emissions reductions in environmental justice communities. The MOU identifies policies that states can take to attain 100% zero-emission trucks and buses, which includes adopting a version of California’s Advanced Clean Trucks rule (ACT).

As the state considers California’s ACT rule, we should improve on it. Public health should be at the forefront of everything, which is why the NJ Department of Environmental Protection should toughen reporting standards to cover more heavy-duty trucks and buses and ensure our most vulnerable communities are protected.

We must also make the reporting requirements annual. The California model requires only one-time reporting. We need to be collecting data regularly to monitor our progress. The trucking industry may change over the years, which means that the information reported now may not hold true for long. ACT is a highly ambitious policy.

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ExCom Resolutions and Highlights ............ p.3
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Member Reports: An EV Dinky, ........................................p.10
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Adopt ACT Rule to Reduce Diesel Exhaust and Harmful Pollutants ........................................p.8
POLITICAL CHAIR’S REPORT

A Win for Progress: Murphy Can Continue His Green Initiatives

By Karen Becker • political.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org

On Election Day, the polls closed at 8 p.m., but due to close results we had to wait almost 20 hours for the gubernatorial outcome. This election cycle was important for New Jersey residents because we voted for our Governor and the entire State Senate and Assembly. On the day after the election, we learned Gov. Phil Murphy won his race for reelection, marking the first time in 44 years that a sitting Democratic Governor in New Jersey was reelected.

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Conserve your home energy and curb pollution with these tips:

- Use LED lighting to reduce electricity usage.
- Replace old appliances with energy-efficient models.
- Use smart thermostats to control heating and cooling.
- Install weatherstripping to improve insulation.
- Use Fans & Heat Pumps to reduce energy usage.

These measures can help you save money on your energy bills while also reducing your carbon footprint. Start implementing these changes today and join the global effort to combat climate change!
It’s an honor to take on the role of editor of The Jersey Sierran. In this job I am replacing Dick Colby, who stepped down last issue after more than 20 years of devoted commitment and hard work. I publicly thank Dick for all he has done and for recommending me as his replacement. His are big shoes to fill.

For those who don’t know me, I’m a lifelong resident of New Jersey and a great lover of the outdoors. On my given weekend you might find me walking in Washington Crossing State Park or canoeing on the Delaware and Raritan Canal.

My hometown is Florence Township, which has its share of environmental achievements and flaps. It’s home to many acres of warehouses, including a sprawling Amazon fulfillment center, but also the former Roebling and Sons Co. Superfund site, which is now a fantastic riverfront park. Warehouse construction and truck traffic, in fact, were major issues in this year’s local election.

By trade, I’m a journalist; my current job has been writing about biosimilars, drugs that improve competition and lower costs for health care consumers. Dick has had me writing about biosimilars, and I am replacing Dick Colby, who has taken over for Dick and is now our Newsletter Editor at The Jersey Sierran. In addition to his editing skills, Tony Hagen, the West Jersey Group’s Media and Communications Chair and a member of our Chapter’s coordination team, has filled Dick’s shoes.

I give my heartfelt thanks to Dick Colby for his longtime service as our NJ Chapter’s Newsletter Editor. After literally two decades he has decided to step down.

In addition to his scores of editorials and judicious editing these past years, Dick has contributed greatly to The Jersey Sierran and to the environmental movement in numerous ways. Dick has served as Chapter Chair, Chapter Political Chair, and also represented the South Jersey Group on the Chapter’s Executive Committee.

Tocks Island Champion

In his time with our Club, Dick has fought in major environmental battles, perhaps most notably in helping stop the controversial Tocks Island Dam hydropower and flood-control project, which would have turned a 40-mile stretch of the Delaware River into a reservoir. It is because of this successful campaign by Dick and others that there is now a Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, which many people today become familiar with the Delaware Water Gap National Park and Preserve.

Another major campaign Dick was involved in was helping obtain federal designation of the Delaware Estuary and the watershed of the Great Egg Harbor River, which includes parts of Camden, Gloucester, Atlantic, and Cape May counties.

While Dick is extremely modest, it should be noted that he is Professor Emeritus of Cell Biology at Stockton University and received his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley in biology.

Even when he was a full-time professor, Dick somehow managed to find the time to volunteer with not only Sierra Club, but also the following organizations: the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, the Egg Harbor City Planning Board, the Atlantic County Parks and Environment Advisory Board, the Zerby Shellfish Committee, and the Eyen Hafen Land Preserve.

Sierra Club is honored that, on Dick’s webpage, he lists our organization first among all his community activities.

I also want to extend a warm welcome to Tony Hagen, who joined our Chapter’s coordination team and has taken over for Dick and is now our Newsletter Editor at The Jersey Sierran.

In addition to his editing skills, Tony has a keen interest in a number of environmental issues and has written some excellent articles for the Sierran for the past few years. One was about the highly toxic per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) used in firefighting foam and nonstick surfaces for cooking pots, and another concerned the allure and the danger of solar geoengineering as a way of coping with global warming. As Tony is an engineer, I would not be surprised if he sometime down the road would write an article about that issue as well for our newsletter.

A Super Lawyer

Finally, I wish another warm welcome to Christopher Hitchcock, Esq. Chris has 30 years of experience trying cases before federal, state, and appellate courts and has repeatedly been honored as a Super Lawyer in a compilation of outstanding lawyers published each year by Thomson Reuters. The award honors attorneys meeting stringent requirements for professional achievement and who have attained a high degree of peer recognition. We’re glad to have Chris aboard, and he is indeed a welcome addition to our Chapter’s Legislative Committee.

One last but very important note: Our new Chapter Director as of November 29 is Anjuli Ramos. I look forward to providing a much fuller introduction to Anjuli in our April–June issue!
A Battery-Operated Alternative to the "Dinky"

By Kathleen (Kip) P. Cherry, PP, AICP • kcherry10@gmail.com

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Railroad Development Corp. (RDC), whose chairman is Henry Posner (Princeton '77), has given life to a new concept in rail service. The Pittsburgh, Pa., headquartered firm, which operates short lines and railroads around the world, sees a profitable market in developing light-dutyclass trains in the United States, starting with the Princeton Branch and its powerful connection to the Northeast Corridor.

Posner has imported stunning orange-and-black remanufactured former London Underground railcars that are running in a demonstration project in Central Pennsylvania. These exciting new battery-operated railcars were manufactured by Vivarail, a British company in which RDC is a shareholder, which works on the existing rails. These railcars offer benefits that cannot be matched by so-called Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) or other bus alternative. Posner’s hope is that the Princeton Branch will be just the first of many shortlines around the United States to use the technology.

Posner is calling his demonstration project Pop-Up Metro. It is set up at Rockhill Furnace, Pa., about three hours from Princeton, where it is designed to operate at typical speeds of 60 m.p.h., the Pop-Up Metro conforms with federal safety regulations and New Jersey Transit (NJT) purchasing practices. The concept is to show how well the equipment will operate on the existing Dinky line, while achieving cost savings and critical greenhouse and pollution reductions.

Last year, as rail transit operators struggled with the pandemic and an increased demand for service, they turned to a “transit study” to determine the future of service on the Dinky line. The study parameters seem calculated to support a claim that upgrading the rail line is impractical and the only alternative is some form of bus transportation. Because of this, the New Jersey Association of Railroad Passengers has argued that the real goal of the study is to replace the existing rail service with some form of BRT service. Rather than let that happen, Posner has made a major investment to keep the rail line operational.

The sustainability of the new train is critical. The train batteries will allow for an immediate jump in the Dinky catenary (overhead power lines), which some people think is dangerous and unsightly. This will also eliminate ongoing maintenance and a difficult maintenance of the catenary. RDC would initially rely on commercially generated power, but Posner’s railcars have renewable power through existing solar fields or, potentially, a community solar installation on a new warehouse rooftop. Renewable power will then be sent to Princeton University’s grid, points along Alexander Street, employers along Rt. 1, and the Princeton Medical Center. A TOD stop will reduce regional congestion with its attendant environmental costs, just as area warehouses start taking on thousands of new employees.

Posner’s Pop-Up Metro on the Dinky line also provides a demonstration of providing rail freight to wash, recyclables, and oversize cargo. Freight could be moved at night so that it doesn’t interrupt regular passenger service. Negotiations will also be undertaken on advertising fees, and the Pop-Up Metro train will be made to effectively a popular campus location at the Transit Plaza, in association with the Wawa, that will benefit passengers and students and community members alike. This creates possibilities such as a van service with Princeton merchants. Much more could be said about the potential of Posner’s Vivarail cars if placed into operation through a public-private partnership with rail companies to provide a reliable and efficient service. And it is consistent with Princeton University’s own targets of reducing campus greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2046. Let us hope that NJT’s transit–way study process will give the Princeton Branch the attention and encouragement to continue as a dedicated rail line. Posner’s new train is that chance.

CONSERVATION VICE-CHAIR’S REPORT

Shut Down the Last Two NJ Coal-Fired Plants Early

By Gina Carola • ginaceee@verizon.net

In August, the New York Times Magazine published an in-depth look at the increasing flooding problems faced by New York’s coastal cities and towns, and said the sea level here has risen 18 inches in the past century, which is twice as fast as the global average, with incidents of nuisance flooding (which is associated with high tides) more than doubling in the past 20 years. This followed closely on the heels of the 2018 IPCC report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which found that global warming is accelerating, and “unless there are immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach.” The window of opportunity for decisive action is closing, as the long life of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere means that a certain amount of further warming is already baked into the system. Upon publication of a special report in 2018, IPCC Chair Hoesl Roberts said ominously, “The next few years are probably the most important in our history.”

In New Jersey, the Murphy administration has taken many important steps to reduce the emissions disrupting the climate, including adopting an Energy Master Plan that charts a path to 100% clean energy by 2050. Unfortunately, many of the solutions it aims to put in place, such as offshore wind and electrification of buildings and vehicles, will take years or even decades to fully implement. We also need to pursue policy interventions that can make reductions in order to heed the warnings of climate scientists.

One such short-term solution is to immediately shut down the last two coal-fired power plants in New Jersey.

- Replace the power owed to ACE under allowed phaseouts of these losses available from the regional PJM grid.
- Pay ACE $25 million, which would be returned to ratepayers, to account for the lower cost of the replacement power.
- Redevelop the sites to clean energy activities, such as offshore wind manufacturing or solar with storage.

Because coal is the most carbon-intensive fuel, and the electricity from the PJM grid is getting cleaner, the power switch alone would reduce carbon emissions by 2.3 million tons by 2024, equivalent to the yearly emissions from over three-quarters of a million vehicles. That is without considering the climate benefits of redeveloping the sites to support clean energy.

Given the climate, consumer, and economic benefits of the deal, it is unclear why AC has not yet taken the opportunity. The utility’s parent company is Exelon, which loves to tout its climate leadership and fleet of low- and zero-emission power plants. In fact, ACE’s own website includes this statement under the heading of “Climate Leadership.” “Climate change represents one of the greatest challenges of our time and demands that we actively pursue every opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

We couldn’t agree more with that statement. This proposal to shut down the last two coal-fired plants in New Jersey and the state is an opportunity for Atlantic City Electric and Exelon to make good on their promises. They should agree to do so right now, and to make plans to move on to one of the more challenging fronts of the climate fight.
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE CHAIR’S REPORT

Leading the Charge for Electric School Buses

By Bill Benner • Benner 5@verizon.net

In the previous issue of The Jersey Sierran, I discussed three major initiatives that the Transportation Committee was working on: Electric School Buses; the Clean Truck Rule, and the Newark Newbus initiative. Our booth and panel discussion on electric vehicles at the New Jersey School Boards Association virtual conference in October was a resounding success. Over 50 individuals visited our booth, and we had just under 100 viewers of our panel discussion. We posted eight documents for attendees to download, including three flyers: a flyer from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) describing how to apply for grant funds, and four original documents prepared by Transportation Committee volunteers, including Kip Cherry, and Gary Frederick. These included a short guide on how to use electric school buses, and a map of the New Jersey electric school fleet.

In November, we posted a six-minute video titled “Electric School Buses Are Now.” The video was produced by Sierra Club volunteers, including videographer and editor Michael Competielle, Judy Minot, and myself. You can watch the video and view the documents from the link on the NJ Chapter’s website.

In Memoriam: Nancy Carringer (1938-2021)

By Jonathan Wall, Chair of the Hunterdon Warren Group

Nancy Carringer, a longtime member of the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club who served as Conservation Chair for our Hunterdon Warren Group, died at 82 on October 23, 2021.

Nancy originally volunteered with the Central Jersey Group and later moved to Massachusetts. I had the pleasure of meeting Nancy about four years ago when she returned to New Jersey to live in Annandale, closer to her daughter. She joined one of our general meetings and made a point of sharing her thoughts and ideas. With a passion for environmental and social causes, Nancy jumped right into a leadership role in our group. An educator and counselor by profession, she spent her retirement years traveling the world, volunteering for a domestic violence response team and following her passions for horseback riding and gardening.

Just last month, Nancy spent mornings helping out in a local political campaign passing out flyers. One voter complained to her about his property taxes going up. She met him straight. I asked her whether she thought school districts should be consolidated and school administrator positions reduced. With a twinkle of humor, she smiled and said, “What do you think? I’m an educator! Of course, we need more teachers and fewer high-paid administrators!” When I confided she worked independently (independent) with undecided voters on the political spectrum and complained how one cannot take sides when issues tower over politics, she smiled, said, “I’m unaffiliated!” and spoke of her admiration for certain politicians who were on both sides of the aisle.

A couple of years ago, in the cold of winter, she trekked with us from the Port Authority Bus Terminal through Central Park to attend a lecture by the great-grandson of Teddy Roosevelt at the Explorers Club on the Upper East Side. She spent many a Saturday morning attending one of our Conservation Committee meetings. Her latest cause involved arguing against beach replenishment along much of the NJ shoreline.

Our Group will truly miss Nancy with her wry sense of humor and can-do spirit. She was not afraid to say “yes” and did what she said she would do. We sincerely thank her and her family for asking that donations be given in her memory to the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club and know that her spirit will remain in our hearts.

REPORT FROM TRENTON

PennEast Aborts Fracked-Gas Pipeline

Proposed construction of the highly controversial 16-mile PennEast Pipeline project, from Luzerne County, Pa., under the Delaware River at Riegelsville, Pa., and south to Mercer County, NJ, has been canceled. PennEast Pipeline Co. failed to obtain the necessary water quality permits from New Jersey and decided the project is not worth pursuing.11 This is a big win for communities in New Jersey and Pennsylvania that are opposed to this giant, dirty, and unstable pipeline, said Patrick Greter, Associate Director of the Sierra Club’s Beyond Dirty Fuels campaign to stop the expansion of fossil fuel consumption.

The pipeline would have transported fracked Marcellus Shale gas to a transfer station on Blackwell Road in Hopewell Township for customers in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and surrounding states.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection declined to issue water quality certification and wetlands permits under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, citing potential water quality impacts.

The Sierra Club and other organizations had long battled the pipeline, contending it threatened forests, 88 waterways, 44 wetlands areas, 30 parks, and 30 endangered species. The project was opposed by landowners and the Planning Board of the Delaware River Basin Commission. They also asked for the pipeline to further the use of fossil fuel across a multi-state pipeline, fearing it might be escalated to a larger climate change.

The pipeline would have been another competitor to the so-called “state-controlled land in New Jersey for the pipeline path.” Just three months prior to abandoning the project, it narrowly won (5-4) US Supreme Court support for land condemnation. Also, the pipeline threatened forests, 88 waterways, 44 wetlands areas, 30 parks, and 33 commercialized recreation on public lands. The pipeline endangered-motorized trails. This type of use conflicts with potential future wilderness designation, among other problems.

New Life for Boonton Rail Line

The disused former Boonton Line in Essex and Hudson counties will become a “linear greenway” thanks to an agreement by the State of New Jersey to purchase the rights to roughly nine miles of railbed through eight municipalities. The greenway will begin in Montclair and continue toward Hoboken over the Passaic and Hackensack rivers through urban landscapes and marshland. For more details and news updates, visit https://www.essexhudsongreenway.org/

PROTECTING PARKLANDS

Recreation Issues Subteam Seeks Members

By Vicky Hoover, Recreation Issues Subteam, Sierra Club Alaska Chapter

Do one, two, three, or even more of the issues below bother you? Interest you? Concern you? Uproot you? Make you feel some action is needed toward better management?

- Off-road vehicles and personal watercraft
- Planes flying over parks
- Mountain bikers
- Inappropriate trail usage
- Lack of accessible recreation opportunities
- Fees charged for public lands recreation
- Commercialized recreation on public lands

Let the Sierra Club’s Recreation Issues Subteam hear from you! Sierra Club’s national Wildlands and Wilderness Team recently created a Recreation Issues Subteam and now seeks interested individuals to join. The team currently has 12 members. There used to be a Recreation Issues Team before it was called the “Subteam” suffix, but now we work within the Wildlands Team.

The Recreation Issues Subteam’s mission is to assist volunteers, build networks, and help coordinate the Club’s conservation efforts on recreation issues, primarily on public lands. While all recreation activities certainly have some impact on the land and ecosystem, a major concern of the Subteam is the way that land managers, pushed by advocates of mechanized recreation, are steadily converting walking trails into mechanized-motorized trails. This type of use conflicts with potential future wilderness designation, among other problems.

If you would like to help our campaign to get better public lands management, please contact Subteam Chair Karl Forsgaard at karlforsgaard@comcast.net.

We are mindful that wild public lands exist not only for human recreation but also for wildlife habitat. We hope this will bring our recreational pursuits into balance with nature, including wildlife.

Greener Warehouses

New warehouse operations in NJ with at least 100,000 square feet of space will soon be required to reserve 40 percent of roof area for solar arrays, under a law (A3352) Gov. Phil Murphy signed in December. This law builds on a 2015 bill that took effect July 1, 2022. Also, warehouse hot water plumbing must be solar-generated. https://bit.ly/3HWMPp

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SKYLANDS GROUP
(Sussex and Northern Warren counties)

Webpage: https://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/skyland
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SkylandsNJC
Email: ggorman07419@embarqmail.com; Phone: 973-486-7950

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE and other OFFICERS (ExCom Members are elected to serve 2-year terms; term expiring in dates in parentheses)

Chair (12/31/22) Greg Gorman ggorman07419@embarqmail.com
Vice Chair (12/31/21) Susan Williams SkylandsGroup@gmail.com
Secretary (12/31/22) Norine Haberski norinehaberski@gmail.com
Treasurer (12/31/21) Jeri Doherty bdj8974@gmail.com
ExCom at large (12/31/22)
Dave Alcock dwboo@hotmail.com
Virginia McGuire SierraClubNicole@gmail.com
Scott Dieman chrisdunbar54@gmail.com
Chris Dunbar jojommorgan@yahoo.com
Outings Chair Dave Alcock dwboo@hotmail.com
Outreach Chair Joanne Morgan jojommorgan@yahoo.com
Environmental Justice Committee Chair Susan Williams SkylandsGroup@gmail.com
Political Co-Chairs Nicole Guerrieri SierraClubNicole@gmail.com
Susan Williams SkylandsGroup@gmail.com
Co-Publicity Chairs Jeri Doherty bdj8974@gmail.com
Joanne Morgan jojommorgan@yahoo.com
Webmaster Nicole Guerrieri SierraClubNicole@gmail.com
Membership Chair Open Position – please contact Greg!

GENERAL MEETINGS: Conducted via Zoom meetings
The Skylands Group of the NJ Sierra Club serves the environmentally sensitive region of Sussex and Northern Warren Counties in Northwestern New Jersey. We offer a variety of opportunities for the public to learn about and connect with their natural environment, including informative films and speakers at our monthly general meetings; exploration of the great outdoors on hikes, edible-plant tours and picnics; public outreach via town tabling; and visits to schools to teach students about the environment. Our hope is to foster a love of and deep respect for our great outdoors.

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

CURRENT CAMPAIGNS: The Skylands Group advocates the protection of the Scratch Mountain Wildlife Management Area from logging done under the guise of “forest stewardship.” We have opposed the proposed Green New Deal, Sunrise Movement, Sierra Club’s Ready for 100 Campaign, and projects to move toward a clean energy economy.

The Skylands Group also opposes the Musonhumston Planned Residential development, which will adversely affect the ecology of a Natural Heritage Priority Site in Franklin Township (Sussex Co.).

HUNTERDON WARREN GROUP
(Hunterdon and Southern Warren counties)

Webpage: https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/hunterdonwarren
Meetup: https://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/sierraclubnorth_nj

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair—(Elected North Jersey Group Executive Committee Members)

Social Media Coordinator Matthew Avalone* mattavalone@gmail.com
Treasurer, Secretary John Kashwick john.kashwick@njseyennorg.org
Warren County Issues Pat Banes* patrick_banes@comcast.net
Webmaster/Listmaster John Kashwick john.kashwick@njseyennorg.org
Fundraising Chair (* Group Executive Committee Member)

GENERAL MEETINGS: Meetings are virtual for the time being. Please check https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/hunterdonwarren for updates or to register for events. Registered participants will receive Zoom meeting information. There is no meeting in August.

Jan 5 (Wed): 7:30 p.m. Electric Vehicles. Bill Beren, Transportation Chair for the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club, will present on the state’s efforts to convert internal combustion to electric vehicles for both state and personal use. Buckle your seat belts! The state is hitting the pedal when it comes to cutting back on gasoline and diesel consumption! Bill will answer questions about the state’s plans and the incentives offered to speed up this transition to electric cars, trucks, and buses.

Feb 2 (Wed): 7:30 p.m. To be announced

March 2 (Wed): 7:30 p.m. To be announced

OTHER EVENTS
Jan. 15 (Tues): 7:30 p.m. Virtual Online Executive Committee/Planning Meeting. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about the Club. Hear about and discuss issues, plan future events, and become more active.

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

Dark Skies: Voorhees State Park in Hunterdon County is home to the NJ Astronomical Association Observatory, which relies on dark skies. The Hunterdon Warren Group is initiating a campaign to have our county and local municipalities adopt stricter ordinances to reduce excessive light pollution which not only conflicts our view of the night sky but also wastes energy and harms wildlife and human health. Please contact John at jkashwick@gmail.com if you are interested in this issue.

Logging on Public Lands: There are several ill-conceived bills in the New Jersey legislature that would impact the health of forests throughout the state. These regulations would require additional expense for municipalities to create management plans for their open space and effectively log their forests under the guise of “forest stewardship.”

NORTH JERSEY GROUP
(Bergen and Passaic counties)

Webpage: https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/north-jersey
Meetup: https://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/northjerseysierraclub

Twitter: @sierraclub_nj
Instagram: sierraclubnorth_nj

The duly elected nine-member Executive Committee benefits from the assistance of volunteers. If you are interested in participating at a planning level and/or as a member or leader of one of our committees (see the Committee Descriptions below), please contact the Group Co-Chairs or the Committee Chair.

OFFICERS
Co-Chair Diane Scarangella* diascert@hotmail.com
Co-Chair Buddy Jenssen* buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Treasurer Laura Troy* ltr09y@gmail.com
Secretary Judy Greene* jgreen4j@gmail.com
Co-Chair Mary Walsh* nw.outings.chair@nj.org
Co-Chair Judy Greene* jgreen4j@gmail.com
Climate Change Chair Jeff Rapaport*
jefrap@optonline.net
Marketing/ Social Media Co-Chair Marie Mannino* marinemannino@yahoo.com
Co-Chair Buddy Jenssen* buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Inner City Outings Chair Sophie Neal Suedorf sophienae@gmail.com
Co-Chair Erica Cowper* ecowper@drew.edu
Youth Outreach Chair Erica Cowper* ecowper@drew.edu
Co-Chair Sophie Neal Suedorf sophienae@gmail.com
Environmental Justice Chair Open Position!

Justice Chair/Co-Chair Open Position!

Diversity/Environmental Chair/Co-Chair Open Position!

Other Events/Membership Committee Co-Chair Open Position!

ExCom Member Bob Watts* bobwatts967@gmail.com

*Elected North Jersey Group Executive Committee Members.

INITIATIVES: The North Jersey Group is committed to coalition building through outreach and planning with other Sierra Groups and with local and state non-profit organizations. Our collaborative initiatives focus upon (1) encouraging municipal resolutions that support town-level adoption of renewable energy strategies and the environmentally friendly development of affordable housing; (2) opposing gas-fueled plants and the construction of pipelines, transport terminals and the use of tankers and trains to transport Bakken oil, liquid natural gas and other dirty fuels; (3) advocating for renewable energy sources; (4) opposing commercialization and development of county, state and local parkland and open spaces; (5) advocating for removal not capping of contaminated soil on undeveloped public land and the restoration of that
land to its natural state; (6) advocating for the clean-up of polluted waterways and for a transition to non-polluting sources of transport on the Hudson and other NJ waterways; (7) supporting access to affordable health care to address the harm done to the health of residents in environmental justice communities; (8) increasing group diversity, and supporting the efforts of organizations who are “on the ground” in environmental justice communities.

We continue to focus our existing efforts upon fighting climate change; creating more opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy and appreciate nature; and collaborating with coalitions, such as Empower NJ and Don’t Gas the Meadowlands, and Aspen and New Jersey Groups to advocate for renewable energy and for a moratorium on fossil fuel usage, preserve our waterways and protect our parklands.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Unless otherwise noted, meetings and outings are free, open to the public. Events are announced via email and on our social media. Due to the virus, we have been forced to cancel our in-person events. We are in process of planning and/or co-sponsoring virtual events including:

A Panel on Diversity, Environmental Justice and Community Building
A Collaborative event with Northern NJ NOW focused upon the contributions of Asian-American women. Part 1 of our successful series on Foraging for Fungi as an in-person foraging outing this spring.

Please check our Meetup page, Facebook page, or webpage for newly posted meetings and events. Please email our co-chairs or contact one of the committee chairs listed above, if you have suggestions for events or if you would like to be added to our email list.

North Jersey Group committees are seeking volunteers to help us expand our offerings and develop new collaborative relationships with other groups and with corporations/businesses who are seeking to develop corporate responsibility programs in our area. We are producing new editions of our Calendar of Events, improving our website, and are interested in joining dedicated people taking meaningful action in Bergen and Passaic Counties and throughout the state.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Webmaster Wanted: We are seeking a dedicated webmaster to work with our Marketing/Social Media Committee. We need someone to develop, monitor and update our website (www.nj.sierraclub.org). Prepare a copy for the website. If interested, please contact Marie at maminano@yahoo.com

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

Conservation Committee: We assist people in the community with grassroots efforts to prevent destruction of natural habitat in Bergen and Passaic Counties and surrounding municipalities. We work on local issues, and support State and National Goals. We are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in the environment, your help is needed.

Climate Change Committee: The objectives of the Climate Change Committee are to (1) support a transition to renewable energy. Your help could bring us a little closer to a cleaner, safer, and healthier world for our children and grandchildren – be a part of it! For more information or to sign up, contact Jeff at jefpar@optonline.net.

Event Planning and Membership Committee Co-Chair Wanted: Interested in conducting an event on a particular topic? Like speaking with other people about envirometal issues? Then we have the committee for you! We convene a couple of times a year to plan events in conjunction with other environmental groups to support a transition to renewable energy. Your help could bring us a little closer to a cleaner, safer, and healthier world for our children and grandchildren – be a part of it!

Marketing/Social Media Committee: Are you creative? Do you love graphic design, writing, photography, video shorts, contacting newspapers and radio, and using social media? We need you! If interested, contact Marie at maminano@yahoo.com.

Outings Committee: Organize and lead hikes, snowshoeing, kayaking and other of your favorite outdoor activities on trails and locations of your choice. Trips can vary in length, in difficulty and location. If interested, contact Mary at north.outings.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org or Judy at jiju@nyc.rr.com.

Youth Outreach/Inner City Outings: These Committees work together to outreach to youth, high school and college students and to plan nature walks in local parks for elementary and middle school youth. It outreaches to high schools and youth organizations to encourage local teenagers to become organizers of these events, so that all can appreciate the value of the outdoors. The committee creates liaisons with local schools, identifies other youth service organizations and works with the Sierra Club certified hike leaders to help young people learn to appreciate and protect the planet as they explore the natural world. The Committee uses social media to expand participation, as the group connects to the goals of the national Sierra Club. If you are interested in participating in the activities of this committee contact Diane at diascat@hotmail.com or Daniel at shirldiane712@gmail.com.

GATEWAY GROUP

Serving Hillsdale, Elizabeth, and Essex county (except for Livingston, Millburn and Roseland) Please contact any of the leaders below if you are interested in joining our campaigns to protect the environment. There are several Group officer positions open.

Webpage: https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/gateway

Officers
Chair
Bill Beren* 973-746-9661 Berenis@verizon.net

Vice-Chair
Open Position!

Conservation Chair
Caroline Kane* 646-961-9003 ckanet78@verizon.net

Secretary
Open Position!

Treasurer
Rachael Tarzia 908-531-2168 rtarzia6@outlook.com

Program Co-Chairs
Suzanne Trimble* susanne.trimble@gmail.com

Steven Yafet 908-354-2377 syafet@gmail.com

Publicity Chair
Amanda Zhong zhong.amanda@yahoo.com

Political Chair
Claire Cilliota 973-746-0438 cclilliot79@gmail.com

Fundraising Chair
Rachael Tarzia 908-531-2168 rtarzia6@outlook.com

Membership Chair
Steven Yafet* 908-354-2377 syafet@gmail.com

Outings Chair
Jami Bruno

Elizabeth Issues
Open Position!

Recycling
Open Position!

Passaic River Issues
Steven Yafet (see above)

Outings Chair
Steven Yafet (see above)

Webmaster
Christy Morganstein 732-718-4434 christy@medarteweb.com

*Group Executive Committee

Please contact our Program Co-Chairs if you have ideas or suggestions for a meeting topic, program, or conservation project.

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

CONSERVATION NEWS: As of this writing (pre-election day) Governor Murphy still has not decided whether he needs to purchase the rail right-of-way for the Essex-Hudson Greenway. The Don’t Gas the Meadowlands Coalition, of which the Gateway Group is a member, has successfully convinced the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission to put a hold on their fracked gas power plant for their Newark facility while they evaluate renewable energy solutions. It is not clear that they will eventually adopt a renewable energy solution, but this was an encouraging first step. In early November, we learned that the County was proceeding with the development of a new Asian exhibit, without any consultation with the Asian American community. The Gateway Group along with West Orange’ s Asian-American women. Part 2 of our successful series on Foraging for Fungi. Slowing down climate change may give scientists time to find permanent solutions to this crisis. Our committee works in conjunction with other environmental groups to support a transition to renewable energy. Your help could bring us a little closer to a cleaner, safer, and healthier world for our children and grandchildren – be a part of it!

Please check our Meetup page, Facebook page, or webpage for newly posted meetings and events. Please email our co-chairs or contact one of the committee chairs listed above, if you have suggestions for events or if you would like to be added to our email list.

North Jersey Group committees are seeking volunteers to help us expand our offerings and develop new collaborative relationships with other groups and with corporations/businesses who are seeking to develop corporate responsibility programs in our area. We are producing new editions of our Calendar of Events, improving our website, and are interested in joining dedicated people taking meaningful action in Bergen and Passaic Counties and throughout the state.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Webmaster Wanted: We are seeking a dedicated webmaster to work with our Market-

Political Action Committee Chair Wanted: We recommend candidates for political of-

Conservation Committee: We assist people in the community with grassroots efforts to prevent destruction of natural habitat in Bergen and Passaic Counties and sur-

Climate Change Committee: The objectives of the Climate Change Committee are to 

Event Planning and Membership Committee Co-Chair Wanted: Interested in con-

Marketing/Social Media Committee: Are you creative? Do you love graphic design, 

Outings Committee: Organize and lead hikes, snowshoeing, kayaking and other of 

Youth Outreach/Inner City Outings: These Committees work together to outreach to 

Diversity, Inclusion, and Environmental Justice Committee: Do you want to act to 

nych Goals/Projects for 2021

Sustainability/Outdoor Recreation: Sustainability includes recycling, composting, green infrastructure, mass transportation, and renewable energy. We want to create a task force to teach and promote these issues in our schools and municipalities. Let us know if you would like to help build this task force.

Environmental Justice: Because pollution and environmental degradation tend to harm low-income communities and people of color, we include social justice issues in all of our activities. We have created an Environmental Justice committee to connect with social justice groups in Hudson County to plan actions on this issue. Let us know if you would like to be part of this planning.

Hudson County Group

Webpage: https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/hudson-county

Officers
Chair
Ricardo Pereira* rh.pereira.995@gmail.com

Vice-Chair
Open Position!

Secretary, Treasurer,
Open Position!

Conservation Chair
Patricia Hilliard* hilliard_patrice@gmail.com

Political Chair
Ricardo Pereira* rh.pereira.995@gmail.com

Delegate to Chapter
Open Position!

Membership
Open Position!

Publicity
Alex Hilton* alexhilton@gmail.com

Outings / Events
Steve Krinski* stevekrinski@comcast.net

At-Large
Nancy Booth* boothnancy2011@hotmail.com

Schedule: Hudson Group will continue to meet remotely for now. General meetings are held five times a year, usually on Sundays from 12:30-2 p.m. Members are still welcome and encouraged to join the meetings. Contact any of the officers for details about how to join a meeting.

Outings: We are planning a number of activities this fall and beyond: nature walks, shoreline clean-ups, and public forums. Check the calendar for details.

Hudson County Group Goals/Projects for 2021

Sustainability/Outdoor Recreation: Sustainability includes recycling, composting, green infrastructure, mass transportation, and renewable energy. We want to create a task force to teach and promote these issues in our schools and municipalities. Let us know if you would like to help build this task force.

Environmental Justice: Because pollution and environmental degradation tend to harm low-income communities and people of color, we include social justice issues in all of our activities. We have created an Environmental Justice committee to connect with social justice groups in Hudson County to plan actions on this issue. Let us know if you would like to be part of this planning.

>continued on page 8
**GROUP NEWS**

**Political Action:** In addition to preparing for upcoming elections in NJ, we hope to meet with sympathetic public officials to discuss strategies to show support for a number of environmental bills now in Trenton. These include the Liberty State Park Protection Act, the Essex Hudson Greenway, the Clean Energy Equity Act, and more. We will also continue to push Governor Murphy and the state legislature to oppose fossil fuel infrastructure. We also support the efforts of the Don’t Gas the Meadowlands coalition in support of renewable energy for NJ Transit. Let us know if you would like to join our campaigns.

**Communications/Social Media:** We have created a team of social media activists who can communicate strategies to promote environmental issues and campaigns as well as email and the Sierra Club website. More traditional press will be included as well. Join us if you’d like to help.

**Current Campaigns**

**Liberty State Park:** The Liberty State Park Protection Act would end efforts to privatize the park once and for all! Join us to support your park for the protection of the park. We also support the work that will begin soon on the interior of the park, creating 180 acres of wildlife habitat and 50 acres of active recreation for the community.

**Climate Change:** New studies show that Hudson County will be harder hit by sea-level rise and catastrophic flooding than any other NJ county. The NJ Sierra Club has joined with other leading environmental groups to form the Hudson Climate Coalition. We are working to build awareness and grass roots support as we transition to 100% renewable energy locally by the year 2050, or sooner. Please get involved and be part of the solution.

**Environmental Justice:** Low-income communities and communities of color suffer the most from environmental destruction. Elevated levels of cancer, respiratory disease, asthma, and plague these areas. Hudson County has had more than its share of environmental poisoning for generations. We must stand up for social justice in these communities! Join us to take action.

**Parks and Greenways:** The Hudson County Group of the NJ Sierra Club is working to support and expand green spaces in Hudson County. We want to connect existing parks and trails, as part of the Crossroads Campaign. This includes Skyway Park on the Hackensack River, the newly proposed Essex-Hudson Greenway, the Bergen Archways, the Sixth Street Embankment and more. We want to see the shoreline along the Hackensack River become Hudson County’s “Green Coast.” Learn how you can help.

**CENTRAL JERSEY GROUP**

(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

**Webpage:** https://sierracclub.org/new-jersey-central-jersey

**In normal times we would offer a variety of outings! Not now — until the pandemic is over!**

**OFFICERS**

- **Chair:** Joanna Pannone  
  jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
- **Vice Chair:** Xaoping Duxiangi  
  du@yahoocom
- **Secretary:** Leong Leck  
  leong@sierranezpadrc.com
- **Outings Coordinators:** George and Leona Fluck  
  leona@sierranezpadrc.com
- **Treasurer:** Arlene Cetsiksen  
  Vazac2015@gmail.com
- **Programs:** Joanna Pannone  
  jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
- **Conservation Chair:** Sylvia Kay  
  sylvia@nyc22@gmail.com
- **Recycling/Zero Waste Trails**
  - Dave Mattek  
  MattekDC@aol.com

We look forward to in-person get-togethers, but until then our monthly lecture series will remain virtual. The Central Jersey Group will post any future activities on the Chapter webpage, Facebook page, and Pinyespadrc.com. Stay home, be patient, stay safe! And don’t stop lobbying for our environment!

**Here are the issues we are working on currently:**

1. The Gibson Cell Tower: Stop this dangerous cell tower project.
2. Opposing the Hughes Warehouse development on Route 1 and Quakerbridge Road
3. Opposing the Symmetry solar farm proposed for Sweetbriar Ave. in Hamilton, which threatens the community in the already flood–prone Lower Assunpink Creek Valley
4. Monitoring the new QuickCheck in the Miry Run watershed for flooding potential
5. Opposing Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company’s proposed compressor station for the Highlands Preservation Area
6. Working to support and expand green spaces in Hudson County. We want to connect existing parks and trails, as part of the Crossroads Campaign. This includes Skyway Park on the Hackensack River, the newly proposed Essex-Hudson Greenway, the Bergen Archways, the Sixth Street Embankment and more. We want to see the shoreline along the Hackensack River become Hudson County’s “Green Coast.” Learn how you can help.

**LOANTAKA GROUP**

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

**Webpage:** https://sierracclub.org/new-jersey-loantaka/

**Facebook:** https://www.facebook.com/LoantakaGroupNJS

**OFFICERS**

- **Chair:** Paul Sanderson 908-233-2444  
  loantakachair@newjersey.sierraclub.org
- **Treasurer:** Paul Sanderson 908-233-2444  
  paulmsanderson@aol.com
- **Secretary:** Jonathan Conner 201-463-7636  
  jon7932@gmail.com
- **Conser.** Allen Swanson 201-715-7780  
  amswanson@hotmail.com
- **Programs:** Bob Zega 973-752-1800  
  bzoega@yahoo.com
- **Fundraising Chair:** Open Position!
- **Outings Chair:** Kevin O’Brien 908-403-0900  
  kkkob@aol.com
- **Publicity Chair:** Open Position!
- **Webmaster:** Open Position!

**RARITAN VALLEY GROUP**

(Middlesex and Somerset counties and surrounding areas)

**Webpage:** https://sierracclub.org/new-jersey-rvg

**Facebook:** https://www.facebook.com/RaritanValleyGroupNJ

**OFFICERS**

- **Chair:** S. Pasricha  
  spjessy@gmail.com
- **Constitution Chair:** Gary Frederick 609-203-3382  
  garyfrederick@newjersey.sierraclub.org
- **Membership Chair:** Open Position!
- **Political Co-Chairs:** John Miraglia  
  johnworks3@aol.com
- **Publicity Chair:** Open Position!
- **Treasurer:** S. Pasricha  
  spjessy@gmail.com
- **Webmaster:** Paul Ehrlich  
  p.ehrlich-nj@outlook.com
- **Outings/Events Co-Chairs:** S. Pasricha, Brianna Cerione and Berndette Madher
- **Student Liaison:** Varin Dharia
- **Bee affairs:** Brenda Bradley

**Group Executive**

**Committee Members** Gary Frederick, S. Pasricha, Teresa Callahan, Kevin Concoran, and Paul Ehrlich

**Our monthly membership meetings are typically held on the FOURTH WEDNESDAY of each month. We will be doing our meetings online (Middelsex and Somerset counties), upcoming events, speakers, volunteer efforts, etc. To confirm interest/attendance please contact the RVG Chair.**

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

1. Opposition to gas and oil pipelines and new fossil fuel infrastructure that threaten the air, water, and our health
2. Conservation and protection of the Raritan River Basin area
3. Passage of and responsible enforcement of environmentally friendly ordinances
4. Land conservation, preservation of open space, and protection of Green Acres
5. Recycling/Zero Waste
6. Land conservation, preservation of open space, and protection of Green Acres
7. Opposing the Mercer Corporate Park Warehouses development
8. Opposing gas pipelines and compressor stations generally
9. Supporting the park at Miry Run, dam site 21
10. Opposing logging public lands because we don’t have 80 years to grow a new tree canopy
11. Promoting electric school buses
12. Opposing NJ’s Transit’s gas–powered electric plants

**News From the Raritan Valley Area**

- **Northeast Supply Expansion Project (NSEP):** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) granted a 2-year extension, until May 2023, to Williams Transco for NSEN, their fracked gas project to supply New York. A proposed gas burning compressor station is to be located in Franklin Township, Somerset County (CS 206) near Route 27 in Princeton and South Brunswick. A pipeline storage loop of 3 miles will be built in Southwold and the East Bridge near an existing compressor station. Sixteen compressor stations and 124 miles will cross under the Garden State Parkway at Routes 9 and 35. Raritan Bay will be trenched, destroying the marine ecosystem in order to lay 23 miles of pipelines under the bay to transport the gas to the Rockaway in Queens, New York. https://sierracclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2021/05/05/ferc–grants–2–year-extension–for–nese–shameful

- **In June 2019, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) rejected the Southern New Jersey Gas pipeline:**

**Regional Energy Access Expansion Project (REAP):** The N. Chapter of the Sierra
Club, along with other environmental groups, submitted comments to FERC demanding that Williams Transco provide a full environmental impact statement (EIS) instead of an environmental assessment (EA). FERC is requiring Williams to submit a full EIS for the newly proposed compressors in Old Bridge (CS 207) and Neshanic Station, Borough of Sayreville (CS 509). An explosion in 2013 in Union, NJ, and parts of Neshanic Station were under water during tropical storm Ida. https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2021/05/serial-club-fights-williams-transco-pipeline

The Redwood Township Board of Commissioners for leading the state in passing a resolution opposing Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company’s dangerous proposal to build compressor stations that threaten our health and environment. https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2021/02/somerset-county-opposes-tennessee-gas-compressor-station

Hidden Oak Woods development, east Brunswick: see-gas-compressor-station

Like us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/RaritanGroupNJSC

Thank you to the Somerset County Board of Commissioners for leading the state in passing a resolution opposing Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company’s dangerous proposal to build compressor stations that threaten our health and environment. Please contact us and join our meetings. We are all for a safer and healthier Raritan Valley.

www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2021/05/electric-school-bus-bill-released-cmt

ACTIVITIES & ISSUES: Our group is focused on many critical issues. Locally and statewide we are fighting a myriad of overdvlopment problems. 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)

Webpage: https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/west-jersey

Follow us on Twitter @WJSierrachar and Instagram @wjssierrachar

Log on and Like Us!

OFFICERS

Group Chair: Gina Carola 856-848-8883 ginaceee@verizon.net

Secretary: Frank Zinni fzinni@aol.com

Treasurer: Ellen Zinni ezinni@cooper.edu

Publicity Chair: Anne Caridi ace@cooper.edu

Political Chair: Linda Rubiano lindarubiano@gmail.com

Philanthropy Chair: Jaime Philpot jaimephilpot@gmail.com

Conservation Chair: Stacey Ayala staceyayala@gmail.com

Membership Chair: Mike Brown 562-547-9211 mkbrown@verizon.net

Media & Communications Chair: Tony Hagen tionhagen@gmail.com

Outings Chair: Samantha Vanaman vanamanwander@gmail.com

Fundraising Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8883

Smart Growth Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8883

Programs Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8883

Social Media Coord.: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8883

Contact Gina to get invited in any of our many initiatives on climate change.

JERSEY SHORE GROUP

(Monmouth County, approximately)

Webpage: https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/jersey-shore

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

OCCUPATIONS:

Group Chair: Dennis Anderson 732-970-4327 dennisaza@aol.com

Chair: Dave Harding 732-708-9221

Secretary: John Luard 732-970-4327 dennisaza@aol.com

Treasurer: Mike Brown 856-547-9221 eyebrown@verizon.net

Activities: George Moftatt gmoftatt@aol.com

MEETING TIMES, September thru May, via Zoom. You do not need Zoom software on your PC or Smartphone, just send an email to ginaceee@verizon.net to get an invitation and link to participate.

General Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd WEDNESDAY of the MONTH, September thru May. Zoom. You do not need Zoom software on your PC or Smartphone, just send an email to ginaceee@verizon.net to get an invitation and link to participate.

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GROUP NEWS

SOUTH JERSEY GROUP

[Atlantic City, Cape May, and Cumberland counties, approximately]

OFFICERS
Tom Boghosian — 267-930-8583 boghosian@verizon.net
Ron Pate — 609-965-4453 dick.colby@stockton.edu
Jimi Oleksiak

Vice-Chair — Open Position!
Conservation Chair — Open Position!
Political Chair, Calendars — Dick Colby
Membership Chair — Julie Akers 609-432-3288 julieakers56@gmail.com

Executive committee members Rozanna Fanelli, Ron Pate, and Jeff Solvedge.

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

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 not on the listserv can go to: https://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-SINGLES-NEWS.html and clicking on “Join or leave the list.” You may subscribe and unsubscribe at will; directions on how to unsubscribe are at the bottom of each announcement. We recommend joining the listserv to receive announcements for all of our events a few weeks before each event. Events are also list on the online calendar on the Chapter’s web site: sierraclub.org/new-jersey. You can also “like” us on Facebook: “Singles Group New Jersey Sierra Club.” Activities will also be posted on Meetup.

SOUTH JERSEY GROUP NEWS

Jan. 26 and March 23: (alternating fourth Tuesdays) 6:30 p.m.: Great Egg Harbor Watershed Authority (GEHWA). Many others (and other groups) are contributing. Detailed maps and descriptions are now on the Chapter website. Dick has also produced a brochure describing 15 historic walks in Egg Harbor City. Copies (electronic or paper) are available on request. Every municipality ought to have its own such brochure. This is a hint for you to try your hand at it! (2) We continue to hope for opportunities for each municipality in South Jersey to participate in the Egg Harbor River Basin Pilot Program, operated by the Atlantic County Utilities Authority or other public agencies and promoted by the Board of Public Utilities, with cooperative acceptance by Atlantic City Electric (ECE). (3) With the passage of statewide plastic-bag-prohibiting legislation effective May 4, 2022, there’s preparation needed by each Club member and every other resident of New Jersey (4, etc.) Many other South Jersey issues are described in previous issues of this Newsletter, available on the Chapter website.

Some Allied Organizations, likely meeting by Zoom:
Jan. 26 and March 23: (alternating fourth Tuesdays) 6:30 p.m.: Great Egg Harbor Watershed Authority (GEHWA). Many others (and other groups) are contributing. Detailed maps and descriptions are now on the Chapter website. Dick has also produced a brochure describing 15 historic walks in Egg Harbor City. Copies (electronic or paper) are available on request. Every municipality ought to have its own such brochure. This is a hint for you to try your hand at it! (2) We continue to hope for opportunities for each municipality in South Jersey to participate in the Egg Harbor River Basin Pilot Program, operated by the Atlantic County Utilities Authority or other public agencies and promoted by the Board of Public Utilities, with cooperative acceptance by Atlantic City Electric (ECE). (3) With the passage of statewide plastic-bag-prohibiting legislation effective May 4, 2022, there’s preparation needed by each Club member and every other resident of New Jersey (4, etc.) Many other South Jersey issues are described in previous issues of this Newsletter, available on the Chapter website.

Current Issues:
1. We’ve been blue-blazing the southern portion of what will be a continuous footpath between the southern and northern tips of New Jersey, called the New Jersey State Long Trail. Many others (and other groups) are contributing. Detailed maps and descriptions are now on the Chapter website. Dick has also produced a brochure describing 15 historic walks in Egg Harbor City. Copies (electronic or paper) are available on request. Every municipality ought to have its own such brochure. This is a hint for you to try your hand at it! (2) We continue to hope for opportunities for each municipality in South Jersey to participate in the Egg Harbor River Basin Pilot Program, operated by the Atlantic County Utilities Authority or other public agencies and promoted by the Board of Public Utilities, with cooperative acceptance by Atlantic City Electric (ECE). (3) With the passage of statewide plastic-bag-prohibiting legislation effective May 4, 2022, there’s preparation needed by each Club member and every other resident of New Jersey (4, etc.) Many other South Jersey issues are described in previous issues of this Newsletter, available on the Chapter website.

DEC. 2, JAN. 5, FEB. 2 AND MARCH 2: (First Wednesdays) 6:30 p.m.: Atlantic County Friends of the Parks. Monthly meetings of a group that works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Park System. All are welcome. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-1280.

DEC. 9 AND FEB. 9: (alternate second Wednesdays) 7 p.m.: Bimonthly meeting of Friends of the Parks: Visit our webpage regularly to find out about activities and events, including hikes, cleanups, social gatherings, dinner get-togethers, and other functions for members over 50. Visit our webpage regularly to find out about activities and events, including hikes, cleanups, social gatherings, dinner get-togethers, and other functions for members over 50.

The best way to be notified of upcoming events is to join our free listserv. Anyone not on the listserv can go to: https://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-SINGLES-NEWS.html and clicking on “Join or leave the list.” You may subscribe and unsubscribe at will; directions on how to unsubscribe are at the bottom of each announcement. We recommend joining the listserv to receive announcements for all of our events a few weeks before each event. Events are also list on the online calendar on the Chapter’s web site: sierraclub.org/new-jersey. You can also “like” us on Facebook: “Singles Group New Jersey Sierra Club.” Activities will also be posted on Meetup.

SINGLES SECTION

Single Section Members: Rozanna Fanelli, Ron Pate, and Jeff Solvedge.

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

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

Please check web site for further meetings and events.

SENIOR SECTION / FIFTY-PLUS SECTION

The Senior Section is a chapter-wide special interest section for members over fifty years of age. The mission of this section is to support the Sierra Club’s goals through letter writing, phone calls, and other activities. We work through a list-serve, by which members learn about current environmental issues; these issues can be supported, and places and events of interest to visit in New Jersey and surrounding states. In the future we hope to appoint members who will be responsible for leading and carrying out efforts related to those issues.

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

Paul Ehrlich is the Vice-Chair (pehrlich-nj@outlook.com). He vice-edits the Essays Section of the Senior Section web site. These essays are written by members of the NJ Sierra Club, and focus on environmental issues, including reports of environment-related news that may not be easily accessed by many members, opinions on how to deal with environmental problems, and citizen and environmental actions taken by organizations and individuals. Do you have anything you’ve been thinking about that you’d like to tell a large audience? Send an essay to Arline and Paul for editing and approval and it will be posted on our website.

The Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section is also accessible online at: https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/senior-section

Visit our webpage regularly to find out about activities and events, including hikes, cleanups, social gatherings, dinner get-togethers, and other functions for members over 50.

SOUTH JERSEY GROUP NEWS

Jan. 26 and March 23: (alternating fourth Tuesdays) 6:30 p.m.: Great Egg Harbor Watershed Authority (GEHWA). Many others (and other groups) are contributing. Detailed maps and descriptions are now on the Chapter website. Dick has also produced a brochure describing 15 historic walks in Egg Harbor City. Copies (electronic or paper) are available on request. Every municipality ought to have its own such brochure. This is a hint for you to try your hand at it! (2) We continue to hope for opportunities for each municipality in South Jersey to participate in the Egg Harbor River Basin Pilot Program, operated by the Atlantic County Utilities Authority or other public agencies and promoted by the Board of Public Utilities, with cooperative acceptance by Atlantic City Electric (ECE). (3) With the passage of statewide plastic-bag-prohibiting legislation effective May 4, 2022, there’s preparation needed by each Club member and every other resident of New Jersey (4, etc.) Many other South Jersey issues are described in previous issues of this Newsletter, available on the Chapter website.

Current Issues:
1. We’ve been blue-blazing the southern portion of what will be a continuous footpath between the southern and northern tips of New Jersey, called the New Jersey State Long Trail. Many others (and other groups) are contributing. Detailed maps and descriptions are now on the Chapter website. Dick has also produced a brochure describing 15 historic walks in Egg Harbor City. Copies (electronic or paper) are available on request. Every municipality ought to have its own such brochure. This is a hint for you to try your hand at it! (2) We continue to hope for opportunities for each municipality in South Jersey to participate in the Egg Harbor River Basin Pilot Program, operated by the Atlantic County Utilities Authority or other public agencies and promoted by the Board of Public Utilities, with cooperative acceptance by Atlantic City Electric (ECE). (3) With the passage of statewide plastic-bag-prohibiting legislation effective May 4, 2022, there’s preparation needed by each Club member and every other resident of New Jersey (4, etc.) Many other South Jersey issues are described in previous issues of this Newsletter, available on the Chapter website.

DEC. 2, JAN. 5, FEB. 2 AND MARCH 2: (First Wednesdays) 6:30 p.m.: Atlantic County Friends of the Parks. Monthly meetings of a group that works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Park System. All are welcome. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-1280.

DEC. 9 AND FEB. 9: (alternate second Wednesdays) 7 p.m.: Bimonthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries (another “partnership right” under federal protection). Cumberland County development issues are commonly discussed, including artistic, historical, and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Karla Rossini (CU) at 609-774-5853 or karla.rossini@cumauriceriver.org. Website: www.cumauriceriver.org

DEC. 16 AND FEB. 16: (alterate third Wednesdays) 6:30 p.m.: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss and implement riparian management strategies. Meetings are open to the public. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-1280.

JAN. 26, FEB. 23 AND MARCH 2: (fourth Wednesdays), 7 p.m.: Atlantic Audubon Society: a lively member organization with strong environmental programs and an excellent monthly online newsletter. Membership is free. Meetings (if physical) are in the Gallo-way Township Library, 306 E. Jimmie Leeds Rd. www.atlanticaudubon.org
There’s an interactive CALENDAR for outings and group events on our website (www.sierracclub.org/new-jersey/). Click “Events and Outings”.

New Jersey Inspiring Connections Outdoors: (NJ) ICO provides safe and fun wilderness trips for children and teenagers with limited access to the outdoors. Volunteer leaders collaborate with community partners to facilitate, lead and promote events that will educate and foster a love of nature and the outdoors for youth in New Jersey. ICO leaders do not otherwise have the opportunity or the means. The programs work to reduce barriers by providing gear, transportation, trip fees and leaders to create opportunities to enjoy, explore and advocate for nature. The Chair welcomes inquiries from leaders of schools and other community organizations.

Issued to all Club entities by Club President Ramon Cruz on August 2, 2021:

The Sierra Club has reinstated its mask mandate at all indoor activities and events regardless of vaccination status. The Activities and Events guidance has been updated to reflect this change: https://bit.ly/3f6Cm9y

As a reminder, our guidance strongly recommends masking at outdoor events, especially when social distancing cannot be maintained. Unvaccinated persons are required to wear a mask at both indoor and outdoor activities. The Sierra Club strongly recommends all eligible staff and volunteers to get vaccinated - we've relaxed our position on the best defense against COVID.

In accordance with the updated Sierra Club policy, NJ Chapter Outings have resumed. Registration is required for all outings, and participation on outings is limited to 10. Face masks are required for all participants. Please keep appropriate distance between you and other participants on all outings, listed below. If you are sick and experiencing any possible Covid or flu/symptoms, do not attend the outing.

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS
Chapter Outings Chair: Ellen Blumenkrantz ellen@sierracclub.org, 201-784-8417

Skylands: Dave Atlock dave@sierracclub.org South Highlands: Jonathan Wall jonathanw@sierracclub.org
North Jersey: Co-Chair: Ellen Blumenkrantz ellen@sierracclub.org and Mary Walch mw@sierracclub.org
Galloway: William DeCosta wdecosta@sierracclub.org Hudson Co: Natalya DeRobertis Thaye natalya@sierracclub.org Lenape: All Bear Mtn, Skytop, Milebugle
Central Jersey: Leo Grace LeoGrace@sierracclub.org
Barritan Valley: S. Parka sjparka@sierracclub.org
West Jersey: John Leard johnLeard@sierracclub.org
Ocean County: Terry Browne 848-333-7331

Jan 5 (Wed): National Bird Day hike at Veterans Park (Mercer Co.) 10 a.m., 4-5 miles, easy pace. Leashed dogs are welcome! Meet by the tank and helicopter in the parking lot off Yardville- Hamilton Square Road. Paved trail meanders through woods along Pond Run. Bring snack and drink. Spaces 4 to 6 tents and 2 cabins are available. Reserve your spot by December 20th. More information and reservations can be found at: Jersey Shore Group | Sierra Club Leader will provide meeting place after you register. (JS)

Jan 17 (Mon): Martin Luther King Day hike on the D&G Canal (Mercer/Burlington Co.) 10 a.m., 4 miles, easy pace. We’ll hike over the lock 1 “swinging bridge” as we walk along the towpath; perhaps 10 to 15 resident Bald Eagles. Meet at the Riverline parking lot in Bordentown City. Continental breakfast provided for late lunch at Heart of Bordentown (HOB). Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Preregistration is Required; Group size is limited to 10 participants. Leader: Joanne Panonne, (609) 443-6992 joanne@sierracclub.org or Leona F., 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Jan 23 (Sun): NJ State Museum (Mercer Co.) 10 a.m. Let’s explore an “indoor outing” to the NJ State Museum on National Pizza Day. We’ll view the Current Exhibit, Preserving the Pinelands: Albert Horner’s Portraits of a National Treasure. Interested in dinosaurs? The Museum has added six life-size fossil casts to Written in the Rocks: Fossil Tales of New Jersey! Check the website for details: www.state.nj.us/emuseum. The Museum requires masks for all visitors over 2 years old. Bus transportation organized by Robert Zitzman, robertmz@att.net (Burlington Co.)

Jan 30 (Sun): Hike the Franklin Parker Preserve (Burlington Co.) 10 a.m.-4, 5 miles, easy pace on the Yellow Trail. “Hot Chocolate Day”—good idea to bring a thermos on the hike! The 9,400-acre preserve is a keystone piece of land, linking the expanses of Biebler Swamp, Byrhton, and Penn State’s Agricultural University. There may be more opportunities for close-ups of the preserved entrance off RT 563, Woodland Township. Leashed dogs are welcome. Bring lunch and water. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Preregistration is Required; Group size is limited to 10 participants. George & Leona F., 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Feb 2 (Wed): Groundhog Day hike at Jakes Branch County Park (Ocean Co.) 10 a.m., 4 miles, easy pace. Jakes Branch has a nature center with interesting hands-on exhibits and an observation deck that offers a 360° view of the Pinelands. Meet at Jakes Branch Park, 1100 Double Trouble Road, Millstone. Contact: Joanne P jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com or Leona F., 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Feb 9 (Fri): Hike Hartshorne Woods, Middletown and Highlands (Monmouth Co.) 1:30 p.m. Enjoy river and ocean views, as well as mature woods. About 4 miles, easy pace, some up and down, bring plenty of water, supportive footwear recommended. Optional tour of Battery Lewin after the hike. Leader: John Leard. Register online at Jersey Shore Group | Sierra Club Leader will provide meeting place after you register. (JS)

Feb 12 (Sat): High Point State Park Cross Country Ski (Sussex Co.) 10 a.m. There is a full-service cross-country ski center at the park with rentals and a ski lodge. We expect to spend 3-4 hours for this outing. If the ski center in the hotel is closed, we will skip skiing and go on a hike instead. Beginners are welcome. Bring a lunch and water. (Sussex Co.)

Feb 13 (Sun): “Galentine’s” and Valentine’s Day Hike at Smithville Park (Burlington Co.) 10 a.m., 4-5 miles, easy pace at Historic Smithville Park in Vincentown, NJ. The Park features a nature center, a nature trail that circles Smithville Lake, a cross-country ski center at the park with rentals and a ski lodge. We expect to spend 4-5 hours for this outing. Beginners are welcome. Bring a lunch and water. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Preregistration is Required; Group size is limited to 10 participants. George & Leona F., 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Feb 19 (Sat): Whitesbog Village Winter Hike (Burlington Co.) 10 a.m. - 4.5 miles, easy pace. Whitesbog is a NJ historic site and was a village built to house workers in the local cranberry bogs. We’ll see a turn of the century cranberry bog around the bogs. Directions at whitesbog.org Bring beverage and lunch. It’s National Love Your Pet Day! Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Preregistration is Required; Group size is limited to 10 participants. George & Leona F., 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Mar 3 (Wed): Mardi Gras hike at Thompson Park Conservation Area (Middlesex Co.) 10 a.m., 4-5 miles, easy pace. It’s also Pacsiki Polish Day (Polish doughnut). A highlight of our hike is the Natural Spring located in the park; one of 12 in NJ. Findspringpark.com Thompson Park is dominated by the 143-acre springfed pool, which has a swimming beach and picnic area. A special program sponsored by the state’s Division of Parks and Forestry, the Spring is also a hot spot for recreational anglers. The Thompson Park Trailhead is off the LEASH-DOG area on Fire Drive, off Penrvinelle Rd., Monroe Township. Bring water, snacks and lunch. Hiking poles recommended. Leashed dogs are welcome. Please contact your Group Outings Chair or the Chapter Outings Chair, The_Hikist@mac.com to provide meeting place after you register. (Sussex Co.)

Mar 5 (Fri): High Point State Park Cross Country Ski (Sussex Co.) 10 a.m. There is a full-service cross-country ski center at the park with rentals and a ski lodge. We expect to spend 3-4 hours for this outing. If the ski center in the hotel is closed, we will skip skiing and go on a hike instead. Beginners are welcome. Bring a lunch and water. (Sussex Co.)

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Mar 12 (Sat): Explore the Unique History, Ecology, and Culture of the Pinelands (Atlantic Co.) Join a specially-trained guide to explore the historic nature center. This program is sponsored by the Club and the New Jersey Audubon Society. There is a $10 fee which will be collected at the Nature Center. More information and registration required via Web: https://www.sierracclub.org/new-jersey | Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jim Oleskiss <The_Hikist@mac.com>
OUTINGS continued from page 11

Mar 13 (Sun): DST Hike at the Davidson’s Mill Pond Park (Middlesex Co) Note later meeting time at 11 a.m. 3-4 miles, easy pace. This Pond is passive and primarily undeveloped. The pond and the waterfall, where the mill was once located, is one of the most picturesque areas of the County. www.njhiking.com/davids-mill-pond-park/ Bring water, snacks, and lunch. Hiking poles recommended. Leashed dogs are welcome. Rain cancels. Preregistration is Required. Group size is limited to 10 participants. Meeting location will be sent with confirming email. Co-Leaders: Sindhup P: siddhup@gmail.com, and Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pinnepend.com (RV)

Mar 13 (Sun): Hike Chequamegon State Park, Old Bridge (Middlesex Co) 1:30 p.m. Use will use a couple of trails to travel about 5 miles of walking in search of spring wildflowers. The pace will be easy, but there are some ups and downs, bring plenty of water, supportive footwear recommended. Leader: John Luard. Register online at Jersey Shore Group | Sierra Club

Mar 20 (Sun): Spring Equinox Hike at Estell Manor (Atlantic Co) 10 a.m., 5 miles, easy pace. Meet at the Warren E. Fox Nature Center on 109 Boulevard Rd. 50, Mays Landing and see the displays before we hike. Bring lunch, water, snacks for our lunch break during the hike. Leashed dogs are welcome! Inclement weather/cancellation is Required. Group size is limited to 10 participants. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pinnepend.com (W)

Mar 27 (Sun): Hike at Maurice River Bluffs Preserve (Cumberland Co) 10 a.m., 5 miles, easy pace. The Nature Conservancy prides itself on protecting great places like the Maurice River Bluffs Preserve. We will travel along the river and see the flowing brocianal, water and snacks. Address: 1200 Silver Run Rd, Millville, NJ 08332. Leashed dogs are welcome. Option for late lunch at the Maurice River Diner: inclement weather cancels. Preregistration is Required. Group size is limited to 10 participants. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pinnepend.com

Advisors and Liaisons GIS (Geog. Info. Systems) Advisor Holger Cronin • croninh@sierraclub.org School Liaison Raghav Mehta • 23aludak@mtu.edu Inspiring Connections Outdoors Hike (ICO) Zoe Sacher & Oscar Nazer ICO barn or parking lot Legal Chair (Compliance Officer) Bill Singer, Esq. (359) 789-7875 Singer@359789.com Litigation Oversight Jon Kashwick • jhoy@nas.com Programs Support Facilitator George Moffitt • gmoffitt@siat.com Political Data Analyst Wall Kant • wallkant@gmail.com Transportation Outreach Coordinators Matthew Bewley • mmbewley@-comments.com Jordan Rosenblum • jordan@comments.com Regional Issues Liaison Joan Denzer • Joan37@siat.com 

Committees Environmental & Social Justice Committee Roni Pollard, Chair • roni@siat.com JS 10 a.m., 5 miles, easy pace. Meet at the Warren E. Fox Nature Center on 109 Boulevard Rd. 50, Mays Landing and see the displays before we hike. Bring lunch, water, snacks for our lunch break during the hike. Leashed dogs are welcome! Inclement weather/cancellation is Required. Group size is limited to 10 participants. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pinnepend.com (W)

Chapter Chair & Group Effectiveness Chair Richard Iliff • richard.iliff@sierraclub.org Conservation Chair Greg Gorman gggorman74@embarqmail.com Conservation Chair Gina Carino (609) 484-8021 gncarino@verizon.net 400 N. Hackett Ave. #201, Haddonfield 08033 Political Chair Karen Bochen • political.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org Secretary and Grant Writing Editor Melissa Minot • js@sierraclub.org Public Information and Council (CCL) Delegate • js@sierraclub.org Treasurer • Paul Sanderson (908) 233-2414 Treasurer@NewJerseySierraClub.org Co-Vice Treasurers George Donzor (609) 799-5839 gq79937@gmail.com Jon Andronaco (see below) Jon Andronaco (see below) Saru Samwad • sarusamwad@gmail.com Membership-Co Chairs Praveen Prasad pmprasad@sierraclub.org Wael Kant waelkant@gmail.com Outings Editors Ellen Blumenkrantz (201 784-8417 ellens@newjersey.sierraclub.org) 204 Boulevard St., Florence, NJ 08518 Webmaster Lorane Terrel webmaster@newjersey.sierraclub.org Legislative Analyst and Social Media Coordinator Allie Horn • allie.Horn@gmail.com Other ExCom Members at Large Ken Johnson (908) 644-0442 kyjohnson@comcast.net Sylvia Kai • syvilkai22@gmail.com Information Technology Committee Jon Testa Chair, Lorane Terrel, Abdul AlMalah, Sunil Somwaraw Facebook Committee Paul Sanderson Chair, Sunil Somwaraw, George Denzer, Jon Johnson, Jon Andronaco Nominating Committee Roni Pollard Chair, Joanne Pannone, John Kashwick, Allen Swanson Elections Committee 5 PlantLife Chair, Laura Bagwell, John Kashwick Facilities Committee (office, meeting sites) Paul Sanderson Chair, Laura Lynch, Jon Andronaco, Jean Minot, Daniel Teitelbaum Social Media Team Allen Thor, Thomas Chen, Praneta Comer, Mary Prachtshuss Green Infrastructure Team Paul Sanderson Chair, Laura Lynch, Jean Minot, Daniel Teitelbaum Air Quality & Clean Air Issues Paul Ericth • paulericth@siat.com Alaska Issues Amy Weeder • aeweerder@commont.com Asbestos and Toxic Dust Issues Francie Goldstein, MD franciegoldstein@windspiriting.com Conservation Issues Coordinator Air & Clean Air Issues Paul Ericth • paulericth@siat.com Maritime Issues Paul Ericth • paulericth@siat.com Divestment Issues Yameika Ketu yameika@comments.com Faith-Based Issues Outreach Issues Jim Andronaco • jim@siat.com Gender Equity, Populace/Transmission Micha Prachtshuss mprachtshuss@siat.com Genetically Modified Organisms Joanne Pannone, John Kashwick, Allie Horn, Judy Minot, Daniel Teitelbaum Greenhouse Gas & Energy Issues Fards Jafri • farjadi@siat.com Hazardous Waste Issues Neal Polanski • nealpolanski@aol.com Solar Education Solar Issues Alan Hollinger • aholli@aol.com Larry Allen, Shawn Swanson, Chip Gilpin, Allie Horn Fundraising Committee Jon Kashwick, Chair Joan & George Denzer, Paul Sanderson, Joe Testa Personnel Committee Rich Iaau, Chair, John Kashwick, Paul Sanderson, Ken Johnson, Joan Denzer, Judy Minot, Faith Teitelbaum 

You may want to make a gift to the Sierra Club even after you register. (JS)

For information about making a bequest to the New Jersey Chapter, call Paul Sanderson at 908-213-2414

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

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Upcoming Meetings
All members are welcome to attend these monthly policy deliberations, held by Zoom video conferencing on second Saturdays. Zoom can be accessed from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. The Conservation Committee meeting starts at 10 a.m., and the Executive Committee, 1 p.m. Access information is available by writing to: secretaty@newjersey.sierracub.org

Upcoming Meetings: Jan. 8, Feb. 12, March 12, April 9

Chapter Office 609-665-7612

Sierra Club Member Services

Please share this newsletter with a friend and invite them to join (see membership coupon page).
REPORT FROM TRENTON

Dismal Swamp Is Renamed in Honor of Its Protector

In August, Gov. Phil Murphy signed a bill renaming the Dismal Swamp of Middlesex County and the Dismal Swamp Preservation Commission as the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preserve and Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation Commission, respectively.

The swamp is nearly 660 acres and straddle the borders of Edison, South Plainfield, and Metuchen. They are home to an estimated 175 species of birds, including the endangered loggerhead shrike, 25 types of reptiles and amphibians, and dozens of mammals.

The renaming was in memory of the late Peter Barnes III (1956–2021), a former Superior Court judge. Barnes was passionate about the preservation of Dismal Swamp and fought hard for its protection, often going door to door. Dismal Swamp is the largest natural area remaining in Northern Middlesex.

Barnes was a champion for the environment. The Dismal Swamp is one of the jewels of New Jersey and preserving this habitat was also crucial for open space and flood protection. As you drive around Middlesex County and enjoy open space and clean air and water, you will appreciate this part of Barnes’ legacy. He dedicated his life to making New Jersey a better place. Renaming this space after him is a fitting tribute.

Link to the bill’s text: https://www.hilfrack00.com/BillDetail/1175590

REPORT FROM TRENTON

Lead Mitigation in Homes and Businesses

In July, Gov. Phil Murphy signed three bills into law to address the ongoing lead crisis in New Jersey. One of these requires lead paint inspection prior to home purchases and tenant turnover. It also establishes an educational program on lead hazards. Another requires public community water systems to inventory and replace lead service lines within 10 years, and a third provides for funding resi-
dential lead service line replacement.

These laws will help protect children and adults from exposure to lead; they will also help find out where lead lines are and provide a mechanism to pay to re-place those lines. But home lead inspections are critical and we also need a long-
term solution that will help remove lead from older homes and, especially, our schools. This is the beginning of dealing with a systemic problem that’s going to take years of work and a lot of funding to do properly.

Disproportionately Affects Children

Lead is one of the most hazardous substances known to man and it dispro-
portionately affects children, especially small children, in our urban areas. It can cause illness and even in small amounts can cause learning disabilities. The Covid-19 pandemic was especially deleterious because children spent signifi-
cantly more time at home. The incidence of elevated blood lead levels rose by 29% and lead testing decreased by 20%.

According to sponsors of the legislation, in certain areas of the state, as ma-
rny as 7.6 percent of children have elevated blood-lead levels. About 80 percent of lead poisoning cases are caused by lead-based paint in homes built before 1978, which means lower-income families are most likely to suffer exposure. Under the newly signed legislation, lead inspections will be required in all pre-1978 rental units at tenant turnover or every three years.

About 350,000 homes and businesses in New Jersey are served by lead service lines, according to the American Water Works Association. We need to pass more legislation and establish programs to protect our drinking water from lead. We need to protect our most precious resources—our children.

REPORT FROM TRENTON

PVSC Seeks Reduced Emissions Permit for Ironbound Backup Plant

During Hurricane Sandy in 2012, a 12-foot storm surge inundated Newark’s Ironbound neighborhood and the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) plant, causing the plant to lose power and release 84.5 million gallons of raw sewage into the Passaic River and Newark Bay. The proposed solution to the threat of similar problems, a 34MW standby power generation facility (SPGF), is unacceptable because it will be a gas-fired plant capable of discharging hun-
dreds of tons of CO2, NOX, SO2, suspended particulate matter, and volatile or-
ganic compounds during emergency and maintenance operations. This would not only contribute to the greenhouse gas problem but also burden the Iron-
bound section, mostly populated by lower-income minority residents, making this an Environmental Justice issue.

In the previous Jersey Sierran, we reported that, based on stakeholder opposi-
tion, the PVSC had put a hold on initial plans to revitalize the plant and deepen exploration of the use of renewable energy alternatives, such as solar, tidal, hydro, and wind power. At the time, we also reported that Hoboken City Council had passed a resolution in opposition to the gas-fired plant. In a Septem-
ber update, the PVSC said it has submitted a revised request to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for license approval to operate the facility, but with a reduction of 720 hours or requested operation time per year, the equivalent of 4.0% reduction in emissions. The DEP has deemed the resubmitted permit application to be administratively complete.

Additionally, the PVSC has repeatedly postponed the opening of bid proposals for construction of the SPGF building, from an original date in June to October, and then again to the authority’s November public meeting. The NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club opposes this project on grounds of the emissions danger to residents of the Newark area and because of its potential contribution to climate change. We have urged the PVSC to consider renewable energy alternatives for backup power generation.

REPORT FROM TRENTON

Ida Makes the Case for Climate Change Preparation

The deadly Tropical Storm Ida brought tornadoes, 30 deaths, flooding, and more in New Jersey. A tornado that touched down in Mullica Hill, Gloucester County, was rated EF–3 by the National Weather Service, with winds up to 150 m.p.h., lasting for over 20 minutes, and traveling 12.6 miles. In Mullica Hill it tore the roofs, demolished 700 homes, and uprooted trees. It was one of seven Ida-related tornadoes recorded in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Such events are yet another reminder that our shore and inland areas are not prepared for climate change and sea-level rise. In the aftermath of Ida, Ber-
gen, Cape May, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Union, and Warren counties received disaster declarations for Federal Emergency Management Agency funding.

The sea level is rising and warming temperatures are a one–two punch, making hurricanes and storm surges more damaging and even more deadly. Unfortunate-
ly, we are still building in vulnerable areas and granting permits under Chris-
tie–era regulations that don’t protect against climate change or storm impacts. This means limiting development, pulling back from building in flood-prone areas, and investing in restoring the state’s natural systems.

Gov. Phil Murphy and his administration need to take bold action quickly. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection needs to fix former governor Chris Chris-
tie’s rollbacks and put climate change into rules and regulations like the Coastal Areas Facilities Act (CAFRA), flood hazard rules, land use regulations, and air permits. The state has wasted hundreds of millions of dollars on projects that pump sand onto our beaches that only washes out in the next storm. Instead, New Jersey must invest in long-term and effective mitigation solutions for our shore and inland communities.

REPORT FROM TRENTON

Heavy Rainfall Is on the Rise

Extreme precipitation amounts in New Jersey are 2.5 percent higher than 1999 data suggest, and precipitation is likely to increase more than 20 percent from the 1999 baseline, according to New Jersey-specific peer-reviewed studies by the Northeast Regional Climate Center. Some parts of the state have seen a 10 percent increase in extreme precipitation events. State Climatologist David A. Robin-

REPORT FROM TRENTON

NJ Supports EV Transition

According to a new poll, 58% of NJ voters support requiring all cars sold to be electric by 2030. This is up from the 47% support for by state officials. When he signed S2252 into law in January 2020, Gov. Phil Murphy set a goal for 90% of all new vehicles sold to be electric by 2040. The NJ Department of Envi-
ronmental protection has called for a phasing out of gas-powered car sales by 2035. Colutra, which did the poll for Environment New Jersey, said 67 percent of voters have at least a somewhat positive opinion of electric vehicles, and 51 percent are likely to buy one in the next five years. https://npr.org/3R15gQI

Have you tried a product (or more) of New Jersey’s new Long Trail? High Point to Cape May Point! Its description (with maps) is now the most visited “post” on the Chapter website: https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/long-trail.
Monarch Butterflies Deserve “Endangered” Protection

By George Moffatt • gmoffatt@iol.com

Habitat protections and recovery plans may be implemented for species that receive endangered status. The US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service determine which species are endangered.

Although the plight of the monarch butterfly (Danaus plexippus) has been well documented, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) thinks otherwise. “We conducted an intensive, thorough review using a rigorous, transparent science-based process and found that the monarch meets listing criteria under the Endangered Species Act,” USFWS former director Aurelia Skipworth (2019–2021), explained (sort of) last December, then uttered that dreaded word, “however.”

“However, before we can propose listing, we must focus resources on our higher-priority listing actions,” she said.

USFWS believes that prioritizing monarch survival is adequate, but for the thousands of people battling to reverse the monarch’s dwindling population, it’s heresy.

Monarchs, weigh less than a gram and will fly 2,000 miles or more from New Jersey to winter grounds in Mexico. The eastern monarchs migrate to Mexico’s east coast for the winter, while the western monarchs, which spend summer inland in California, have just a short hop to the Pacific Coast. But monarch migrations that once involved millions of butterflies today are substantially reduced. It is estimated that the eastern monarch population was reduced over the past two decades. Yet these amazing butterflies don’t qualify for Fish and Wildlife’s endangered designation.

The fuel that propels their migrations comes primarily from milkweed (Asclepias), their preferred food. And for good reason. If they don’t eat milkweed, they’ll be easy prey for all sorts of predators. The food chain is thus: First, the milkweeds taste bitter to most leaf-eating mammals because the plants’ defense includes two heart poisons, calactin and calotropin. Second, monarch caterpillars, being immune to the poisons, not only dine on them but maintain the unconverted poisons in their tissues as they evolve into butterflies. Third, predators avoid the monarchs because now, like the milkweed, they taste awful. The exception is immune mice that enjoy both monarchs and milkweed.

In addition to milkweed, their food of choice, monarch butterflies will also eat tall flowers such as red clover; Asteraceae, including eupatorium (boneset) and tubular florets; thistles; and Echinacea (coneflowers). There are over a hundred types of milkweed, but some are considered threatened. USFWS considers Mead’s milkweed endangered, and Massachusetts, considers whorled milkweed threatened. Milkweed range has been substantially diminished by habitat destruction: land development, pesticides, and agricultural encroachment. These have had a significant impact on monarch mortality.

Despite our role in monarchs’ declining numbers, we show a certain emotional attachment to them. In Pacific Grove, Calif., a small sculpture of a monarch has been erected as testimony to the multitudes that once visited during migration.

Now, what can we Sierrans do about their endangerment? Why not go on a milkweed planting spree?

- Plant milkweed acclimated to the Northeast.
- Plant bare root milkweed; about $5 each, or $15-plus for potted plants (bulk purchases may be cheaper).
- Get advice and assistance from local garden clubs, county agricultural officials, and local monarch organizations.
- Sierra Club members can plant milkweed in their yards as part of their “rain gardens.”
- Urge municipal and county officials to plant milkweed in parks, on public lands, and school properties.
- Local scouting groups and other school and youth groups might be interested in plantings for ecology projects.

Protecting the monarchs doesn’t have to cost a fortune; it can be scaled to your pocketbook. Hopefully, the monarchs will make a comeback. It would be a shame if the Pacific Grove monument becomes their memorial.

For more information on monarchs and milkweed, here are just a few of the Web resources:
- Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation: https://xerces.org/monarchs
- Impacts of climate change and forest fires: https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/Monarch_Butterfly/conservation/index.shtml
- Being the “canary in the coal mine”: https://monarchbirder.ventur.org/resources/faq/why-is-the-monarch-population-decline-important
- Beyond just growing milkweed: https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2020/12/monarch-butterflies-near-extinction
- https://monarchwatch.org (and a million other sites).

REPORT FROM TRENTON

DWQI Recommends 1,4-Dioxane Standard Strongest in Nation

In early August, the NJ Drinking Water Quality Institute (DWQI) voted unanimously to recommend that the DEP adopt a maximum contaminant limit (MCL) of 0.33 mg/L for 1,4-dioxane, a synthetic chemical used as a solvent in adhesives, resins, oils, and waxes; in wood pulping; and in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals, plastics, rubber, personal care products, and detergents. Released into the environment during combustion: land development, pesticides, and atmospheric pollution. The US Environmental Protection Agency has set an MCL of 0.35 μg/L for 1,4-dioxane in drinking water, higher than the DWQI has recommended.

If awarded a carcinogen, based on animal studies, and is toxic to the liver, kidneys, and reproductive system. The US Environmental Protection Agency has set a MCL of 0.33 mg/L for 1,4-dioxane in drinking water, higher than the DWQI has recommended. If adopted, the DWQI guidance would give New Jersey the strongest drinking water standard for 1,4-dioxane in the nation. This will go a long way toward ensuring that public health and safety are protected when it comes to this dangerous substance.

Now, the DEP needs to move ahead with rulemaking to remove this extremely toxic compound from our drinking water.

General information about 1,4-dioxane is available here: https://www.state.nj.us/dep/14-dioxane/docs/14-dioxane-faq.pdf

Pacific Grove, Calif., honors its annual migration of monarch butterflies. Source: Captain Albert E. Thiede, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Corps (ret.)

Holistic Shoreline Management Is Needed

In October, the Sierra Club NJ Chapter joined Surfrider Foundation at a press conference in Deal, NJ, to highlight the environmental and economic failures of beach replenishment. Over 20 groups, including the NJ Chapter, have signed a statement opposing S1071 (Dean) / A639 (Mazzuoe) legislation that would double the amount of money going into the Shore Protection Program. This bill does not take a holistic and regional approach toward climate warming and storm surge mitigation. Instead, it perpetuates the very costly and marine-harmful cycle of beach sand replenishment and erosion.

Beach replenishment is not the ultimate solution for storm surges and sea level rise. It is at best a temporary solution that provides false hope. We have watched countless failed beach replenishment projects pump millions of dollars of sand on our beaches that just washes away in the next storm. That is why it’s critical that our legislators look at an overall comprehensive and long-term solution.

The Sierra Club NJ chapter supports an amendment to A639 (Mazzuoe) enabling a comprehensive approach to beach erosion and shoreline damage from storms, shoreline migration, and sea-level rise. A more sensible program would involve removal of structures from the water’s edge; restoration of natural features such as dunes, wetlands, coastal marshes, natural habitats, and stream buffers; and other shoreline restoration projects. In addition, shoreline municipalities receiving funding from this act must adopt ordinances that will preclude development in flood-prone areas.

REPORT FROM TRENTON

Electronic Supplement

Electronic Supplement

The Jersey Sierran • January–March 2022
**Climate Change Report**

Join the 50 x 30 Team to Meet New Jersey’s 2030 Climate Goals

By Steve Miller, Climate Chair of our Jersey Shore Group • SteveMiller@comcast.net

From the start of 2021 through October, 18 weather-related disasters in the United States had caused $538 billion in damages. This has been among the most active and costly years for such events, which are becoming more frequent. Do you remember the climate disasters during the first half of 2021? Here are some of the things that happened:

- Severe heat waves in the US Pacific Northwest, British Columbia, and Siberia
- Searing wildfires in Oregon, California, Montana, and other parts of the West
- New York City, Philadelphia, the nation’s capital and other parts of the Eastern seaboard shrouded in Western wildfire smoke
- Historic flooding in Germany and other parts of Western Europe
- Rising concerns of a “mega-drought” across several Western states

(The above examples are from Yale Climate Connections, 8/4/2021.)

The evidence is clear: Our current climate is changing, and the evidence is mounting by the day. The impact has also increased.

- President Biden has often stated that “our climate change is a matter of our national security.”
- The US military has also stated that they must achieve a 50 percent greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction by 2030, in order to ensure that they can fight the war of tomorrow.
- The NJ Sierra Club released a letter to state officials requesting that New Jersey follow suit and set a goal of reaching 100% electric school buses in the next decade.
- The Sierra Club urged citizens to lobby their boards of education and school administrators to replace diesel school buses with buses powered by battery.
- The Sierra Club also requested support from representatives to support the provisions in the climate action but also environmental justice.

The Sierra Club, both statewide and nationally, is hard at work and in need of volunteer help.

**Vision: Fully Electrified School Bus Fleets**

By Raghav Akula

The Sierra Club, both statewide and nationally, is hard at work and in need of volunteer help.

The Transportation Committee of the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club has set a goal of reaching 100% electric school buses within the next decade.

We’re looking for high school students and administrators to replace diesel school buses with batteries powered ones.

One, three NJ districts have an electric school bus pilot program, and are hoping more join the movement for these less costly modes of transportation and a healthier environment.

Removing diesel buses will improve air quality and mitigate climate change; these benefits are enormous and hard to understand.

On the national level, the Sierra Club’s Ready For 100 campaign is in full swing. The goal is to encourage municipalities to commit to 100% clean energy, and 180 cities and eight states have taken this pledge. At the time of this writing, President Joe Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework spending package was under consideration in Congress, and this had major implications for not just climate action but also environmental justice. The bill included provisions for cleaner drinking water, public transportation improvements, environmental remediation, energy transmission for the renewable era, zero-emission school buses, and much more. Biden’s social safety net package (Build Back Better) would address climate issues also, through emissions curbs, and clean energy and electric vehicle tax credits. The Sierra Club urged citizens everywhere to press their elected representatives, to support the provisions in this plan.

For my own part, I participated in two local cleanups in recent weeks. I was deeply inspired by a quote from climate activist Edgar McGregor, who was deeply inspired by a quote from environmentalist.” Taking this doctrine to heart, I joined a trail cleanup organized through the community service nonprofit Sewa International, simply entailed removing invasive spotted lanternfly. The Club’s guidance can provide for your safety and assist with the global effort to bring the pandemic under control.

**Follow CDC Guidance**

By George Moffatt, Programs Support Facilitator • gmoffatt@aoal.com

Due to the continuing threat from Covid-19, the Sierra Club is currently requiring all Staff and Volunteers wishing to return to in-office work between now and February 28, 2022 to be vaccinated.

The Club’s guidance can provide for your safety and assist with the global effort to bring the pandemic under control.

As of mid-November, roughly 59 percent of the US population (estimated to increase to 62 percent by month-end) were partially vaccinated against Covid-19, and the remaining 41 percent were not vaccinated at all. Because the available vaccines for Covid-19 pose effectiveness over time, it is essential to obtain a booster shot. In November it was reported that the vaccines from Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna are significantly less effective against the Delta variant, so it is important to maintain masking, hand-washing, and social distancing precautions.

**Student Liaison Report**

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**For example, the Moderna vac- cine went from being 89% effective in March 2021 to 58% effective in Sep- tember 2021; and the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine dropped from 87% effective- ness to 25% effectiveness over the same interval.**

The CDC recommends vaccinations, masking in indoor public places and close-contact outdoor settings, 6-feet distancing, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces (bars, restaurants, fitness centers, theaters), frequent handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and disinfecting high-touch surfaces. Updated CDC recommendations can be found here:


**ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENT**

**CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT**

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