

# The Jersey Sierran

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Over 23,000 Members in New Jersey

April-June 2002

## New DEP Commissioner Attends Chapter Meeting

by Gina Corola and Dick Colby

Bradley Campbell, newly installed Commissioner of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, was an honored guest at the Chapter Executive Committee's monthly meeting on Feb 9, held at Chatham Boro Library.

Jeff Tittel, our Executive Director, introduced Brad as formerly Director of EPA Region III (Philadelphia), and as "already having attended one more of our meetings than his predecessor." Mr. Campbell expressed hope that this would be only the first of many chances to meet. He spoke candidly about the many difficulties he is facing in improving the functioning of the DEP. He also said:

- Enforcement of regulations will be a priority for him.
- He wants to bring together the DEP's Natural Resources Branch and its Regulatory elements.
- He is planning a week of press conferences to put all issues on the table.

Club members, led by our Chair Tina Schvejda, offered him the services of our thousands of volunteers, and noted that we also network with the members of many other environmental organizations.

Conservation Co-Chair Laura Lynch presented Campbell with a freshly prepared summary of the Chapter's major issues in New Jersey [available on the Chapter Website], and asked him to select issues that we could develop in common.

He responded that he wants initially to identify a few places in New Jersey where we could marshal many resources around a project that would have high public visibility, such as a river that

could be made fishable and swimmable, or an urban area with a high rate of child asthma that could achieve better air quality. Some members suggested a Highlands focus, or a Meadowlands focus, or making the visual impact of landing at Newark Airport more like the visual impact presented at most European airports.

Steve Knowlton, Chair of the Jersey Shore Group, suggested that the DEP tell us how much water we have and let water supply dictate how much growth we can have. Campbell replied that there should not be an absolute limit to growth. The water discussion continued with the following comments:

- Campbell hopes to promote water recycling.
- He suggested using Green Acres funds to remove pavement to improve groundwater recharge.
- Jeff Tittel noted that there is no water planning now.

Dick Colby reported on a meeting with a major Sewage Authority at which the cost of recycling effluent for irrigating golf courses was deemed prohibitive, in part because of unreasonable DEP standards.

Bob Campbell, our Clean Air Issues Coordinator (and no relation), said there is no agency of State government advising residents on how to conserve water, and suggested that the DEP should take the lead. The Commissioner agreed that communication is weak.

Julie Akers, representing the South Jersey Group, suggested that Earth Day

*(Continued on page 12)*

## ASM. DAVID RUSSO ENDORSED FOR CONGRESS IN THE 5TH CD

by Rich Isaac, Chapter Political Chair

The Sierra Club has endorsed Assemblyman David Russo (R) for election to the U.S. Congress in the 5th District (northern edge of the State: much of Warren, Bergen, Sussex and Passaic Counties), in both the June primary and the November general elections.

This is the most important race in New Jersey this year, due to the retirement of incumbent Rep. Marge Roukema (R), and the opportunity for the District to change parties, affecting the delicate nationwide balance in Congress. Asm. Russo is not only the best-qualified candidate generally but also the only strong environmental candidate. We have worked personally with him in campaigns to preserve the Highlands and to protect our air and drinking water.

According to Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director, "Dave Russo is not only good on the issues but he is someone you can trust and work with, unlike his primary election opponent Senator Cardinale, who says he listens but won't let you speak." (Sen. Cardinale recently refused to let Jeff address his committee!) In contrast to Cardinale and some other candidates who didn't even respond to our questionnaire on environmental issues, David Russo has always responded, and in fact received our endorsement for his Assembly race every time he has run.

Russo sponsored Assembly bills that led to the cleanup of underground storage tanks, the preservation of Sterling Forest,



and campaign finance reform. He was Vice Chair of the Assembly Environmental Committee, working closely with former Assemblywoman Maureen Ogden to shape environmental legislation. According to the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group scorecard, Assemblyman Russo scored 89 in 2001 and 100 in 2000, compared to Senator Cardinale who scored 55 and 63 respectively, and Assemblyman Garrett who scored 40 and 50.

If you would like to volunteer to help Dave Russo win this important election, please call me at my home, 973-716-0297.

### ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR FEDERAL OFFICE

Senate: Sen. Robert Torricelli (D)

- NJ-1: Rep. Robert Andrews (D)
- NJ-2: Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R)
- NJ-5: Asm. David Russo (R)
- NJ-6: Rep. Frank Pallone (D)
- NJ-8: Rep. William Pascrell, Jr. (D)
- NJ-9: Rep. Steven Rothman (D)
- NJ-10: Rep. Donald Payne (D)
- NJ-12: Rep. Rush Holt (D)
- NJ-13: Rep. Robert Menendez (D)

## View From The Capital: THE NEW ADMINISTRATION

by Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director

We survived the Legislature's lame duck session in January! The Quarry Bill was stopped for the sixth time. A bill giving towns the right to veto the listing of municipal property for historic preservation passed both houses of the Legislature, but we convinced the Acting Governors to exercise a pocket veto. We joined a coalition that got the Public Access to Government Records Bill passed, a major victory for open government. We ended up doing better than the budget!

Governor McGreevey has actually been appointing environmentalists to key positions, including Curtis Fisher, formerly Director of NJPIRG, now the Governor's Policy Advisor on Environment and Consumer Affairs; Jeanne Fox, former EPA Region II Administrator, now President of the Board of Public Utilities; Bradley Campbell (see story above), and Jamie Fox, former Chief of Staff to Senator Torricelli, now DOT Commissioner.

There have also been some setbacks. When Governor McGreevey told his Department chiefs to get rid of non-titled or political positions, the Community Affairs Commissioner, Susan Bass Levin, fired the entire professional staff of the Office of State Planning. Since that debacle, the Governor has issued an Executive Order on Smart Growth that

sets up a Smart Growth Policy Council, within the Governor's Office, to implement the State Plan. This Order will actually do more to implement the State Plan than any action by any previous governor. The Department of Community Affairs has hired back close to 50% of the planners who were let go, and is looking now to staff the Smart Growth Office. The unfortunate firings actually moved sprawl further up on the Governor's agenda for his first year. We went from lemons to lemonade in a matter of a week!

The most pressing issue facing the new Administration is a \$3 billion shortfall in this year's budget. Unlike the 1994 budget in which Governor Whitman cut DEP spending disproportionately, especially in areas of enforcement, this year's DEP budget cuts preserved core programs. Most of the cuts are for pork barrel projects such as \$25 million for beach replenishment, \$13 million for dam repair, money for the Green Brook Flood Control Project, dredging of marinas, and \$16 million for new sewer plants in Salem County that would have promoted sprawl.

We were able to increase funding for parks from \$10 million to \$20 million.

The Governor has said he will restore other programs we feel are important, if we can come up with offsetting savings. The real test will come with next year's budget, since the current

estimated shortfall is up to \$6 billion.

Now let's consider the changes in the Legislature. Most strikingly, for the first time in many years we have an Environmental Committee in the Assembly whose chair and a majority of members have strong environmental backgrounds. Many of our bills, that in past years never even had a hearing, have come out of the Environment Committee. The Senate will be more of a challenge since there is 20-20 deadlock between the parties, but we believe that with careful maneuvering there is a chance for many environmental bills to move. We are attempting to forge a coalition between pro-environmental Democrats and Republicans to bring our legislation onto the floor.

We can still expect many challenges, because the special interests have money, power and influence in Trenton. However, for the first time in many years there is a positive framework for change. There are many good people in powerful positions, willing to support us. Club members will still need to help make the difference, applauding when the Governor and Legislature do the right thing, and blowing whistles (sending e-mails, making phone calls, writing letters to editors, organizing delegations, cultivating the media) when they do the wrong thing. Together we can—do it!

## Chapter seeks a Policy Director

Full-time position for a crafter and critic of State environmental legislation and regulations - concerned with open space protection, land use, solid waste, water supply, wastewater treatment, air pollution, other pollution abatement. Also some lobbying, and helping volunteers with local issues. Send credentials to Sunil Somalwar (Personnel Committee Chair), at address shown on the leader list (p. 12).

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# Sierra Club Highlands Committee Off to a Great Start

About 20 members attended the initial meeting of the Sierra Club Highlands Committee, chaired by Bill O'Hearn. Ross Kushner. (Pequannock River Coalition) and Jill H. (AMC) represented their organizations. Betsy Kohn and Ellen Pepin represented North & Northwest Groups. Dave Mattek drove up from Central Jersey. There was a good mix of seasoned veterans of past Highlands campaigns and new faces.

After a round of introductions, Bill asked the audience to identify threats to the Highlands and items promoting Highlands conservation. Two large flip-chart pages were filled. Time (1.5 hrs)

went by quickly, and a number of folks retired to a local pizza place with Bill to continue the conversation.

Bill ran a great meeting, supported by Tina Schvejda. A fine beginning!

There is now a "Sierra Highlands" unmoderated discussion list-serve for this Committee. The list is open to anyone with an interest in conservation of the Highlands. Anyone may subscribe by sending a blank email to NJ-Sierra-Highlands-subscribe@topica.com.

Next meeting is April 2, 7:30pm, Oakland Library. Bill O'Hearn's e-mail address is: William\_OHearn@juno.com

## WILD UTAH: America's Redrock Wilderness

NJWild!, Sierra Club Singles, and the Loantaka Group are co-hosting Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness on Monday, May 13 at Chatham Boro Library, located on Rte. 124 in Chatham. The program begins at 7pm and is free and open to the public.

Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness is a unique multi-media slideshow documenting citizen efforts to designate some public lands as Wilderness in southern Utah's spectacular canyon country and deserts. This 20 minute journey through redrock splendor invigorates and motivates viewers to participate in the movement to protect these unique lands. Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness was made possible through the generous donation of photos, music and words from concerned Utahns who wish to pass this heritage onto future generations, including a special reading by Pulitzer Prize winning author Wallace Stegner from his famous Wilderness Letter.

## Commissioner Campbell hires our Bill Wolfe

In March, Bill Wolfe, our Policy Director, moved office and changed boss. He is now Policy Advisor to the new DEP Commissioner. Bill has a professional land-use planning background, and worked for the DEP and the NJ Environmental Federation before joining the Sierra Club's Chapter staff in 1997, under our first Director, Tim Dillingham. He served as our Acting Director for the four months after Tim left us in 1998. His main job has been to critically examine proposed State legislation and regulations, and to work with legislators and State employees to improve environmental protection. He is admired for his ability to delve into the fine print. He also joined many land-use battles, including that over the Merrill Lynch site in Hopewell Twp, and that over the Meadowlands Mall. Also, he will be remembered with respect (if not admiration), for his forceful participation in debates setting Chapter policy on several contentious issues. We wish him every success.

# POPULATION ISSUES UPDATE

by Bonnie Tillery, Population Issues Coordinator

National/International: Editorials around the country, such as the one that appeared on February 6, 2002, in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, have criticized the President for appeasing anti-choice representatives such as Chris Smith (R-NJ, CD-4) who lobbied for nonpayment of the \$34 million in UNFPA funds authorized by Congress for family planning around the world. When 97% of the world's population increase will take place in developing nations, who already suffer unspeakable hardships, this funding is crucial. You can voice your concern by calling the White House at 202-456-1414. Let the President know you want this \$34 million released and that his 2003 budget needs to provide increased funding for

family planning rather than the \$0 he has currently proposed.

Local/State: The contraceptive coverage bills we worked for in the last session of the NJ legislature died at the end of the year. These bills would have required health plans to cover contraceptives if they also covered other medication/medical devices. Fortunately, Senator Diane Allen (R-7) and Assemblymen Reed Gusciora (D-15) and Neil Cohen (D-20) immediately reintroduced new legislation. Work is progressing on the bills and we will notify you later in the year about contacting your legislators to sign on as cosponsors.

If you would like to be more involved in population issues, please contact me at (phone) 609-259-6438, or e-mail me at btl44blt@aol.com.

## UNCLE SAM PAYS FOR MOTORIZED WRECKREATION IN NEW JERSEY

by Fred Akers, Conservation Chair of the South Jersey Group

Last year, the federal government provided New Jersey with \$814,000 for Recreational Trails Program projects with gas tax revenues distributed under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, or TEA-21. The Recreational Trails Program provides funds to the states to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational uses: hiking, bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, etc.

This Program requires that 40 percent of a state's funds in each fiscal year be apportioned for "diverse" recreational trail use (mixed motorized and/or non-motorized uses), 30 percent for motorized recreation, and 30 percent for non-motorized recreation. Unfortunately, the rules specify that if there are insufficient eligible motorized projects in a fiscal year, the state must obligate unused funds for motorized projects as they are developed. And if a state fails to obligate all its funds, then it will lose money in the following years.

Difficult to understand? Well, here in New Jersey we've had insufficient eligible motorized projects since the Program was reauthorized in 1998. There are currently only two legal motorized trail facilities, and these two areas just can't spend enough money, hard as they try. Motorized vehicles do so much damage to landscape that last year the New Jersey Off Road Vehicle Park (NJORV) in Chatsworth (with 3000 members) received \$39,000 from TEA-21 for "trail remediation and closure," and the Egg Harbor Township Police Athletic League (PAL) Ridge Avenue facility (with 200 members) needed and received \$25,000.

That still left \$180,000 unspent of the 30 percent motorized use allocation for 2001, plus some additional money from past years, so the Egg Harbor PAL was

granted an additional \$194,243 to purchase and develop a new motorized trail facility in the Betsy Scull area, a privately owned, undisturbed woods with exceptional habitat resource values, including several streams and significant wetlands, in the Elwood Wildlife Corridor and in the federally designated river corridor of the Scenic and Recreational Great Egg Harbor River.

In order to protect its lands from severe damage by renegade motorized trespassers, the NJ Department of Parks and Forestry has had the very good sense to prohibit all ATV use in our State parks and forests. But now, with pressure to capture New Jersey's fair share of Uncle Sam's tax dollars, Parks and Forestry is about to open State land to motorized recreation. And instead of relegating motorized users to already severely damaged sites like old quarries and sand pits (as is the case with the NJORV and PAL locations), the State is proposing the use of undisturbed, sensitive Green Acres lands in West Milford, and the Betsy Scull site in Egg Harbor Township.

So here we have a small minority of all public recreationists wanting to tear up nice virgin lands, and promoting the myth that, if they are given more scenic, legal places to ride, then there will be fewer law enforcement problems created by all the illegal riders. Incidentally, law enforcement is not among the permissible uses for TEA-21 funds.

The NJ Department of Parks and Forestry is currently developing a proposed policy on the lease of State land for motorized trails. Hopefully, by the time you read this, there will be an open period for comments, and you will be able to make your voice heard. Please contact me if you need addresses or other help in sending a message. The feds have led us into temptation. Will we be delivered from noisy, air-polluting, terrain-destroying motorized vehicles?



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## Guest Editorial: SPOT ZONING

by R. William Potter, a practicing attorney in Princeton, New Jersey

Recently the Princeton Regional Planning Board voted to approve, "in concept," an overlay ordinance to permit "market rate" housing for seniors—those over the age of 62, truly youthful seniors by modern standards—on land previously studied and declared unsuitable for high density use, because it is fragile, outlying, and best left as close to natural as the law allows.

The seniors who will move to these new projects on the Princeton Ridge or Mount Lucas Road are not objects of charity. This is "market rate" housing—it will cost whatever the market will bear. This overlay zone will be for people of a certain age who can afford costly homes on land that was previously studied and declared unsuitable for intensive development of any kind, whether for senior housing or anything else.

The practice of spot zoning has become a trend in New Jersey: known as an "overlay ordinance," it is better dubbed an "override ordinance" because it overrides the carefully-crafted zones established by law, pursuant to a community's master plan.

Why is this happening? Because of the classic response of local politicians to accommodate a pressure group that is perceived to have clout. Will local officials awaken to what they are doing or will they enact these override ordinances and leave it to the courts to strike them down?

All communities work best when they work together, and that's what the comprehensive planning process does; no single group should get a "veto" to override the public interest—or the zoning

ordinances enacted from a comprehensive Master Plan.

When a town council yields to a special interest and rezones land to allow a development project otherwise prohibited by the "underlying" zone, it ignores countless hours spent in devising a comprehensive plan for the community. The courts call that spot zoning and it's illegal because it violates one of the core principles of zoning.

This is the mandate that a town divide land into "zones" in accordance with a "comprehensive plan" for the entire community. Comprehensive planning in turn depends on months of hard work: Inventories of the land and waters. Studies of the "carrying capacity" of roads and sewers. Consultation with the entire community. Public hearings. It is a thoughtful process of "bottom up" planning leading to the land use policies which are then enshrined in the zoning code, as the finished product.

All that is discarded when the overlay ordinance arrives, literally to "override" the planning process with new zones tailored for specific developments on one or more sites. Hence the judicial pejorative "spot zoning." The overlay has become the favorite tool of elected officials bent on opening up some of the last and most fragile land to intensive housing "age-restricted" for senior citizens only, and not simply the low-income, but the wealthy, too.

Overlay ordinances should be rejected; they are spot zoning by another name.

*(The views expressed are Mr. Potter's; not those of his firm or clients).*

## Conservation Action needed to Save a Piece of Morris County

by Jeff Derwin, member of Friends of Pyramid Mountain

The Friends of Pyramid Mountain, a conservation group in Morris County, want to protect a 34-acre wetland property that sits directly between Pyramid Mountain Natural Historical Area (a Morris County Park) and the Butler Reservoir (a public drinking water supply).

Since May, 2001, the group has been making pleas to local and State agencies to protect this "ecological wonderland" which consists of streams, wetlands, forests, rare geological formations, wildlife, and hiking trails. The property abuts Pyramid Mountain Natural Historical Area and is a critical link in the NJ/NY trail system, which is a main reason why the Morris County Park Commission wants to see it annexed to the Park.

The Morris County Open Space Trust Fund property appears destined for devastation, since a developer is close to

receiving permits to build a housing development on it.

The New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the Morris Land Conservancy, the Morris County Park Commission, and the Boroughs of Kinnelon and Butler, in conjunction with the Friends of Pyramid Mountain, are now making a public appeal to help save the property from destruction.

An exciting website with photographs, maps, and other details has been created to help expand public awareness and promote a call to action, for support of this highlands conservation project named the Pyramid Mountain Park Extension. Please view it at <http://www.kinnelon.com> (click the Pyramid Mountain banner), or call 973-492-8048 for more information. Time is running out!

## Outings Report: REVIVAL OF THE ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

by Joyce Haddad, Outings Chair of the Chapter Singles Section

Last November 2001, the Sierra Singles Section, in conjunction with Dave Ogens of the Essex County Group and the Master Gardeners of Essex, led a "clean-up" of the Environmental Center in Roseland. Thirty volunteers, along with NJIT Water Watch students, cleared trails, chopped dead trees, cleared the children's jungle gym area, and removed much of the garbage that littered the site. In the process, an obstacle course, climbing apparatuses, a dinosaur fossil display, and many overgrown trails were uncovered. Coffee and donuts were donated by Starbucks and Dunkin Donuts.

One of the intentions of the clean up was to publicize the neglected Center's closure ten years ago, due to budget con-

straints. We hope to revive it to its former glory. In its heyday, this Center was used to teach school children about the environment and biology. Currently this site languishes without staff - although the County Parks Department maintains its buildings. Sadly, Essex County is the only county in New Jersey that doesn't have its own Environmental Center. School buses transport children all the way out to the Great Swamp in Morris County or Sandy Hook for field trips. Those Centers are presently functioning at overcapacity. We believe that with enough support our endeavors will be fruitful.

The Environmental Center, located on the southern edge of Hatfield Swamp, is uniquely positioned on the Passaic River surrounded by hardwood forest to the

## Chair's Message: SEVERE DROUGHT IN NEW JERSEY

by Tina Schvejda, Chapter Chair

New Jersey and the Mid-Atlantic States have been in the grip of a drought for several years. Hurricane Floyd gave us a "break" a few years ago, but the drought has continued. Precipitation in the state in October, November and December 2001—4.30 inches—was the lowest end-of-year total since records began in 1895.

NJ has received only 66% of normal precipitation in 2001. The dry conditions in January and February, 2002, did not help the problem.

These are extremely important issues and facts that face everyone who resides along the northeastern seaboard. The Mid-Atlantic region has been hit the hardest, and our most-densely populated state is in a critical position. There are too many people, without direction from state government, trying to use water as if there were still plenty to spare.

North Jersey receives its drinking water through surface percolation into lakes, streams and reservoirs. The Highlands region is the watershed for more than 3 million people. Land left in its natural state slows and filters water running into lakes, thus helping to insure the future health of this natural system. With increased building in the region, land lost to development and more impermeable surfaces with pavement and roads, water is lost to reservoirs.

According to the latest soil moisture deficit statistics from the Climate Prediction Center, northern New Jersey requires 5.47 inches of rainfall to end the current drought. Coastal New Jersey requires almost 10 inches of rainfall to end the drought that ranks in the top 5% driest mid-winter seasons on record. The long-term Palmer Drought Index rates the New Jersey soil moisture condition as moderate to severe drought.

Southern NJ obtains water from aquifers. People are drinking 30,000-year-old water from deep within the earth. Surface water quickly runs out to sea. With the entire building bonanza over the last couple of decades the ever demanding and increasing needs for water are rapidly dwindling fixed water supply.

The NJ Chapter of Sierra Club feel that the DEP needs to take a much closer, and broader, look at water supply issues in many of its permitting programs. It must do far better, especially in coastal zone areas where consumptive use and loss of recharge is a major long run, and in some places immediate, problem.

Due to continued dry weather and declining reservoir and stream flow levels, DEP Acting Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell expanded the existing regional drought warning to several more counties. "Water supplies are at alarmingly low levels for this time of year," said Campbell. "We need everyone to take common-sense steps to reduce water use and avoid water waste."

Bill Wolfe, NJ Chapter's Policy Director, stated, "Unless a drought emergency is declared by Governor McGreevey, the DEP's powers to manage the problem are limited, particularly DEP's ability to restrict water use."

Wolfe further suggested the following-

- 1) DEP should stop issuing new water allocation permits;
- 2) DEP should limit new well drilling permits to only those wells that replace existing wells that have gone dry;
- 3) DEP should review and limit any extension of existing water supply infra-

east and wetlands to the west. It provides a wonderful learning environment for students to study these three distinct ecosystems. We anticipate involving the local colleges and universities to study wildlife habitat and the environment. The site includes 23 acres and several structures. The main building, Garibaldi Hall, houses a Rutgers' Cooperative Extension office and has a large meeting hall, several smaller offices, a kitchen



structure/water lines

4) DEP needs to reconsider existing water allocation permits to prevent the permit holders from increasing their current actual water use to their permitted use without DEP approval;

5) DEP should consider the ecological and water quality impacts of inter-basin transfers of water during the emergency. DEP has already reduced minimum river/stream passing flows - if low flow conditions persist during warm temperatures, high nutrient and pollutant levels will create very bad ecological and water supply conditions;

6) DEP should work with major users to mandate water conservation,

7) DEP must better protect wetlands because they store huge amounts of water.

After the emergency is over, DEP should:

1) develop mandatory and enforceable water budgets for each watershed;

2) revise/update the 1994 Consumptive Use Report and implement its recommendations;

3) revise/update the 1996 Water Supply Master Plan and implement its recommendations;

4) develop a planning and permit review process for water line extensions similar to the current waste water infrastructure process;

5) develop and promulgate revised water allocation regulations,

6) develop a program that limits development and new water allocation permits and sewer line extensions (Treatment works Approval permits, or Water Quality Management Plan approvals) in deficit watersheds,

7) develop a program that mandates storm water recharge,

8) develop a program that mandates beneficial reuse of certain wastewaters in certain areas, especially in the coastal plain,

9) greatly limits golf course and other frivolous intensive uses,

10) ratchets down on the pollution dischargers above water supply intakes,

11) protects water supply watershed streams and reservoirs.

If we don't implement and enforce more stringent, stricter laws and permits in NJ, our State will be unable to provide residents with an adequate water supply for the rest of 2002 and into the future.

This article was written February, 2002, when we were experiencing a severe drought throughout most of the State. Perhaps by the time you read this commentary the situation will have gotten better.

For information on how to conserve water, go to <http://sierraactivist.org/> website or DEP's drought web site at <http://NJdrought.org> or call 1-800-4-ITS-DRY. The site also links to the USGS web page and that of the Delaware River Basin Commission.

and public bathrooms. The Singles Section uses the meeting hall for Movie Nights and other socials. There is a large garage where the canoes that the Sierra Club uses for their trips are housed. A few smaller structures are used for storage. The Master Gardeners recently rebuilt the greenhouse on the property that was financed through their fundraising and grant monies.

*(Continued on page 9)*





## STATE-WIDE WRAPUP

by Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director

*"It's not how well you farm the land but how well you farm the government."*

In 1935, New Jersey's first State Plan proposed to save 2 million acres of farmland. In 1998, Governor Whitman proposed to save half a million acres of farmland. So far in New Jersey we have only permanently protected approximately 150,000 acres of farmland.

Current farmland zoning practices are producing more houses than crops in our farm fields. When East Amwell and Readington changed from 2 acre to 6 acre residential zoning (a change that reduced the number of new building lots that could be put on a farm), the former Secretary of Agriculture, Art Brown, opposed the change, and the Farm Bureau joined with the NJ Builders Association in a lawsuit to try to stop the rezoning. The Vice President of the Farm Bureau who sued was just named the new Secretary of Agriculture.

When Governor Whitman obtained her open space and farmland legislation, the agricultural community won language in that legislation that requires basing the cost of buying (i.e. protecting) land on whatever zoning was in place in 1998. This year additional legislation was passed mandating that land acquisition values be based on whatever wastewater management planning rules were in place in 1998. This makes for a very confusing method of appraisals, and also makes the land more expensive. It's like trading in your 1998 car this year and getting the 1998 value of the car. Land should be appraised at fair market value. The net effect of these rigged valuations is to make the land more expensive: for a fixed appropriation of open space dollars, it means we save less land.

Another program that is supposed to help save farmland is the Farmland Assessment Program. Any property in New Jersey that is five acres or larger, and produces \$500 worth of income per year, can get a tax break. Such lands are assessed at only 5% of their market value. This tax break results in over \$250 million a year in revenue loss to municipalities alone. The program is used by many developers to bank land for years - until they are ready to build. 14 of the 18 largest farmers in New Jersey are developers or real estate speculators. In some counties half of all farmland is owned by developers and real estate speculators taking advantage of a Program that is supposed to protect farmers, but is instead used to protect developers. When they convert this land to development they pay virtually no penalty. Of the remaining farmers, 25% of those receiving Farmland Assessment are "gentlemen farmers" - estate owners selling wood or hay to neighbors.

Most people think that farms are benign to the environment. This may have been true 100 years ago, but today farms use a tremendous amount of energy, water and chemicals. Yet most environmental protection laws and regulations either exempt farms or permit self-regulation. For example, cranberry growers in the Pinelands who apply fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides are exempt from surface water quality standards. According to the USGS, nitrate levels in South Jersey wells are the highest in the country. Almost all those nitrates come from farms. The worst violator of clean water standards in New Jersey is a farm in Hunterdon County. There are no limits on the amount of groundwater that can be withdrawn for farm irrigation and this has led to the depletion of aquifers in many parts of

## The Myth of Farmland Protection in New Jersey: a Special Report

New Jersey. There are also special exemptions for the agricultural industry in New Jersey's Freshwater Wetlands Law, such as the one that allows destruction of 10 acres of wetlands per year to expand a cranberry operation.

The farm lobby is one of the most powerful in the State, due not only to its own power but to its alliances with the NJ Builders Association, the chemical lobby, realtors and other groups that have historic anti-environmental records. Earlier this year it worked with the chemical industry and the builders to pass legislation that prevents municipalities from having standards stricter than the DEP's when it comes to cleaning up farmland contaminated by historic pesticide use, such as arsenic. The DEP regulations were written by the agricultural

industry. The Farm Bureau is more pro-development even than the Builders Association. Many towns that try to plan and zone to save farmland have seen the wrath of the farm lobby. Harassment, intimidation and threats are all tactics that have been used to stop towns from downzoning. It opposed the State Plan the first time around; it opposed preservation in the Highlands; it opposed strengthening the watershed rules; and it opposed TDR legislation.

The Secretary of Agriculture is not picked by the Governor (with advice and consent of the Senate), but rather is appointed by the State Board of Agriculture. According to the New Jersey Law Journal, "this arrangement turns the New Jersey constitutional structure on its head." It's like the Chemical Industry Council appointing the DEP Commissioner. The Board of Agriculture also directs agricultural research at Cook College and has used its power to block environmental research on the impacts of farming.

The Sierra Club wants to protect farming in New Jersey. We desire to change the Farmland Assessment Program as other states have done so that only real farms qualify. (For example, in New York State you need 10 acres and \$5,000 worth of farming income to qualify.) When farmland goes to development there should be a stiff penalty, such as the imposition of full taxes for the previous 10 years, and with those moneys going to the Farmland Acquisition Program. We would like to see zoning densities that protect the viability of agriculture rather than promote development, such as the Agricultural Preservation zoning in the Pinelands. Another option, used by Maryland's Agriculture Protection Area, permits a property owner either to sell development rights or transfer development rights to a growth area. New Jersey desperately needs legislation to allow transfer of development rights. Farms and agri-business should have to comply with the same environmental protection rules and regulations that apply to everyone else, and enforcement should be by the DEP. We need a Secretary of Agriculture picked by the Governor (with the advice and consent of the Senate), who is answerable to the people rather than to the farm lobby. The Board of Agriculture should include representatives from consumer groups, environmental groups and farm workers. According to the US Department of Agriculture, we are losing farmland faster today than at any time in our State's history, and twice as rapidly as any other state. Unless we work to change the way we do business, the next generation of children will have to go to the mid-West to see a farm.



## EYE ON WASHINGTON

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



### BUSH ADMINISTRATION

The League of Conservation Voters released its 2001 Presidential Report Card, assigning President George W. Bush a D- for poor environmental performance during his first year in office. The 32-page report grades the administration on appointments (D), budget (D+), and initiatives (F) ranging from energy and climate change (F) to pollution and public health (D). The report card shows that corporate interests, and not the public interest, drive administration policy.

The environment was rarely mentioned in President Bush's first State of the Union address. The address, which came at the end of the President's first year in office, was focused on the war on terrorism.

In response to the address, the Sierra Club urged the President to match his commitment to safeguard our borders against terrorism with a renewed effort to protect our homeland—and the wild places that make it so special—against pollution, drilling and other development by the energy, mining, and logging industries.

The Bush Administration announced that it will no longer consider a business' record of environmental, tax or labor abuses when handing out federal contracts, overturning a rule put in place on former president Bill Clinton's last day in office. Bush's Office of Management and Budget, which reviews federal rules, has also singled out 12 other guidelines on environmental protection for change or abolishment.

### AGRICULTURE

Charles Schwab — whose net worth is estimated to be \$4 billion — doesn't have to foot the entire bill for his private duck club. He gets plenty of financial help in the pursuit of his sport. Last year, he and his family received \$564,000 in federal price supports for growing rice.

Despite having a real agricultural economy, New Jersey gets shafted when it comes to federal aid. A new study released last week shows that, over the past five years, New Jersey has netted only \$1 for every \$1,580 in federal farming subsidies doled out by Congress.

### AIR POLLUTION

The Bush Administration has given every indication that it wants to weaken an important law that forces dirty, coal-fired power plants to clean up their emissions. The prospect of regulatory rollback has prompted many utilities to snub a long-standing government push to install expensive clean-air upgrades to their old generating plants. Why bother when Washington may soon make the costly rules go away?

### ARCTIC REFUGE

President Bush claimed that America's workers support his controversial proposal to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to energy exploration. But conservation groups say many labor leaders oppose the plan, and the shareholders of oil giant BP are asking the company to carefully weigh the risks of drilling in the Refuge.

John Hovis, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America Union General President, had this to say: "The Bush-Cheney scheme to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and

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

to encourage oil and gas drilling in other sensitive areas of our country, is no solution. The large energy corporations who have crafted the Bush-Cheney plan are merely looking to cash in on their election 'investment' at the expense of the environment and consumers."

The Interior Department has concluded that oil drilling in the ANWR would not violate U.S. treaty obligations to protect polar bears, rejecting at least two draft reports by its main biological agency suggesting otherwise.

### BUDGET

The budget released by the Bush Administration - the nation's first deficit budget in four years - is meeting criticism from all corners, particularly from the environmental community. At a press conference, representatives from several conservation groups denounced the financial "shell game" employed by the administration to fund its priorities.

### ENERGY

With war in the oil-rich Middle East and memories of energy shortages last year, President Bush is offering a new budget that pushes development of more oil, gas and coal on public lands in the West.

A federal agency has found that allowing a company to drill eight natural gas wells on federal land adjacent to the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument and within it will have little environmental impact.

The Bush Administration is opening the red rock country near two of Utah's popular national parks to oil and gas drilling, over the objections of some park rangers in the Southwest and government scientists.

A proposal to search for oil in the Big Cypress National Preserve by detonating dynamite in 14,700 holes and drilling a 11,800-foot exploratory well has won initial approval from the National Park Service.

The Bush Administration appealed a federal court ruling that effectively halted new oil drilling off the California coast by requiring state officials to review any new exploration plans.

Because of a compromise between the Bush Administration and the President's brother Jeb, the Governor of Florida, the federal government will sell leases for petroleum drilling off Florida for the first time in more than a decade.

A dozen years have passed since the Exxon Valdez struck Bligh Reef and dumped 11 million gallons of North Slope crude into Prince William Sound, in Alaska. But new studies have found that oil still fouls some beaches while certain species continue to suffer and have yet to bounce back.

### ENRON

Vice President Dick Cheney said he would not give congressional investigators records from the Administration's energy policy development, inviting what legal experts say would be the highest profile court fight between Congress and an administration since Watergate.

Former Enron Chairman Kenneth Lay, a friend and backer of President Bush, gave the White House recommendations for appointment to a federal energy commission last spring. Bush eventually appointed two of the people on Enron's list.

President Bush and Vice President Cheney have said their refusal to give Congress information about the administration's contacts with energy industry executives was based on the executive branch's fundamental right to receive "unvarnished" advice from people outside the government. But two months

*(Continued on next page)*

ago, the Bush Administration authorized the release to Congress of thousands of e-mail communications by senior White House officials in the Clinton administration, including messages sent by outside advisers and senior aides to Vice President Al Gore.

Sixty-seven percent of Americans believe the Bush Administration is either hiding something or lying about its relationship with Enron Corp., up from 53% the week before, says a CBS-New York Times poll.

The public could soon learn how much influence Enron CEO Ken Lay and other power-company executives had in ghostwriting the Bush Administration's energy plan. After numerous attempts by Congress and others to find out how much influence polluting industries had in drafting the energy plan, the Sierra Club filed a suit against Vice President Cheney's Energy Task Force, which prepared the proposal.

#### EPA

A federal judge has temporarily halted a Bush Administration plan to reshuffle the office of the Environmental Protection Agency's hazardous waste ombudsman.

There has been a steep decline in environmental enforcement during President Bush's first year in office, according to figures released by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility.

The computer model the EPA uses to decide whether homes are dangerously contaminated with industrial solvent fumes seriously underestimated the risk in one Denver-area home and probably in hundreds of cases across the country.

The EPA has announced that the federal government will not regulate levels of dioxin in sewage sludge that is incinerated or placed in sludge landfills or containment ponds.

Anthrax may get ink, but every day 850,000 U.S. facilities use dangerous chemicals. More than 7 billion pounds of them end up in the environment.

#### FORESTS

The Bush Administration wants Congress to approve a plan for "charter forests," a new category of federal forest land that would be managed locally. Some Democrats and conservationists worry it's an attempt to circumvent environmental protections. They're already upset that the Bush administration is revising Clinton-era forest policies, including the "roadless rule" that protected more than 58 million acres from most logging and road construction.

The U.S. Forest Service sometimes uses federal funds provided under the National Fire Plan for non-fire related projects, finds a new report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Inspector General.

#### GENETIC ENGINEERING

In a victory for companies that develop genetically modified plants, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that seeds and seed-grown plants can be patented.

While the Nation's attention was occupied by war and terrorism, US scientists quietly conducted the world's first confined field test of a genetically modified insect.

#### JUDICIARY

In the first year of Bush's presidency, environmental protections have taken a back seat to industry concerns, according to attorneys who represent environmental groups in court. "Under this Administration the courts have become the forum of choice for rolling back environmental protections," said Earthjustice Executive Director Buck Parker.

Federal agencies have flouted a Gulf War-era law requiring most of their newly purchased vehicles to run on alternative fuels, environmental organizations charge in a lawsuit. The suit filed in San Francisco federal court accuses 18 federal agencies of failing to follow the 1992 Energy Policy Act, signed by then-President George Bush. The act was sup-

posed to reduce America's dependence on oil by encouraging use of other fuels, such as natural gas.

The nomination of a Pennsylvania district court judge by President. Bush to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit is being challenged by 27 national environmental and community groups. They claim that, as a district court judge, D. Brooks Smith handed down rulings that favored industry interests over environmental protection and public health.

#### MILITARY

After years of denying any link between illness and service in the Persian Gulf war, military officials said that veterans of the conflict were nearly twice as likely as other soldiers to suffer ALS, the fatal neurological illness known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

The U.S. Navy and the National Marine Fisheries Service have released a report acknowledging the role that the Navy's experimental sonar played in the deaths of 17 marine mammals in the Bahamas last year. The report is the agency's first official admission that sonar may contribute to whale beachings.

#### MINING

Federal regulators approved the largest railroad construction project in modern history, a 900-mile \$1.4 billion line to help move Wyoming coal to power plants in the East and Midwest.

The day after Christmas, officials of the U.S. Forest Service and the state of Montana approved a plan by Sterling Mining Co. to build Rock Creek mine. It took 14 years to win approval, but the battle is far from over. It's a battle worth fighting. Sterling would create a 500-acre industrial site in the midst of Montana's Cabinet Mountain Wilderness. Those who discover it, like Theodore Roosevelt more than a century ago, are awed by its scenic grandeur. This place was among the first 10 areas officially protected as wilderness by action of Congress.

Charging that new Bush Administration rules governing hard-rock mining on public lands will stick taxpayers with cleanup costs for toxic messes, environmentalists sued to block the regulations from going into effect.

The Bush Administration will lift a two-year moratorium on new mining claims on more than 1 million acres of federal lands in southern Oregon. The Clinton Administration ordered the temporary ban last year to foster a debate over a new national monument.

#### NUCLEAR

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has failed to adequately ensure that owners have enough money to safely own, operate and later decommission nuclear power plants, a Congressional review says.

Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham selected Nevada's Yucca Mountain, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, as the final resting place for tens of thousands of tons of nuclear waste.

National environmental, public interest, and safe energy organizations blasted Abraham's recommendation that Yucca Mountain be developed into the country's repository for high-level atomic waste. Citing intense earthquake and volcanic activity at the site, the risks of transporting the highly radioactive wastes cross-country, as well as the proposed dump's huge and still rising costs, the groups charged that Abraham's recommendation is based on politics, not science.

The Energy Department plans to ask permission to dispose of nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain before it has finished designing the repository, and it hopes to begin burying the waste long before it knows how to seal the tunnels, department officials said in testimony before an independent science advisory panel.

A panel of scientists says the Energy Department's plan is fraught with uncertainties. They say that, no matter where the waste is put, it will be impossible to avoid unexpected problems over the

more than 10,000 years the material will be highly radioactive.

#### PUBLIC LANDS

A federal judge Thursday upheld President Clinton's creation of six national monuments in Arizona, Colorado, Oregon and Washington, ruling they were valid exercises of a 95-year-old law.

Internet access to the U.S. Department of the Interior across the country, including e-mail and Web sites, was shut down for several months by a federal judge who said the action was needed to protect hundreds of millions of dollars in a government-run trust for Native Americans.

President Bush is said to be considering for an Interior post the executive director of the Cody, Wyoming, Chamber of Commerce, who is also a former aid to Dick Cheney and an outspoken opponent of Yellowstone's snowmobile ban.

A federal review of snowmobile use in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks has found little evidence to challenge a Clinton Administration decision to ban the machines because of their impact on the environment.

Wholesale killing of coyotes and mountain lions, and opening up protected areas to new power transmission lines, could now be allowed in Arizona's five recently created national monuments under a new policy quietly issued last month by Interior Secretary Gale Norton.

#### TOXICS

The Bush Administration is considering allowing data from human testing of toxic pesticides to be part of regulatory decisions, a step that would run counter to a Clinton Administration scientific advisory panel. Critics say it would violate the Nuremberg Code adopted after World War II.

#### WATER POLLUTION

According to the EPA, more than 1.2 trillion gallons of untreated sewage pours into waterways each year from aging sewer systems designed to overflow when it rains.

The Bush Administration weakened several rules designed to protect thousands of streams, swamps and other wetlands from destruction through the Clean Water Act, despite opposition to the changes from two of its own environmental agencies.

#### CONGRESS

##### ARCTIC REFUGE

If Congress approves drilling for oil and gas in the ANWR, it will be breaking with government practice of the last 35 years, which has limited when drilling may occur in refuges, the General Accounting Office has concluded.

As the Senate debates the patriotic merits of drilling for oil in Alaska's ANWR, a new report by BP PLC documents widespread operational problems at its giant oil field in neighboring Prudhoe Bay.

The Senate overwhelmingly opposed the latest attempt to drill in the ANWR, by a vote of 94-1. Offered by Minority

Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), the amendment was contained in the House-passed energy bill (minus the \$33 billion in energy subsidies) along with a moratorium on human cloning. The measure would have done nothing to aid consumers, was a threat to the environment, and offered false promises of national security. Senator George Allen (R-VA), cast the lone affirmative vote.

#### ENERGY

Government subsidies to oil, coal and nuclear power industries could double if the Senate passes the House energy bill (H.R. 4), according to a report released by the Green Scissors Campaign. "Running on Empty: How Environmentally Harmful Energy Subsidies Siphon Billions from Taxpayers" details new and existing subsidies to oil, coal, gas and nuclear power industries that would total \$62 billion over the next 10 years.

New wind farms installed across the United States in 2001 will produce enough electricity to power 475,000 average American households, according to a year end analysis by the American Wind Energy Association. It was a record year, but the ongoing Congressional battle over an economic stimulus package has stalled renewal of the wind production tax credit, stranding hundreds of millions of dollars in wind power investments in states like Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, and West Virginia.

#### NUCLEAR

The House passed H.R. 2983, a bill to reauthorize the Price-Anderson Act until 2017, by voice vote. The act limits the financial liability of nuclear power plant operators in the event of a major accident or terrorist attack.

#### PESTICIDES

A congressional committee has killed legislation seeking to protect public school children and staff from certain pesticides. The provision was backed by Democrats, the nation's largest teachers union and even a pesticide group, but it was opposed by Republicans and the National School Boards Association, wary of jurisdictional disputes and the possibility of costly, and unfunded, mandates.

#### TRADE

The House of Representatives voted to approve "Fast Track," H.R. 3005, by a vote of 215 to 214. Specifically, H.R. 3005 would allow trade deals to include provisions like Chapter 11 of the North American Free Trade Agreement. These conditions encourage "regulatory takings" claims by foreign companies, and threaten hard-won laws and regulations that protect citizens and natural resources. Additionally, the bill would do nothing to prevent countries from lowering their environmental standards to gain unfair trade advantages.

Voting NO for New Jersey (FOR the environment, against Fast Track): Andrews, Holt, LoBiondo, Menendez, Pallone, Pascrell, Payne, Rothman, Smith. Voting YES, against the environment: Ferguson, Frelinghuysen, Saxton. Did not vote: Roukema.

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## Northwest Jersey Group

(Sussex and Warren Counties, approximately)

Web site: <http://pepin.home.att.net>. We are also accessible from the NJ Chapter Web site.

### OFFICERS:

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

**Call to Action:** Northwest 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:

**Route 15 Widening:** from Wharton to its terminus at Rte. 206. The widening will not only disturb the central part of the highlands, but will lead to more sprawl development and more congestion. Anyone interested in helping please call Ellen Pepin.

**Highlands Protection:** A new Highlands Committee has been formed to seek protections for this valuable resource. If you are interested in helping please call Ellen Pepin.

### MEETING SCHEDULE:

Our general meetings take place on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month in Sparta. Meetings are at 8pm. Please call for the meeting place. The next general meetings will be:

**April 17:** Hamburg Mountain: Dennis Miranda will talk about the latest happenings concerning the IntraWest development on Hamburg Mt. He will also talk about the wildlife of the area.

**May 15:** Endangered Species: We will have a representative of the NJ Division of Fish Game and Wildlife who will give us a presentation on the endangered species of NJ.

**June 19:** The topic is TBA. Please call or go to our website for further information.

## Hunterton Group - Newly Forming!

(Hunterdon County, approximately)

### OFFICERS:

<b>Acting Chair:</b>	Ruth Prince	908-284-9103
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The Hunterdon County group has just formed, following a unanimous vote by the Chapter Executive Committee on November 10, 2001. Our meetings take place at 7pm on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month at the Flemington Public Library, 118 Main St at the corner of Maple Ave. and Main St, Flemington.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for:

April 17, May 15, June 19

Our group membership is currently concentrated in Raritan and Readington Townships, with some members from Clinton Township. In order for our group to better address all of Hunterdon County's issues, we request and encourage members from other Hunterdon County Townships to join us at our meetings. Please also feel free to email the acting chair, Ruth Prince, at princepho@sprintmail.com.

### LOCAL ISSUES:

The proposed expansion of Soleberg Airport in Readington Township, funded by the New Jersey Division of Aeronautics, is a critical issue for the County. While this privately owned airport currently occupies only 57 acres, the private owner's complete holdings are 726 acres. The owner has been attempting to expand since 1969. The acreage includes state-endangered grassland habitat - which supports state-endan-

## 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, Cp May, Cumbld, 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*

gered avian species, as well as wetlands and other environmentally sensitive elements. Readington Township has so far worked very hard to maintain its rural and historic character, and has been very aggressive in acquiring farmland and open space. The Township Committee has attempted to negotiate fairly with the owner, to acquire the property at fair market value and allow the continued use of the airport for recreational aircraft, under municipal control. The owner appears intent on runway expansion, which in the short term will invite business jets, larger aircraft and helicopters. In the long term, the acreage could be used for the many types of commercial development that accompany airport expansions. Note that both the LaGuardia and Morristown Airport sites are less than 700 acres.

Our Group's focus will be to encourage more balanced media coverage of this issue via press conferences and editorials, support and encouragement of the Readington Township Committee's eminent domain approach, community outreach, and participation in the public hearings. The Raritan Valley Group will be joining us in this important endeavor.

We continue to be involved in the Raritan Township proposed re-zoning of the Flemington Fairgrounds. The unique zoning designation being proposed could be used elsewhere in the Township to the advantage of developers. We support the Citizens for Parkland lawsuit against the Raritan Planning Board, and will continue to apply pressure to avoid further development and sprawl in our "hotbed of development" Township.

### TRAINING and OUTREACH:

We plan on membership drives to increase our effectiveness in the County. We will also pursue training from our more seasoned Chapter members to increase our effectiveness. We will be conducting some educational outreach in the warmer months, to include a workshop on sustainable and pesticide-free gardening and landscaping. We also hope to put together a stream cleanup with a watershed association in the county.

## North Jersey Group

(Northern 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

**Conservation Co-Chairs:** Tom Thompson 201-848-1080  
 etrans743@aol.com  
 and Alexandra Sola 201-229-9638

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

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

**Outings Chair:** Kerry Miller  
 ksmiller2@juno.com

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

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

**Highlands Committee:** Bill O'Hearn 973-962-0562  
 william\_ohearn@juno.com

Invitation for all to attend an award ceremony and hike for Bergen County Executive Pat Schuber.  
*Date: June 1, National Trails Day*  
*Place: Ramapo Reservation (by Scarlet Oak Pond)*  
*Time: 10:30 am*  
 Award and tree planting ceremony for various Bergen officials at 10:30 followed by a hike for all who attend. For more information, contact Tina Schvejda.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSERVATION MEETINGS:**  
 Held at 7:30 pm on the THIRD MONDAY of the month

at a location and time to be determined. Contact Betsy Kohn, Hugh Carola or Tom Thompson (see above) for more information.

### GENERAL MEETINGS:

For the convenience of members, general meetings are held twice a month in two different locations — on the SECOND THURSDAY at the Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Avenue in Englewood, 201-567-1265; and on the THIRD THURSDAY at the Oakland Public Library, Municipal Plaza in Oakland, 201-337-3742. The meetings begin at 7:30 pm. Programs and locations are indicated below.

**April 11:** (Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, Englewood): "Tropical Ecology: Rainforests of the Amazon and Costa Rica" - slide presentation by naturalist and hiker Peter Kukul, based on his experience in these regions. With special attention to the vegetation, wildlife (especially monkeys and birds), and problems of deforestation.

**April 18:** (Oakland Public Library): "Tropical Ecology: Rainforests of the Amazon and Costa Rica" (see above, Apr 11).

**May 9:** (Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, Englewood): "Campaign to Close Indian Point" - presentation by Kyle Rabin of the Hudson Riverkeeper about efforts to shut down the nuclear plant, pending a full review of its vulnerabilities to terrorist attacks, its security measures and evacuation plans. With some 20 million people located within a 50-mile radius of the plant, many New Jersey communities can play a key role in this campaign.

**May 16:** (Oakland Public Library): Program to be arranged.

**June 13:** (Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, Englewood): "Fixing Mass Transit in North Jersey (so folks will gladly leave their cars at home)" - a presentation by Ralph Braskett of the Committee for Better Transit about what realistically can be done to build a European-style integrated public transit system. With a review of the region's transportation history, public and private operators, decision-making, and future plans.

**June 20:** (Oakland Public Library): "Fluttering Gems of New Jersey," presented by Chris Williams of the North American Butterfly Association.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH CONSERVATION ISSUES AND POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS:

We are currently working to protect Sterling Forest, the Ramapo Watershed, the NJ Highlands, and the Meadowlands, and to keep commuter ferries and buses out of Palisades Interstate Park, and to save the Hackensack River's Van Buskirk Island as a passive park. We are also meeting with candidates for public office as part of Sierra Club's political endorsement process. If you would like to become more active and help with these efforts or with other issues, e.g., air or water quality, endangered species, transportation or environmental justice, please contact Betsy Kohn, Hugh Carola or Tom Thompson (see above).

**HIGHLANDS COMMITTEE:** If you are interested in protecting the NJ Highlands from inappropriate development, come to a Highlands Committee meeting. To learn more, please contact Bill O'Hearn, Highlands Committee Chair at 973-962-0562 or william\_ohearn@juno.com

**E-MAIL NOTICES:** If you would like to receive notices of meetings, hikes and issue alerts, send your e-mail address to BetsyKohn@aol.com. Please note: your e-mail address will not be shared with anyone else.

## Hudson-Meadowlands Group

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

### OFFICERS (Provisional):

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

**Vice Chair** Louise Taylor 201-224-3754

**& Membership:** l.g.taylor@erols.com

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

**Treasurer:** R. Jim Legge 201-876-1734  
 rjlegge@hotmail.com

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

**Programs Chair:** Joy Brown 201-886-8107

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

### GENERAL MEETINGS:

**April 22:** At St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church, Parish Center, 8th and Washington Sts., Hoboken, 7:30 pm. Topic to be announced.

**May 13:** At St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church, Parish Center, 8th and Washington Sts., Hoboken, 7:30 pm. Topic to be announced.

**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.

**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  
LJensen@montclairlaw.com

**Secretary:** Bob Wolff  
robert\_wolff@urscorp.com

**Envl. Justice:** Dawn Breeden 973-763-8968  
rossbreeden@verizon.net

**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, continuing to ensure that the Essex County Park and Open Space Trust Fund is implemented in a fair and consistent way, and addressing environmental justice issues.

**\*\*OPENINGS\*\*** The Group has openings for those interested in our Wetlands Campaign Committee and for those who interested in environmental justice (EJ) issues! 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 EJ or other environmental issues, 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.

**April 11:** Spring has sprung and one of its early harbingers, bees, are busy harvesting pollen and nectar from early flowers. Join Joe Lelinho to hear about these gentle, hard working little creatures. Joe will bring an active hive whose queen will be laying eggs and newborn bees will be emerging from their cells daily.

**May 23:** Tour Montclair's Presby Memorial Iris Gardens at the height of their blooming season. This unique display garden was established in 1927 to honor Frank H. Presby, one of the country's leading horticulturists and a founder of the American Iris Society. Presby features a collection of approximately 6 species and over 2,000 varieties of world-famous irises, some dating back to the 1500's. A docent led tour at 6:30 pm will enlighten you to the diversity of the elegant and playful rhizome, the iris. Please note the different date and time for this month's General Meeting.

**June 13:** Farmland: Over the past 40 years, New Jersey has lost thousands of acres of farmland to industrial, commercial and residential development. This rapid development has brought former urban/suburban dwellers to communities where land is in active agricultural production creating a crisis to conserve the agricultural land base. Join Gregory Romano, from the State's Department of Agriculture, Farmland Preservation, in a dialogue of how to support the agricultural industry for which New Jersey was nicknamed.

**Loantaka Group**

(Morris and Union Counties, approximately)

web site: [www.enviroweb.org/njsierra/loantaka](http://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@comcast.net

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

**Publicity Chair:** Janice La Gala 973-895-2143  
jlagala@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  
wrobc@intac.com

The Loantaka Group Officers welcome the chance to meet you and to introduce ourselves at one of our general meetings. Please see the meeting schedule below and join us!

We have some open positions on our Executive Committee. If you are interested in becoming more active, please contact Paul Sanderson. Members are always welcome to attend an Executive Committee meeting.

To join our mailing list, send a blank email to: [Loantaka-Group-Announcements-subscribe@topica.com](mailto: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. You are invited to join us.

**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

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

**March 13:** National Outings: 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 that enjoys seeing photographs that someone else has taken on their travels? Whichever you may be, come out for a scenic and informative slide presentation that Peter Weckesser has compiled from the 12-plus National Sierra Club Backpack and Service Outings that he has participated in over the years.

**April 10:** Watershed Protection: 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 effects the environment.

**May 8:** To be announced. Please refer to the website.

**June 12:** Meet Senator Bagger: Our very special guest will be Senator Richard Bagger. He was elected to the NJ State Senate in November 2001. During his 10-year tenure in the Assembly over 121 bills of which he was the prime Assembly sponsor became law, including measures concerning energy policy, open space preservation, and state budget. Senator Bagger is concerned with environmental issues and will share his experiences with us and answer questions.

There are no meetings in July or August. Enjoy the summer and we will see you in September!

**Central Jersey Group**

(Mercer County, parts of Somerset and Middlesex)

web site: [www.sierraactivist.org/getbusy](http://www.sierraactivist.org/getbusy)

**OFFICERS:**

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

**Vice Chair:** Temporary Vacancy

**Conservation Chair:** Laura Lynch 609-882-4642  
llynch@mail.med.upenn.edu

**Membership Chair:** Corinne Egner  
conskayakr@aol.com

**Programs:** Don Griffin  
dgriffin@dvic.com

Ken Mayberg  
kmayberg@washington.trenton.k12.nj.us

**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:** Pat Sayles 609-737-3753  
plsayles@aol.com

**Legal Issues:** Ed Pfeiffer 609-581-1600  
ECPFEIFFER@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, many more.

**DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS:** North on Route 206 to just beyond Princeton Airport. Turn right (or east) at traffic light which is the intersection with Route 518. 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:**

**April 10:** Thelon River Sanctuary: Join us as we canoe the Thelon River Sanctuary in Canada's Northwest Territories. Kevin McCarthy will lead us on a slide show exploration of this vast wilderness. Enjoy the adventure, wildlife, geography and historic sites of this remote Arctic River.

**May 8:** "Living with Black Bears in New Jersey" - a slide presentation by Steve Ember of the Bear Education and Resource (BEAR) Group about the current bear situation, dos and don'ts when encountering a bear, and how we can peacefully coexist with bears. There was a move to hunt the black bear in New Jersey until this dedicated group, and many other citizens put pressure on Former Governor Whitman to declare a one -year moratorium on the hunting of black bears. There is no charge for this program and the public is cordially invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

**June 12:** Appalachian Trail Program: Experience the Appalachian Trail (AT) through the slides of longtime hiker Don Griffin as he explains the project to improve the AT and get it away from main roads in certain sections. Learn tips for hiking the AT through New Jersey as well as other sections.

**EARTH DAY EVENTS:**

Join in the effort to improve Cadwalader Park in Trenton. This extraordinary park, designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, is about to celebrate its 100th birthday on May 25 with a huge festival and we're helping with the facelift! Volunteers are needed on Saturday, April 13 and Saturday, April 27 from 9am to 2pm to help with tree planting, weeding, painting and more. Please dress comfortably, bring along work gloves and water to participate! Hand tools, such as small shovels and troughs are also needed if you have them. Groups will meet near Ellarslie Museum on Parkside Avenue, Trenton. Check our website for detailed directions and times: [www.english.upenn.edu/~llynch/sierra](http://www.english.upenn.edu/~llynch/sierra)

**WHALE WATCHING TRIP TO CAPE MAY!**

Plans are underway to organize a whale-watching excursion on the popular Cape May Whalewatcher. Last year, the group had a great time so we are planning a repeat trip on June 2. See our website for registration and trip times. Send an e-mail to our membership chairwoman Corinne if you want to attend at [conskayakr@aol.com](mailto:conskayakr@aol.com)

*Sierra Club NJ Enjoy it...Protect It T-shirts.*  
All cotton t-shirts printed in earth tones are available while supplies last! The shirts were designed by wildlife artist Bea Bork and feature a bold design with a black bear, American Kestrel, and Blue Heron. Please specify size: s/m/l/x-large. Please send \$10.00 plus \$2.50 for postage and handling to: Sierra Club-Central Jersey Group PO Box 392 Rocky Hill, NJ 08553. Include name, address and phone number please!

(Continued on page 8)



## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

### Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties, approximately)

This Group is reorganizing itself so that new members and leaders are very welcome.

#### OFFICERS:

**Acting Group Chair:** Steve Ember 732-926-8964  
sehiker@yahoo.com

**Group Vice-Chair:** OPEN POSITION

**Conservation Co-Chairs:** Debbie Cohen  
dabblerdeb@aol.com  
Kathy Haskell  
kmhaske5@aol.com

**Political Chair:** Dennis Anderson  
dennisaza@aol.com

**Treasurer:** Steven Zawid  
steven.e.zawid@intel.com

**Programs Chair:** Steve Ember  
sehiker@yahoo.com

**Membership Chair:** Blair Weig  
gverne@bellatlantic.net

**Secretary:** OPEN POSITION

**Publicity Co-Chairs:** Kristy Thronson  
kthronson@earthlink.net  
Michael Patton  
mikepatton@att.com

**ISSUES:** (1) Coordinating efforts with the Hunderton County Group in opposing the extensive Solberg Airport Expansion in rural Hunderton County. Implementation of these plans will lead to noise, fuel and light pollution, increased traffic and adverse impacts on residential home values.

(2) Fighting development along streams, wetlands, flood plains, and steep slopes to protect threatened and endangered species in Somerset and Middlesex Counties. Stop developers from buying sub-standard lots and pushing through permits and variances to construct new homes.

(3) Continuing to monitor the environmental/health impact of the US National Stockpile Center in Hillsborough, which contains the largest depository of mercury in the nation. Assuring proper containment for existing mercury while lobbying for removal of mercury to another more suitable site.

(4) Stopping the Green Brook Flood Control Project. Besides wasting enormous amounts of taxpayer funds, this project will eliminate 100 acres of wetlands, build miles of tall unsightly levees, and increase development pressure in the area where people are now hesitant to build.

**Openings:** The newly re-organized Raritan Valley Group welcomes new members and activists. Currently, the positions of Group Chair, Vice Chair & 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.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** Held at 7pm, on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month, at the Somerset County Library on 1 Vogt Drive in Bridgewater. All Sierra Club members are invited to attend.

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

**April 9:** The Amazon: Ted Settle will speak about his boat trips down the Amazon River with the NY Botanical Society. He will also present a video that he created and narrated which depicts aspects of the natural world as well as activities of the indigenous people.

**May 14:** Sierra Club Basics: Lori Herpen of the Sierra Club will speak and show a video about the Sierra Club - Who We Are - What We Do! Everyone is urged to participate and share their stories and viewpoints because we are a member/volunteer driven organization.

**June 11:** Benefits of a Four-day Workweek: Dan Aronson, Professor of Economics and Environmental Science at Raritan Valley Community College, will be speaking about the environmental benefits of reducing the work week, including reduced emissions, fuel consumption and road congestion.

#### BALLOT FOR RARITAN VALLEY GROUP OFFICERS (EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)

Please vote for up to six candidates, and return the ballot by May 30 to: Raritan Group Ballot, c/o Bonnie Tillery (Chapter Secretary), 389 Sawmill Rd, Hamilton NJ 08620.

Steve Ember       Kristy Thronson  
 Debbie Cohen       Michael Patton  
 Kathy Haskell       Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Steven Zawid       Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

(The second column of boxes is for second members of family memberships.)

### 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  
77 Church St., Fair Haven, NJ 07704

**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)

**Political Chair:** Laura Bagwell 732-741-8678  
lbagwell@rcn.com

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

**Membership:** George Newsome (see above)

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

#### 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.

**April 22:** Geronimo Country: Arizona, the Grand Canyon State, has served as a crossroads where many different cultures and traditions have met and combined into a unique and colorful history, and present. From the 21 Indian tribes who own more than a quarter of the state's land, to the animal inhabitants (such as elk, coyote, bighorn sheep, mule deer and bald eagle) that roam the publicly owned lands, this state continues to play a lasting role in our country's ongoing history. Join us as group member Dennis Anderson shares his slides and recollections of his travels and years living in Southern Arizona.

**May 20:** Spring Green Night: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN SCHEDULE—THIS IS THE THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH!!! Here is your chance to do something positive for the environment. We will present current environmental issues—you will write letters to elected officials and others. We supply the pens, paper, and stamps!

**June 24:** Let It Burn???: Should all forest fires be extinguished? Or do fires serve a natural purpose in forest ecology? Join us in learning what role fire plays in the forests of New Jersey and how it can be managed in such a densely populated state (no, we don't "let it burn" here!). Our speaker is Steve Maurer, Assistant State Fire Warden with the Bureau of Forest Fire Management, NJDEP. He will give us an overview of forest fire management practices in NJ, and may even share some tales of his adventures fighting fires, both here and out West.

#### SPECIAL EVENT:

**June 8: Environmental Service Program:** The Red Bank Environmental Commission has received a matching grant from the NJDEP to create a nature trail on a vacant lot on the river, creating public access to the river. The grant only covers the cost of the design work in this year's phase, and volunteers are needed to help implement the design. Volunteers will clear shrub and non-native plants, and prepare a trail approximately 100 feet long. The lot is located at 100 Locust Avenue, off Shrewsbury Avenue, in Red Bank. Volunteers are requested to bring work gloves, rakes, shovels, clippers and other digging implements, if they can. If you would like to help, please RSVP to Marty Judd, at 732/957-1493, or mjudd@worldnet.att.net, no later than Thursday, June 6.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

The Group's Executive Committee and Conservation Committee 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 Committee / Business Meeting held the SECOND THURSDAY of each month in the Toms River area. For more information, please call Michelle Dillon, 732-341-7699.

### West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

Web site: [users.snip.net/~ginacee/home.htm](http://users.snip.net/~ginacee/home.htm)

#### OFFICERS:

**Group Chair:** Gina Carola 856-848-8831  
ginacee@snip.net

**Vice-Chair:** (vacant: volunteer needed)

**Secretary:** Karen Zbikowski 856-667-8853

**Treasurer:** Trish Clements 856-768-5639  
psclcm@aol.com

**Publicity Chair:** Bud Kaliss 856-428-8071  
budmilmilbud@yahoo.com

**Political Chair:** Marie Hageman 856-589-0606  
(vacant: volunteer needed)

**Pinelands Rep:** (vacant: volunteer needed)

**Conservation Chair:** Cathy Wisel 856-596-2771

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

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

**Programs Chair:** Diane Gruszewski  
skil@snip.net

**Outings Chair:** (vacant: volunteer needed)

**Inner City Outings:** Jennifer Grenier 856-582-5512  
and Maxine Vogt 856-779-9156

**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.

**April 9:** Population Issues: The world population is 6.2 billion and growing. How does this affect us here in New Jersey and what can we do about it? Learn more about this Sierra Club major priority campaign of population stabilization/reduction of excessive consumption. Presented by Bonnie Tillery, Population Coordinator, NJ Chapter Sierra Club.

**May 14:** "Voices of the Earth": Diane McColley, a professor of English at Rutgers University's Camden campus, studies ecological issues in literature. In a talk titled "Voices of Earth: 1600-2002," McColley will explore the way that authors and poets have written about the environment and ecological issues over time.

**June 11:** To be announced. Check the web-site.

**July and August:** No meetings. Please join us on an outing.

#### 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 Maxine Vogt (above) or Jennifer Grenier (above) to help.

### South Jersey Group

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

#### 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

**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

Environmental Education Forum at Stockton College on Saturday, April 13: Club members are welcome to attend, without charge, a day-long series of workshops on topics ranging from the Pine Barrens to Global Warming. Booths will offer representatives of Water Watch, NJ PIRG, Clean OceanAction, and the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. Contact: Scott Ackerman: envledforum@yahoo.com

**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 your e-mail address to dick.colby@stockton.edu and be put on a distribution list for notices of each meeting.

**April 15:** What to do about ATVs: Fred Akers, our Conservation Chair, will lead a discussion of Club, State, and regional governmental policies toward permitting the use of these noisy, polluting, and terrain disrupting abominations.



**May 18 (Saturday!):** Horsehoe Crabs and the Birds which Feed on Them: An outing somewhere on the Delaware Bayshore, led by Mike D'Amico. Call Julie Akers for final details.

**June 17 (early start: 6pm!):** Park Ramble: The north end of the Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor, followed by a picnic potluck. Also organized by those remarkable Akers folk.

**ACTIVITIES:**

Members in Cape May County should please pay attention to frequent developments in the campaign to oppose extension of sewer lines (and thus permission to develop!) in Cape May County. 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 cellphone 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@comcast.net
- Outings Chair:** Joyce Haddad  
jkhaddad@juno.com
- Conservation Chair:** Bob Johnson (see above)
- Treasurer:** Joyce White  
joyce00201@yahoo.com
- Webpage designer:** David Szalay  
dszalay@home.com
- Social Chair:** Kathy Holusha  
Kathleen.Holusha@pfizer.com
- Programs:** Open position
- Publicity:** Lynn Forrest  
lvf77@msn.com

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. Special thanks to Patti Lynch for activities too numerous to list.

Open postions: Volunteers needed for the positions of outings leaders, secretary, membership 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:** (Each is followed by a PLANING/ExCom MEETING.) Casual pizza gathering and introduction to club issues and activities: SECOND MONDAY of each month at 6:30 pm, latecomers welcome. Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St., Chatham (Main Street is Route 124.) Location may change in June.

**Guest speakers at most meetings**—please join the listserver or call 973-364-7573, option 3 for details. For directions, please see our webpage or call the library at 973-635-0603.

**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.

Also on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month at 7pm: Join us for dinner in Montclair. Restaurant to be announced. R.S.V.P is required to jkhaddad@juno.com or (973) 364-7573. Option # 4 There will be a \$3.00 extra charge for nonmembers.

**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. There will be a \$3.00 charge for nonmembers at hikes.

**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.

**NEW ZEALAND - AUSTRALIA TOURS**

Walking, Wildlife, Garden.  
Small escorted groups or individual custom itineraries.

**PACIFIC PATHWAYS**  
**(650) 595-2090**  
[www.pacificpathways.com](http://www.pacificpathways.com)

**Conserve Wilderness in 2002**

by Bart Semcer, former Chapter Biodiversity Issues Coordinator, now on National Sierra Club staff

Across the country, winter has had wildlife in its grip. In the Northern Rockies, grizzlies were in hibernation and bison were at lower elevations in search of food. In the Southwest, bald eagles made themselves comfortable for the season. Up in the Northern Forest and Pacific Northwest, lynx made use of their snowshoe-like feet. Even in the dark and cold that bridges the years, the wilderness is alive.

Here in Washington D.C., bureaucrats and elected officials have been making plans for the American wilderness—plans that include increased logging, oil drilling, and opening up the last of our remote country to motorized vehicles. They are making plans to tame the wilderness, to rob our children of their outdoor heritage, to strip our nation of its natural wealth. This cannot be allowed to happen.

That is why I am writing to encourage you to support what I believe is one of the most important conservation groups today: ECOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE.

ECO-RECON was born from an intense passion for wilderness, individual freedom, and conscious action. It is the sweat, blood and guts of protecting our planet and its beings.

ECO-RECON was founded in March 2001 in Bozeman, Montana. Since then it has helped organizations, such as the Sierra Club, monitor snowmobile trespass in Wilderness Areas, documented damages to the backcountry caused by motorized recreation, conducted road-kill studies, recorded illegal salt lick hunting sites and taken part in efforts to document grizzly bears in threatened wildlands.

ECO-RECON developed as a service project for Voyager Outward Bound to monitor motorized recreation damage on the Deer-Lodge National Forest. It has established a program to train conservation activists in wilderness living skills so they can conduct their own reconnaissance work and compile on-site information for use in lawsuits, administrative appeals and media campaigns.

**REVIVAL OF THE ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER**

*(Continued from page 3)*

Dave Ogens, Essex County's Outings Chair, and Ron Pate, a hike leader, have been leading hikes and canoe trips in this unique wetland habitat for several years. This is the last pristine, natural area in Essex County. It is home to many migratory birds, the endangered bog turtle, and other wildlife not easily found in crowded Essex County. Our vision is to restore this Center as a gateway to the natural world of rivers, wetlands and forests - for school children and adults alike—to learn and explore. Hiking or canoeing in these quiet peaceful wetlands and

**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
<b>INTRODUCTORY</b>	<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

**4000**

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**Sierra Club**

FOUNDED 1892

**P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO, 80322-2968**

The intelligence gathered by ECO-RECON has been invaluable in helping to build the case that, despite what politicians, bureaucrats and industry representatives say, motorized recreation is damaging to the land, and the traditional multiple-use management scheme for our national forests and areas administered by the BLM is in conflict with the ecological integrity of our nation.

That is why I encourage you to support ECO-RECON'S work in any way you can.

ECO-RECON is led by Director and founder Tom Arnold. Tom spent four years as a Marine with the 1st Recon Company, where he was trained in information gathering and observation, amphibious and ground backcountry travel, and land/water navigation. He conducted reconnaissance missions in seven countries in climates ranging from tropical jungles to the deserts of the Middle East. Tom is an experienced wilderness traveler, information gatherer, adventure racer and triathlete.

Tom is aided by Scott Anderson, a wilderness educator and activist who, over the last six years, has worked all over the U.S. for a diverse set of organizations. He is a climbing trainer for the Ruckus Society and has worked with the Rainforest Action Coalition and Student Environmental Action Coalition. In his spare time he works as a volunteer at wildlife rehabilitation centers.

Tom and Scott are joined in their work by Moonshine, a certified therapy service dog.

ECO-RECON is working hard to gather the on-the-ground information needed to help conservation campaigns prevail in the courts of law and public opinion. Today, we need them in the field more than ever.

Please consider supporting ECO-RECON'S important work in 2002 and please forward this message to your conservation minded friends.

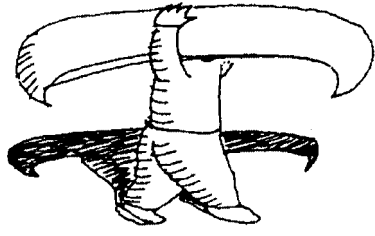
CONTACT ECO-RECON at  
P.O. Box 6593  
Bozeman, MT 59771  
406-222-2913  
eco\_recon@hotmail.com

along the river is a healing balm in hectic, troubled times. Although considerable progress has been made, there is much more to be done. Future clean ups will include renovation of the interpretive trails and swamp boardwalk, and establishing canoe ramps. The county has been cooperative and supportive of all our efforts and we are confident that they will continue to encourage us. At the moment, however, it is up to us to raise the money for all these improvements. We hope that,

*(Continued on page 12)*

# 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:** Steve Ember (see below)

**South Jersey:** Tom Boghosian 609-272-9005 (H)  
3722 Lehigh Ct., Mays Landing, NJ 08330

**West Jersey:** Dan Procida 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-ICCO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd. Warren, NJ 07059

**Chapter Outings Chair:** Steve Ember  
(sehiker@yahoo.com) 732-926-8964 (H)  
511 Grandview Street, Middlesex, NJ 08846

**Outing Leaders:** Please send July-September write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before April 30. 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 July-September trip write-ups by May 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 day-pack. 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.

## APRIL

**APR 7 (Sun) Singles Hike and Clean-up at Eagle Rock Reservation.** We will hike 3-4 miles at a moderate pace and clean up as we go. Bring water and snacks, wear hiking boots. Lunch to follow at a local restaurant to be announced at the hike. Rain cancels. Meet before 10:00 AM at the Highlawn Pavilion Parking lot off Eagle Rock Avenue in West Orange. Take Route 280 to Prospect Avenue (Exit 8B). Go north, right turn onto Eagle Rock Avenue, left turn into reservation. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Work gloves will be provided. Leader: Ron Pate (973) 364-7573 option #2 (E)

**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, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

**APR 7 (Sun) Singles Hike at Wells Mills Park.** 7 miles at a moderate pace. Hike marked hilly trails with spectacular views of Atlantic white cedar trees. No pets/children. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate Singles. Meet 9 AM at Hilton Hotel, Route 70 Cherry Hill, rear parking lot or meet at 10:00 AM in parking lot of park, on Route 532, 3 miles east off Route 72 Waretown, Ocean Twp. Ocean Co. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**APR 14 (Sun) Hike at Hatfield Swamp Natural Area in West Essex Park.** 6 miles at a moderate pace. Explore marshes, forested wetlands and the Passaic River along the Passaic River flood area. Children 9 years or older and dogs are welcome. Bring binoculars, water and snacks. This is a swamp so it may be slightly muddy. Meet at 10 AM at the Master Gardeners Extension on Eagle Rock Ave in Roseland, 1/2 mile west of the Eisenhower Pkwy and Eagle Rock Ave. Rain cancels. Leader: David Ogens (973) 226-7107 (E)

**APR 14 (Sun) Fourteenth Anniversary Hike in Harriman State Park.** This event is my fourteenth anniversary of leading outings for Sierra Club. We will hike eight miles at a moderate pace along various trails. Highlights include several viewpoints and beautiful Pine Meadow Lake. Hiking boots are recommended. Meet BY 10 AM at the Visitors Center on Seven Lakes Drive. Drive north on the Garden State Parkway (or Route 287 North) and take the Route 17 exit. Proceed north on Route 17 into New York. Immediately after the town of Sloatsburg, turn right on Seven Lakes Drive. The Visitors Center is less than two miles up Seven Lakes Drive. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

**APR 14 (Sun) Singles Seashore Boardwalk Hike.** 7 miles easy pace. Hike the boardwalks of Bradley Beach, Avon and Belmar with spectacular views of the empty beach, sand dunes and ocean. View the beautiful Victorian homes along the way. We will have lunch at one of the many eateries in town. No children/pets. Meet by 8:30 AM at Hilton Hotel, Route 70 Cherry Hill, rear parking lot to car pool/caravan or meet at 10:00 AM at the Gazebo at the Great Auditorium, Main St. Ocean Grove, NJ. Additional info from leaders. Leaders: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccnj.net or Nancy Hazelgrove 732-292-3102 indydunes@usamailbox.com (W)

**APR 19-21 (Fri-Sat) Singles Whitewater Rafting.** Whitewater raft the Leigh River with class III rapids. Sunday hike, bike or cave. Reservations must be in by April 6. Camp in Hickory Run SP or stay in local motels. Call leader to reserve space and for additional info. Meet by 7 AM at Hilton Hotel rear parking lot to car pool/caravan to site or meet in Jim Thorpe, PA. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-697-3870 eve pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**APR 20 (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. Please register after April 1, 2002. Leader: Kerry Miller. E-mail: ksmiller2@juno.com (N)

**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. Take Route 9W to Piermont NY. 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)

**APR 21 (Sun) Earth Day - Singles Hike and Clean-up at South Mountain Reservation.** We will hike 4-5 miles at a moderate pace. Enjoy beautiful views of NYC and a 25 foot waterfall! Bring water and snacks, wear hiking boots. Lunch to follow at a local restaurant to be announced at the hike. Take Route 280 to Pleasant Valley Way South. Go 3 miles into the reservation. Meet before 10:00 AM in the Tulip Springs parking lot on your left just off Cherry Lane that runs between Northfield Avenue and South Orange Avenue in South Orange. Rain cancels. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Work gloves will be provided. Leader: Ron Pate (973) 364-7573 option #2 (E)

**APR 21 (Sun) Thompson Park/Brookdale Secret Hike.** Join us on a moderate 6 mile hike that follows part of the perimeter of the Swimming River Reservoir. Bring a drink and snack. Hiking shoes preferred. Take GSP to Exit 109. Head west on Monmouth County Rt. 520 approx. 2 miles to Brookdale Community College. Make first right and proceed to parking area #1. Meet in the back right corner at 9 AM. Bad weather cancels. Confirmation/questions please call. Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718, or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

**APR 27 (Sat) Social Hike in Garrett Mountain Reservation.** This is a singles-oriented activity; however, anyone who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles of rolling hills & rocky terrain at a moderate pace. Highlights include the view of New York & historic Lambert Castle. Hiking boots are preferred and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & 2 quarts of water. Clothing should be non-cotton. Meet before 10:30 AM at the parking lot of Lambert Castle. Take Garden State Parkway North to Exit 153B (left). Proceed about 1 mile on Route 3/46, & take exit for Valley Road on right. Make right onto Valley Road & drive about 2 miles until signs for Lambert Castle and make left onto driveway. Follow to Castle parking lot. Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce White at (908) 272-4478 or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (E)

**APR 27 (Sat) Singles Flatwater Kayak Training.** Learn how to handle a flatwater kayak or improve your skills, great for beginners. Call leader to reserve space. After lake training we will do the Wading River. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after trip. No pets/children. Meet by 8:30 AM at Bel-Haven Canoes on Route 542, Atl Co., 12 miles E. of Hammonton. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-697-3870 eve pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**APR 27 (Sat) Singles Moonlight Hike and Campfire.** 6 miles moderate pace. Hike the Pines under the Pink Moon and return to a campfire. Overnight camping available. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Atsion Lake, Burl. Co. From Route 206 take Atsion Rd. west 2 miles, go past Goshen Pond Group site sign, take next road on left, look for OCSJ follow dirt road to open field. Meet by 7:30 PM. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-697-3870 eve pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**APR 28 (Sun) Singles Hike Hartshorne Woods Park.** 6 miles moderate pace. We will hike a trail with hills and great view of Navesink River. Good physical condition and proper footwear recommended. Bring lunch and water with you. Meet by 8 AM in rear parking lot Hilton Hotel, on Route 70 Cherry Hill to car pool/caravan or meet at 10 AM at Buttermilk Valley Trailhead, Navesink Ave. off Route 36, Middletown NJ, Mon. Co. Leaders: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccnj.net or Michelle Pillar/Ray Bradford 732-780-5661 (W)

**APR 28 (Sun) Social Hike in Harriman State Park.** This is a singles-oriented activity; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike seven miles at a moderate pace partially on the Appalachian Trail. Highlights include excellent views and the famous Lemon Squeezer. Hiking boots are recommended. Meet BY 10 AM at the Lake Tiorati Circle on Seven Lakes Drive. Drive north on the Garden State Parkway (or Route 287 North) and take the Route 17 exit. Proceed north on Route 17 into New York. Immediately after the town of Sloatsburg, turn right on Seven Lakes Drive. The Lake Tiorati Circle is about eleven miles up Seven Lakes Drive. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

## MAY

**MAY 3-5 (Fri-Sun) Singles Hike Lake Placid, NY.** We will hike a mountain in the High Peaks Area, a 4000 foot mountain peak. Group size determines peak. We will stay in a campground or Hostel. Boots and good physical condition required. Camp Friday and/or Saturday nights. Call leader for meeting location, additional info, and directions. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-697-3870 eve pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**MAY 4 (Sat) Social Hike in Sourland Mountain Preserve.** This is a singles-oriented activity; however, anyone who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 3.5 miles of rocky terrain at a moderate pace. Highlights include Sourland Mountain & old growth forest. Hiking boots are preferred and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & 2 quarts of water. Clothing should be non-cotton. Meet before 10:30 AM at the parking area of Sourland Mountain Preserve on East Mountain Road. Take 206 through Somerville & Hillsborough - about 6 miles from the Somerville Circle to Route 514, which is Amwell Road. Make a right onto Amwell road and proceed 2 miles to East Mountain Road. Travel about 1 mile and you will see the Sourland Mountain Preserve entrance sign on right. Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce White at (908) 272-4478 or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (E)

**MAY 5 (Sun) Hike at Tulip Springs.** 6 - 7 miles at a moderate pace. Hike the South Mountain Reservation and see some of the many highlights this 2000-acre tract has to offer including a 25-foot waterfall and a spectacular view of New York City and South Jersey. Children 9 years or older and dogs are welcome. Bring water and snacks. Meet 10:00 AM in the Tulip Springs parking lot just off Cherry Lane that runs between Northfield Avenue and South Orange Avenue in South Orange. Rain Cancels. Leader: David Ogens (973) 226-7107 (E)

**MAY 5 (Sun) Highlands Hike in Norvin Green State Forest (Special Interests: Conservation).** We will hike about seven miles at a moderate pace in the Wyanokie Highlands. Scenery includes Wyanokie High Point and views of Wanaque Reservoir. Participants are encouraged to protect the threatened Wyanokies from development. Hiking boots are recommended. Meet BY 10 AM at the ProMart parking lot across from the Grand Union on Skyline Drive in Ringwood. Take Route 287 to Skyline Drive. Drive up Skyline Drive towards Ringwood. After about five miles, look for the ProMart on your left. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

**MAY 11 (Sat) Mount Taurus.** Moderate 6 miles. A long uphill, but at a moderate pace and with spectacular views of the Hudson. Take the Bear Mountain Bridge to route 9D North 7 miles to Main St. (Route 301). Go left down Main street to the end to meet the group at the train station. Meet at 10 AM. Joint with AMC. Leader John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10 PM) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

**MAY 11 (Sat) Singles Hike Bowman's Tower and Wildflower Preserve Hike.** 7 miles moderate pace. Hike over new trails with spectacular views of the preserve and the tower. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. No pets/children. Meet by 9 AM at Hilton Hotel, Route 70 Cherry Hill, rear parking lot to car pool/caravan or meet at 10:00 AM at Thomas-Neely House parking, PA Route 32, 5 miles north of Washington Crossing SP. Bring quarters for parking fee. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-697-3870 eve pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**MAY 12 (Sun) Singles Hike at Hatfield Swamp in West Essex Park.** We will hike 5 miles at a moderate pace through forested wetlands along the Passaic River. Meet at 10:00 AM at the Environmental Center, 621 Eagle Rock Avenue in Roseland. Take Rt. 280, Exit 4A (Eisenhower Parkway South), go right at 1st light onto Eagle Rock Avenue, ½ mile on left. Sign reads: "Rutger's Cooperative Extension". Bring water, snacks and hiking boots. Lunch to follow at local restaurant to be announced at the hike. Rain cancels. A \$3 fee will be charged to non-members. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Leaders: Ron Pate (973) 364-7573 option# 2 and Joyce Haddad (E)

**MAY 17-19 (Fri-Sun) Singles Outdoor Weekend.** Hike 7 spectacular water falls, mountain bike hills and campout in the deep woods at Ricketts Glen SP, PA. Camping will be available both Fri and Sat nights. Call leader by May 4 to reserve space. Meet by 7:30 AM in rear parking lot of Hilton Hotel on Route 70 Cherry Hill to car pool/caravan Sat or meet at Ricketts Glen SF office, Route 487, exit 35 off I-80 PA Tpk at 10:00 AM. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-697-3870 eve pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**MAY 18 (Sat) Social Hike in Sherman Hoffman Sanctuary.** This is a singles-oriented activity; however, anyone who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 4 miles of somewhat rocky terrain at a moderate pace. Highlights include the Passaic River & bird watching. Hiking boots are preferred and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & 2 quarts of water. Clothing should be non-cotton. Meet before 10:30 AM at the lower level parking lot called SHERMAN SANCTUARY - NEW JERSEY AUDUBON SOCIETY VISITORS PARKING LOT. Take 287 to Exit 30B (Bernardsville/ US 202) and bear right at end of exit ramp. At the traffic light by the Old Mill Inn, go straight across onto Childs Road. At the fork bear right onto Hardscrabble Road and proceed about 1 mile to the lower level parking lot (name noted above) on right, just past the main entrance to the sanctuary. Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce White at (908) 272-4478 or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (E)

**MAY 18 (Sat) Canoe Trip on the Passaic River.** During this round trip tour we will paddle 4 hours at a leisure pace stopping after 90 minutes to relax and observe wildlife and nature. In this quiet area we may get lucky and see one of the many Blue Herons who live there. Bring lots of water, a hardy snack and comfortable clothes. Meet at 10 AM at the Master Gardeners Extension on Eagle Rock Ave in Roseland, 1/2 mile west of the Eisenhower Pkwy and Eagle Rock Ave. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. A limited number of canoes are available to rent at \$10 per adult. (\$12 for non-members) A child or third adult can sit in the middle. Life jackets are required which come with each canoe. Rain date Sunday. Leader: David Ogens (973) 226-7107 (E)

**MAY 19 (Sun) Hemlock Pond Circular.** This is one of the hidden treasures of the Blue Mt. Lakes area of the Delaware Water Gap NRA. Please meet at 10:30 at Dale's Market on Rt. 94 in Blairstown. Leaders: Ellen and Joe Pepin 973-252-5137 (NW)

**MAY 19 (Sun) Southern Allaire State Park (Special Interest: Geology).** Moderate 5.5 mile hike is in the Northern fringes of the Pine Barrens. Bring a drink and snack. Hiking shoes preferred. Meet at 9 AM at large dirt parking lot on the right, off Hospital Rd. in Wall Township. Take GSP to Exit 98 for Route 34 South. Turn right onto Allenwood Rd. At "T" intersection (Ramhorn Rd.), turn right. Make next left onto Hospital Road. The parking area is approximately 1 mile on the right. Bad weather cancels. Confirmation/questions please call. Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718, or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

**MAY 19 (Sun) Social Hike in Wawayanda State Park (Special Interest: History).** This is a singles-oriented activity; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike seven miles at a moderate pace. Highlights include engaging forest scenery and an old furnace that was the center of the iron industry in New Jersey in the mid-1800s. Hiking boots are recommended. Meet BY 10 AM at the Park Office off Warwick Turnpike north of Upper Greenwood Lake. Take Route 287 North to Route 23 North. Proceed about 8 miles on Route 23 North. Turn right onto Union Valley Road. Bear left at the shopping center in West Milford. Then, bear left two more times following signs to Wawayanda State Park. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, schiker@yahoo.com (RV)

**MAY 25 (Sat) Singles Bike Ride.** Class D ride 20+ miles with frequent stops. Ride flat roads through pine barrens with rest/lunch stop in Chatsworth. Meet by 10 AM in parking area near Group camp site Lebanon State Forest. Enter forest off Route 72, 1 mile E. of jct of Routes 70 & 72. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-697-3870 eve pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**MAY 25 (Sat) Singles Hike, Campout and Campfire.** 6-7 miles. Moderate pace. Hike over roads and trails with a campfire at end. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Overnight camping is available, call to reserve space. No pets/children. Meet by 7:30 PM at parking area opposite Group campsite area, Lebanon State Forest, enter forest off Route 72, 1 mile E. of jct Routes 70 & 72. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-697-3870 eve pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**MAY 26 (Sun) Singles Kayak Trip.** Enjoy a leisurely paddle down Oswego River. We will stop to explore/swim along the way. Bring lunch with you in waterproof container. No pets/children. Meet by 9:30 AM at Bel-Haven Canoe Rentals, Route 542, Green Bank, NJ. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-697-3870 eve pis1@cccnj.net (W)

## JUNE

**JUN 1 (Sat) Canoe Trip on the Passaic River.** During this round trip tour we will paddle 4 hours at a leisure pace stopping after 90 minutes to relax and observe wildlife and nature. In this quiet area we may get lucky and see one of the many Blue Herons who live there. Bring lots of water, a hardy snack and comfortable clothes. Meet at 10 AM at the Master Gardeners Extension on Eagle Rock Ave in Roseland, 1/2 mile west of the Eisenhower Pkwy and Eagle Rock Ave. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. A limited number of canoes are available to rent at \$10 per adult. (\$12 for non-members) A child or third adult can sit in the middle. Life jackets are required which come with each canoe. Rain date Sunday. Leader: David Ogens (973) 226-7107 (E)

**JUN 1 (Sat) Canoe Trip on the Passaic River.** During this round trip tour we will paddle 4 hours at a leisurely pace stopping after 90 minutes to relax and observe wildlife and nature. In this quiet area we may get lucky and see one of the many Blue Herons who live there. Bring lots of water, a hardy snack and comfortable clothes. Meet at 2:30PM at the Environmental Center, 621 Eagle Rock Avenue in Roseland. Take Route 280, Exit 4A (Eisenhower Parkway South), turn right at 1st light onto Eagle Rock Avenue, ½ mile on left. Sign reads: "Rutgers Cooperative Extension". RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. A limited number of canoes are available to rent at \$15 per adult. (\$18 for non-members) A child or third adult can sit in the middle. Life jackets are required which come with each canoe. Rain cancels. Leaders: Ron Pate (973) 364-7573 option #2 and Joyce Haddad (E)

**JUN 1 (Sat) Singles Hike Delaware Water Gap.** 8 miles moderate pace. Hike the Kittatinny Ridge. Highlights include Dunnfield Creek ravine and picturesque Sunfish Pond. Hiking boots recommended. Bring lunch and water with you. Meet by 7:30 AM at Hilton Hotel, Route 70 Cherry Hill, rear parking lot to car pool/caravan or meet at 10:00 AM at the Appalachian Trail parking lot on Route 80 West. Take 80 W. past Exit 4 and look carefully for rest area sign. Leave Route 80 at the Rest Area exit; however, continue down the exit ramp to Dunnfield Creek/Appalachian Trail parking lot. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-697-3870 eve pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**JUN 2 (Sun) National Trails Day Hike at Sunfish Pond.** Let's celebrate National Trails Day by hiking eight miles at a moderate pace on the Kittatinny Ridge. Highlights include Dunnfield Creek ravine and picturesque Sunfish Pond. Hiking boots are recommended. Meet BY 9:30 AM at the Appalachian Trail parking lot on Route 80 West. Take Route 80 West past Exit 4 and look carefully for the Rest Area sign. Leave Route 80 at the Rest Area exit; however, continue down the exit ramp to the Dunnfield Creek/Appalachian Trail parking lot. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, schiker@yahoo.com (RV)

**JUN 8 (Sat) Social Hike in Jenny Jump State Park.** This is a singles-oriented activity; however, anyone who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about 5 miles of hills & level terrain at a moderate pace. Highlights include panoramic vistas of the Highlands. Hiking boots are preferred and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & 2 quarts of water. Clothing should be non-cotton. Meet before 10:30 AM at the state park office parking lot. Take Route 80 West to Exit 12(Route 521 - Hope) From the off ramp go left on 521(under Route 80) for 1.2 miles. Turn left at the light in Hope (there is only one). Then take the first right turn on Great Meadows-Hope Road. Travel 2.4 miles to Fair View Road. Turn left on Far View Road. Follow 1.7 miles to the park office entrance on right. (turn right at the Jenny Jump State Forest sign) Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce White at (908) 272-4478 or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (E)

**JUN 8 (Sat) Eight to Ten mile hike** at a moderate pace in the Shawangunks, New Paltz, New York. Participants must pre-register for this hike. Group size limited to 12 experienced hikers. Please e-mail the leader to register and obtain details. Please register after May 15, 2002. Leader: Kerry Miller. E-mail: ksmiller2@juno.com (N)

**JUN 8 (Sat) Tuxedo Circular.** Scenic hike of about 7 miles in Harriman Park. Follow a variety of trails to Claudius Smith's Den where we will stop for lunch. This is a moderate hike with a lot of history thrown in. Meet at the Tuxedo Railroad station on Route 17 in Tuxedo at 9:15. Leader John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10 PM) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

**JUN 8 (Sat) Red Bank - Environmental Service Program.** The Red Bank Environmental Commission has received a matching grant from the NJ-DEP to create a natural area park on a vacant lot on the river, creating public access to the river. The grant only covers the cost of the design work in this year's phase, and volunteers are needed to help implement the design. Volunteers will clear shrub and non-native plants, and prepare a trail approximately 100 feet long. The lot is located at 100 Locust Avenue, off Shrewsbury Avenue, in Red Bank. Volunteers are requested to bring work gloves, rakes, shovels, clippers and other digging implements, if they can. If you would like to help, please RSVP to Marty Judd, at 732/957-1493, or mjudd@worldnet.att.net, no later than Thursday, June 6. (JS)

**JUN 8-9 (Sat-Sun) Exploratory Backpack Trip.** Traverse one of the more remote, outlying ranges of the Western Catskill Mountains. This area of the Catskills has numerous crystal clear wilderness lakes, is not often visited and should be new for most of us. We may also climb one or more of the high peaks in the area which may not be accessible by trail. This will require navigational techniques using maps and compass. The trip should be an instructional challenge for us. If the weather and site is favorable, a camp at a wilderness swimming lake will be planned. Moderate difficulty. For more details regarding transportation, equipment and meeting place Saturday morning contact the leaders. This is a joint trip of the AMC, Sierra Club & UCHC. Leader: Al Tatyrek, 27 Orchard Rd., Maplewood, NJ 07040, (973) 763-2303 (No calls after 10 please). Co-leader: Brent Collins (732) 458-8334 (E)

**JUN 9 (Sun) Singles Hike at Eagle Rock Reservation.** We will hike 4-5 miles at a moderate pace. Bring water and snacks. Rain cancels. Meet before 10:00 AM at the Highlawn Pavilion Parking lot off Eagle Rock Avenue in West Orange. Take Route 280 to Prospect Avenue (Exit 8B) head north, right turn onto Eagle Rock Avenue, left turn into reservation. A \$3 fee will be charged to non-members and all participants must sign a liability waiver. Leader: Joyce Haddad (973) 364-7573 option #8 (E)

**JUN 9 (Sun) Clayton Park Hike,** Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County (Special Interests: land conservation, watershed protection). A moderate 6 mile hike in one of the area's "quietest" parks. Please bring drink and snack. Hiking shoes suggested. 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. Bad weather cancels. Confirmation/questions please call. Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718, or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

**JUN 9 (Sun) Social Hike in High Point State Park.** This is a singles-oriented activity; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about seven miles at a moderate pace on the Kittatinny Ridge. Highlights include Lake Rutherford, Dutch Shoe Rock, Saw Mill Pond and several excellent viewpoints. After the hike, there will be an optional excursion to the High Point monument for a superb viewpoint. If it is very warm, there may be an opportunity for swimming. Hiking boots are recommended. Meet BY 10 AM at the Appalachian Trail parking area about 75 yards southeast of the Park Ranger's office on Route 23. Take Route 23 to High Point State Park. Do not enter the park! The parking area is just before you reach the park on the left side of Route 23. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, schiker@yahoo.com (RV)

**JUN 9 (Sun) Singles Hike Wissahickon Gorge.** 8 miles moderate pace over hills. Hike the Gorge in late spring with its spectacular views. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet by 8:30 AM in rear parking lot Hilton Hotel, on Route 70 Cherry Hill to car pool/caravan. Or meet at 9:30 AM at Valley Green parking lot in park. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-697-3870 eve pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**JUN 16 (Sun) Father's Day Hike in Schooley's Mountain Park.** 4 to 5 miles. Meet 11 AM, Mount Olive A&P parking lot on Route 48, side nearest Naughtright Road. Leaders: Ellen and Joe Pepin 973-252-5137 (NW)

**JUN 16 (Sun) Single Parents Hike in South Mountain Reservation.** We will hike 3-4 miles at a moderate pace. Enjoy beautiful views of NYC and a 25 foot waterfall. We will be visiting the Turtle Back Zoo with an option to lunch there. Bring water and snacks. Wear hiking boots. Rain cancels. Route 280 to Pleasant Valley Way South. Go 3 miles into reservation. Meet before 12:00 PM at the Tulip Springs parking area on your left. A \$3 fee will be charged to non-members and all participants must sign a liability waiver. Leaders: Ron Pate (973) 364-7573 option #2 and Patrick Montague (E)

**JUN 16 (Sun) Singles Kayak Trip.** We will do the Maurice River, Cumberland Co., meet by 9 AM at Al & Sams Canoe Rentals on Route 47, Delsea Drive, Vineland, 2 miles South of Route 40. Bring picnic type food to share after trip. Call leader to reserve space. Leaders: Paul Serdiuk 609-697-3870 eve pis1@cccnj.net or John Keys 856-697-3047 (W)

**JUN 22 (Sat) Full Moon Hike/Swim at Blue Mountain Lakes.** Moonlight hikes are truly special! SWIMSUITS, extra food, flashlights and hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. The hike must end by 10:00 when the area is closed to cars. Meet BEFORE 5:00 PM at the Blue Mountain Lakes parking area. Take Exit 12 on Route 80. Drive into Blairstown on Route 521 North. Turn left at the Route 94 junction. Then, turn right at the traffic light (leave Routes 94 and 521). Take County Road 602 for about seven miles to Millbrook (not Stillwater). Turn right at Millbrook Village and go about 1.5 miles to the Blue Mountain Lakes sign. Turn right and look for the parking area. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, schiker@yahoo.com (RV)

**JUN 22 (Sat) Singles Full Moon Hike.** 6 miles moderate pace. Hike under the Strawberry Moon as we walk on sand roads. Bring snack type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet by 7:30 PM in field behind the Atsion Office on Route 206, between Hammonton and Red Lion Circle, Burl. Co. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-697-3870 eve pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**JUN 29 (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 & 2 quarts of water. Clothing should be non-cotton. Meet before 10:30 AM at the parking lot of Hacklebarney State Park. 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 ½ miles and make sharp left onto State Park Road. Drive 2 miles & make right onto Hacklebarney Road. Drive about 1 mile & make left at entrance. Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce White at (908) 272-4478 or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (E)

**JUN 30 (Sun) Social Hike/Swim at Blue Mountain Lakes (Special Interest: Beavers).** This is a singles-oriented activity; however, ANYONE who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike about five miles at a moderate pace on the Kittatinny Ridge. Optional routes are available for

(Continued on page 12)

Have you enjoyed an OUTING lately?



**Chair**

\* Tina Schvejda (973) 427-6863  
tschvejda@mindspring.com  
40 Marilyn St., North Haledon NJ 07508-2441

**Vice-Chair**

\*Sunil Somalwar (732) 572-7721  
svsomalwar@sierraactivist.org  
1015 South Park Ave., Highland Park NJ 08904-2954

**Conservation Co-Chairs**

Dennis Schvejda (973) 427-6863  
dschvejda@igc.apc.org  
40 Marilyn St., North Haledon NJ 07508-2441

\*Laura Lynch (609) 882-4642  
llynch@mail.med.upenn.edu  
11 Lumar Rd., Trenton, NJ 08648-3127

**Legislative Chair**

Marty Sayne (732) 932-2637  
mmartinws@earthlink.net  
12 Seward Dr., Ocean NJ 07712-3725

**Political Chair**

\*Rich Isaac (973) 716-0297  
risaac@aol.com  
47 Fellswood Dr., Livingston NJ 07039-2235

**Political Vice-Chair**

Meiling Chin (908) 490-1054  
chinmeiling@yahoo.com  
106 Cedar Green Lane, Berkeley Hts NJ 07922

**Treasurer**

\*George Denzer (609) 799-5839  
gdenzer@mymailstation.com  
127 Dey Rd., Cranbury NJ 08512-5418

**Secretary**

\*Bonnie Tillery (609) 259-6438  
blt44blt@aol.com  
389 Sawmill Rd, Hamilton NJ 08620

**Outings Chair**

Steve Ember (732) 926-8964  
sehiker@yahoo.com  
511 Grandview St, Middlesex NJ 08846

**Newsletter Co-Editors**

\*Dick Colby (609) 965-4453  
dick.colby@stockton.edu  
127 Liverpool Av, Egg Harbor City NJ 08215-1319

Pete Garino (201) 913-7467  
pgarino@njtransit.com  
39 E 39th St, Paterson NJ 07514-1143

**Webmaster**

George Newsome (732) 308-1518  
newsome1@optonline.net

**Council Delegate**

\*Jane Tousman (908) 561-5504  
jdtous@aol.com  
14 Butler Rd., Edison NJ 08820-1007  
Alternate: Rich Isaac - (see above)

**NERCC Representatives**

\*Joan Denzer (see George Denzer above)  
and Jane Tousman (see above)

**Financial Committee**

Tina Schvejda\*\*, Sunil Somalwar,  
Steve Ember, Rich Isaac,  
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 these monthly statewide policy deliberations, held on Saturdays at the New Brunswick Public Library (60 Livingston Avenue, 10 minutes' walk from the trainstation). The April meeting will NOT be at the New Brunswick Library. Contact any ExCom member for location. Agendas are available in advance from Tina Schvejda.

Conservation and Political Committee meetings start at 10am. Lunch is shared at noon. The main meeting starts at 1pm. We usually continue discussions informally over dinner at a nearby restaurant, at 5pm.

**APRIL 13 • MAY 11 • JUNE 8**

**New Jersey Chapter Leadership****Legislative Committee**

Marty Sayne\*\*, Dennis Anderson,  
Ken Johanson, Dave Mattek,  
Jeff Tittel, Bill Wolfe

**Membership Chair**

Linda Isaac (973) 716-0297  
lisaac@aol.com  
47 Fellswood Dr., Livingston NJ 07039-2235

**Atlantic Coast Ecoregion Delegate**

Joan Denzer (see above)  
Phil L'Hommedieu (see above)

**Inner City Outings Coordinator**

Anne Dyjak (see Group News pages)

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

**Issues Coordinators****Cape May Issues**

Doug Jewell (609) 463-8423  
jewell@avaloninternet.net  
5 Timber La, Swainton NJ 08210

**Clean Air**

Bob Campbell (908) 273-5720  
wrobc@intac.com  
18 Shadyside Av, Summit NJ 07901-2111

**Bill Green (908) 276-2357**

William\_Green@eisai.com  
2 Roger Av, Cranford NJ 07016-2715

**Delaware River Dredging**

Gina Carola (856) 848-8831  
ginacee@snip.net  
534 Elberne Av, Westville NJ 08093-1715

**Federal Issues**

Dennis Schvejda (see main leader list)

**Forestry Issues**

George Schindler, Jr. (609) 252-9299  
GESchindlerJr@worldnet.att.net  
2 Center Dr, Skillman NJ 08558-1926

**Grazing**

Dave Mattek (609) 737-1342  
MattekDC@aol.com  
4 1/2 Park Av, Pennington NJ 08534-2313

**Hackensack Meadowlands**

Hugh Carola (201) 457-1582  
hcarola@aol.com  
30 Maple Av, Hackensack NJ 07601-4502

**Bill Sheehan (201) 692-8440**

captain@keeper.org  
1000 River Rd #T090c, Teaneck NJ 07666

**Marine Issues**

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)

**Transportation**

Bob Johnson (908) 771-9676  
robert.johnson@comcast.net  
65 Holly Glen Lane South, Berkeley Hts NJ 07922-2615

**Utah Wilderness**

Barbara Hayes (732) 572-4331  
BHayes@sadat.com  
331 Crowells Rd #B, Highland Park NJ 08904-3309

**Chapter Office 609-924-3141**

new.jersey.chapter@sierraclub.org  
57 Mountain Av, Princeton NJ 08540  
fax: 609-924-8799

**Chapter Director: Jeff Tittel**

jefft1@voicenet.com

**Policy Director: vacant position!**

**Office Manager**  
Lori Herpen 609-924-1023  
lori.herpen@sierraclub.org

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)

those who prefer to hike more. Highlights include pretty lakes and evidence of beaver activity (Nature's illustrious engineers). SWIMSUITS, cameras and hiking boots are recommended. Meet BY 10 AM at the Blue Mountain Lakes parking area. Take Exit 12 on Route 80. Drive into Blairstown on Route 521 North. Turn left at the Route 94 junction. Then, turn right at the traffic light (leave Routes 94 and 521). Take County Road 602 for about seven miles to Millbrook (not Stillwater). Turn right at Millbrook Village and go about 1.5 miles to the Crater Lake sign. Turn right and watch for the Blue Mountain Lakes parking area. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

**JUN 30 (Sun) Singles Kayak Trip.** Paddle the Wading or Oswego Rivers. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after trip. Call leader to reserve space. Meet by 9:30 AM at Bel-Haven canoe rentals, on Route 542, Green Bank, Burl. Co., 8 miles east of Hammonton. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-697-3870 eve pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**JULY**

**JUL 4 (Thu) Manasquan River Reservoir,** Monmouth County (Special Interests: Birds). Enjoy an easy 5-mile circular hike on one of the largest reservoirs in the area. We may observe waterfowl. Bring drinks, snacks, bird books, and binoculars. Hiking shoes are not required. Great for families. Meet at 9 AM at the main entrance to the reservoir. Take GSP to exit 98. Head west on I-195 to exit 28 (Rt. 9). Go north on 9 and take the first right at Georgia Tavern Road. Go approx. 1/2 mile and take the next right onto Windeller Road. Continue to the main entrance which is 1.5 miles on your left. Meet in the parking area at the far left towards the back. Bad weather cancels. Confirmation/questions please call. Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718, or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

**JUL 13 (Sat) Schunemunk Circular.** Moderate 8 miles. Steep (1200 foot) initial climb will reward the hiker with fantastic views in all directions from the highest point in Orange County! A brief geology lesson is included for free. Bring hiking boots, lunch, 2 quarts of water. Joint with AMC. Meet at 10 AM in Mountaintown NY. Take Route 32 North from the Harriman Exit of the NYS Thruway about 7 miles to Angola/Pleasant Hill Road. Park at the Black Rock Fish and Game Club sign. Leader John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10 PM) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

**AUGUST**

**AUG 10 (Sat) Fahnestock Park.** We will walk all day on a variety of trails including the AT, at a moderate pace covering about 9 or 10 miles. Hiking boots a must. Not for those who want to hike long and hard. We will stop often to enjoy our surroundings. Bring lunch and plenty of drinking water. Take the Bear Mountain Bridge to route 9D North 7 miles to Main St. (Route 301). Go left down Main street to the end to meet the group at the train station. Meet at 10 AM. Joint with AMC . Leader John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10 PM) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

**New DEP Commissioner**

(Continued from page 1)

would be a good way to reach out to groups, and asked for the best way to communicate with him. Campbell asked us all to send our concerns to Jeff Tittel, who has access to him and his staff. He would prefer to keep his email address unavailable for mass lobbying.

Sunil Somalwar, Chapter Vice-Chair, suggested alleviating the State's budget crisis by abandoning the funding of beach restoration and road projects. Campbell said he believed that beach replenishment would take a budget hit. He further stated that there would probably not be a hit to enforcement or staff. Hits would be in areas that were mismanaged in the past.

Another issue was proposed by George Denzer (Central Jersey Group): Every hour upwards of ten New York City 18-wheeler trash trucks roar, rumble and belch diesel smoke on the narrow roads that connect the Turnpike with Delaware River bridges into Pennsylvania. Campbell responded that he has a staff member looking into the practice of diesel equipment such as trucks, buses and tugboats just sitting around idling. George urged restoration of the Hot Line that residents could call when they saw a truck belching smoke.

Gina Corola, Chair of the West Jersey Group, pointed out that the permits that

the DEP issued to the Army Corps of Engineers to dump Delaware River dredge spoils on land were 4 1/2 years old and based on studies that were 10 years old. She gave him the name and number of the studies, dates issued and the office within the DEP that issued them, and asked if he could require new studies and permits since they were so old. Campbell responded that waiting for 5 years might be more appropriate.

Finally Chapter Outings Chair Steve Ember mentioned that New Jersey lacks requirements for endangered species studies to determine how much buffer should surround property developments.

**REVIVAL**

(Continued from page 9)

as word gets out, we will get more people interested, contributing, and volunteering.

Anyone interested in this project, especially those with expertise in environmental science, botany, ecology, ornithology, or carpentry, please contact either Ron Pate (973-669-8829 omyogiron@aol.com) or Dave Ogens (973-226-7107 or bandit29@aol.com).

**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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**Members, send changes of address to address.changes@sierraclub.org or to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80328 and to the Chapter Office, 57 Mountain Avenue, Princeton, NJ 08540 or call 415-977-5653.**

**Editorial Board:** Tina Schvejda, Jeff Tittel, Rich Isaac, George and Joan Denzer, Mary Penney, Pete Garino, Dick Colby.

**Editor (this & next issue):** Dick Colby, 609-965-4453, dick.colby@stockton.edu

**Layout/Design:** Karen Brown, 856-547-9221

**Advertising Manager:** Sunil Somalwar, 732-572-7721 svsomalwar@sierraactivist.org

**Group News (all issues):** Dick Colby

**Contributors to this issue:** Tina Schvejda, Dennis Schvejda, Jeff Tittel, Bonnie Tillery, Bart Semcer, Rich Isaac, Fred Akers, Gina Carola, Bill Potter, Jeff Derwin, Joyce Haddad.

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*Thank you to all who contributed. The Jersey Sierran is produced by volunteers.*

**Noticed above a lightswitch at Haddonfield Friends Meeting House:**

"This is the switch left on all night  
that burned the bulb  
that pulled the watts  
that come from the turbine  
that needed the fuel  
that went up in smoke  
that was mostly CO2  
that joined more greenhouse gas

that rose up in the sky  
that trapped the heat  
that boosted the temperature  
that warmed the ocean  
that melted the ice caps  
that raised the waves  
that flooded the coast.  
Please turn me off."