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CRISIS, ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE - Myth and Truths

by Tina Schvejda, Chapter Chair



As 2002 begins, our elected officials continue to face tremendous pressure by certain energy industries to provide America with 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 must we make?

If each and every American did her and his 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 really need to build another mall, only to have it replaced within a decade by a "newer, bigger" mall further out? Do we really need more land ripped up by development, more roads built instead of mass transit, more species becoming extinct due to habitat loss, and water quality degraded due to our human demands?

Conserving and finding alternate energy sources will ultimately be the only way to become energy solvent. While we may still depend on oil for a portion of our energy requirements, the "need" to drill domestically, particularly in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), is a sad myth.

Studies have shown that oil from the Refuge would be the equivalent of a 200-day supply. Then what? Such short sightedness for less than one year's worth of

gasoline! For these reasons and others, I oppose opening the Refuge to drilling.

This issue has also touched me at a very personal level. I had the good fortune to actually visit the Arctic Refuge a few summers ago. My husband Dennis, younger son Stephen and I rafted down the Kongakut River to the Beaufort Sea. The trip extended over two weeks and provided a vivid memory that I'll always treasure.

Upon arriving in the valley of Caribou Pass within the ANWR, I experienced complete removal from civilization for the first time in my life. The world of Man lay far away, over the mountains of the Brooks Range, some 750+ miles distant. No roads, cars, homes, cell towers, malls or ANY other human element are evident in this truly wild place.

The Arctic Refuge is special to Gwich'in Native Americans. They have lived lightly on this earth for many thousands of years. The Arctic Refuge is a symbol, even for those who will never visit it, of the link between wilderness and wildlife, and the need for both, now and in the future. Members of the Gwich'in nation respect and worship this land as a sacred place.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is truly one of the last wild jewels of our nation. It has been called the Serengeti of North America. The land is among the most complete, pristine, and undisturbed ecosystems on earth. Here coastal lagoons, barrier islands, arctic tundra, foothills, mountains, and boreal forests provide a combination of habitats, climate, and geography unmatched by any other northern conservation area - conditions that support the Refuge's diverse community of life.

That wildlife includes Porcupine caribou, grizzly and polar bears, packs of wolves and musk oxen. More than 160 bird species, 36 kinds of land mammals, nine marine mammal species, and 36 types of fish reside in the Refuge for at



least part of the year.

The Gwich'in depend on the caribou as a food staple. Hundreds of thousands of caribou come and give birth to their young each spring. Even exploratory drilling by oil and gas companies would be a real threat to their calving grounds. Biologists warn that roads, pipelines, drilling pads and other infrastructure and pollution necessary for oil extraction will irrevocably harm this unique fragile environment.

I believe that we must take a balanced approach to energy. We must aggressively promote clean energy technologies, including energy efficiency, wind, solar, fuel cell, geothermal, biomass and other renewable energy sources. Investing in clean energies will make our economy more efficient, reduce oil imports and create more American jobs than oil production in the Refuge.

We could enact emergency conservation measures like those used earlier this year for California's energy crisis, or reinstate daylight saving time, as was done during the energy crunch of the early 1970's. We should refocus Congressional

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.] Here is a breakdown of some renewable-energy options:

WIND POWER: Wind farms are being developed more rapidly because technological improvements have made the energy comparable in price to imported natural gas, which fires many of the country's power plants. The amount of wind-power generation capability in the United States is expected to grow by more than 75 percent this year to about 4,500 megawatts. That's enough to power about 4.5 million homes, according to the American Wind Energy Association.

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. Use of 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 as a cheaper way to produce electricity from the sun. [Again, see the article by Steve Knowlton!]

ELECTRIC VEHICLES: About 2,500 electric vehicles are on the road in California, where air-quality officials will require even more sales of the zero-emission vehicles beginning in 2003. Automakers are fighting the rules, calling the vehicles expensive, and their heavy batteries impractical. State officials, however, consider electric or hybrid vehicles an important step toward cleaner air and a bridge to fuel cell technology.

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 hydrogen source, potentially costly fueling stations and fuel tanks that are both compact and safe to handle the ultralight, flammable gas.

In closing, there are still plenty of viable energy saving alternatives to ruining one of the last truly wild beautiful places in the USA, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Americans, you and I, must help do our part in protecting our nation's wild heritage for our families and our future.

A NEW TRENTON - New Opportunities

by Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director

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 23 years after the founding of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), on Earth Day in 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 economic growth 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 water and air, and to fight sprawl by bringing Smart Growth to New Jersey. One reason why we believe he will honor these commitments is that the other problems are large 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 him. Many changes can be made inexpensively, like strengthening protections for potable water supply reservoirs. Just collecting the \$7 million in DEP fines that have gone uncollected during the eight Whitman years can fund new programs. By just enforcing the laws already on the books, Jim McGreevey could become an environmental hero, and he could completely restore public confidence in the DEP.

A Governor who is willing to make the State Plan mandatory for state agencies, and who will stop funding sprawl-induc-

(Continued on page 3)

CHAPTER WELCOMES NEW GROUP IN HUNTERDON COUNTY

On Nov 10 the Chapter Executive Committee unanimously authorized a new Sierra Club Group to serve Hunterdon County. Meetings will take place at 7pm on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month at the Flemington Public Library, 118 Main Street, Flemington, NJ. 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 Ruth Prince, Acting Chair, at (908) 284-9103.

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

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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. The program applies to solar energy (photovoltaic) systems as well as fuel cells, small wind, and sustainable biomass technologies. The utilities will reimburse the customer \$5 per watt of system-rated output for systems up to 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 produce direct current 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 lighting and appliances are compatible. If the homeowner wants to be connected to the grid (i.e. to the wires from the utilities), he can then draw power from the utilities when the PV panels are generating less power than his house consumes, and can supply excess power to the utilities when the sun is shining. When the homeowner supplies power to the utilities the electric meter actually runs backwards. Depending on the size of the PV system, it is possible to have a yearly electric bill of zero, or even for a homeowner to be paid by the utility for the excess power (but at the wholesale rate).

Here are the savings that I anticipate for a 2.4 KW system just installed in my house for \$22,000. The rebate is based on the ACTUAL power output, which, due to inefficiency in the inverter, is only 2.256 KW. At \$5 per watt (2256 x \$5), my rebate will be \$11,280, more than half the installation cost.

The savings on my electricity bill are calculated as follows: the manufacturer, Astropower Inc., predicts average monthly generation of 260 kilowatt hours along the Jersey coast, assuming optimal orientation toward the south. At the current cost of electricity, 11¢ per kilowatt hour, I'll save \$28.60 per month or \$343 per year.

The savings should recoup the system cost in 20 years, assuming a 5% annual increase in the cost of electricity.

This is but a sketch of the program. More information on the rebate program is at <http://njcleanenergy.com/>. Information on net metering is available at <http://www.state.nj.us/bpu/> in the "Energy" section.

I have installed a 2.4 KW system at my house in Fair Haven. I look forward to the benefits - a pollution-free means of generating electricity, no global warming gases, no use of non-renewable fuels - and a reduction in my utility bill.

FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN BERGEN COUNTY AND MANHATTAN

by Betsy Kohn, Chair of the North Jersey Group

The North Jersey Group opposes using Ross Dock, at the north end of Fort Lee, for commuter ferries. The Dock is located within 101-year-old Palisades Interstate Park, a national treasure. According to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the Park's mission is "to preserve natural, historic and cultural resources, and provide for their use by the public for recreational and educational purposes." Busing commuters through the park would be incompatible with this mission.

The addition of shuttle buses and more cars on the Park road to Ross Dock would greatly disrupt normal park activities in this section of the Park, adding more traffic, asphalt, noise and pollution, and turning the road into a major thoroughfare. The Park road is currently narrow and rough; it would undoubtedly have to be widened and restructured to the detriment of the remaining cliffs and adjacent park land. And the use in winter of road salt would harm plant and animal life.

Indeed, the plan makes no sense at all because this road usually closed in winter due to the hazards of falling rock and ice. In fact, in the immediate aftermath of the WTC disaster, the Park road and Ross Dock were closed to all traffic.

Introducing commuter buses and ferries in the Park would disable a precious resource of open space and natural beauty — a loss that we can ill afford in this overdeveloped region. Traffic congestion at the nearby George Washington Bridge and on adjacent roadways would not be eased by commuter ferry service at Ross Dock. Commuters would continue to use their cars to reach Fort Lee, the Bridge and New York City.

We favor the restoration of ferries on the Hudson River — but oppose COMMUTER ferries in this Park. We advocate siting commuter ferry landings outside the park in places where direct links to public transportation could be easily expanded or developed. One logical location is Edgewater, which the Port Authority study actually proposes for the marina on River Road near the foot of Route 5. Residents of Fort Lee and nearby towns could be easily shuttled to the ferry landing in Edgewater either by Route 5 (which was originally built to bring folks to this ferry landing years ago) or by River Road. It should be noted that the travel time on these routes to an Edgewater ferry site would equal (or be less than) that along the long Park road to Ross Dock.

CHAPTER CO-HOSTS INTERNATIONAL POPULATION SPEAKER

By Bonnie Tillery, Chapter Population Issues Coordinator

Is there a link between population growth and the tragedy of September 11? Does a growing population's need for resources mean further environmental degradation? What does the future hold with 3 billion young people about to enter their childbearing years? These questions were recently addressed by Werner Fornos, President of the Washington DC-based Population Institute, in a talk at The College of New Jersey which was cosponsored by the Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter.

Mr. Fornos linked global environmental concerns to global terrorism. For example, an excess population of frustrated, malnourished, disillusioned people will do anything, follow anyone, for just one meal a day, and can be turned

into an army of assassins.

What Mr. Fornos called the new Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse—deforestation, global climate change, topsoil erosion (expansion of deserts) and water scarcity—loom ever larger as the world's population increases. And today, over half of the world's people are in their child bearing years. He noted that ecological shortsightedness in far off lands produces ecological disasters in neighboring countries.

The United States has less than 5% of the world's population but consumes over 25% of the world's resources. This makes it mandatory that we do something about these global concerns.

A proven solution is at hand. Through aid to poorer nations we can eradicate

female illiteracy, provide employment opportunities for women, reduce infant mortality, and provide universal access to family planning. This works! Programs that provide these services—that give women a choice in the size and spacing of their families—have helped reduce birthrates in developing countries where 97% of the world's population growth is now occurring. Yet, of all the developed nations, the United States is one of the smallest contributors to these programs - with only 0.03% of our Federal budget going for population assistance.

What can we do? Contact our representatives in Washington and tell them we want increased funds for international family planning assistance, and elimi-

nation of the Global Gag Rule which states that countries which provide or even talk about abortion services, even with their own resources, get no U.S. family planning assistance.

As Sierra Club members concerned about the environment, we recognize we must also be concerned about the issue of global population and reduction of excess consumption because, as John Muir said, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

There are also things we can do to stabilize population here in New Jersey. To learn how you can help or to get more information, contact me at 609-259-6438 or send e-mail to blt44blt@aol.com.

Report on the Sierra Club's Northeast Regional Conservation Meeting CHALLENGES OF SPRAWL, TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY

by Wende Harper,
Secretary of the Club's Northeast Regional Conservation Committee

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 Committee (NERCC), the workshops took place at the YMCA Conference Center the weekend of October 12-14. NERCC delegates and participants from Chapters ranging from the Eastern Provinces of Canada to Pennsylvania met in subject sessions to listen to experts, and in smaller groups to discuss options and plan action. Interspersed in a packed schedule of intense meetings were opportunities to enjoy the beautiful fall color by hiking up onto the Appalachian Trail along Kittatinny Ridge or canoeing on the lake.

On Friday evening, Barbara Winterson and Kate Moffat of Maine presented "Women's Voices in the Environment" (WVE). Two summer encampments in Maine have provided training, inspiration and growth for this movement. A third encampment is planned for the summer of 2002; women of the Northeast Region are encouraged to attend. Barbara and Kate are available to give workshops on WVE to Club Chapters and Groups.

On Saturday, Debbie Boger, who arrived from the Club's Washington DC Office in her hybrid car, characterized

President Bush's Energy Plan, the related House bill which she said was even worse, and described the Sierra Club's reaction.

Debbie joined Nancy Parks and Judith Johnsrud, Sierra Club volunteers, in presenting a workshop entitled "Three Energy Oxymorons of our Time: Clean Coal, Reliable Nuclear and the Bush Energy Plan." Another panel on energy considered what is going on with the restructuring of utilities, as well as "Positive Energy": policy initiatives and opportunities aimed at enhancing energy efficiency. Specifics of a "Clean Energy Blueprint" were explained. For example, one new nuclear power plant could be replaced by four 100-megawatt wind farms. Al Noguee, from the Union of Concerned Scientists, Dale Bryk from the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and Debbie Boger were the presenters.

Deron Lovaas, a former Sierra Club staff member presently working for the NRDC, introduced the subject of sprawl. "Local land use, planning and investment for infrastructure can induce sprawl," he explained. "Tax policies affect development and often we don't take into account all the costs." Deron described the steep decline of central cities, where 15% of the land is vacant and abandoned malls are turning into unproductive "gray fields." He said that

in 1992 there were 3800 vacant malls in the U.S. which with proper incentives could be recycled. Deron also explained the close connection between sprawl and transportation. He advocated a strong, balanced transportation system in the U.S. with attention given to efficiency and use of alternative energy sources. Deron summarized "Smart Growth" for us in the accompanying box. For further understanding he recommends the book "Solving Sprawl," soon to be published by the NRDC.

In the afternoon Jeff Tittel and Bill Wolfe, New Jersey Chapter Staff, related "smart growth" to preservation of watersheds. Based on testing by the New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection, suburban development has been identified as the key factor in the lower quality of some of the States' lakes and rivers. Jeff and Bill are available to Chapters and Groups for workshops on watershed management.

In his presentation on transportation, Larry Joyce, Pennsylvania Chapter Chair for Transportation, further explained why rail transportation is more environmentally friendly than highway or air. Larry suggested that inter-city bus and rail service need to be more integrated and baggage handling and ticket coordination improved so that intermodal transportation can become more efficient and widespread, as in Europe. He suggested that

those interested join the Northeast High Speed Rail Task Force. In another presentation on transportation, Brian Dumser of the University of Massachusetts talked about airports, their unrecognized adverse impact on surrounding land and air, and the dire problem of the unregulated pollution overall caused by air transportation. He pointed out that 40% of all air travel in the U.S. is under 150 miles. High-speed rail such as exists in other countries could replace some of our air travel.

The noontime visit of Senator Jon Corzine of New Jersey sparked the conference with his in-the-trenches perspective on the challenges of being a Senator.

What is "Smart Growth"? by Deron Lovaas, NRDC Smart Growth Program

Location: It's smart if it's near public transportation and adjacent to or in existing communities.

Transportation: It's smart if it creates neighborhoods with viable and attractive choices besides driving.

Land Uses: It's smart if it creates, or contributes to, a healthy balance of jobs, shops, and housing (including affordable housing choices).

Open Space: It's smart if it protects open space, farmland, wildlife habitat and watersheds.

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 tempted to warn them of the coming traumas of the adolescent transition: the loneliness of the freshly fledged freshman, the difficulty of making career choices, the every-evening contest between the urge to party and the duty to study, the opportunity to confront one's conscience (often for the first time) and establish long-term values with respect to honesty, self-worth, obligations to society, religion, sexual behavior, use of stimulants, and (here it comes!) environmental responsibility.

Ever since that time in my life (when I discovered that I was a shy minimalist, and that I could get my pleasures inexpensively from treading gently through wilderness and from the intellectual encounters of a teaching career), I've puzzled at why some people want such big lawns surrounding such big houses, drive such big gas-guzzling vehicles (one can no longer call them cars), and feel entitled to discard multiple bags of trash each week. Again it's the story of the three pigs and the big bad wolf: why are so few people able to live prudently?

Wouldn't you know it: environmental psychology is a legitimate area of scientific study, with its own journals (*Environment and Behavior*; *Environmental Education Research*; many others) and investigators. Some have approached the topic by examining the behavior of related animal species. Some work with focus groups, or administer questionnaires. Some just speculate, what was once considered "philosophizing." What I'm going to do is review some notes I've taken in libraries over the years, and propose my own hypothesis to explain why environmental responsibility is so hard to instill, and what we can do.

The vast majority of people lived lives of bare subsistence until only a few hundred years ago. There was no aluminum, or other packaging material, or junk mail to discard or recycle. When water had to be pumped by hand, there were natural incentives not to waste it. So I don't think we can look to genetic or evolutionary explanations for modern materialism and wastefulness: there wasn't "time" for these attitudes to evolve by natural selection (survival of the fittest).

Old societies did maintain strict codes of behavior, partly because the frailties of existence (e.g. infectious diseases before antibiotics) made religion a more urgent moral force, partly because farm families (the vast majority!) needed to stick together for economic reasons, partly because communities had to work together as economic units and for military defense. There wasn't enough wealth for people to waste anything.

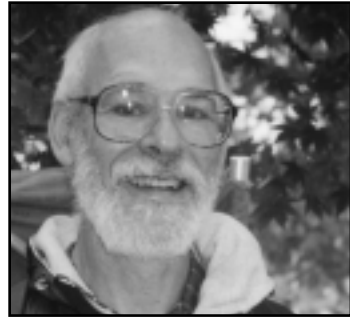
I prefer a "what-me-worry?" hypothesis

New Trenton

(Continued from page 1)

ing projects, will go a long way to helping to bring growth management to our state. Taking the highway funding that Gov. Whitman used to subsidize sprawl by Merrill Lynch in Hopewell or Rt. 15 in Sussex County, and using that money for transportation and economic development projects in places like Newark, will help revitalize our cities. Likewise, Gov. McGreevey could use the money in this year's budget that was allocated for new sewer plants in Vernon and in Salem County, instead to fix the combined sewer overflow problem in places like Paterson. By just taking the financial reigns of government and controlling them, Jim McGreevey can do more for Smart Growth than any other Governor.

There will need to be legislative initiatives as well, and with a deadlocked Senate and a relatively close Assembly, the environment will play an important role in the legislative agenda. Many of the new legisla-



to explain much of modern human nature, perhaps what psychologists call the Pleasure Principle. We've been freed from most of the constraints on behavior noted in the paragraph above, and we suffer from the combination of wealth and potent advertising. You might say that evolution has not prepared our species for such temptation.

A recent poll to determine why Americans don't recycle revealed the following reasons: "takes too much time" (30%); "why should I?" (19%); "don't know how" (12%); "too messy" (8%); "too inconvenient" (8%); other reasons (23%). [*McGraw Hill Recycling Handbook*, 1993, Chapt 10: Psychology of Recycling]

Yet some of us do adopt environmentally responsible life habits. I hypothesize that environmental behavior rises through five levels of commitment, each of which requires some kind of intellectual decision:

1. The recycling habit: newspaper, bottles and cans, plastics, composting of garbage.
2. Consumer practices: energy-efficient appliances and bulbs, low-flow toilets, avoiding overpackaged products such as most breakfast cereals.
3. Political and financial involvement: lobbying legislators and friends, letters to editors, serving on planning boards, organizational involvement such as Sierra Club activism.
4. Lifestyle changes: eating less meat, living more densely in walkable communities, using cars less (e.g. by carpooling), using less electricity, avoiding use of pesticides.
5. Societal responsibility: having fewer children, teaching or preaching environmentalism.

John Holt described his observations of "how children learn" (in a book with that title): many altered behavior patterns are established quite suddenly as a child experiences something that is frightening or pleasurable. The adolescent transition is also a time of receptivity to new behavior patterns, perhaps facilitated by the "opening up" that comes with that fledgling process I started with. But I like to think that serious contemplation is a rational basis for most of us to make new commitments (like new year's resolutions), at any time of life, to higher levels of environmental responsibility.

tors were elected with support from the environmental community, and have agreed to support many of our legislative proposals. There will be competition between the Democrats and Republicans for our support during this legislative session with both houses of the legislature back up for election in just two years.

Please know that the Sierra Club will have an increased role to play in crafting new environmental legislation and DEP regulations, and then in lobbying officials to enact those measures. We do it mostly with VOLUNTEER labor! The Club needs volunteers to work and be part of its Legislative Committee, its Anti-sprawl Committee, its Wildlands Committee, as well as on the different issues that we are all involved in, from the Highlands to the Pinelands, from the State Plan to Environmental Justice. We can get a lot done with your help! Please call us at 609-924-3141.

A Fundraising Thank You

To all who gave so generously to our annual New Jersey Chapter fundraising appeal, I want to thank you very much. Without your financial support our Chapter would not be able to continue its efforts to protect our environment at the level that is needed. Most of us are volunteers who give our time and efforts to what we believe in, but it also takes paid staff, an office, phone calls, paper, and many other expenses. Clean air, clean water and saving our land from over-development are still issues that we must fight for. We need your help.

This year, our annual Chapter fundraising appeal was mailed just prior to the September 11th tragedy. It could have been a complete failure for our Chapter if your money gifts had not come in. So your support and generosity is greatly appreciated.

On the heels of the September 11th tragedy came another huge blow - anthrax scares, causing health problems and disruption of postal services in central New Jersey. Some members may never have received their annual appeal letter. If you care to give to our NJ Chapter's annual appeal, the return address is included below. There is still time to send your donation.

I want to thank everyone for believing in our cause: protecting our precious environment for our families and our future.

Sincerely,
Tina Schvejda, Chapter Chair

NJ Chapter Annual Appeal - Sierra Club
295 Princeton-Hightstown Road
PMB Suite 11 - 303
West Windsor, NJ 08550

STATE ELECTIONS WRAPUP

By Rich Isaac, Chapter Political Chair



The November 2001 election produced a dramatic change in New Jersey's political landscape. For the first time since 1989 the Sierra Club endorsed and actively campaigned for a winning gubernatorial candidate. As explained in the October-December issue of this newsletter, there were clear differences between the two candidates. We expect Governor Jim McGreevey will be a strong supporter of our issues. New Jersey has arguably the strongest governorship in the country, with the governor having the power of a line item budget veto, so finally having a governor supportive of environmental issues is the best political news we've had in over a decade.

McGreevey's campaign was bolstered by the distribution of Sierra Club bumper stickers: "McGreevey - for the Environment." In addition Chapter Director Jeff Tittel appeared many times with the candidate at press conferences, once even in a canoe. On Election Day many Club members, organized by Political Vice-Chair Meiling Chin, knocked on the doors of Democratic Party voters to ensure a good turnout for McGreevey.

In addition, there's also good news in both houses of the state legislature. In Assembly races, the Club endorsed 45 candidates out of 160 running for 80 available seats. 35 of "our" candidates won, for a success rate of over 75 percent. In the Senate, the Club did even better. Of 20 candidates endorsed, 17 won, for a win rate of 85 percent. These results mean that, in both chambers of the legislature, we will have a sizable core of environmentally-friendly legislators.

The Club looks forward to this next session in the legislature, and to working with Governor McGreevey.

On the right is the list of candidates who won with our support. Club members are encouraged to get to know them.

ENDORSED WINNING CANDIDATES IN 2001 STATE ELECTIONS

Governor: James McGreevey

State Legislature:

Dist.	Party	Candidate
3	S	D Stephen Sweeney
3	A	D Douglas Fisher
3	A	D John Burzichelli
4	S	R John Matheussen
4	A	R George Geist
6	S	D John Adler
6	A	D Mary Previte
6	A	D Louis Greenwald
7	S	R Diane Allen
7	A	R Herb Conaway
7	A	R Jack Connors
10	S	D Timothy Ryan
10	A	R David Wolfe
10	A	R James Holzapfel
11	S	R Joseph Palaia
11	A	R Steve Corodemus
11	A	R Tom Smith
12	S	R John Bennett
14	A	D Linda Greenstein
14	A	D Gary Guear
15	S	D Shirley Turner
15	A	D Reed Gusciora
15	A	D Bonnie Watson Coleman
16	A	R Chris "Kip" Bateman
16	A	R Peter Biondi
17	S	D Bob Smith
17	A	D Joe Egan
17	A	D Upendra Chivukula
18	S	D Barbara Buono
18	A	D Peter Barnes
19	S	D Joseph Vitale
19	A	D Arline Friscia
19	A	D John Wisniewski
20	A	D Neil Cohen
21	S	R Richard Bagger
21	A	R Tom Kean
21	A	R Eric Munoz
22	S	D Joe Suliga
22	A	D Jerry Green
22	A	D Linda Stender
23	S	R Leonard Lance
26	S	R Bob Martin
27	S	D Dick Codey
31	A	D Joseph Doria
31	A	D Elba Perez Cinciarelli
33	A	D Albio Sires
35	A	D Nellie Pou
36	S	D Gary Furnari
37	S	D Byron Baer
37	A	D Loretta Weinberg
39	A	R John Rooney
39	A	R Charlotte Vandervalk
40	A	R David Russo

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.

For information about making a request to the New Jersey Chapter call George Denzer at 609-799-5839.



EYE ON WASHINGTON

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



GEORGE W. BUSH ADMINISTRATION: A Dismissal Record

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 160 countries, after four grinding 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.

In fact, the US Department of Energy reported that heat-trapping carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions increased by 3.1 percent in the United States last year — the biggest increase since the mid-1990s.

Why did President Bush retreat from his most significant and explicit campaign promise? In a letter to Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.), the President quoted a flawed report that concluded that regulation of CO₂ would be too costly. The president also claimed that CO₂ is not considered a pollutant under the Clean Air Act. He is wrong on this point as well. Section 103(g) of the act includes emissions of CO₂ from power plants in a list of air pollutants that Congress directed EPA to include in pollution prevention programs.

ALL WET ON WETLANDS

In a stunning reversal of President Bush's Earth Day pledge to preserve wetlands, the Army Corps of Engineers recently proposed relaxing a series of year-old rules designed to protect streams and other wetlands.

The chief of the Corps regulatory branch has told agency officials they should help the nation recover from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks by moving quickly on the thousands of wetland filling permits they handle each year.

Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton announced that she is closing the federal Office of Everglades Restoration, vowing to slash redundant bureaucratic overhead without diminishing the Bush administration's commitment to reviving the Florida Everglades. Rep. Mark Foley (R-Fla.) offers these comments on Norton's closure... "I'm all for streamlining, but this is like streamlining the court system by getting rid of the judge."

ENERGY - BIG OIL RULES

The Bush-Cheney energy plan, which the administration released in May, is the culmination of a process that hinged on cozy business connections, secret deals and industry campaign contributions. The energy plan promotes industry-favored measures, including opening protected lands to oil and gas drilling, building more than 1,300 electric power plants, and weakening environmental standards.

Last Summer, the General Accounting Office was spoiling for an unprecedented legal and constitutional clash with

Vice President Cheney. Cheney had refused to turn over records from his energy task force, and the GAO, the 80-year-old investigative arm of Congress, was preparing to sue a federal entity for the first time. Comptroller General David M. Walker described the fight as a direct threat to the GAO's reason for being, a separation-of-powers issue that would determine whether the legislative branch could exercise the oversight role envisioned by the founding fathers. But Walker put the lawsuit on hold after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The Bush administration said it opposes a Senate plan to drastically cut U.S. electric power plant air emissions because the proposal is too costly and could harm national security.

The Bush administration has no plans to pursue higher fuel efficiency standards for vehicles, Vice President Cheney told General Motors executives in Michigan.

Vice President Cheney stated that the best way to reduce greenhouse gases is to build more nuclear power plants. In a Reuters article, Cheney argued that there hadn't been a permit for a US nuclear plant since 1975. The 26-year hiatus in new permit applications can be explained in large part by the disaster at the Three Mile Island plant near Harrisburg Pennsylvania 22 years ago this month. In addition, the U.S. has not yet found a way to provide safe long-term storage for the growing accumulation of toxic nuclear waste now stored at existing nuclear plants all over the nation.

A proposed rollback of an energy-saving standard for air conditioners has produced a sharp split within the Bush administration. The EPA is accusing the Energy Department of "misinformation" - understating potential energy savings while exaggerating the impact on industry.

ENDANGERING ENDANGERED SPECIES

In his budget, President Bush called for a provision to relax requirements for endangered or threatened species listings under the Endangered Species Act. The budget includes no funding to implement court orders brought by citizen suits under the Act, severely restricting the ability of citizens and environmental organizations to effectively sue the government.

The FWS updated Endangered Species Act candidate species list contains some extraordinarily bad news for our nation's most imperiled species: four more species are believed to be extinct and the moratorium on new listings will be extended for at least another year.

Public comments indicate overwhelming opposition to a Bush administration plan to scrap grizzly bear reintroductions along the Montana-Idaho border, a FWS report shows. A spokesman for Interior Secretary Norton, who put the reintroduction plan on hold, said public opinion will not be the determining factor in the plan's future.

The Bush administration abandoned a plan for major flow changes in the Missouri River, despite public acknowledgment by the Army Corps of Engineers that its current management of the river violates the Endangered Species Act.

PUBLIC LANDS - PRIVATE INTEREST

The Bush administration reversed an 11th-hour Clinton administration ruling on mining policy, making it easier for companies to mine for gold, copper, zinc and lead on public lands. It also issued a legal opinion that could clear the way for a Nevada company to dig an open-pit gold mine in a part of the California desert considered sacred by a local Indian tribe.

To the delight of mining interests, US

The Sierran's Quarterly Report On Major Issues Before The U.S. Congress and Federal Agencies

Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth has asked Interior Secretary Norton to lift a two-year moratorium on new mining activities covering 1.15 million acres of federal land in southern Oregon, including a 700,000-acre area under consideration for National Monument status.

Secretary of Interior Norton announced that the administration likely will try to adjust the boundaries of the 19 new National Monuments designated by President Clinton, and consider allowing commercial activities on these lands.

POLLUTION

President Bush unveiled a budget that would slash overall spending for environmental and natural resources agencies by \$2.3 billion, or 7.2 percent, in fiscal year 2002 — a drop from \$32.3 billion.

The Bush administration suspended the "contractor responsibility rule," which prohibits government agencies from awarding contracts to companies that violate procurement and other federal laws — including laws that protect the environment, public health, consumers, and working families.

EPA chief Christie Whitman named a loyal deputy from her days as New Jersey Governor to head the federal Environmental Protection Agency's regional office in New York. Jane Kenny, a senior New Jersey government executive, will be the new Regional Administrator of EPA's Region 2.

In an apparent reversal of one of President Bush's campaign promises, a top EPA official has proposed ending the long-standing practice of holding the federal government to the same environmental standards as private industry. In an internal memorandum, EPA Administrator Whitman's top enforcement advisor calls the policy "high-handed, arrogant, and wrong" and suggests it's not legally valid. These comments clash with Bush's earlier statements in which he denounced federal facilities as the nation's worst polluters and pledged to hold them accountable. "It's time to end the double standard that has the federal government acting as enforcer of the nation's environmental laws, while at the same time causing pollution that violates those laws," Bush vowed during a campaign appearance before the November 2000 election.

The EPA is putting off a decision on the status of Clean Air Act rules requiring reduced emissions from power plants that are upgraded or expanded.

CONGRESSIONAL VOTES: SENATE

7/12/2001: Protection of Endangered Species - An amendment to the Interior Department funding bill that would have suspended Endangered Species Act protections for three endangered fisheries in the Klamath Basin of Oregon and California. The amendment, offered by Sen. Gordon Smith (R-OR) was tabled by the Senate by a vote of 52 to 48. Corzine & Torricelli voted YES, the environmental vote.

7/11/01: Protection for our National Monuments - An amendment to the Interior Department funding bill was approved that would protect our National Monuments from destructive oil drilling and mining activities. The amendment, offered by Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL), passed the Senate by a voice vote after an attempt to table the amendment failed by a vote of 42 to 57. Corzine & Torricelli voted NO, against tabling the bill, the environmental vote.

4/5/01: Increased Funding for Environmental Programs - NJ Senator Corzine sponsored an amendment to the budget resolution that would have provided \$50 billion to restore cuts and increase funding for various environmen-

tal programs including the Land and Water Conservation Fund, energy efficiency and the clean up of toxic sites. Unfortunately, the Corzine amendment failed 46-54. Corzine & Torricelli voted YES, the environmental vote.

Read more: <http://www.senate.gov/~corzine/press/2001/04/2001405815.html>

4/2/01: Campaign Finance Reform - The vote on final passage of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2001 (better known as the McCain-Feingold bill) - S.B. 27 - passed in the Senate by a vote of 59 to 41. Corzine & Torricelli voted YES, the environmental vote.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10/04/2001: Increased Funding For Farm Conservation Programs - An amendment to the Farm Bill that would have increased financial incentives to farmers to protect wetlands, clean water and open space. The amendment, offered by Representatives Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), Ron Kind (D-WI), Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD), and John Dingell (D-MI), was defeated by a vote of 200-226. The entire NJ delegation, Andrews, Ferguson, Frelinghuysen, Holt, LoBiondo, Menendez, Pallone, Pascrell, Payne, Rothman, Roukema, Saxton, Smith voted YES, the environmental vote.

8/01/01: Protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from Oil Drilling - An amendment to the Energy Act of 2001 (H.R. 4) that would have eliminated a provision that seeks to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. The US House of Representatives rejected, by a vote of 223-206, an amendment offered by Representatives Ed Markey (D-MA) and Nancy Johnson (R-CT) to strike the provision and protect the Refuge from drilling. The entire NJ delegation, Andrews, Ferguson, Frelinghuysen, Holt, LoBiondo, Menendez, Pallone, Pascrell, Payne, Rothman, Roukema, Saxton, Smith voted YES, the environmental vote.

8/1/01: Increasing Fuel Economy Standards - An amendment to the Energy Act of 2001 (H.R. 4) that would have increased fuel economy standards by closing the light truck loophole that allows SUVs and other light trucks to meet a lower fuel economy (CAFE) standard than cars currently meet. The amendment offered by Representatives Boehlert (R-NY) and Markey (D-MA) failed by a vote of 160 to 269. The entire NJ delegation, Andrews, Ferguson, Frelinghuysen, Holt, LoBiondo, Menendez, Pallone, Pascrell, Payne, Rothman, Roukema, Saxton, Smith voted YES, the environmental vote.

7/27/01: Prohibiting EPA from delaying or weakening the standard for arsenic in drinking water - A vote to prohibit the EPA from expending funds to delay or weaken the standard for arsenic in drinking water. The amendment to the VA-HUD-Independent Agencies appropriations bill (H.R. 2620), offered by Reps. David Bonior (D-MI) and Henry Waxman (D-CA), passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 218-189. The entire NJ delegation, Andrews, Ferguson, Frelinghuysen, Holt, LoBiondo, Menendez, Pallone, Pascrell, Payne, Rothman, Saxton, and Smith voted YES, the environmental vote... EXCEPT Roukema, who voted NO.

7/27/01: Restoring \$25 million to the EPA's enforcement budget - A vote to restore \$25 million to the EPA's budget for enforcement and compliance assurance staff. The amendment to the VA-HUD-Independent Agencies appropriations bill (H.R. 2620), offered by NJ Reps. Robert Menendez and Frank Pallone, failed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 182-214. All NJ Democrats, Andrews, Holt, Menendez, Pallone, Pascrell, Payne, and Rothman voted YES, the environmental vote. All NJ Republicans, Ferguson, Frelinghuysen, LoBiondo, Saxton, and Smith voted NO, or did not vote (Roukema).

(Continued bottom of next page)

Director's Report :

SPRAWL AND MT. LAUREL

by Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director

For years people have blamed the Mt. Laurel housing decision, which requires communities to provide "affordable" (low-income) housing, for causing sprawl in New Jersey. One of the recent candidates for Governor even made this a themesong. The argument fails: the fundamental causes of sprawl are poor planning, such as the siting of roads and sewer lines, market forces, and economic conditions.

Some communities that have found themselves in the middle of a Mt. Laurel lawsuit blame everyone but themselves for their predicament. The Fair Housing Act establishing the Council on Affordable Housing 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 sues the town under Mt. Laurel and the case is settled out of court to give the developer the zone change desired. To avoid this scenario, towns should protect themselves by getting certified by COAH. Only a third of the towns in New Jersey have been certified.

New Jersey is losing land to sprawl for many reasons other than Mt. Laurel.

Affordable housing units have counted for only about 5% of housing growth in New Jersey since 1985. The biggest loss of open space in parts of New Jersey is from the development of McMansions, with average lot sizes for single-family homes rising from 1.3 acres in the 1980s to 2.7 acres today. The culprit that is driving sprawl in New Jersey is the extension of our highway system and the outward march of jobs. The "Edge City"

office parks in places like Cherry Hill, Parsippany, Bedminster and Holmdel mean that people can live another 45-minute commute out from what once was the outer ring of the old suburbs.

Developments like Merrill Lynch in Hopewell, Bloomberg in Montgomery, Merck in Readington and BASF in Mt. Olive, are the driving force for the outward migration of housing from the existing developed areas. Since the average commute is about 20 minutes or 25 miles to the jobsite, this puts increasing demand for housing in the region around these new office parks. There are currently proposals for another 20 million square feet in the Princeton area and 15 million square feet in the

"The biggest loss of open space in parts of New Jersey is from the development of McMansions, with average lot sizes for single-family homes rising from 1.3 acres in the 1980s to 2.7 acres today."

Parsippany-Florham Park-Interstate 287 corridor. This equates to approximately 120,000 jobs in just these two areas. More than McMansions will be needed to house these workers.

What must be recognized is that each new office park and mall generates a need for additional housing, and that is what the Council on Affordable Housing rules recognize. The more jobs and non-residential ratables you have, the higher your obligation becomes to provide affordable housing. The ratables chase begets the housing chase.

COAH will soon be re-examining its formula for a new round of allocating every community's fair share of affordable housing. We believe that some changes should be made. 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 select alternative 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 reservoir watersheds. All new development should be required to contribute to help a municipality meet its affordable housing obligation.

We also need to come up with better ways to fund affordable housing in New Jersey. There is a need for at least 500,000 units. One mechanism is a Housing Trust Fund that would provide low-cost construction loans and grants to municipalities and housing non-profits. Another mechanism would be legislation to provide tax credits for developers who build affordable housing.

Eliminating Mt. Laurel would not end sprawl or revitalize our cities. All it would do is accelerate the decay of our cities and the outward migration of jobs and housing into our last remaining areas of open space. To eliminate Mt. Laurel a constitutional amendment would be required and this would be very divisive. New Jersey has a real shortage of affordable housing. Without COAH, how will we meet that need? New Jersey had sprawl before there was Mt. Laurel and will have even more sprawl if Mt. Laurel is repealed. States without affordable housing laws have sprawl as well.

Eye On Washington

(Continued from previous page)

6/21/01: Protection for our National Monuments - An amendment to the Interior Department funding bill that would protect our National Monuments from destructive oil drilling and mining activities. The amendment, offered by Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV), passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 242 to 173. The entire NJ delegation, Andrews, Ferguson, Frelinghuysen, Holt, LoBiondo, Menendez, Pallone, Pascrell, Payne, Rothman, Roukema, Saxton, Smith voted YES, the environmental vote.

6/21/01: Protecting Public Water and Local Communities from Polluting Mining Activities - A vote to keep in place critical environmental regulations needed to protect against damage from hardrock mining operations. The amendment to the Department of Interior appropriations bill (H.R. 2217), offered by Rep. Jay Inslee (D-WA) and Steve Horn (R-CA), passed the House of Representatives 216 to 194. The entire NJ delegation, Andrews, Ferguson, Frelinghuysen, Holt, LoBiondo, Menendez, Pallone, Pascrell, Payne, Rothman, Saxton, Smith voted YES, the environmental vote... EXCEPT Roukema, who did not vote.

6/21/01: Destructive Oil and Gas Development off Florida's Coastline - A vote to prohibit oil and gas drilling in certain areas off Florida's coasts. The amendment from Representatives Jim Davis (D-FL) and Joe Scarborough (R-FL) to the Interior Appropriations bill (H.R. 2217) passed the House of Representatives 247 to 164. The entire NJ delegation, Andrews, Ferguson, Frelinghuysen, Holt, LoBiondo, Menendez, Pallone, Pascrell, Payne, Rothman, Roukema, Saxton, Smith voted YES, the environmental vote.

5/16/01: Restrictions on International Family Planning Assistance

The House approved an amendment to the Foreign Relations Authorization Act (H.R. 1646) to maintain the global gag rule, which restricts the actions of overseas family planning programs. This amendment, introduced by Representative Henry Hyde (R-IL), passed by a vote of 218 to 210. Voting NO, the environmental vote: Andrews, Frelinghuysen, Holt, Menendez, Pallone,

Pascrell, Payne, Rothman, and Roukema. Voting YES, Ferguson, LoBiondo, Saxton, and Smith.

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 to 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 up. A federal appeals court stayed EPA from enforcing the new rule pending an appeal to the Supreme Court. On Tuesday, February 27th, in an opinion written by Justice Antonin Scalia, the Supreme Court held that first, the EPA's regulating 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 \$5.3 billion in punitive damages the Exxon Corporation was ordered to pay for the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska, the worst in the nation's history, was excessive, and told a judge to set a lower amount. To date Exxon has not paid a penny in fines.

SALMON NOT AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

In a decision that could affect the fate of salmon throughout the American West, a federal judge in Eugene ordered that Oregon coastal coho salmon may no longer be declared threatened under the Endangered Species Act — a finding that knocks the legal legs from under two dozen West Coast salmon and steelhead listings made by the Fisheries Service since 1991.

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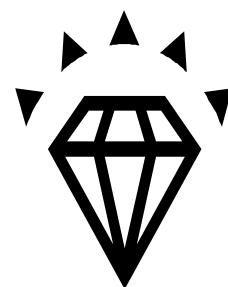
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Group Ballots

Each of the Chapter's eleven Groups is required to hold an election, at the beginning of each year, for half the members of its Group Executive Committee (ExCom). Elected members serve for two years, and select the Group officers: Chair, Vice-chair, etc. The ballot is required to include at least two more names than the number of vacancies. Please return **ONLY** the ballot(s) for the Groups in which you participate. The first column of boxes is for "individual" members. Family (joint) members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns. The best ways to learn about candidates are probably to attend Group meetings and to ask them questions by phone or e-mail.

NORTHWEST JERSEY GROUP (Warren & Sussex Counties):

Please vote for up to three candidates.

- Debbie Hambricht
 Donna Rubin
 Dean Shememski
 Write in:
 Write in:

Please write in your membership number (from address label on p. 1)

Please return your ballot by Feb. 28 to the Chapter Secretary:

Northwest Group Ballot
c/o Bonnie Tillery
389 Sawmill Rd.
Hamilton, NJ 08620

HUNTERDON GROUP (Hunterdon County):

Please vote for up to five candidates:

- Ruth Prince
 Lois Zarish
 Jeannie Geremia
 Rosemary Yaecker
 Kate Spann
 Rob Parente

Please write in your membership number (from address label on p. 1)

Please return your ballot by Feb. 28 to the Chapter Secretary:

Hunterdon Group Ballot
c/o Bonnie Tillery
389 Sawmill Rd.
Hamilton, NJ 08620

SOUTH JERSEY GROUP:

Please vote for up to two candidates:

- Julie Akers
 Tom Boghosian
 Jim Tartola
 Gary Roman

Please write in your membership number (from address label on p. 1)

Please return your ballots by Feb. 28 to the Chapter Secretary:

South Jersey Group Ballot
c/o Bonnie Tillery
389 Sawmill Rd.
Hamilton, NJ 08620

ATVs a Growing Problem

by Fred Akers, Conservation Chair of the South Jersey Group.

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are small, two and four-wheeled motorized vehicles that can be driven "off-road" by unlicensed children, that cost in the range of \$2000 to \$5000, and that are being promoted for recreational use on public lands by the manufacturers, dealers, indulgent parents, and by law enforcement organizations such as Police Athletic Leagues (PALs).

For example, there is a current battle taking place over their use in Betsy Skulls Trails Park, a NJDEP Trails Grant-funded land acquisition in Egg Harbor Township (EHT), Atlantic County.

The special interests know that the majority of the public does not want the noise, air pollution, fire risk, and guaranteed environmental destruction that always results from motorized thrill seekers tearing up the land for their own personal enjoyment. ATV use is not "family oriented", and it is not an organized sport like soccer. It is all about making profits on expensive toys, and offering "incentives" to those who support the industry and pressure the public for free new places to tear up.

The State Division of Parks and Forestry has developed a very restrictive policy that prohibits the leasing of state lands for ATV use, and channels ATV users away from sensitive natural areas and state lands. I believe that the granting of state money for constructing ATV trails on non-state-owned lands without requiring the same restrictive use policies is a way for the State to cater to the ATV interests and channel this destructive use away from state owned land onto locally owned lands.

ATV use is also about extortion, as once the big money is invested in the machines, many users will trespass on public and private property to "get their money's worth," no matter what. Meanwhile, law enforcement officers either look helplessly the other way, or jump on the industry band wagon and support the false notion that the real problem is not enough places to ride. This then puts public pressure on local politicians to solve the problem and subsidizes the industry by designating ATV use areas, with little or no regard for impacts or controls.

Some of us have already testified to the EHT committee concerning the negative impacts and hidden costs of ATV recreation, but evidently the special interests have the ear of the politicians, who are basically misleading the public, and catering to PAL and the ATV industry. They don't understand all the issues, and are being misled.

One argument against ATVs is that, like Howitzers, and atomic weapons, they are too destructive to be allowed in civilized society. We should just say "no".

In my efforts to fight ATV use in Egg Harbor Twp, I would appreciate support from anyone who is working against ATVs elsewhere in New Jersey. Please send me information on hearings, rulings, and popular opposition in other communities.

Fred Akers can be reached at akers@gowebway.com.

Issue Coordinator's Report (North!): HACKENSACK MEADOWLANDS UPDATE: Good News!

by Hugh M. Carola and Capt. Bill Sheehan, Meadowlands Issues Coordinators

On October 31, 2001 an historic meeting took place at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morristown. Hosted by the New Jersey Field Office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the "Stakeholders Work Session for the Conservation of the Hackensack Meadowlands" brought together representatives of every group that is concerned with the future of the Meadowlands. In a scenario that was literally unthinkable just six months ago, representatives of the federal and state governments, the environmental community and the region's premier charitable foundations sat down together to chart the preservation of the 8,500-acre ecosystem. Before reporting on the outcome of the meeting, please allow us to provide a little background information:

You may recall our article in the April-June issue of *The Jersey Sierran* where we described the role of the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission (HMDC) in facilitating wetlands destruction since the early 1970s. That's the bad news. The good news is that the thirty-year development nightmare is over. In September, Acting Governor DiFrancesco signed a bill changing the name of the HMDC to the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC). The change, approved by unanimous votes in both the State Senate and Assembly, has provided the impetus for the Commission to revisit its mission. As you read this, they are rewriting their Master Plan to reflect conservation, not development. Times have changed.

The Morristown meeting was the result of a growing dialogue presided over by the USFWS since the late 1990s, and a follow-up to a high-level discussion called last Spring by Congressman Steve Rothman (D-9th). The Congressman supports the preservation of all the remaining open space of the Meadowlands, all of which lies within his district. Rep. Rothman had planned to attend, but due to the situation in Afghanistan was forced to remain in Washington. In his videotaped keynote address, he referred to "drawing a thick black line" of preservation around the Meadowlands.

"Trust is earned and I am here to say that we want to earn the trust of everyone in this room," said NJMC Deputy Executive Director Bob Ceberio to the nearly one hundred participants at the meeting. (This from a state entity that we had been fighting for years, and that owns about half the Meadowlands!) Representing the environmental community, in addition to us and Chapter Director Jeff Tittel, were Baykeeper Andrew Willner, Carolyn Summers and Jennifer Danis from the Natural Resources Defense Council, NJ Audubon Society's Vice President Rich Kane, environmental attorneys Ed Lloyd of Columbia University and Susan Kraham of the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic, and Dennis Miranda from the NJ Conservation Foundation among others. It became apparent as the day progressed that a partnership was being formed — a partnership that could both acquire the other half of the Meadowlands and manage all of it as a single ecosystem.

Lest you think the meeting was just a love-fest, reality checks were provided by ample representation from government agencies and regulatory authorities including the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Highway Administration, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, and the NJ Dept. of Transportation. In the past, all of these agencies have supported development in the Meadowlands, but they now appear willing to assume new

roles. One example was the announcement that Rep. Rothman had secured a one-million-dollar Congressional appropriation for the Corps to study potential restoration sites in the Meadowlands. The USFWS will assist in the study, set to commence in early 2002.

Also at the meeting was Bob McDowell, Director of the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife. He referred to the Meadowlands as a "globally important ecosystem" and said, "It is imperative that we save it." Now that the Meadowlands Commission is changing its focus, Fish and Wildlife has the opportunity to assume a greater role, especially since it already administers the 900-acre Sawmill Creek Wildlife Management Area on the Lyndhurst/Kearny border. Representatives from the Garden State Preservation Trust and NJ Green Acres Program also offered their expertise and knowledge of funding mechanisms.

The biggest announcement of the day came from Mr. Ceberio who declared, "SAMP is dead!" — referring to the controversial Special Area Management Plan which, if enacted, would have caused the destruction of over 500 additional acres of wetlands. There remains that nasty problem that has yet to go away: the Mills Corporation and its proposed megamall. Despite the admission that the Continental Arena site would be acceptable to it, Mills has not withdrawn its application to the Army Corps for a wetlands fill permit. However, we fully expect that the Corps will deny Mills' application or else it will be rendered moot when and if a deal is struck to build a new sports arena in Newark.

Meadowlands restoration will not take place overnight. The government too often moves at a glacial pace (which is sometimes to our benefit) and there are many issues to contend with before we can all attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The following is what we believe the final product will look like: A "Meadowlands Wildlife Refuge" that will comprise 8,500 acres of open water, mudflats, vegetated wetlands and upland buffers. Some of those acres may be owned by the USFWS or a non-profit organization like NJ Audubon or Hackensack Riverkeeper, but the vast majority will be owned by the State of New Jersey. Refuge management will be a shared responsibility between Fish and Wildlife personnel, the Meadowlands Conservation Trust and a cadre of volunteers brought together by Hackensack Riverkeeper and NY/NJ Baykeeper (and the Sierra Club?). The Refuge will be governed essentially by the same rules used by the USFWS in the National Wildlife Refuge System: balancing wildlife habitat requirements and public access.

One last thing. Know that Hugh, Bill and Jeff attended the October meeting on your behalf and that we spoke on your behalf. Only because of constant support from you, our Sierra Club colleagues, will the Meadowlands Refuge will become a reality.

Hugh Carola can be reached at hcarola@aol.com. Bill Sheehan can be reached at captain@keeper.org.

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: for public hearings at the offices of the NJ Meadowlands Commission, 1 DeKorte Plaza, Lyndhurst, on January 15 and 30. For further information, please call Hackensack Riverkeeper at 201-692-8440.]

LOSING A BATTLE IN THE WAR ON SPRAWL

by Ed Pfeiffer, Central Jersey Group

For me, it's very hard to admit that we've lost the fight to stop a major dumb growth development project like the Hamilton Marketplace. Judge Feinburg's decision earlier this year, and the denial of our appeal, effectively defeated our attempt to force Hamilton Township (Mercer County) and JDN Realty to do the right thing on wetlands, arsenic, and historic preservation. But let this letter also serve notice that we will continue the struggle elsewhere in Mercer County and

New Jersey. And from the mistakes we made over Hamilton Marketplace we may have learned how to fight the better fight. In brief, future battles should draw on more public support (especially to pressure legislators), more publicity to refute biased newspaper coverage, and more funding for lawsuits. We also learned that fighting this developer by trying to get the state and federal agencies to enforce laws on the environment and historic preservation was only somewhat effective.

Issue Coordinator's Report (South!):

Proposed Route 55 Extension Would Be Environmental Disaster

by Douglas Jewell, Cape May Issues Coordinator

Completing Route 55, by extending the current terminus 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 extension, thanks to slick media marketing laced with "sound bites" and "concepts", while proponents purposely and calculatingly avoid the details and facts.

The Shore Connection Committee (SCC) of the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization (SJTPO) did a two year study of traffic congestion at the shore, releasing its report in November, 1998. 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.

What did the SCC report say 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 costly 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 policy decisions. 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 came to identical conclusions about Route 55's proposed Port Elizabeth bypass and Dennisville bypass, "Environmentally, it may prove very difficult to build, as it has significant wetland impacts."

As 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 roadway to serve its existing demand and the new demand resulting from the completion of Route 55."

Route 55 proponents have totally avoided referring to the study. They have also conveniently failed to publicly mention the following:

The 20-mile extension would cross seven different wetlands, requiring the roadway to be elevated for five miles. (It would cross the Manumuskin River, Muskee Creek, Little Mill Creek, West Creek, East Creek, Willis Run, Old Robin Branch, Dennis Creek, and Sluice Creek.) It would affect the Maurice River, a nesting site for bald eagles, and Delaware Bay, the breeding grounds of countless fish and shellfish.

In addition, it would cut through Dennis Creek Wildlife Management Area and Belleplain State Forest. The road would defoliate 700 acres on its 20-mile jaunt. It would further deplete populations of threatened and endangered species of animals and plants, and reduce migrating bird habitat and aquifer recharge areas. Forests and wetlands would be replaced by concrete and asphalt.

The cost has been understated at \$500 million. Originally pegged at \$483 million in 1991, then adjusted to \$615 million in 1996 and \$747 million in 2000, the true cost would be closer to \$1.5 billion.

In 1995, NJDOT estimated that the project would displace 62 homes. That figure has obviously increased. Also, the completed highway would negatively impact 19 businesses in Dennis Township and 17 in Maurice River Township, plus an untold number in Middle Township. But, for the most part, these are small family businesses not affiliated with the champion of the-Route 55 extension, the powerful and deep-pocketed county Chamber of Commerce.

Cape May County Republicans plastered their campaign billboards this fall with the slogan "Finish Route 55 NOW". The public doesn't know that NOW is 20 years. In fact, NJDEP has estimated that the permitting process alone would take 12 years.

The Club's South Jersey Chapter and Concerned Citizens of Cape May County are carrying the battle against this disastrous highway extension. What can you do? Contact your local State Senator and Assemblypersons and tell them to OPPOSE the Route 55 extension. Together, we can defeat this ill-conceived and destructive behemoth.

Doug Jewell can be reached at jewell@avaloninternet.net.



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 accessible from the NJ Chapter Web site.

OFFICERS:

- Chair:** Ellen Pepin 973-252-5137
epepin@worldnet.att.net
- Vice Chair:** Joseph Pepin 973-252-5137
pepin@worldnet.att.net
- Treasurer:** Donna Rubin 973-726-9278
- Secretary:** Debbie Hambright 973-729-8015
- Political Chair:** Dean Shemenski 908-684-1515
dshemenski@billbehrl.com
- Publicity Chair:** Claire Cifelli 973-726-8606
- Outings Chair:** Jim Palmer 908-852-6966

Northwestern New Jersey needs a strong Sierra Club to protect its environment from the challenges of increasing over-development. We need to have the commitment 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 fellow Sierra Club members.

LOCAL ISSUES:

Mountain Creek Development: In June, 2000, the Vernon Twp. Council voted to change the zoning map to allow the Intrawest Corp. to build a massive development on Hamburg Mountain. The Planning Board has approved the general development plan.

This development would consist of up to 2000 housing units as well as hotels, shopping areas and condos. Much of this land is the former Hamburg Mountain Wildlife Management Area. There are many environmental 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 mountain. These court actions have resulted in some changes to the development plan.

We need to get lots of people involved to oppose this project. We need people to attend meetings, write letters and spread the word.

Route 15: Another issue we have been involved with is the proposed plan to widen Rt. 15 from Wharton to its terminus at Rt. 206. The widening would not only disturb 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.

MEETING SCHEDULE: There will be an executive committee meeting on January 9 at 8pm in Sparta. Please call 973-729-8015 or 973-252-5137 for directions.

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Jan 22: There will be a general meeting and pot luck supper on January 22 at 6:30pm. This will take place at the home of Joseph and Ellen Pepin in Succasunna. Please RSVP to 973-252-5137. This should be a fun event so come and help make it a success.

Feb 20: 8pm in Sparta: We will have a program on the Alaskan Rain Forest given by Tina Schvejda, our NJ Chapter Chair. The date may be subject to change so please go to our web site for the latest information or call Ellen Pepin.

Mar 20: 8pm in Sparta: topic TBA. The date may be subject to change so please go to our web site for the latest information or call Ellen Pepin.

Hunterdon Group - Newly Forming!

(Hunterdon County, approximately)

Please vote the Group Ballot on this page!

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

Northwest Jersey Group: Sussex & Warren
Hunterdon County Group: Hunterdon
North Jersey Group: Passaic & Bergen
Raritan Valley Group: Somerset & Middlesex
West Jersey Group: Gloucester, Camden & Burlington
South Jersey Group: Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland & Salem
Essex County Group: Essex
Hudson Group: Hudson & SE Bergen
Loantaka Group: Morris & Union
Jersey Shore Group: Monmouth & Ocean
Central Jersey Group: Mercer

These designations are approximate: members are welcome to participate in whichever Group(s) they find convenient

OFFICERS:

- Acting Chair:** Ruth Prince 908-284-9103

On Nov 10 the Chapter Executive Committee voted unanimously to form a new Sierra Club Group to serve Hunterdon County. Meetings will take place at 7pm on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month at the Flemington Public Library, 118 Main Street, Flemington, NJ. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for:

January 16 • February 20 • 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 Ruth Prince, Acting Chair, at (908) 284-9103. Provisional Group ExCom Members (please use the ballot on this page):

- Ruth Prince
- Arnold Kushnick
- Rosemary Yaecker
- Rob Parente
- Lois Zarish
- Jeannie Geremia
- Kate Spann

North Jersey Group

(Southern Bergen and all of Passaic Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:

- Group Chair:** Betsy Kohn 201-461-4534
BetsyKohn@aol.com
- Vice Chair:** Hugh Carola 201-692-8440
HCarola@aol.com

(Continued on page 8)

Membership

Yes, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ ZIP _____
 email _____

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
 Mastercard Visa Exp Date ____/____

Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES		
	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

F94Q **W 4000** -1 **SIERRA CLUB**
 FOUNDED 1892
Sierra Club
 P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO, 80322-2968

Conservation

Co-Chairs: Tom Thompson 201-848-1080
etran5743@aol.com
and Alexandra Sola 201-229-9638

Membership Chair: Ellen Friedman 201-587-1263
EFric@rcn.com

Political Chair: Sue Hinsman 973-636-9166
suzieq@worldnet.att.net

Secretary: Sue Hinsman 973-636-9166
suzieq@worldnet.att.net

Treasurer: Mary Ellen Shaw 201-489-1588
MaryEllenShaw@msn.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSERVATION MEETINGS:

Held at 7:30pm 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 information.

GENERAL MEETINGS: In January and February, general meetings will be held at 7:30pm 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 Oradell Public Library, 375 Kinderkamack Road, Oradell, NJ (201-262-2613). "We Are the Sierra Club" - an introduction (with video) to the volunteer activities and hiking opportunities of the NJ Sierra Club, and a discussion of the North Jersey Group's current conservation issues.

Feb 21: At Oakland Public Library, Municipal Plaza, Oakland, NJ (201-337-3742). "Protecting the New Jersey Highlands" - slide presentation by Wilma Frey, coordinator of the Highlands Coalition, with a review of current efforts to preserve the region from more sprawl development.

Mar 14: At Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood, NJ (201-567-1265). "In the Presence of Nature: The Story of the Celery Farm" - 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 50th anniversary.

Mar 21: At Oakland Public Library, Municipal Plaza, Oakland, NJ. Slide presentation on "The Glories of Fungi" by Al Simpson, member of the NJ Mycological Society, about the ecological, economic and aesthetic aspects of mushrooms and other fungi. Plus guidelines on 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, protect the Ramapo River Watershed lands and Sterling Forest, save Van Buskirk Island as a passive park, preserve the NJ Highlands, protect the wetlands in the Meadowlands, and more. For more information on how to help with any of these efforts or with issues of air and water quality, please contact Betsy Kohn, Hugh Carola or Tom Thompson (see above).

E-MAIL NOTICES: If you would like to receive notices of meetings, hikes and alerts, please send your e-mail address to BetsyKohn@aol.com and stipulate your preference for meetings, hikes or alerts — or all three. Your e-mail address will not be shared with anyone else.

Hudson Group

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

OFFICERS (Provisional):

Chair: Steve Lanset 201-860-9870
slanset@hotmail.com

Vice Chair & Membership: Louise Taylor 201-224-3754
l.g.taylor@erols.com

Political Chair: Bob Honsinger 201-886-0919
lcrb@worldnet.att.net

Treasurer: Steve Lanset 201-860-9870
slanset@hotmail.com

Secretary: Tina Munson 201-941-5784
artina@rcn.com

Outings Chair: Doug Held 201-610-9541
drichardh@hotmail.com

NEWS:

Keep up with Group happenings at warp speed! Please send your e-mail address to Steve Lanset (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 Lanset's e-mail distribution list) for news of meetings in January, February and March.

Essex County Group

(Essex County, approximately)

OFFICERS:

Chair: Richard Isaac 973-716-0297
risaacx@aol.com

Membership: George Cluen 973-744-7430
gcluen@hotmail.com

Conservation: Chris Weis 973-746-0459
CWeis@compuserve.com
and Kyle Lischak 973-218-9388
k.lischak@worldnet.att.net

Political: Janine Schaeffer 973-736-0898
jschaeffer@sealtechcompany.com
and Bob Wolff 973-509-7331
robert_wolff@urscorp.com

Media: Camille Gutmore 973-667-2203
cgutmore@hotmail.com

Outings: Dave Ogens 973-226-7107
bandit29@aol.com

Programs: Sue Slotnick 973-564-9589
PSue82@juno.com

Treasurer: Lori Tanner 973-857-0519

Secretary: Bob Wolff
robert_wolff@urscorp.com

Rahway River: Kirk Barrett 973-313-1218
kbarrett@cimic.rutgers.edu

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

****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 Kyle at 973-218-9388, or at: k.lischak@worldnet.att.net. For those interested in learning more about Chapter Delegate and other positions, contact Rich at 973-716-0297, or at: risaacx@aol.com for details!! Thanks!!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Held at 7:30 pm the FIRST MONDAY of the month. Please contact Rich at risaacx@aol.com or 973-716-0297 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 easements are one vehicle to help preserve open space. Come learn more about this method of keeping New Jersey 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 Justice Program Organizer, together with Michelle Garcia from the Ironbound Community Corporation, will present local environmental justice issues, and explain how Sierrans 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. Casimirs Church, 366 East Kinney St., Newark. For Directions call Rich Isaac at 973-716-0297 or the Church at 973-344-2744.

Loantaka Group

(Morris and Union Counties, approximately)

GROUP WEBSITE: www.enviroweb.org/njsierra/loantaka

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414
paulmsanderson@aol.com

Treasurer: Jack Kopp 732-381-4919
jmk259@home.com

Secretary: Gail Chase 973-267-5769
chasegail@aol.com

Conservation:

Morris County: Open Position. If you are interested, call Paul Sanderson.

Union County: Open Position. If you are interested, call Paul Sanderson.

Highlands

Coordinator: Phil L'Hommedieu 973-425-2808
plhommedie@aol.com

Legislative Chair: Ken Johanson 908-464-0442
kjohan@home.com

Political Chair: Meiling Chin 908-490-1054
chinmeiling@yahoo.com

Programs & Calendars:

Bob Johnson 908-771-9676
robert.johnson@home.com

Membership: Open position. If you are interested, call Paul Sanderson

Publicity Chair: Janice La Gala 973-895-2143
jlalaga@cs.com (before 9pm)

Greenbrook: Bob Muska 908-665-2296
rmuska@erols.com

Invasive Plants: Franz Leinweber 973-328-4625
fjleinweber@aol.com

Air Quality: Bob Campbell 908-273-5720
wrobcb@intac.com

The Loantaka Group invites you to join us at one of our meetings. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the open positions on the Executive Committee, please contact Paul Sanderson to find out more.

To join our mailing list, send a blank email to:

Loantaka-Group-Announcements-subscribe@topica.com

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 pm in the Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St. (Route 124), Chatham. Everyone is welcome! Library phone: 973-635-0603

Jan 9, 2002: Ross Kushner, president of the Pequannock River Coalition, will present a slide show and lecture about the unique resource values of the Pequannock 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 13: Presentation by Louisa 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 Ground Water Adventures of Walter Wet," will be shown, followed by suggestions for protecting local subsurface drinking water sources. Ms. Lubiak will also explain what needs to be done to protect water quality and quantity in the Buried Valley aquifer systems, which supply nearly 90% 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 watersheds, non-point source pollution and water runoff. 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)

WEBSITES:

http://njsierra.enviroweb.org/ (Click on Central Jersey Group) and
http://www.english.upenn.edu/~llynch/sierra/central.html

OFFICERS:

Chair: Mary Penney 609-688-0282
Penney4thoughts@aol.com

Vice Chair: Lucy Voorhoeve 609-393-9565
lucynt95@cs.com

Conservation Chair: Laura Lynch 609-882-4642
llynch@dept.english.upenn.edu

Membership Chair: Corinne Egnor
conskayakr@aol.com

Programs, Outings Chair: Don Griffin 609-397-7476
dgriffin@eclipse.net

Publicity Coordinator: Janet Black
jblack8084@aol.com

Treasurer/Calendar Sales: Bill Wowk 609-587-0502
bwowk@aol.com

Political Chair: Tom Zolandz 908-874-4194
earthsounds@yahoo.com

Outings Committee: Don Griffin (see above)
and Marv Levy 609-397-2951
mlevy1@eclipse.net

Park Issues Liaison: Assisting Lucy with Park Issues: Lucy Voorhoeve (see above)
Pat Sayles
plsayles@aol.com and
Mike Buriani
mburiani@aol.com

Public Lands Issues: Dave Mattek 609-737-1342

GENERAL MEETINGS:
We hold our meetings at the Mary Jacobs Library in Rocky Hill the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month at 7:30 pm. We welcome everyone to attend our meetings and help in some way. We are working on several critical issues: Reducing gridlock and sprawl in Central Jersey, Alternatives to the NJDOT routing of the Millstone Bypass, Water Quality, Access to public spaces, Stopping Delaware Dredging, plus much more.

DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS: From Princeton: North on Route 206 to just beyond Princeton Airport. Turn right (or east) at traffic light which is the intersection with Route 518. [From the north: South on 206 to just past the traffic light for the Montgomery Cinema, turn left (or east) at the next traffic light which is Route 518.] Travel east on 518 to downtown Rocky Hill. Library will be on left (setback off road). Park in lot and come to the second floor community room.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:
Jan 9, 2002: We will be inspired in our first program of the New Year by Carolyn Foote Edelmann, Poet/Writer/Editor who will present slides and poetry of natural places in the area. You may have seen her very popular nature series with US 1 (Business) Newspaper and West Windsor Plainsboro News, covering nearby restorative outdoor places for harried executives. Carolyn is also one of the seven-woman critique group of "Cool Wome" who present themed poetry readings in the area. Carolyn's talents and awards are too numerous to mention in this brief write-up, so please attend the presentation. Her prose and poetry will soothe your soul!

Feb 13: Thelon River Sanctuary: Join us as we canoe the Thelon River Sanctuary in Canada's Northwest Territories. Sierra Club member Kevin McCarthy will lead us on an armchair slide show exploration of this vast wilderness. Enjoy the adventure, wildlife, geography and historical sites of this remote Arctic River.

Mar 13: An exploration of state and national forestry policies will be discussed by longtime biologists and forestry experts. People close to the forestry issues are extremely worried about our continuing programs of timber cutting and logging. All hope is not lost, but reform is critical if we are to save our state and national forests. The Sierra Club brings creative strategies and behind the scenes insight to help address the problems.

Energetic Persons Needed! We would like to sign on two more outings leaders to coordinate and lead hikes, camping and canoe trips in Central Jersey. Bring your love for natural places and the outdoors to share with other kindred spirits new to the area and state. Professional Training provided! Please e-mail: pennney4thoughts@aol.com

Volunteers Needed for Earth Day Committee! Help coordinate activities like tree-planting and trail maintenance in our region. Contact Mary at 609-688-0282 or email at pennney4thoughts@aol.com

Raritan Valley Group
(Middlesex and Somerset Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:
Acting Group Chair: Steve Ember 732-926-8964
saember@earthlink.net

Conservation Chair: Debbie Cohen 908-230-2913
dabblersdeb@aol.com

Political Chair: Pranita Bijlani 732-743-0798
pranita.bijlani@trollmake.com

Treasurer: OPEN POSITION

Programs Chair: Steve Ember (see above)

Membership Chair: Blair Weig 732-764-9149
gverne@bellatlantic.net

Secretary: OPEN POSITION

Publicity Co-Chairs: Kristy Thronson 908-243-0753
kthronson@earthlink.net
and Michael Patton 908-722-5158
mikepatton@att.com

ACTIVITIES: Investigating the environmental impact of the proposed Rte. 18 which will cut into 8 acres of the Rutgers Ecological Preserve, and working with residents of Hillsboro Township to address the issues surrounding the Defense National Stockpile Center's mercury storage (the largest stockpile of mercury in the country).

OPENINGS: The newly re-organized Raritan Valley Group is looking to welcome new members and leaders. Currently, the positions of Group Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are open. If you are interested in participating in the group's activities or filling any of the open positions, please contact Steve Ember, the Acting Group Chair.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held at 7pm on the SECOND TUESDAY of the month. Currently meetings are being held at the Bound Brook Presbyterian Church at 409 Mountain Avenue in Bound Brook. Take the Mountain Avenue exit off Rte. 22 towards Bound Brook. The church is on the right hand side at the first stop light (Union Avenue - Rte.28)

Jan 8, 2002: Have you ever considered going on one of the many National Outings that the Sierra Club offers each year? 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 the years from his 12+ National Sierra Club Backback and Service Outings.

Feb 12: Local environmental issues will be discussed at this meeting. If you have any concerns you would like to voice, please feel free to join us.

Mar 12: There are many "hidden treasures" in New Jersey. Gary Szelc, avid outdoorsperson and excellent photographer, will present a slide show called "The Treasures of New Jersey". Gary has been on a mission to visit scenic areas in every state. This particular program will be dedicated to New Jersey.

Jersey Shore Group
(Monmouth and Ocean Counties, approximately)

Web site: <http://njsierra.enviroweb.org/~njshore/>

OFFICERS:
Group Chair: Steve Knowlton 732-747-7011
knowlton@worldnet.att.net

Vice-Chair: George Newsome 732-949-0812
newsome1@optonline.net

Secretary: Judy Maxcy 732-458-5074

Conservation:
Monmouth Co.: Steve Knowlton (see above)

Ocean County: Michele Dillon 732-341-7699
mdillon@americom.net

Ocean County Section Chair: Michele Dillon (see above)

Webmaster: George Newsome (see above)

Treasurer: Judy Maxcy (see above)

Outings Chair: Mike Verange 908-902-0718
mverange@aol.com

Membership Chair: George Newsome (see above)

Program Chair: Regina Maurer 732-335-1183
rmaurer@sprintmail.com

Wetlands Issues: Diane Doolittle 732-765-0053
d.doolittle@worldnet.att.net
and Joe Galacki 732-765-0053

GENERAL MEETINGS:
Held at 8pm on the FOURTH MONDAY of each month (except July, August, and December) at the Old Wharf House, Old Wharf Park, Main Street and Oceanport Avenue, Oceanport, NJ. Come early to socialize and enjoy refreshments. For directions and information, please call Regina Maurer at 732-335-1183, or visit our web site.

January 28: "Sea Breezes". New Jersey, the 3rd largest user of electricity in the Northeast, has excess generation capacity. Fission provides most of this energy. Coal, petroleum and natural gas provide most of the rest. To what extent can renewable means of generation replace these and their associated environmental and social problems? Is NJ a place where renewables can have a significant impact? This talk will provide realistic answers to these questions. Emphasis will be on wind generation because that is where the power currently can be found. Our speaker will be Ken Bardall, a group member who is very active in the field of renewable energy.

February 25: "Nuclear Power Plants" How safe are nuclear power plants from terrorist attack? Are meltdown and spent fuel disposal our only worries? Willie deCamp, one

of the founders of Jersey Shore (formerly Oyster Creek) Nuclear Watch, will present the history of and dangers associated with the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station, in the post September 11 context.

March 25: "Indoor Air Safe to Breathe?" Toxic mold has become a growing concern to homeowners in New Jersey, especially in light of the health problems associated with it. Our speaker is Joseph Ponessa, Associate Extension Specialist in Housing & Energy at Rutgers University, who specializes in indoor air quality issues, particularly moisture and mold. Learn what you can do to protect your home and your family's health. For information prior to the meeting, check out the resources at this website: <<http://www.montana.edu/wwwcxair>> , click on Educator Resources and read the module on "Bugs, Mold and Rot".

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:
The Group's Executive and Conservation Committees meet monthly at members' homes. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please call Steve Knowlton at 732-747-7011.

Ocean County Section:
Conservation/Business Meeting held the SECOND THURSDAY of each month in the Toms River area. For more information, please call Michelle Dillon at 732-341-7699.

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

Web site: users.snip.net/~ginacee/home.htm

OFFICERS:
Group Chair: Gina Carola 856-848-8831
ginacee@snip.net
(vacant: volunteer needed)

Vice-Chair: Karen Zbikowski 856-667-8853

Secretary: Trish Clements 856-768-5639
psclem@aol.com

Treasurer: Bud Kaliss 856-428-8071
budmilmilbud@yahoo.com

Publicity Chair: Marie Hageman 856-589-0606
mdhageman@mail.com
(vacant: volunteer needed)

Pinelands Rep: Cathy Wisel 856-596-2771

Conservation Chair: Mike Brown 856-547-9221
eyebrown@snip.net

Membership Chair: Reiss Tiffany 856-829-6405
r-stiffany@home.com

Fundraising Chair: Diane Gruszewski
ski1@snip.net

Programs Chair: (vacant: volunteer needed)

Outings Chair: Diane Gruszewski
ski1@snip.net

Inner City Outings:

GENERAL MEETINGS: are held at 7:30 pm on the SECOND TUESDAY of each month, at the Unitarian Church, 401 N. Kings Highway (Rte. 41), Cherry Hill (located between Rte. 70 and the convergence of Rtes. 38 and 73, just north of a traffic light at Chapel Avenue). Handicap accessible parking and entrance in rear of building.

Jan 8, 2002: John Holtz, Public Affairs Director of Green Mountain Energy.

Feb 12: Isabel Pilling, from the Sierra Club's Phila. ICO. Topic: Inner City Outings Program - an outreach program.

Mar 12: Kim Whitman, Curator of Large Mammals at the Phila. zoo. Topic: Conservation of the Rodrigues Fruit Bat

ACTIVITIES:
The West Group is working to prevent the environmentally dangerous Delaware Deepening. We are also working on developing an Inner City Outings program and are looking for volunteers. Contact Diane Gruszewski at ski1@snip.net to help.

South Jersey Group
(Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem Counties, approximately)

Please vote the Group Ballot on page 6!

OFFICERS:
Group and Outings Chair: Tom Boghosian 609-272-9005
boghosia@atlantic.edu

Vice-Chair: Donna Strack 609-927-6344
dnzi@aol.com

Conservation Chair: Fred Akers 856-697-3479
akers@gowebway.com

Political Chair, Calendar Sales: Dick Colby 609-965-4453
dick.colby@stockton.edu

(Continued on page 10)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

Membership Chair: Gary Roman 609-625-3438
Secretary/Treasurer: Julie Akers 856-697-3479
 akers@gowebway.com
Cape May Issues: Douglas Jewell 609-463-8423
 jewell@avaloninternet.net

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, Estell Manor (4 miles south of Mays Landing on NJ Rte 50 — milepost 15). Best to call one of the officers to confirm each meeting - or (better yet!) send (e-mail!) your e-mail address to dick.colby@stockton.edu and be put on a distribution list for notices of each meeting.

Jan 22, 2002: (obviously not a third monday, but close!): We'll probably share our meeting with that of Cape May Concerned Citizens, to deal with Cape May issues, 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 will be sent to the e-mail distribution list; others should call an officer.

Feb 26: (also not a third monday!): We'll share our meeting time with that of our teenage "daughter" organization, the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, which will meet at 7pm at the Warren Fox Nature Center to consider regulation of All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), Jet-skis, and other nuisance objects. Probable presentation by Fred Akers, our Group Conservation Chair.

Mar 16: (goodness! also not a third monday!): Our quarterly outing meeting, on a saturday at 10am, to perform some maintenance (removal of old barbed wire fencing) at the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, on Unexpected Road (where else?) in Buena Vista Twp, border of Atlantic and Gloucester Counties. We'll see if the beavers 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 in Cape May County should please pay attention to frequent developments in the campaigns to oppose extension of sewer lines (and thus permission to develop!) in Cape May County, and of Route 55. Contact Doug Jewell (jewell@avaloninternet.net) if you'd like to help.

Members in the watershed of the Great Egg Harbor River should please pay attention to developments in the Watershed Association's campaign to protect the river from illegal docks, illegal moorings, unsightly cell-phone towers, illegal use of powerboats, and other obnoxious/destructive recreational/commercial practices. Julie Akers is the Watershed Association's President, and Belinda Irizarry (609-567-4762) is our Watershed Coordinator.

Singles Section

(A chapter-wide special interest activity including hikes, social gatherings, cleanups, picnics, cultural outings, and camping.)

Web site: <http://njsierra.enviroweb.org/~singles/>
 Phone announcements: 973-364-7573

To receive further information about events, please join our listserver by sending an empty e-mail message to: NJ-Sierra-Singles-Announcements-subscribe@topica.com. All events, including those planned after publication, will be announced by an e-mail message sent directly to your e-mail account.

If you prefer not to receive e-mail, you may view all messages which have been sent to the listserver by going to: <http://www.topica.com/lists/NJ-Sierra-Singles-Announcements/read>

OFFICERS:

Co-Chairs: Lou Ambrosio
 lou.ambrosio@juno.com
 and Bob Johnson
 robert.johnson@home.com

Outings Chair: Joyce Haddad
 jkhaddad@juno.com

Conservation Chair: Bob Johnson
 robert.johnson@home.com

Treasurer: Joyce White
 joyce00201@yahoo.com

Webpage designer: David Szalay
 dszalay@home.com

Social Chair: Kathy Holusha
 Kathleen.Holusha@pfizer.com

Programs: Patti Lynch
 lynchp@eden.rutgers.edu

A special thanks to those volunteers who have helped out with our events: Pete Baczinsky (NJAS), Paul Regan (HVO) And Tina Schvejda (ANWR) who spoke at our meetings, Ron Pate (Outings), Keith Khieu (Shore Days) Connie Farley (Calendar Coord), Wilma Hurwitz and Janet Crowley for their efforts at Calendar sales. Mary Russell, Susan Long, Pat Montague Joan Housman, Wilma Hurwitz and Deborah Schwenk 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 event planners for Plaza Grille. Please attend a Planning/Executive Committee meeting or email any of the officers if you are interested.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Casual pizza gathering and introduction to club issues and activities. SECOND MONDAY of each month at 6:30 pm, latecomers welcome. Library of the Chatham, 214 Main St., Chatham (Main Street is Route 124.) Guest speakers at most meetings — please join the listserver or call 973-364-7573, option 3 for details. \$5 donation at door and R.S.V.P. required for pizza only to lynchp@eden.rutgers.edu or 973-364-7573, option 3. (Please specify plain or veggie pizza.) For directions, please see our webpage or call the library at 973-635-0603.

PLANNING/EXCOM MEETINGS following each general meeting.

SOCIALS: FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month at 6pm. Join us for dinner in Morristown at the Famished Frog. RSVP required, join our list server for further details.

THIRD TUESDAY of each month at 7pm. Join us for dinner in Montclair. Restaurant to be announced. RSVP is required to jkhaddad@juno.com or 973-364-7573 Option 4.

PARTIAL LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

For information on general meetings or any hikes or social events planned after publication, please join the listserver or call 973-364-7573. All events are posted via listserver; many do not make it into this Sierran or to the phone line.

Hikes: Please see the outings section of this newsletter for more details.

Upcoming hikes in North Jersey:

Jan. 13th (Sun) at Eagle Rock Reservation/ Ron Pate
Feb. 10th (Sun) at Hatfield Swamp in West Essex Park/ Ron Pate and Joyce Haddad
Mar. 9th (Sat) at Eagle Rock Reservation/ Joyce Haddad
Mar. 10th (Sun) at South Mountain Reservation/ Ron Pate

Upcoming Cleanups:

April 7th (Sun) at Eagle Rock Reservation/ Ron Pate
April 21st (Sun) at South Mountain Reservation/ Ron Pate (EARTH DAY)

Upcoming hikes in South Jersey: Please see Paul Serdiuk's hikes/events in the outings section of this newsletter.

NJ Inner City Outings

(another Chapter-wide special interest activity)

Chair: Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953
 Njicoutings@aol.com

NJ Inner City Outings is a community outreach program which provides wilderness adventures for inner city youth of NJ. Volunteer outings leaders and assistants conduct outings on weekends for agencies and schools which have established a partnership with NJ ICO. If you would like to experience the rewards of introducing NJ inner city youth to the wonders of nature, your involvement is encouraged and you are requested to attend a NJ ICO meeting.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Meetings are held at 7pm on Thursdays, every other month, generally in the Somerset County area. Please call or e-mail for meeting and outings information.

**INNER CITY OUTINGS
 NEW VOLUNTEER MEETING**
Wednesday, February 6th, 2002, 6pm.
Latecomers welcome.
**Pilgrim Diner, 82 Pompton Avenue (Rte 23),
 Cedar Grove.**
**RSVP required by Sunday, February 3rd to
 Patti Lynch at 973-809-2370**

Outings

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



GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

Central Jersey: Don Griffin, 609-397-1513 (H)
 122 N. Union Ave., Lambertville, NJ 08530
Essex County: David Ogens 973-226-7107 (H)
 29 Hatfield Street, Caldwell, NJ 07003
Hudson: Vacant
Jersey Shore: Mike Verange 908-732-8364 (H)
 1497 W Front St, Lincroft, NJ 07738
Loantaka: Bob Muska 908-665-2296 (H)
 95 Delmore Ave, Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922
North Jersey: Vacant
Northwest Jersey: Joe Pepin 973-252-5137 (H)
 4 Cathy Pl., Succasunna, NJ 07876
Raritan Valley: Vacant
South Jersey: Tom Boghosian 609-272-9005 (H)
 3722 Lehigh Ct., Mays Landing, NJ 08330
West Jersey: Dan Procidia 609-767-2149 (H)
 813 Old White Horse Pike, Waterford Works, NJ 08089
River Touring: Fred Tocce 908-453-2205 (H)
 Rd 1 Box 277, Washington, NJ 07882
Inner City Outings: Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H)
 NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd. Warren, NJ 07059
Chapter Outings Chair: Steve Ember 732-926-8964 (H)
 511 Grandview Street, Middlesex, NJ 08846

Outing Leaders: Please send April-June write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before March 31. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our bimonthly publication periods, please submit it for the previous Sierran, due to the occasional lag in mailing. Also, please send outing rosters or sign-up sheets to the Chapter Office as soon as possible after each outing.

Note: If possible, leaders should send their trip descriptions to the Group Outings Coordinator (or the Chapter Outings Coordinator, if there is no Group Outings Coordinator), instead of directly to the Chapter Outings Coordinator. This is particularly important for occasional leaders.

Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your April-June trip write-ups by April 5.

NOTES ON OUTINGS: All Outings are open to Club members, guests and anyone interested in outings. Unless otherwise specified, the events are free and open to the public. ALL participants must sign liability waivers on ALL outings sponsored by Sierra Club. This is a new policy. Please check with the leader before bringing small children on an outing. A parent or other responsible adult must accompany persons under 18. At their discretion, leaders may permit pets on outings if the event description specifically includes bringing pets.

Sierra Club outings are arranged by volunteer leaders who are in charge of the trip and responsible for the safety, welfare and enjoyment of all participants. Leaders determine qualifications to participate, adequacy of equipment, routes to be followed, and special precautions to be taken. Please arrive adequately prepared and equipped. If you have any allergies, please remember to bring your medication. The leader has the final word in the conduct of the trip. Your cooperation will help assure a safe and pleasant outing.

Please arrive early at the meeting place so that the outing can start on time. For day hikes, lunch, water (at least a liter), extra clothing, rain gear, and emergency equipment should be carried in a small daypack. For all except easy hikes, sturdy over-the-ankle shoes or boots should be worn. For most trips, you are expected to have your own equipment. In some cases, it may be rented from outdoor/camping suppliers -check the yellow pages or call the trip leader. If the weather is questionable on the date of the outing, you may assume that it will take place, unless the schedule indicates otherwise.

Unless registration is required, such as for weekend trips or river tours, or if you have a question about the outing, it is not necessary to contact the leader before the trip. Do not call to join a trip after the posted deadline date. When phoning a leader, please honor his or her requested calling times and call 3 to 5 days before the outing. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) when writing to a leader. On popular trips, Sierra Club members will be given preference. To car pool to Steve Ember's hikes, contact Bob Johnson at robert.johnson@home.com or 908-771-9676.

Watercraft trips let you experience the unspoiled parts of our region, but water safety does impose special requirements. The size and skill of each party must be appropriate to each river, so participation in each trip must be at the discretion of the leader. We ask you to register at least one week in advance. Unless a phone number is provided, please send a SASE with an honest assessment of your paddling experience, whether you need or can offer a ride, your phone number, and any questions you may have. You will receive a description of the trip, with directions, where you can rent a canoe, and what you will need to bring. Almost all trip leaders can arrange for partners to share a canoe if you will be coming by yourself. Unless stated otherwise: rental canoes are available, trips do not require advanced paddling skill or exceptional physical conditioning, public transportation is not available, non-members may participate, and responsible smokers are welcome.

If you are a Sierra Club member interested in becoming an Outing Leader or have suggestions for new outings, contact your Group Outings Chair or the Chapter Outings Chair for assistance and further information. The Sierra Group contributing each outing is given at the end of the write-up, as follows:

(C) Central Jersey	(JS) - Jersey Shore
(L) - Loantaka	(N) - North Jersey
(NW) - Northwest Jersey	(S) - South Jersey
(W) - West Jersey	(NJ) - NJ Chapter
(H) - Hudson	(RV) - Raritan Valley
(IC) - Inner City Outings	(RT) - River Touring
(E) - Essex County	(ACOC) - Atlantic Chapter Outings Comm.

JANUARY

JAN 1 (Tue) New Years Day Hike at Clayton Park. Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County (Special Interests: land conservation, watershed protection). A moderate 6 mile hike in one of the area's "quietest" parks. Meet at 9 AM at the Wawa convenience store on County Road 537, just south of I-195 (from the Turnpike & GSP, follow the signs to Great Adventure.) We will car pool from there. Please bring drink and snack. Hiking shoes are suggested. Bad weather or snow cover cancels. Confirmation/questions please call. Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

JAN 6 (Sun) Singles Hike Apple Pie Hill. 7-8 miles. Moderate pace. Hike the highest point in SJ for a great panoramic view of the pines. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. No children or pets. Meet at 9:30 AM at Carranza Memorial parking, 6.7 miles SE of Tabernacle, Burl. Co., on Carranza Road. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 evenings pis1@cccnj.net (W)

JAN 12 (Sat) Volunteer Activity. We will help Habitat for Humanity rebuild a row home. This is a way to give back to the community and create a positive image for the club. We will work as a group on this project. Bring lunch, work gloves and boots, and water. Meet by 8 AM in rear parking lot, Hilton Hotel Rt. 70, Cherry Hill. We will car pool/caravan to work site. Leaders: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 evenings pis1@cccnj.net or Tom Jaggard 856-234-9369 (W)

JAN 13 (Sun) Singles Hike at Eagle Rock Reservation. We will hike 4-5 miles at a moderate pace. Bring water and snacks. Lunch to follow at local restaurant. Possibility of cross country skiing (weather permitting - bring skis). Meet before 10:00 AM at Highlawn Pavilion parking lot off Eagle Rock Ave in West Orange. Take Rt. 280 to Prospect Ave (Exit 8B) north. Right turn onto Eagle Rock Ave. Left turn into reservation. Rain cancels. A \$3 fee will be charged to non-members. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Leader: Ronald Pate (973) 364-7573, option 2 (E)

JAN 18-21 (Fri-Mon) Catskill Mountain Winter Weekend (Martin Luther King Weekend). Alpine Inn, Catskill Mts. Enjoy all of winter's white 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 maintained trail system covering this mountain range. 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 the 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 SASE envelope to our co-leader and registrar: Balance of payment is due on arrival at the Alpine Inn. Registrar & Co-leader: Brant Collins W (732) 458-8334, www.freecyellow.com/members6/petebeck/page1.html, 1480 Route 88 West, Brick, NJ 08724 (E)

JAN 19 (Sat) Tallman Mountain State Park. 7 miles. We will hike through Tallman Mountain State Park and view the berms and salt marsh. We will then walk the mile-long Piermont pier halfway across the Hudson! Trails include the Long Path. Bring lunch and water. You can take the 9:15 Rockland Coaches 9A bus from the Port Authority terminal to meet Leader in Piermont by 10:15. Drivers meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural) at 10 AM. Leader: John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10 PM) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

JAN 25 (Fri) Singles Moonlight Hike: Campfire & Campout. 6 miles moderate pace. Hike under the Wolf moon as we walk on moonlit sand roads and return to a roaring fire. Camping is available call to reserve space. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. No pets/children. Meet by 7 PM at Lebanon State Forest group camp site. Entrance to forest is on Rt. 72 1/2 mile from jtc. of Rts. 70 & 72. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 evenings pis1@cccnj.net (W)

JAN 26 (Sat) Eight mile hike at a moderate pace in Harriman State Park. Participants must pre-register for this hike. Group size limited to 12 experienced hikers. Please e-mail the leader to register and obtain details. Leader: Kerry Miller. E-mail: ksmiller2@juno.com (N)

JAN 26 (Sat) Social Hike in Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park, Blackwells Mills Bridge Tenders House. This is a singles-oriented activity; however, anyone who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 6 miles of level terrain at a moderate pace. Highlights include the Delaware & Raritan Canal and historic buildings near canal. Hiking boots are preferred and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & water. Meet before 10:30 AM at the park office parking lot on Canal Road. Take Route 206 to Hillsborough to Route 514 east (Amwell Road), then make right onto Route 533 south (Millstone River Road), proceed 2.1 miles. Take first left across bridge onto Blackwells Mills Road and then make right on Canal Road, see park office and parking lot on left. Rain or snow cancels. Leader: Joyce White at (908) 272-4478 or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (E)

FEBRUARY

FEB 1-3 (Fri-Sun) Catskill Mountain Winter Weekend. Alpine Inn, Catskill Mts. Enjoy all of winter's white 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 maintained trail system covering this mountain range. In the evening by fireside we plan a great mountaineering color slide program or magic show. Excellent accommodations and gourmet food! Total cost for 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner and all taxes & gratuities \$183. This is a joint trip of the 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 SASE envelope to our co-leader and registrar: Balance of payment is due on arrival at the Alpine Inn. Registrar & Co-leader: Peter Beck, H (973) 625-4191, PO Box 267, Wharton, New Jersey 07885, www.freecyellow.com/members6/petebeck/page1.html (E)

FEB 2 (Sat) Social Hike In Lord Sterling Park. This is a singles-oriented activity; however, anyone who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles on mostly level terrain, including an extensive boardwalk system at a moderate pace. Highlights include La Plus Grand fresh water marsh and Branca Pond. Hiking boots are preferred and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & water. Meet before 10:30 AM at the Environmental Education Center at 190 Lord Sterling Road. Take Route 287 to Exit 26 (North Maple Ave. & Basking Ridge). Follow Maple Ave. about 2 1/2 miles, then turn left onto Lord Sterling Road. Go about 1 mile on Lord Sterling Road and then see the Environmental Education Center on left. Rain or snow cancels. Leader: Joyce White at (908) 272-4478 or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (E)

FEB 3 (Sun) Social Hike In South Mountain Reservation. This is a singles-oriented activity; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike seven miles over easy terrain. Highlights include a 25-foot waterfall and some very inviting woodlands in the heart of Suburbia. What a great way to celebrate Super Bowl Sunday! Please bring warm clothing, water and lunch. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. Meet BEFORE 10 AM at the South Mountain Arena parking lot in West Orange. Take Exit 10 on Route 280 West. Turn left onto Northfield Avenue. After a steep hill, the South Mountain Arena will be on your left. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember at (732) 926-8964 (weekdays) (RV)

FEB 3 (Sun) Singles Tundra Swan Hike. 6 miles. Moderate pace. Hike the wintry beauty among ponds filled with Tundra Swans. Bring binoculars. Dress for the cold weather. No pets or children. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet at 10 AM at Whitesbog Village parking lot. Take Rt. 70 east to Rt. 530 north (Browns Mills/Ft Dix) go 1 mile turn right on Whitesbog Road to parking lot. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 evenings pis1@cccnj.net (W)

FEB 9 (Sat) Volunteer Activity. We will help Habitat for Humanity rebuild a row home. This is a way to give back to the community and create a positive image for the club. We will work as a group on this project. Bring lunch, work gloves and boots, and water. Meet at 8 AM in rear parking lot, Hilton Hotel Rt. 70, Cherry Hill. We will car pool/caravan to work site. Leaders: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 evenings pis1@cccnj.net or Tom Jaggard 856-234-9369 (W)

FEB 10 (Sun) Singles Hike at Hatfield Swamp in West Essex Park. 5 miles at a moderate pace through forested wetlands along the Passaic River. Bring water, snacks and hiking boots. Lunch to follow at local restaurant. Possibility of cross country skiing (weather permitting - bring skis). Garden State Parkway exit 148 to Bloomfield Ave. Go west for 5 miles and park at CVS lot at corner of Passaic Ave West Caldwell. Rain cancels. A \$3 fee will be charged to non-members. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Leaders: Ronald Pate (973) 364-7573, option 2, or Joyce Haddad, option 4 (E)

FEB 10 (Sun) Harteshorne Woods Hike (Special Interests: recent history). Moderate six mile hike has elevation gains and lots of scenery. Please bring a drink and a snack. Hiking shoes suggested. Meet at 9 AM at the Rocky Point parking area. Take the GSP to Exit 117 for Rt. 36 and Sandy Hook. Exit Rt. 36 at Miller Street (approx. 10 miles). At the top of the hill, make a left and, then, make the first right. Again, go to top of the hill and make a right. The parking area is straight ahead. Bad weather or snow cover cancels. Confirmation/questions please call. Leader Mike Verange, 908-902-0718, or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

FEB 10 (Sun) Singles Orangina Hike. 7 miles moderate pace. Annual classic hike to old clay pits used to make pottery. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. No pets /children. Meet at 9:30 AM at mile Marker #12 on Route 72 E., on dirt road opposite Auto Wreckers, allow for extra driving time. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 evenings pis1@cccnj.net (W)

FEB 16 (Sat) Social Hike In Washington Crossing State Park. This is a singles-oriented activity; however, anyone who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 7 miles on mostly level terrain following Washington's march on Trenton & the Delaware & Raritan Canal. Highlights include historical building and a reproduction of the wooden ferryboats used by the Continental Army in 1776. Hiking boots are preferred and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & water. Meet before 10:30 AM at the visitor's center off Route 546. Take Route 287 to Route 202 South. Then follow Route 202 South to Route 29 (last exit in NJ). Go about 10 miles on Route 29 South to Route 546. Turn right toward bridge to PA, but do not cross bridge. Immediately turn right again, onto park road along river. See visitor's center parking lot. Rain or snow cancels. Leader: Joyce White at (908) 272-4478 or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (E)

FEB 16 to 24 (Sat-Sun) Ski Summit County, Colorado. World class alpine & x/ctry skiing. Four star hotel lodging centrally located to Keystone, Breckenridge, Copper, Aspen, and Arapaho Mtns. All areas linked by groomed x/ctry trails plus two x/ctry ski areas. \$980.00 includes airfare from Newark, ground transportation, d/o lodging, all breakfasts, and two dinners. Lift tickets not included. Early \$200.00 deposit needed by Dec 30 to guarantee these low rates. For more information send large SASE to leader, Norman Adis 163 Hillside Ave, Livingston, NJ 07039 or e-mail to: adis.norman@worldnet.att.net. Phone 973.994-2933 (E)

FEB 23 (Sat) Eight mile hike at a moderate pace in Harriman State Park. Participants must pre-register for this hike. Group size limited to 12 experienced hikers. Please e-mail the leader to register obtain details. Leader: Kerry Miller. E-mail: ksmiller2@juno.com (N)

FEB 23 (Sat) Clausland Mountain. 6 Miles. We will climb up Clausland Mountain (700' Climb) through historic Rockland Cemetery to an old Nike missile base. Bring hiking boots, lunch, 2 quarts of water. You can take the 9:15 Rockland Coaches 9A bus from the Port Authority terminal to meet Leader in Piermont by 10:15. Drivers meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural) at 10 AM. Leader: John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10 PM) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

FEB 24 (Sun) Singles Hike Ridley Creek SP Pa. 6 miles moderate pace. Hike trails along creek and hills. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. No pets or children. Meet at 8:30 AM rear parking lot Hilton Hotel Rt. 70 Cherry Hill to carpool/caravan or meet at Park Office at 9:30 AM. From Rt. 1 take Rt. 352 N for 3 miles to Grayville Rd. go N 1.5 miles to park Entrance. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 evenings pis1@cccnj.net (W)

MARCH

MAR 1-3 (Fri-Sun) Catskill Mountain Winter Weekend. Alpine Inn, Catskill Mts. Enjoy all of winter's white 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 maintained trail system covering this mountain range. In the evening by fireside we plan a great mountaineering color slide program or magic show. Excellent accommodations and gourmet food! Total cost for 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner and all taxes & gratuities \$183. This is a joint trip of the 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 SASE envelope to our co-leader and registrar: Balance of payment is due on arrival at the Alpine Inn. Registrar & Co-leader: Peter Beck, H (973) 625-4191, PO Box 267, Wharton, New Jersey 07885, www.freecyellow.com/members6/petebeck/page1.html (E)

MAR 2 (Sat) Social Hike In Washington Valley Park. This is a singles-oriented activity; however, anyone who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 7 miles of rolling hills & rocky terrain. Highlights include Buttermilk Falls and Hawk Watch Area. Hiking boots are preferred and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & water. Meet before 10:30 AM at the parking lot at end of Millers Lane. Take Route 287 to Route 202 South. Then follow Route 202 South 2 miles past The Hills to light at A&P. Then turn left onto Washington Valley Road (Route 525 spur). Follow Washington Valley Road about 7 miles, past two lights at gas stations in Martinsville. After the second light at Chimney Rock Road, take third right onto Vosseller Avenue. Proceed about 1.2 miles to Millers Lane and turn right. Continue into park, to parking lot at end of lane. Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce White at (908) 272-4478 or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (E)

MAR 2 (Sat) Singles Full Moon Hike. 6-7 miles. Moderate pace. Hike the pines in winter under a full moon. Bring snack type food to share at tailgate social after hike. No pets/children. Meet at 7 PM in field behind Atsion Office on Rt. 206, between Hammonton and Red Lion, Burl. Co. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 evenings pis1@cccnj.net (W)

MAR 3 (Sun) Singles Hike and Brunch. 6 miles moderate pace. Help celebrate the leaders birthday as we hike the pines in winter and then enjoy an all you can eat buffet at Renault Winery Restaurant. No pets or children. Meet at 9 AM at Batsto Village parking lot, off Rt. 542, Burl. Co. 8 miles west of Hammonton. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 evenings pis1@cccnj.net (W)

MAR 9 (Sat) Singles Hike at Eagle Rock Reservation. We will hike 4-5 miles at a moderate pace. Bring water and snacks. Possibility of cross country skiing (weather permitting - bring skis). Meet before 10:00 AM at Highlawn Pavilion parking lot off Eagle Rock Ave in West Orange. Take Rt. 280 to Prospect Ave (Exit 8B) north. Right turn onto Eagle Rock Ave. Left turn into reservation. Rain cancels. A \$3 fee will be charged to non-members. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Leader: Joyce Haddad (973) 364-7573, option 4 (E)

MAR 9 (Sat) Volunteer Activity. We will help Habitat for Humanity rebuild a row home. This is a way to give back to the community and create a positive image for the club. We will work as a group on this project. Bring lunch, work gloves and boots, and water. Meet at 8 AM in rear parking lot, Hilton Hotel Rt. 70, Cherry Hill. We will car pool/caravan to work site. Leaders: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 evenings pis1@cccnj.net or Tom Jaggard 856-234-9369 (W)

MAR 10 (Sun) Singles Hike South Mountain Reservation. 6-7 miles at a moderate pace. Enjoy beautiful views of NYC and a 25-foot waterfall. Bring water, snacks and hiking boots. Lunch to follow at a local restaurant. Possibility of cross country skiing (weather permitting - bring skis). Rt. 280 to Pleasant Valley Way. Go south for 3 miles into reservation. The Tulip Springs parking area is on your left. Rain cancels. A \$3 fee will be charged to non-members. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Leader: Ronald Pate (973) 364-7573, option 2 (E)

MAR 10 (Sun) Social Hike At Schooley's Mountain County Park. This is a singles-oriented activity.
(Continued on page 12)



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

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George Denzer, Dick Colby

Legal Chair

Bill Singer, Esq. (908) 359-7873

Personnel Committee

Sunil Somalwar**, Tina Schvejda,
and Dennis Schvejda

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

All members are welcome to attend Executive Committee meetings.

Jan. 12: Annual Re-organization meeting, in which we establish, prioritize and organize our 2002 lobby campaigns. An ALL DAY event, from 9:30 to 6:30 at the Chatham Public Library, Rte. 124 in the center of town with breakfast, lunch and dinner provided.

Feb 9: Meeting place not yet determined. Conservation and Political Committees meet at 10am; shared lunch at noon; ExCom at 1pm.

Mar. 9: at the New Brunswick Public Library; Conservation and Political Committees at 10am, lunch at noon, ExCom at 1pm.

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Jeff Tittel, Bill Wolfe

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Phil L'Hommedieu (see above)

Inner City Outings Coordinator

Anne Dyjak (see Group News pages)

* Indicates Chapter-wide elected ExCom members.
** Indicates committee chair

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Tina Schvejda (see main leader list)

Passaic River Basin

Rich Isaac (see main leader list)

Population

Bonnie Tillery (see main leader list)

Tiger Conservation

Sunil Somalwar (see main leader list)

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If no one is in the office to take your call, please leave a message on the answering machine. Please SPELL YOUR LAST NAME, and state whether the phone number you leave is for daytime or evening.

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

ty; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about six easy miles in a scenic area of western Morris County. Please bring warm clothing, water, lunch and a small backpack. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. Meet BEFORE 10 AM at the upper parking area beyond the main entrance. Take Route 24 or 206 to Chester. Drive 5 miles on Route 24 West to Long Valley. At the traffic light, turn right to continue on Route 24 West. After .7 miles, turn right onto Camp Washington Road. Go .7 miles on Camp Washington Road and bear right onto East Springtown Road. After .3 miles, turn right on East Springtown Road and turn right into the park. Continue straight to the upper parking lot. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember at (732) 926-8964 (weekdays) (RV)

MAR 10 (Sun) Singles Hike. Estell Manor. 6 miles moderate pace. Hike old munitions plant of WW II. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Dress for weather. Pets permitted. Meet at 10 AM at the Playground parking lot, Atlantic County Park, at Estell Manor, off Rt. 50, 3 miles south of Mays Landing, Rts. 40 & 50. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 evenings pis1@cccnj.net (W)

MAR 16 (Sat) Hook Mountain Hike. 7 miles. Excellent views of the Hudson River and Croton Point. You can take the 9:15 Rockland Coaches 9A bus from the GWB terminal to meet Leader in Upper Nyack at the junction with Old Mountain Road and Route 9W at 10:30 AM. Leader: John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10 PM) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

MAR 17 (Sun) St. Patrick's Day Hike on the Iris Trail, High Point State Park. There couldn't be a more appropriate time for this hike. Moderate 8 miles. Meet 10:30 AM at the park office, Route 23. Leader: Joe Pepin 973-252-5137 (NW)

MAR 17 (Sun) Singles Spring Hike. 6 miles moderate pace. Hike in celebration of the rebirth of nature and spring. We hike Sandy Ridge area of Pine Barrens. Spring flowers possible. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. No pets or children. Meet at 10 AM. Meeting point is 11 miles south of Tabernacle on Carranza Road, Burl. Co., look for OCSJ sign. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 evenings pis1@cccnj.net (W)

MAR 23 (Sat) Eight mile hike at a moderate pace in Harriman State Park. Participants must pre-register for this hike. Group size limited to 12 experienced hikers. Please e-mail the leader to register and obtain details. Leader: Kerry Miller. E-mail: ksmiller2@juno.com (N)

MAR 23 (Sat) Social Hike In Hacklebarney State Park. This is a singles-oriented activity; however, anyone who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles at a moderate pace. Highlights include waterfalls & the Black River Gorge. Hiking boots are preferred and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & water. Meet before 10:30 AM at the Cooper Mill at Black River Park on Route 24. Take Route 78 West to Exit 29 (287 North). Then take Exit 22B off 287(202/206 North). Follow 202/206 North until fork, and then take 206 North to Chester. Make left onto Route 24 West and proceed about 1 1/2 miles to the Cooper Mill parking lot on left. Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce White at (908) 272-4478 or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (E)

MAR 24 (Sun) Manasquan River Reservoir Hike (Special Interest: Birds). Easy 5 mile circular hike. On one of the largest reservoirs in the area, we may observe waterfowl. Bring bird books, binoculars, drinks and a snack. Bad weather cancels. Hiking shoes not required. Great for families. Meet at 9 AM at the main entrance of the reservoir on Windeller Road. Take the GSP to Exit 98. Head west on I-195 to Exit 28 for Rt. 9. Go north on Rt. 9 and take first right onto Georgia Tavern Road. Go approx. .5 miles and take next right onto Windeller Road. Travel approx. 1.5 miles to Reservoir entrance. Meet at parking area on far left towards back. Questions/confirmation please call. Leader Mike Verange, 908-902-0718, or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

MAR 24 (Sun) Highlands Hike At Pyramid Mountain (Special Interest: Conservation). We will hike about five miles in the New Jersey Highlands. Tripod Rock, a famous archeological site, is the primary feature. Come see a pretty area, close to Suburbia, which was saved thanks to the efforts of many good people. Please bring warm clothing, water and lunch. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. Meet BEFORE 10 AM at the Mars Court/Route 511 intersection north of Boonton. Take Route 287 North to the Wootton Avenue exit. Turn left onto Wootton Avenue and go through the traffic light. Turn right at a blinking light onto Route 511 North. Mars Court is about three miles to the north. Park on Mars Court - not at the Pyramid Mountain Park office. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember at (732) 926-8964 (weekdays) (RV)

MAR 30 (Sat) Singles Full Moon Hike. 6 miles moderate pace. Hike between old cranberry bogs as the moon reflects off the water. Dress for cold weather. No pets or children. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet at 7 PM Whitesbog Village parking lot. Take Rt.70 east to Rt. 530 north (Browns Mill/Ft. Dix) go 1 mile turn right at Whitesbog Road, go to parking lot. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 evenings pis1@cccnj.net (W)

APRIL

APR 7 (Sun) Social Hike In Stokes State Forest. We will hike eight miles primarily along the Kittatinny Ridge on the Appalachian Trail. Highlights include panoramic views from Sunrise Mountain and the Culver Fire Tower. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. Meet BEFORE 10 AM at the park office off Route 206. Proceed north on Route 206 past Branchville and Culvers Lake. Turn right into Stokes State Forest into the park office parking area. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember at (732) 926-8964 (weekdays) (RV)

APR 20 (Sat) Blauvelt Parks: Piermont-South Nyack. Strenuous 10 miles. Visit Rockland Cemetery, an old Nike base and an abandoned National Guard rifle range. 2 quarts water. Hiking boots. You can take the Rockland Coaches 9:15 9A bus from the Port Authority Terminal to meet the leader in Piermont. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural) by 10:15 AM. LP out, return via abandoned RR. Leader John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10 PM) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

THE JERSEY SIERRAN

The Jersey Sierran is the newsletter of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club. Readers are encouraged to submit articles, photographs, artwork, cartoons on environmental subjects, letters to the editor, poetry, press releases and expressions of opinion.

Articles and letters should be submitted typed and double spaced (or preferably by e-mail or on disk: call for format information). **Send submissions to: Dick Colby. The deadline is the 10th of the month two months prior to the issue date.**

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