As 2002 begins, our elected officials continue to face tremendous pressure by certain energy industries to provide America with more energy at any cost, and by any means.

The Bush administration insists we must become independent of international energy sources. Easy to say, but how are we going to achieve that goal? What changes to our lifestyle do we need to make?

If each and every American did her part, to conserve energy at home, at work, and in their vehicles, huge amounts of energy could be saved. Yet the Bush administration has never asked this of us.

Do we really need to drive bigger, faster, more monstrous vehicles? Do we need more land ripped up by "newer, bigger" malls further out? Do we need more roads built instead of mass transit, more species becoming extinct due to habitat loss, and water quality degraded due to our human demand?

Conserving and finding alternate energy sources will ultimately be the only way to become energy solvent. While fuel cell, geothermal, biomass and other approaches to energy. We must aggressively pursue technology as a cheaper way to produce power about 4.5 million homes, according to the American Wind Energy Association.

Wind farms are being developed more rapidly because technological improvements have made the energy comparable in price to imported natural gas. California, where air-quality officials are concerned about peak electricity from the sun. [Again, see the article by Steve Knowlton on page 2].

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The Arctic Refuge is special to many conservationists and hunters, a place where they have lived on the earth for thousands of years. The Arctic Refuge is a symphony in nature that we need to visit it, of the link between wilderness and wildlife, and the need for both, now and the future. Members of the Gwich'in nation respect and worship the land from which they live. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is truly one of the last wild jewels of our planet. The land is among the most complete, pristine, and undisturbed ecosystems on Earth. The coastal lagoons, barrier islands, arctic tundra, foothills, mountains, and boreal forests provide a combination of habitats, climate, and geography unmatched by any other northerner conservation area.

The Arctic Refuge is the most complete, pristine, and undisputed area in all of the USA, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Americans, you and I, have experienced complete restoration in the Refuge.

The Group is currently focusing on efforts away from tax breaks for Big Oil and the nuclear industry and toward tax breaks and consumer credits for the purchase of energy-efficient appliances. [See the article by Steve Knowlton on page 2].

WIND POWER: Wind farms are being developed more rapidly because technological improvements have made the energy comparable in price to imported natural gas. California, where air-quality officials are concerned about peak electricity from the sun. [Again, see the article by Steve Knowlton on page 2].

SOLAR POWER: Solar’s share of the energy market is small compared to wind and biomass, but it’s expanding rapidly in Japan and Europe. Photovoltaic cells in the United States has lagged in the last decade. However, the Energy Department has increased funding for solar research, and scientists are investigating thin-film technology that would convert 20% of sunlight into electricity from the sun. [Again, see the article by Steve Knowlton on page 2].

FUEL CELLS: Fuel-cell vehicles use the power generated when hydrogen and oxygen combine. When pure hydrogen is used, the only byproduct is water vapor. Several technological challenges remain before fuel-cell vehicles can be mass-produced. Fuel cells need a low-cost source of hydrogen, potentially costly fueling stations and fuel tanks that are both compact and safe to handle the ultralight, flammable gas.

In closing, there is still plenty of viable energy saving alternatives to ruin the earth for our families and future generations.

That wildlife includes Porcupine caribou, grizzly and polar bears, packs of wolves and musk oxen. More than 160 bird species, 36 kinds of fish live in the Refuge and in the future. Members of the Gwich’in nation respect and worship the land from which they live. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is truly one of the last wild jewels of our planet.

In closing, there are still plenty of viable energy saving alternatives to ruin the earth for our families and future generations.

Great changes were brought about by the election in November. We have a new Governor and a new Assembly Speaker from the Democratic Party, after eight years of Republican administrations.

The Republican majority in the State Senate is also gone, but at the time of this writing it is not known how the two parties will share power in an evenly divided chamber. These changes bring new people, new philosophies, and new policy agendas into the Statehouse. This should be a time of great opportunity for us to push an environmental agenda in Trenton once again.

For the first time after the founding of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), on October 1, 1970, our state led the nation in designing new programs for environmental protection. Eight years ago that stopped. We spent the Whitman years fighting cuts in DEP enforcement and fighting Gov. Whitman’s spoken attitude that environmental protection took priority over environmental protection.

As Governor, Jim McGreevey will face many challenges: a budget crisis, a need to fix our schools, and high auto insurance rates and property taxes. He has also promised to work for cleaner air and water, and to fight sprawl by bringing Smart Growth to New Jersey. One reason why he believe he will honor these commitments is that the other problems are huge and systemic and may take years to solve. The environment offers the incoming Governor a chance to accomplish quick victories in the early days of his administration at a time when it matters most in shaping the public’s perception of how climate changes can be made inexpensively, like strengthening protection for endangered wildlife water supply reservoirs. Just collecting the $7 million in DEP fines that have gone uncollected for the past eight Whitman years can fund new programs. Just enforcing the rules, calling the vehicles expensive, and their heavy batteries impractical. State officials, however, are racing electric or hybrid vehicles an important step toward cleaner air and a bridge to fuel cell technology.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Americans, you and I, have experienced complete restoration in the Refuge.

CHAPTER WELCOMES NEW GROUP IN HUNTINGDON COUNTY

On Nov 10 the Chapter Executive Committee unanimously authorized a new Sierra Club Group to serve Huntingdon County. Meetings will take place at 7pm on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month at the Flemington Public Library, 118 Main Street, Flemington, N.J. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for January 16, February 20, and March 20.

The Group is currently focusing on the proposed re-zoning of the Flemington Speedway property from Industrial to Commercial. Such a change would allow the owner to sell the property to an interested mall developer. The Speedway is listed with Preservation New Jersey as one of the top ten most endangered historic sites in New Jersey.

For more information about the Group please contact Esther B. Pringe, Acting Chair, at (908) 284-9103.

If you live in Huntingdon County, please use the Group Ballot on pg. 6 to vote for Group officers.

Dated Material Do Not Delay
SOLAR GENERATED ELECTRICITY NOW AFFORDABLE
by Steve Knowlton, Chair of the Jersey Shore Group

On March 1, 2001, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities announced a rebate program to help make clean energy more affordable. Solar generated electricity (photovoltaic) systems as well as wind turbines and biomass technologies. The utilities will reimburse the customer $5 per watt of system-rated output for systems larger than 10 kilowatts (KW), or 60% of the installed cost, whichever is less. For higher rated systems, the rebate per watt is lower.

Photovoltaic (PV) cells are made of silicon and can supply excess power to the utilities when the sun's rays hit them. The system normally includes panels of interconnected cells and an inverter to produce alternating current so the customer's installed system can become more efficient and widespread.

Depending on the size of the PV system, it is possible to have a yearly electric bill of zero, or for a homeowner to export their excess power (at the wholesale rate).

Chapter Co-hosts International Population Speaker
by Bonnie Tillery, Chapter Population Issues Coordinator

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Sierra Club activists recently gathered at Fairview Lake, New Jersey, to examine the environmental challenges of sprawl, transportation and energy. Sponsored by the Sierra Club's Northeast Regional Conservation Conference (NERCC), the workshops took place at the YMCA Conference Center on the weekend of October 12-14. NERCC delegates and participants from Chapters ranging from the Eastern Province to the Northwest met in session subjects to listen to experts, and in smaller groups to discuss options and develop ideas. The schedule included a packed schedule of intense meetings were opportunities to enjoy the beautiful setting at Fairview Lake. Barbara Winterton and Kate Moffat of Maine presented "Why the Sierra Club promotes Energy Efficient Homes" (WEH). Two summer seminars in Maine have provided training, inspiration and a community to which one can turn for help with energy efficient homes. A third seminar is planned for the summer of 2002; women of the Northern Appalachian Trail and the Appalachian Trail along Kittatinny Ridge or canoeing on the lake.

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EDITORIAL: Environmental Responsibility (and New Year's Resolutions)

By Dick Colby

In preparing a talk recently for prospective college students and their parents, I was struck by the starkness of the coming traumas of the adolescent transition: the pressures of the newly fledged freshman, the difficulty of making career choices, the every-evening commitment to social networking, or even a large to navigate the stormy sea of career and study, the opportunity to confront one's conscience (often for the first time and the first time). What does one's future obligations to society, religion, sexual ethics, with respect to honesty, self-worth, social responsibility, or other packaging material, or junk mail, but with respect to the limits of human nature, perhaps what psychologists call the Pleasure Principle. We've been freed from much of modern human nature, perhaps what psychologists call the Pleasure Principle. We've been freed from much of modern human nature, perhaps what psychologists call the Pleasure Principle. We've been freed from much of modern human nature, perhaps what psychologists call the Pleasure Principle. We've been freed from much of modern human nature, perhaps what psychologists call the Pleasure Principle. We've been freed...
The Sierra's Quarterly Report
On Major Issues Before The
U.S. Congress and Federal Agencies

by Dennis Schowyda, Chapter Conservation Co-Chair and Federal Issues Coordinator

A NO-SHOW ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Shortly after taking office, Bush administration officials announced they would not implement the 1997 Kyoto Protocol under which countries agreed to legally binding targets for curbing heat-trapping greenhouse gases, mainly carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels. The move reversed a position Bush took during his presidential campaign.

In early November, negotiators for more than a dozen nations meeting in Berlin to grind years of work, reached agreement on a groundbreaking climate control treaty setting mandatory targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The United States, the world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, has exempted itself from the treaty.

A Department of Energy report that heat-trapping carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions increased by 5.1 percent last year was the biggest since the 1990s. Why did President Bush retreat from his 2000 campaign promise to sign the Kyoto Protocol?

Bush also claimed that the move was a response to a flawed report that concluded that regulations to cut CO2 would be too costly. The president has repeatedly underestimated the cost of cutting CO2, while exaggerating the impact on industry.

ENDANGERING ENDANGERED SPECIES
Bush budget proposes a provision to relax requirements for endangered or threatened species listing. The Bush budget also includes a provision to cut an estimated $10 million from the Endangered Species Act's enforcement budget. The Bush administration is proposing to cut the status of Clean Air Act rules requiring that are upgraded or expanded.

ENDANGERING SPECIES
The Bush administration announced a plan to make many more endangered species eligible for listing. This includes over 1,000 species that are believed to be extinct and over 300 species that are upgraded or expanded.

PUBLIC LANDS, PRIVATE INTEREST
The Bush administration reversed an 11-year moratorium on mining policy, making it easier for companies to mine for gold, copper, zinc, and other minerals. The Bush administration also issued a legal opinion that could clear the way for a Nevada company to dig an open-pit copper mine in the San Francisco desert considered sacred by a local Indian tribe.

To the delight of mining interests, US Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth has refused to turn over records from his agency's internal review of the GAO, the 90-year-old investigative arm of Congress, preparing to sue a federal entity for the removal of 1,000 acres of critical habitat for a species recently proposed for protection under the Endangered Species Act. Secretary of the Interior8. M. Walker described the fight as a direct threat to the Bush administration's plan to ease the separation of species issue that would determine whether the legislative branch could amend the law to protect species identified as endangered by the National Monuments status.

A review of Interior's decision for relaxing the conservation act for the 19 new Monuments oversight by the President Clinton, and consider allowing commercial activities on these lands.

POLUTION
President Bush unveiled a budget that proposed to cut funding for environmental and natural resources agencies by $2.1 billion, or 7.2 percent, in fiscal year 2002 -- a drop from $3.5 billion.

The Bush administration suspended the "contractor responsibility rule," which prohibits government agencies from awarding contracts to companies that have failed to comply with other federal laws -- including laws that protect the environment, public health, consumers, and families.

An example given by the EPA is the "contractor responsibility rule," which prohibits government agencies from awarding contracts to companies that have failed to comply with other federal laws -- including laws that protect the environment, public health, consumers, and families.

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For years people have blamed the Mt. Laurel decision for the sprawl of communities to provide “affordable” (low-income) housing, for causing sprawl and thus perpetuating the need for more sprawl. The original candidates for Governor even made this a themose. The argument fails: the fundamental causes of sprawl are poor planning, such as the siting of roads and sewers, and market forces, and economic conditions. Some communities that have found themselves engulfed by sprawl have taken legal action, such as the Southampton lawsuit blame everyone but themselves for their predicament. The Fair Housing Act (FHA) of 1968 and the Local Control Housing Act was passed in 1985. There is no excuse for being subject to a lawsuit. Either a town council is playing possum or it is deliberately setting itself up for a lawsuit. To illustrate the latter some town councils make zoning changes so that a politically connected developer can put in an application. Then, when the citizens come out in opposition, the council opposes the project. Next, the developer sue the town under the guidelines and the case is settled out of court to give the developer the zone change desired. To avoid this kind of sordid spectacle, we must act by getting certified by COAH. Only a third of the towns in New Jersey have been COAH certified. New Jersey is losing land to sprawl for reasons that other than Mt. Laurel.

Affordable housing units have counted for 242 votes. The House of Representatives by a vote of 242 to 164. The amendment, offered by Representative Henry Hyde (R-IL), passed by a gag rule, which restricts the actions of the appropriations bill (H.R. 2217), offered by Rep. Jay Inslee (D-WA) and Steve Saxton, and Smith. The regional share of affordable housing should not be allocated to towns that are not growing. West Amwell should not be penalized for Hopewell’s growth. The builder’s remedy, which calls for one affordable housing unit for every four market units, should be eliminated. COAH certification should be mandatory for every municipality. Towns should be able to accept alternatives for affordable housing sites if, after six years, no development has taken place, or if the sites are environmentally sensitive. COAH should expand its criteria for environmental sensitivity to include endangered species, habitat and potable water supply reser-

Eye On Washington


SUPREME COURT DECISIONS IN 2001:

CLEAN AIR

In one of the most anticipated decisions of 2001, the US Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor of the EPA’s authority to set clean air regulations. In 1979, the EPA declared that a safe level of ozone is 0.12 parts per million over a one-hour period. Under the Clean Air Act, states with higher smog levels were required to develop pollution control plans and bring them into compliance with this standard. The standard was immediately challenged in court by a wide array of industries and some states that wanted to avoid clean air rules. A federal appeals court in San Francisco held that the new rule pending an appeal to the Supreme Court. On Tuesday, February 27th, in a 7-2 opinion, written by Justice Antonin Scalia, the Supreme Court held that first, the EPA’s authority was constitutional and second, that the agency may not consider economic costs when setting clean air standards to protect the public’s health.

EXXON VALDEZ FINE

EXCESSIVE

A federal appeals court ruled in November that the $5.5 billion in punitive damages the Exxon Corporation was ordered to pay in the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska, the worst in the nation’s history, was excessive, and told a federal appeals court in San Francisco to enforce the new rule pending an appeal to the Supreme Court. On Monday, February 27th, in an opinion written by Justice Antonin Scalia, the Exxon Corporation was ordered to pay in the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska, the worst in the nation’s history, was excessive, and told a federal appeals court in San Francisco to enforce the new rule pending an appeal to the Supreme Court. On Monday, February 27th, in an opinion written by Justice Antonin Scalia, the Supreme Court held that first, the EPA’s authority was constitutional and second, that the agency may not consider economic costs when setting clean air standards to protect the public’s health.

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EXCESSIVE

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LOSING A BATTLE IN THE WAR ON SPRAWL

At press time, we learned that the Mills Corporation is attempting to move forward with plans to destroy up to 206 acres of wetlands for a 2.1 million-square foot mega-mall. BE READY: The Jersey Sierran will provide support from you, our Sierra Club colleagues, and we will fight with you. Together, we can save the 8,500-acre ecosystem. It is imperative that we save it. The Jersey Sierran will provide support from you, our Sierra Club colleagues, and we will fight with you. Together, we can save the 8,500-acre ecosystem. It is imperative that we save it.

For me, it’s very hard to admit that we’ve lost the fight to stop a major dumb growth project (The Like That) in Mercer County. Judging by the reaction of the Hamilton Marketplace. Judge Feinburg’s decision earlier this year, and the denial of the Chapter Secretary: Retail Council Chair. Vice Chair.

The battle is over. The Jersey Sierran’s work on wetlands, arsenic, and his run for the New Jersey Senate is over. Judge Feinburg’s run for the New Jersey Senate is over. We’ve lost the fight to stop a major dumb growth project (The Like That) in Mercer County. Judging by the reaction of the Hamilton Marketplace. Judge Feinburg’s decision earlier this year, and the denial of the Chapter Secretary: Retail Council Chair. Vice Chair.

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by Douglas Jewell, Cape May Issues Coordinator

Completing Route 55, by extending the current ter-
nminus in Maurice River Township, Cumberland County for 20 miles to the Garden State Parkway in Middle
Township, Cape May County, has been an off and on
proposition since the 1970s. The plan resurfaced with
vigor in 2001, with local politicians using the project as
their rallying campaign cry leading up to the November 6
elections.

Much of the local populace has embraced the ex-
tension, thanks to slick media marketing laced with
sound bites and “concepts,” while propo-
nents purposely and calculatedly avoiding the details and
facts.

The Sierra Connection Committee (SCC) of the
South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization
(SJTPO) did a two year study of traffic congestion at the

The study made 18 recommendations to improve
traffic flow. The NJDOT finally implemented the first,
alternate route signage, this past summer. The other
17 remain undone.

While the SCC report says about the Route 55
extension

“This project would involve the construction of a
roadway through environmentally sensitive areas
and public lands. It would face extreme environmental
problems, particularly wetlands impacts, which
would make it difficult to permit and very difficult to
mitigate. It would also be very costly to build.”

To the average guy, that would be enough to say, “Forget Route 55” but not in Cape May County,
where campaign contributions fuel political policy.

It’s no surprise that the largest contributors are from
the construction industry and the Wildwood-Cape
May Court House business sector.

The SCC report’s critical conclusions about Route 55’s proposed Port Elizabeth bypass and
Dennisonville bypass, “Environmentally, it may prove very difficult to build and would have
large impacts.”

And for the extension dumping its traffic onto the
Garden State Parkway, the report said, “It would
increase volume on the GSP, taxing the ability of the
state’s infrastructure to handle its increased. Also, the completed highway would nega-
tively impact 19 businesses in Dennis Township and
increase volume on the GSP, taxing the ability of the
state’s infrastructure to handle its increased.

Proposed Route 55

Extention Would Be
Environmental Disaster

Northwest Jersey Group

(Hunterdon, Sussex and Warren Counties, approximately)

Please vote the Group Ballot on this page!

Web site: http://pepin.home.att.net. We are also acces-
sible from the NJ Chapter Web site.

OFFICERS:
Chair: Ellen Pepin 973-252-5157
epelin@worldnet.att.net
Vice Chair: Joseph Pepin 973-252-5157
pepin@worldnet.att.net
Treasurer: Donna Rubin 973-726-9278
Secretary: Debbie Hambright 973-726-8015
Political Chair: Dean Shemenski 908-684-1515
dshemenski@billrhlehr.com
Publicity Chair: Claire Cifelli 973-726-4806
Outings Chair: Jim Palmer 908-852-6966

Northwestern New Jersey needs a strong Sierra Club to protect its environment from the challenges of
devouring over-development. We need to have the commit-
ment and talents of all of our members. We have a need
for people to help us in our conservation efforts and we
also need the help of people who are willing to serve as
outings leaders. We would also like to see more people
attend our monthly meetings. Come and meet your fel-
low Sierra Club members.

LOCAL ISSUES:

Mountain Creek Development: In June, 2000, the
Vermont Twp Planning Board voted to change the zoning
law to allow the Intrawest Corp. to build a massive develop-
ment on Hampton Mountain. The Planning Board has
approved the first step in the development plan.

This development would consist of up to 2000 hous-
ing units as well as shops, shopping areas and condos.

Much of this land is the former Hamburg Mountain
Wildlife Management Area. There are many environ-
mental problems. The land is environmentally sensitive
and contains wetlands, steep slopes, and possible
endangered species.

Judge Stanton has ruled that roads, sewers and other
infrastructure must avoid the deed-restricted lands on
the top of the mountain. The judge has not yet ruled on
the golf course that is planned for the top of the moun-
tain. These court actions have resulted in some changes
to the development plan.

We need to let the people involved to oppose this
project. We need people to attend meetings, write lets-
er and spread the word.

Route 15: Another issue we have been involved with is
the plan to widen Route 15 from Wharton to its
terminus at Rt. 206. The widening would not only dis-
turb the central part of the highlands, but would lead to
more sprawl development and more congestion. We
must convince people who live in the area that this is a bad plan.

Highlands: In addition to other local issues, we would
like to continue to work for the protection of the
Highlands region.

How to Identify Your Group

BY COUNTY:

Northwest Jersey Group: Sussex & Warren
Huntendon County Group: Hunterdon
North Jersey Group: Passaic & Bergen
Baristan Valley Group: Somerset & Middlesex
West Jersey Group: Gloucester, Camden & Burlington
South Jersey Group: Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland & Salem
Buck County Group: Bucks

North Jersey Group

(Southern Bergen and all of Passaic Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:
Chair: Betsy Kohn 201-461-4534
betsykohn@aol.com
Vice Chair: Hugy Carreira 201-692-8640
hcarreira@aol.com

Please vote the Group Ballot on this page!
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSERVATION MEETINGS:**

Held at 7:30 on the THIRD MONDAY of the month at a location to be determined. Contact Betsy Kohn or Hugh Carola or Tom Thompson (see above) for more info.

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** In January and February, general meetings will be held at 7:30 on the THIRD THURSDAY of the month and in March on the SECOND AND THIRD THURSDAYS of the month. Please note the location for each meeting as indicated below. For more information, contact Betsy Kohn (see above).

**Jan 17:** At Outarlnd Public Library, 375 Kinderkamack Rd., Oradell, NJ (201-262-2015). “We are the Sierra Club”, a presentation (with video) to the volunteer activities and hiking opportunities of the NJ Sierra Club, and a discussion of the New Jersey Group’s current conservation issues.

**Feb 21:** At Oakland Public Library, Municipal Plaza, Oakland, NJ (215-537-5742). “Protecting the New Jersey Highlands” slide presentation by Daniel Frey, coordinator of the Highlands Coalition, with a review of current efforts to preserve the region from sprawl development.

**Mar 14:** At Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 445 Van Norstrand Avenue, Englewood, NJ (201-567-1205). “In the Presence of Nature: The Story of the Celery Farms”, with a slide and music presentation by Jerry Barrack about the history of reclaiming the Allendale farm and turning it into a nature preserve. The program is based on a book (with photos by Dr. Barrack, text by Jim Wright) due out next year to honor the Celery Farm’s 90th anniversary.

**Mar 21:** At Oakland Public Library, Municipal Plaza, Oakland, NJ (201-537-5742). “The Groundwater Fungus” by Al Simpson, member of the NJ Mycological Society, about the ecological, economic and aesthetic aspects of mushrooms and their role in distinguishing edible from poisonous fungi.

**WANT TO GET INVOLVED?** We are currently working to keep commuter ferries and buses out of the Palisades Interstate Park, and green transportation issues. Members are interested in our Wetlands Campaign Committee and for help preserving the region from more sprawl development.

**OPENINGS!** The Group has openings for those interested in our Wetlands Campaign Committee and for Chapter Delegate! For those interested in our Wetlands Campaign, contact Kate Kyle at 212-478-9588, or at k.kyle@worldnet.att.net. For those interested in learning more about Chapter Delegate and other positions, contact Rich at 973-716-0237, or at riasux@aol.com for details! Thanks!!

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** Held at 7:30 pm the FIRST MONDAY of the month. Please contact Rich at riasux@aol.com or 973-716-0237 for the location, which may vary.

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** Held at 7:30 pm on the SECOND THURSDAY of the month at the Verona Park Boathouse, corner of Lakeside and Bloomfield Ave., Verona (unless otherwise specified). For directions, please call Sue, 973-564-9589.

**Jan 10, 2002:** Conservation censuses are one vehicle to help preserve open space. Come learn more about this method of keeping track of how green from Martha Windisch, Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator for the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust. Martha will narrate a slide show and present an overview of the organization and their achievements.

**Feb 14:** The possibility of biological terrorism haunts Americans since the attack on the World Trade Center. However, the environmental threat of nuclear pollution dwarfs other poisoning options. Join Sid Goodman to discuss the targets, their risks and what should be done to safeguard our energy supplies.

**Mar 14:** Julie Eisenhardt, Sierra Club Environmental Program Director, will talk about meeting with Michelle Garcia from the Ironbound Community Corporation, will present local environmental justice issues, and explain how Sierraans can get involved to help ensure that every resident has access to clean air and water. Be there as we forge a new partnership between the Sierra Club and the historic Ironbound community! NOTE SPECIAL MEETING LOCATION: St. Casimir Church, 366 East Kinsey St., Newark. For Directions call Rich Isaac at 973-716-0237 or at the Church at 973-544-2714.

**Loantaka Group**

(Hudson County and southern Bergen County: Lyndhurst, Rutherford, East Rutherford, Carlstadt, Ridgefield, Edgewater, Cliffside Park and Fair Lawn)

**OFFICERS (Provisional):**
- Chair: Steve Lanstet
  208-986-9787
- Vice Chair: Louise Teder
  201-224-3574
- Membership Chair: Artina Munsen
  arina@rcn.com
- Treasurer: Doug Hagedorn
  201-610-9941

**NEWS:**
Keep up with Group happenings at warp speed! Please send your e-mail address to Steve Lanstet (slanset@hotmail.com) and you will be added to our distribution list. We are especially trying to network members who share similar environmental interests and to call meetings on shorter (two or three weeks) notice than usual. We are currently working on the Meadowlands Mall, Liberty State Park, and green transportation issues. Members are invited to help with these or other local issues.

**MEETING NOTICE:** Contact Group Officers (or get onto Steve Lanstet’s e-mail distribution list) for news of meetings in January, February and March.

**EXPERTS:**

**Essex County Group** (Essex County, approximately)

**OFFICERS:**
- Chair: Richard Isaac 973-716-0297
- Membership: George Chan gaiboren@hotmail.com
- Political: Janine Schaeffer 973-857-0519
- Media: Cambridge Gutmore 973-667-2035
ingov@hot.com
- Outgoing: Steve Lanset 1-732-226-7107
- Programs: Sue Slackton
  973-564-9589
- Treasurer: Loz Toliner 973-857-0519
- Secretary: Bob Wolff wof@wolfscorp.com
- Railway: Kirk Barnett 973-315-1218

**ACTIVITIES:**
Worki the Sierra Club Loantaka Group to preserve wetlands in the Passaic River Basin, and continuing to ensure that the Essex County Park System Space Trust Fund is implemented in a fair and consistent way.

**THE GLORIES OF PRESENCE:**
The Group has openings for those interested in our Wetlands Campaign Committee and for Chapter Delegate! For those interested in our Wetlands Campaign, contact Kate Kyle at 212-478-9588, or at k.kyle@worldnet.att.net. For those interested in learning more about Chapter Delegate and other positions, contact Rich at 973-716-0237, or at riasux@aol.com for details! Thanks!!

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**
Meetings are held on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm in the Library of the Chathams.

**GENERAL MEETINGS:**
Meetings are held on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month at 7:30 in the Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St. (Route 124), Chatham. Everyone is welcome! Library phone: 973-655-0603

**Jan 9, 2002:** Ross Kushner, president of the Pequannock River Coalition, will present a slide show and lecture on the unique, exciting and important watershed, threats to that resource, and the efforts of the Pequannock River Coalition to protect it. The Pequannock River Coalition is a grassroots watershed advocacy group dedicated to the preservation of the Pequannock River.

**Feb 15:** Presentation by Louise Lubiak. Environmental Specialist with the Passaic River Coalition, which focuses on protecting and preserving ground water supplies in the Upper and Central Passaic River Basin. A 12-minute video, "The Story of the Adventures of the Wet," will be shown, followed by suggestions for protecting the water sources and the environment of the Middle Valley communities, which use 35% of the water used by residents of 31 municipalities in Morris, Union and Essex Counties.

**Mar 13:** Have you ever considered going on one of the many National Outings that the Sierra Club offers each year but needed some incentive? Or are you an armchair traveler who enjoys seeing photographs that someone else has taken? Whichever you may be, come out for a scenic and informative slide presentation that Peter Weckesser has compiled over more than 12 years on National Sierra Club Backpack and Service Outings.

**Apr 10:** Michelle Burke, from the Great Swamp Assoc., will talk about water quality and the point source pollution and runoff water. Michelle also has a watershed model that shows visually how non-point source pollution affects the environment.

**Central Jersey Group**

(Mercer County, parts of Hunterdon, Somerset and Middlesex)

**WEBSITE:**
http://nocentralsierra.enviroweb.org/ (Click on Central Jersey Group) and http://www.english.upenn.edu/~lynch/sierra/central.html

**OFFICERS:**
- Chair: Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414
- Vice President: Lucy Vooheere 908-353-9565
- Conservation: Laura Lynch 609-892-4642

**GROUP WEB SITE:**
http://nocentralsierra.enviroweb.org

**GROUP OFFICERS:**
- Chair: Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414
- Treasurer: Jack Kopp 732-581-4919
- Secretary: Ross Kushner, president of the Pequannock River Coalition, which focuses on protecting and preserving ground water supplies in the Upper and Central Passaic River Basin. A 12-minute video, "The Story of the Adventures of the Wet," will be shown, followed by suggestions for protecting the water sources and the environment of the Middle Valley communities, which use 35% of the water used by residents of 31 municipalities in Morris, Union and Essex Counties.

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**Apr 10:** Michelle Burke, from the Great Swamp Assoc., will talk about water quality and the point source pollution and runoff water. Michelle also has a watershed model that shows visually how non-point source pollution affects the environment.
Energy conservation tip: turn the thermostat down when you're gone for the day.
A special thanks to those volunteers who have helped us with our events: Pete Baczynski (NJAS), Paul Regan (CA), and Tina Ament (CA), who helped arrange the meeting rooms, Ron Pate (Outings), Keith Khieu (Shore Days) Connie Farley (Calendar Coord), Wilma Wihurst and Jane Brownley (Membership). Also, thank you to the local hardware stores, Mary Russell, Susan Long, Pat Montague Joan Housman, Wilma Wihurst and Deborah Schwinn for Socials.

Volunteers needed for the positions of outings leaders, secretary, membership chair/co-chairs, publicity chair/co-chairs, fundraising chair/co-chairs, and members of all committees, including social events planners for Plaza Grille. Please attend a Planning/Executive Committee meeting or email any of the officers if you are interested.

MEETINGS: Group meetings are usually held on the THIRD MONDAY of each month, at 7pm, usually at the Warren Fox Nature Center, Atlantic County Park. E-mail announcements will be sent to the e-mail distribution list; many do not make it into this Sierran or to the website. As a result, please check the website for meetings or contact an officer if interested.

General Meetings:
www.njcspecialinterest.com

Personal meetings are held on the THIRD MONDAY of each month at 7pm, usually at the old Court House in Cape May Court House (on Rte. 9, one block south of the Hospital). Final arrangements with speaker, phone number for the e-mail distribution lists, should be called an officer.

February 26 (also not a third Monday?): We will meet our meeting with that of our teenage “daughter” organization, the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, which will meet at Empire City in the newest major development on a site to consider regulation of All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), jet-skis, and other nuisance objects. Probable present by Fred Akers, our Group Conservation Chair.

Mar 16 (goodness! also not a third Monday?): Our quarterly meeting will be on Saturday, at 10am, to perform some maintenance (removal of old barbed wire fencing) at the Watershed Association’s Wildlife Refuge, on an Uncategorised Road (where else?) in Buena Vista Twp, border of Atlantic and Gloucester Counties. We’ll see if the bees have returned upstream. Bring thick leather work gloves and wire cutters. We may have lunch together afterwards. RSVP to Fred and Julie Akers.

ACTIVITIES:
Members of Cape May County should please pay attention to the following activities which are being held in a section of Cape May which poses, possibly, the issue of environmental impacts of a new high school for Ocean City. The meeting will probably take place at 7pm at the Old Court House in Cape May Court House (on Rte. 9, one block south of the Hospital). Final arrangements with speaker, phone number for the e-mail distribution lists, should be called an officer.

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NEWER VENUES: Newer venues for planning and holding meetings which have been added include: Indoors: Centennial Park, West Essex, NJ; Library: Freehold Public Library, NJ; Outdoors Events: Scioto Point, Scioto, OH; The Longwood Gardens, PA; Music: Atlantic City; Shows: The Atlantic City, NJ; The New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Newark, NJ; and The Barnegat Theatre, Barnegat, NJ. All have been added for planned events.

MEETINGS: Group meetings are usually held on the THIRD MONDAY of each month, at 7pm, usually at the Warren Fox Nature Center, Atlantic County Park. E-mail announcements will be sent to the e-mail distribution list; many do not make it into this Sierran or to the website. As a result, please check the website for meetings or contact an officer if interested.

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FEBRUARY

FEB 1 (Fri) Catskill Mountain Winter Weekend. Alpine Inn, Catskill Mts. Enjoy all of winter's magic in the special beauty of the high peaks of the central Catskills by skiing the numerous alpine and cross country ski trails. Hikers and snowshoers can explore and photograph the scenic mountain beauty of the miles of the spectacular state main-road. In the evening by fireside we plan a great mountaineering color slide program or magic show. Excellent accommodations and gourmet food! Total cost for 3 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts, 2 dinners and all taxes & gratuities $285. This is a joint trip of AMC, Sierra Club and UCHC. Our several cross country skiing and hiking trips are rated from the easiest to more difficult. Leader: Al Tatyrek (eve 973-763-2303 - no calls after 10:00 PM please). Send transportation, activities planned and other info with $100 deposit and complete co-op envelope to our co-leader and registrar: Balance of payment is due on arrival at the Alpine Inn.

FEB 2 (Sat) Social Hike In Langdon State Mountain Preserve, Basking Ridge. Follow Maple Ave. about 2 ½ miles, then turn left onto Lord Sterling Road. Go 1 mile to park. We will hike 4-5 miles at a moderate pace. Bring lunch or snack & water. Meet at 8:30 AM parking lot Hilton Hotel Rt. 70 Cherry Hill to carpool/caravan or meet at Park Office at 9:30. In Pa. From Rt. 1 take Rt. 352 N for 3 miles to Grayville Rd. go N 1.5 miles to park. A $3 fee will be charged to non-members. Leaders: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 evenings pis1@cccnj.net or Tom Jagged 856-254-9569 (W)

FEB 7 (Fri) 35th Singles Hike at Hayfield Swap in West Easton, 5 miles at a moderate pace through forested woodlands along the Pasica River. Bring water, snacks and hiking boots. Lunch will be at Whitehorse Lake Pavilion on Rt. 206. Register obtain details. Leader: Kerry Miller. E-mail: ksmiller2@juno.com (N)

FEB 14 (Fri) Volunter Hike. We will help Habitat for Humanity rebuild a row home. This is a wonderful opportunity for families with children, groups of all ages, and groups that include both parents and children. Bring picnic food to take at sallate after hike. Meet at 10 AM at rear parking lot. Bring a shovel, a hammer, and a water bottle. Rain cancels. Bring a lunch and snacks. Hiking shoes suggested. Bad weather, call Steve at 908-374-9107 for confirmation/questions please call. Leader: Mike Varghese, 908-924-0178 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

FEB 18 (Sat) Volunteer Activity. We will help Habitat for Humanity rebuild a row home. This is a wonderful opportunity for families with children, groups of all ages, and groups that include both parents and children. Bring picnic food to take at sallate after hike. Meet at 10 AM at rear parking lot. Bring a shovel, a hammer, and a water bottle. Rain cancels. Bring a lunch and snacks. Hiking shoes suggested. Bad weather, call Steve at 908-374-9107 for confirmation/questions please call. Leader: Mike Varghese, 908-924-0178 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)
NEW JERSEY CHAPTER Leadership

Legislative Committee
Marty Sayne**, Dennis Anderson, Ken Johnson, Dave Mattel, Jeff Bli, Bill Wolfe

Membership Chair
Linda Isaac (973) 716-0297
47 Fellowship Dr., Livingston NJ 07039-2235

Alternate: Rich Isaac - (see above)

dick.colby@stockton.edu

OUTINGS
(Continued from page 15)

- however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The trail is about 2 miles in length; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will