

The Jersey..... SIERRAN

Vol. 32, No. 1

Roughly 23,000 Members in New Jersey

January-March 2003

2002 Election Wrapup

by Richard Isaac, Chapter Political Chair

Nationally, the environment didn't seem to be a major issue. This probably contributed to losses in a few close US Senate and Congressional races.

About the same percentage of Sierra Club members vote as the rest of the electorate. In November, that percentage was 35! If only we could find a way to motivate more of our members to vote—and more of the electorate to base their votes more on environmental issues—we would probably be more successful than we have been to date.

We certainly had successes—in New Jersey the environment seems to be a higher priority than in some other parts of the nation. Retired Sen. Frank Lautenberg, who was endorsed due to his strong environmental record in his three terms in the US Senate, won a solid victory. In House races, nine out of the ten candidates we endorsed won handily. In all candor, the candidates we endorsed won mostly because of incumbency and redistricting, not our endorsement. But it speaks well of this State that we have so many good incumbents worthy of endorsement, and not one federal legislator so poor on environmental issues that we needed to work against their reelection. The only congressional race where we supported a losing candidate was for the State's only open seat, District 5, where Assemblyman Scott Garrett won a solid victory in a district where his (Republican) party has a very strong edge in party registration. And even here we are optimistic, because during the course of the election campaign Asm. Garrett repeatedly pledged to make the preservation of the New Jersey Highlands one of his top priorities.

In local races there's even better news. New Jersey voters approved 25 out of 31 referenda to establish open space trust funds. That high rate of passage continued this State's popular support for open space—in spite of (or perhaps because of) our relentless overdevelopment and sprawl.

The Essex County Group has particular reason to be happy. It endorsed the winning candidate for County Executive (Joseph DiVincenzo) early in the year, which helped him win a tough



Democratic Primary and a somewhat easier general election. Joe has a solid environmental platform, including making the implementation of the

County's Recreation & Open Space Trust Fund Master Plan a high priority, appointing an environmental watchdog for polluters, expanding the County's efforts to remediate brownfields and encouraging their redevelopment, expanding the services and maximizing the role of Essex County's Office of Environmental Affairs in addressing environmental concerns such as lead paint, appointing qualified environmental advocates to the County's Environmental Commission, ensuring that all County facilities recycle, and conducting an energy audit of the County's facilities.

Just as encouraging as "Joe D's" strong environmental platform is his appointment of 3 Sierra Club activists to his

Transition Team, including the Chairperson to the Transition Team's Open Space Committee and a member of the Transition Team's Steering Committee. All this shows what can happen when we get involved.

Which, finally, provides me with a segue into the New Year: in 2003 there will be elections for all 40 State Senate seats and all 80 State Assembly seats, producing some 240 major party candidates for 120 offices. Our Club Chapter can use the help of any member who has both a strong interest in environmental issues (hopefully all of you!), as well as an interest in electoral politics. If you are interested in helping us interview candidates and helping the best of them get elected, please contact me at 973-716-0297, or: risaacx@aol.com, and I'll refer you to the appropriate Group Political Chair as well as provide you with free training for our Chapter's political program. With major battles looming on legislation to clean up automobile emissions, stop sprawl, protect our drinking water and require health providers to provide coverage for contraception, we'll appreciate any help you're willing to provide. Hope to hear from you soon! ☺

"...in New Jersey the environment seems to be a higher priority than in some other parts of the nation."



BOOK SUMMARY:

CONSUMPTION CHOICES THAT MATTER MOST

by Michael L. Minaides

Each time we check-out at the supermarket, that vexing question is posed to us—paper or plastic? As individuals who care about the environment, and who are aware of the many environmental problems we face, we want to make the right choice. But do our individual consumption choices really make a difference to these world-wide problems?

The short answer is **YES**. However, not all of our consumption choices matter equally. In fact, some consumption choices are virtually insignificant relative to other choices. For example, compared to the choices listed below, paper or plastic is not a very important decision. In an excellent book called *"The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices,"* by the Union of Concerned Scientists, many consumption choices were studied scientifically and the choices that matter most are ranked.

Topping off the list of consumption choices that matter most to the environment are TRANSPORTATION CHOICES. While driving a personal vehi-

cle provides flexibility and can be enjoyable (if one is not stuck in traffic), it is also very damaging to the environment, and creates dependence on not-so-friendly foreign countries. Every single gallon of gasoline we burn emits 23.8 pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Because CO₂ is a greenhouse gas that forms a layer in the atmosphere that traps heat, it is apparent that our collective penchant for low mileage vehicles is a detrimental choice. Further, the manufacture of each vehicle has many additional harmful impacts on air quality, and creates significant water pollution as well. The production of steel, batteries, paints, plastics, aluminum, lubricants, and other fluids to manufacture each vehicle pumps hundreds of pounds of pollutants into the biosphere. The bigger and heavier that vehicle, the more pollution that results from the manufacturing process.

Also in the transportation category are the use of powerboats, off-road vehicles, (Continued on page 9)

Political Analysis on Appreciation Day

by Dick Colby

The Chapter's annual "Appreciation Day" party, held at the Princeton Day School on Nov 17th, was graced by the presence of Congressman Steve Rothman, Bob Cottingham (Legislative Aide to Congressman Donald Paine), DEP Commissioner Brad Campbell, Assistant Commissioner Mark Matsil, and many of the Chapter's officers and financial supporters. Rothman, a four-term Congressman, was awarded a plaque for his outstanding environmental voting record, and especially for his efforts to protect the Hackensack Meadowlands that are included in his District.

Congressman Rothman offered the following analysis of the November 5 election results that put President Bush's Republican Party back in control of Congress: He noted that the media gave exclusive coverage all during the Fall election campaign to terrorist issues: the anniversary of Sept 11, 2001, the war in Afghanistan, the search for Osama bin Laden, and pursuit of the Washington beltway snipers (not to mention daily scenes of new carnage in Israel). This made it impossible for environmental or any other issues to be given public attention during the campaign season. He also noted that Republicans outspent Democrats on electioneering by 2 to 1.

President Bush and his media manipulators also took advantage of the Congressional debate over the Homeland Security Bill to decry Democratic Party opposition, hiding the fact that all the New York City Police and Fire Department officers who died in the World Trade Center, as well as many members of the current federal security services, are members of labor unions. The Democratic Party's opposition to the Homeland Security Bill arose from the Republican Bill's attempt to deny labor union protection to a vast number of old and new federal employees who will



Dennis Schvejda, on right, presents Congressman Steve Rothman with his award.

belong to the new cabinet-level bureaucracy created by the Bill. Labor unions are an established institution in our country for protecting workers' interests.

The "Appreciation Day" event also saw a transfer of power, as Tina Schvejda, our Chapter Chair for the last four years, handed her hat over to Sunil Somalwar, our new Sierra Club Chapter Chair. (Sunil quipped that he was more worried about filling her shoes than her hat.) There was also appreciation expressed to Mitchell Stern, a 13-year old supporter from Piscataway, who organized a "swim-a-thon" to collect \$300 to donate to the Chapter. ☺

FOUR APOLOGIES (or, at least, Regrets!)

There were three problems with the production of the previous (Oct-Dec 2002) issue of this newsletter:

(1) Approximately 2000 family members received their issues up to a month late, because the label office in San Francisco mysteriously failed to send labels for that category of member, and the omission wasn't discovered until complaints from members started to come in. At that time a new printing had to be ordered, which increased the delay.

(2) Approximately 500 of those members received their late issues with postage due. The newsletters were mailed at the Princeton Post Office with first class stamps, which the Princeton postal staff said were adequate. "Postage

due" was assessed at the local (receiving) post offices, which obviously had scales that were differently calibrated!

(3) Most of the Group Ballots in the Oct-Dec issue mistakenly had names of candidates from the 2001 Group Ballots. That's why some of the Groups have reissued ballots in this issue, located in the Group News section. Please use them if you are a member of one of the Groups for which ballots are included.

(4) The New Jersey Chapter staff and officers wish to apologize for a "get-out-the-vote" recorded message, from National Executive Director Carl Pope, that was telephoned to many members early in the morning in the weekend before Election Day. We don't know who in the Club decided on the timing.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Among Environmentalists	2
Report from San Francisco.....	2
Population Issues Report	2
Our Longest-serving Member	2
Editorial: American Issues	3
Chair's Message: Accomplishments	3
New Office needs Furniture	3
New Pinelands Commissioners	4
Meadowlands' Empire Tract	4
Fall in the Hamilton-Trenton Marsh	4
Eye on President Bush	6
Eye on Gov. McGreevey	6
Our Largest Bequest	7
Book Review: Swimming Lessons	7
Portfolio: Appreciation Day	8
Sierra Student Coalition	9
Transportation Issues Report	9
Group News	10-13
Hunters and Anglers	13
Winter and Spring Outings	14-16
Leader List	16
More Election Analysis	16

Among Environmentalists, Part II

by Daniel Aronson

In the last issue of the Sierran, I explained that improvements in energy efficiency, including effective mass transit, would improve material well-being while reducing household costs. I'm writing again to point out that reductions in costs would make it more feasible to use increases in labor productivity to reduce the workweek without a cut in pay.

A common response to the idea of shorter hours without a pay cut is, "Great idea, but it will never happen." But in fact technological progress—which leads to continual increases in labor productivity—normally does provide us with greater leisure time without a cut in compensation. For example, in the first half of the 20th century, the workweek fell by about 25% while total pay increased. And recent surveys (conducted by Harris and the Families and Work Institute) indicate that both men and women do want to spend less time at work in favor of more time with family.

After expressing strong interest in shorter hours in 1993, unions have aban-

doned this goal. But with the increasing number of women in the workforce—as well as the increase in the time that men are devoting to household obligations—union members should certainly be receptive to resuming the fight for a reduced workweek.

On average, managerial employees are more overworked than hourly workers. But while they are most in need of shorter hours, managerial employees do not have the ability to organize and make demands. Yet there are ways to overcome this problem. First, to the extent that environmentalists can help bring about a more energy efficient economy, Americans would be able to enjoy an improved quality of life without having to work so many hours.

Second, if environmentalists helped unions to achieve shorter hours without a cut in pay, managerial employees would start resisting long hours; after all, if your subordinates get to go home after, say, six hours, you're not about to accept slavish hours. Third, we should publicize

the fact that both men and women want more time to spend with family, and emphasize that this is consistent with old-fashioned values. This would create public sympathy for employees, managerial or hourly, who express a desire for shorter hours. Finally, the idea of having time for sports, academic study, the arts, or just walking outside with your family, should be seen as the ultimate in the "good life."

Environmentalists should not view shorter hours as a side issue. Unions often perceive steps toward energy efficiency as a threat to job creation. (Remember the Teamsters stand on drilling in ANWR?) But shorter hours without a cut in pay would help avoid higher unemployment, and under this scenario unions would be more willing to join with environmentalists to support efficiency. ♪

(Daniel Aronson (daronson@raritanval.edu) teaches courses in environmental economics at Raritan Valley Community College.)

Report from San Francisco

Jane Tousman is the Chapter's Delegate to the annual national Sierra Club "circus" meeting (officially known as the Council of Club Leaders = CCL), which took place Sept 18-22, 2002. She filed this report:

The CCL passed resolutions urging the Club's Board of Directors as follows:

1. To mobilize all possible lobbying resources in support of Congressional ratification of the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

2. To adopt a strong policy on the environmental aspects of national security, including guidance on environmental security.

3. To lobby toward a peaceful resolution of US-Iraqi differences - because of the dire potential for negative environmental impacts of war, and the prospect for much loss of human life. (The debate on this resolution was contentious.)

4. To improve the coordination between the Club's national staff and its Chapter volunteers, to reduce the likelihood of conflicts such as occurred recently in a poor district in Los Angeles: where the two Club entities took opposite sides over the placing of a new school on a former toxic waste site.

I was pleased to accept a national Club award (known as the Susan Miller award), for Dick Colby, a long-serving New Jersey Chapter leader, currently editor of this newsletter. (Dennis Schvejda, our erstwhile Conservation Chair and now NJ Chapter's Ken Lloyd Conservation Director, received the Club's Special Service Award in 2000 for his outstanding leadership, dedication and service.) ♪

(For a list of the Club's national award categories, and the names of winners in recent years, go to www.sierraclub.org/awards/.)

POPULATION REPORT: BUSH ABANDONING SUPPORT FOR FAMILY PLANNING

by Bonnie Tillery, our Population Issues Coordinator

The Sierra Club works for a woman's right to decide how many children she will have and when she will have them. When given a choice, women choose smaller families and space their children farther apart, thereby ensuring healthier babies, healthier mothers, and in the long run a healthier environment. To achieve these goals, the Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program promotes education through national and international programs that allow women to make responsible choices, in addition to lobbying for safe, effective family planning services.

At a recent United Nations regional meeting on population, held in Bangkok, US officials said that they were acting on the Administration's authority in refusing to reaffirm support for the Cairo Program of Action, a model agreement to improve women's health and help slow population growth that was adopted by 179 countries at the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994.

The Cairo agreement affirmed the most basic of human rights: the right of all people to decide freely how many children to have and when to have them, as well as the right of all individuals to reproductive health care.

If the Administration's plan is to withdraw US support for Cairo, it would mark a fundamental shift in US foreign assistance policy and conflict sharply with this Administration's often stated support for women's rights, family planning and related health programs.

Despite constant political conflict over these family planning programs, until recently the U.S. government's population assistance program has maintained

remarkable continuity in both focus and investment through the administrations of six Presidents, both Republican and Democrat, and sixteen Congresses. The United States was one of the first countries to provide family planning aid. US leadership, both technical and financial, has been indispensable and has encouraged other nations to strengthen their support for these critical programs. The Cairo Program of Action has served as the model for affordable, safe family planning programs around the world that in turn have helped to slow population growth, thereby helping reduce demands on the environment.

To voice your support for international family planning programs, call the White House at 202-456-1111 or email to President@WhiteHouse.gov. Urge the President to reaffirm the U.S. commitment to the Cairo Program of Action. Ask him to uphold the long-standing worldwide consensus, which recognizes the critical importance of family planning and reproductive health services in improving the lives and health of women, children, families and the environment.

For more information, please call me (609-259-6438) or send e-mail (btl44blt@aol.com).

I also wanted to mention that newly-re-elected Senator Frank Lautenberg, a New Jersey Sierra Club lifetime achievement award recipient, credits his recent election success to concentrating on domestic issues; in particular, abortion rights and the effort to keep abortion opponents off the US Supreme Court. ♪



ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to our Sierra Club New Jersey Chapter's annual appeal campaign. All the money that is given in this gift drive will stay in NJ to be used on our Chapter's goals.

There are so many caring and giving New Jersey Sierra Club members. Without your charitable contributions to our cause, we would not be able to achieve results on our important State environmental issues.

If you have not had a chance to send in your donation, there is still time. We appreciate whatever you can give.

Thank you,
Tina Schvejda,
Departing Chapter Chair

Letter from our Chapter's Longest Serving Member

communicated by Joan Denzer

Don McClure has the honor of being the "senior" member of the Club in New Jersey. He joined in 1946, at a time when membership required approval by a membership committee. He would have known David Brower, Phil Berry and other Club 'names' as young men. He attended our annual Appreciation Day reception, and sent this commentary:

Thanks for your invitation to the Sierra Club reception (held on Nov 17). And thanks for your warm greeting—it was worth hanging in there all those years for that.

I joined the Club in 1946, the year I went to Berkeley for my graduate work in chemistry. That summer I joined a Club-sponsored two weeks of climbing (in) the Teton Range in Wyoming. We scrambled up everything of significance there. After that, I went out on weekends with the Rock-Climbing Section to practice - on rocks in the Bay area. Then there were week-long trips to Yosemite and to various sites in the Sierras, and skiing in the winter from Clair-Tappan Lodge. It's fun to think about all that. I realized then that the Club was a

remarkable organization; it has evolved from a local California group to a national one in the past 55 years, becoming more and more of a force for the environment. Getting married slowed down my activities, but some years later I took the family (five of us) on a wilderness threshold trip and my older son (a Club member) has done some climbing in the Sierras.

I met people in Berkeley who put mountain climbing as number one in their lives, with all the other stuff serving that passion. In my case science won out, but I could see their point.

My hat's off to you for promoting the activities of the Sierra Club.

Warmest regards, Don McClure

SierraActivist.org!

An interactive website for New Jersey's Environmental community.

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Try out the DEP's New Map Service

NJ DEP has put much of its GIS information on the web at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/imapnj/imapnj.htm>. And you don't need GIS software to use it. By zooming to an area that you are interested in, you can retrieve known contaminated sites, soil types, streams, wellhead protection areas, state planning areas, legislative districts, and locations with threatened or endangered species. As you zoom in, you can pick up more of the digital imagery, including infrared aerial photos, for the site you are interested in. Take a look and use it to learn more about where you live or what you care about.

contributed by Steve Kowlton, Jersey Shore Group Chair, 23 Oct 02

Thanks to all members who responded to our annual fund-raising appeal

Editorial

PERMIT ME TO CONSIDER SOME BIG ISSUES IN AMERICAN HISTORY

by Dick Colby

I was reminded, in a recent PBS program on the life of Thomas Jefferson, of how the SINGLE ISSUE OF SLAVERY dominated American politics for the first 80 years of our country's history. Then, after the Civil War, there were two new dominant issues: INDUSTRIALIZATION (and the growth of Corporations), and WESTWARD EXPANSION. These two issues combined to produce a new political axis separating the interests of RURAL citizens from URBAN citizens, although both groups accepted increasing numbers of immigrants.

In the first half of the 20th Century, the United States became a WORLD POWER, with resources devoted to two World Wars, and to international corporate expansion. To now be more controversial, I suggest that the dominant political issue in the second half of the 20th Century, even more than the Cold War, has been domestic SUB-URBANIZATION. Enormous quantities of natural resources, both domestic and foreign, have been consumed to make the American suburban lifestyle possible: the per capita use of petroleum, wood, metal, water, even oxygen — is dramatically higher for a suburban resident compared to the attached-house resident of the "streetcar era." Emissions of CO₂ and other pollutants have also risen dramatically. The contrast between American and European consumption-levels of gasoline and home-heating fuels is particularly striking, since both areas claim similarly high standards of living and qualities of life.

Now those resources are running out. I suggest that the defining American

political issue of the new century will be SUSTAINABILITY. It will become as disruptive as slavery once was! We are already seeing increasing opposition to immigration. In New Jersey there are already three critical areas for Water Supply. Global Warming (and other Climate Change) are undesirable side effects of unsustainable combustion of fossil fuels. Smart Growth is a euphemism for an antidote to suburbanization. There will be battle over the freedom to drive cars everywhere, and the right to water lawns. Some of our most precious American images will be punctured, such as the freedom to roam over wide open spaces. Our biggest corporations (General Motors, Ford, Daimler-Chrysler) will be challenged to find new existences. Every square inch of parkland will be needed for housing or offices, and fought for. Population control will be advocated by mainstream politicians. Thomas Malthus will be honored for having seen the future first.

No real society has ever dealt rationally with the Tragedy of the Commons, even when the handwriting was (IS!) on the wall. (Individual politicians have occasionally been prophetic, but mainstream politics has always been dominated by the here-and-now.) I wish there were more that I (and we) could do to convince both our leaders and our followers to anticipate—and PREVENT—the consequences of continued sprawl (i.e. suburban growth). My New Year's prediction is that America, and American politics, will soon be consumed by it. ☞

Our Office is moving, an opportunity for you too!

by Tina Schvejda, Departing Chapter Chair

There is one last task that I want to complete before stepping down as Chapter Chair. We've outgrown our present Princeton headquarters location and need to find a better place — a place that is closer to mass transit, and environmentally friendly to those who use it. A safe place. A place we can be proud of and that's located closer to where the action is. The action is in Trenton. The Legislature is in Trenton. All major press offices are located in Trenton. Other environmental organizations are in Trenton. Our Chapter should have its office in Trenton!

My vision is that the office should serve many purposes. It should have space for current staff and room for future staffers too. Our staff of two has now become a staff of three with the expectation of adding another fulltime staff person and possibly a part time one. There should be a place for Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director, and Dennis Schvejda, Conservation Director, to hold press conferences. We should be able to hold our Executive, Legislative, Conservation, Litigation Oversight, Personnel, Financial and Political Committee meetings there. It should be a place where volunteers and student interns can come to participate in projects (or simply answer the phone and sort mail). It should be a place where Lori Herpen, our office assistant, can be utilized to the fullest. It might be a place that other environmental groups can visit and use when they're doing business in Trenton.

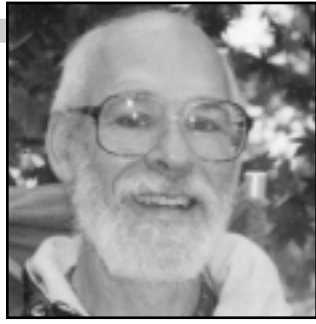
So we're moving, hopefully by the time you read this article. There are several ways in which you might help us out. We'd like the new office to look professional and be more current in office and computer equipment.

In the last issue of the Jersey Sierran I requested a copier, fax machine and printer

for our Conservation Director. Within 24 hours a very generous member donated a brand new combination unit to us. Another couple gave us a computer right away. So here is the "wish-list" of what the NJ Chapter will need in its new office:

1. Conference table that can seat 10-12 people comfortably - at least 12 ft long
2. Matching upholstered chairs for the conference table
3. Computer terminals: 4-6 needed
4. Fast copier (28-50 copies a minute), auto doc. feeder, 10-bin sorter
5. Book shelves-preferably wooden, 8 feet high. Need 4-6 of them
6. Filing cabinets both lateral and high style. Need 6 of each
8. Four credenza office desks
9. Four desk chairs, upholstered adjustable, swivel type
10. 4 large comfortable upholstered chairs, matching sets
11. 3-foot round table
12. Folding chairs: at least a dozen
13. High quality digital Camera
14. Portable podium w/ sound system
15. Oriental rugs: three 9 x 12 feet and two hall runners
16. Small refrigerator
17. Microwave oven
18. Floor lamps: need 4
19. Desk lamps: need 4
20. Brass coat racks and umbrella stands: need 2 each
21. Folding machine
22. Chalk board, large, movable
23. Large peg/cork boards 3x5 feet. Need 5

Even if you can't personally donate these items, a monetary donation would help towards the purchase of much needed office supplies. This might also be a way for corporations who are downsizing to find a "good home" for their used office equipment. If you have furniture that you would like to donate to the Chapter, please call Tina Schvejda (973-427-6863) or Lori Herpen (609-924-3141). ☞



Chair's Message

STEPPING DOWN AS CHAPTER CHAIR

by Tina Schvejda, Departing Chapter Chair



All good things must come to an end! One of them, that is near and dear to me, is my time as NJ Chapter Chair. I would like to speak to you for one last time as NJ Chapter Chair, if you will indulge me.

I appreciate all that you have given me these past four years. Your strength and focus on environmental issues has been my inspiration. I have led by example. I have brought people together. I have given you my visions and dreams for the NJ Chapter. I have put the NJ Chapter of Sierra Club as one of my top priorities. I believe completely in the NJ Chapter.

To briefly recap my past four years as NJ Chapter Chair, the following have occurred:

- Membership has gone up from 13,500 to over 22,000.
- Staff has increased from two to hopefully four people in the near future.
- Our annual fundraising campaign proceeds have gone from \$8,000 to \$32,000.
- Three new committees have started up: financial, litigation oversight and office.
- NJ Chapter has added a new (eleventh) Group—in Hunterdon County, and reorganized two: the Hudson-Meadowlands and Raritan Valley Groups.
- Weekly conference calls between staff and (volunteer) officers are now held.
- E-mail has come a long way and we now utilize it to its fullest capacity. When I first got e-mail in 1994 there were only 3 other people who had it. Now the Executive Committee(ExCom) uses it on an hourly basis!
- We now have an annual Appreciation Day event to honor life members, donors and outstanding volunteers

I joined the Sierra Club to meet and be around like-minded environmental conservation people. I started attending Central Jersey Group meetings. In the *Jersey Sierran* I perused the hikes/ outings list and noticed one about a raptors watch up in northern part of the state. Dennis Schvejda was the leader of the raptor watch that day. We met and enjoyed discussing similar topics of interest.

After dating Dennis for a few months, he invited me to a monthly Chapter ExCom meeting held at our headquarters

in Princeton. I was very impressed with the Chapter Chairperson, Mary Penney. She handled the meeting with such a professional yet caring way. Vice Chair was Bill Green, who became Chapter Chair during that meeting. I remember that there were many people attending. Everyone was so knowledgeable about environmental issues and concerns. The meeting went on for a marathon length of time till 9pm. Dinner was provided in the way of pizza. Believe me when I say that I have never had a date quite like that one.

For the next four years I attended every monthly ExCom meeting as an "at large person" with no voting power.

Bill Green was Chapter Chair for the next two years. Dick Colby was Vice Chair. During that time Dennis and I got married and had our reception at the Club's Princeton headquarters. Then Dick became Chapter chair, with Bart Semcer as Vice Chair and "heir apparent." I ran for ExCom that year but wasn't elected. Unfortunately for Dick and the Club, Bart moved away and Dick had to scramble to find another person to replace him. (There is a long tradition in the Sierra Club for volunteer officers taking responsibility for finding their successors!)

Dick approached me in the summer of 1998. Thinking quickly I realized that it only left me a few months' time to learn the ropes. I realized that we already had one NJSC leader in the Schvejda household. The time that I would have to commit would be tremendous, yet I knew the rewards would be as great. The other problem was that I was not on the ExCom. "Not a problem," I was reassured by several supporters.

Sure enough, I was elected, and in the January meeting of 1999 I was approved by the ExCom as NJ Chapter Chair.

The next big and final step for me to accomplish is to move our headquarters to Trenton. Trenton is the capital of our state and that is where all the action is. The NJ Chapter needs to be there.

In closing I'm not saying good-bye just saying adieu. Thank you for your confidence, collaboration, and cooperation. I could NEVER have done it without your help. Thank you! ☞



PAST CHAPTER CHAIRS: (L to R) Dennis & Tina Schvejda, Mary Penney 1993-4, Bill Green 1995-6, Dick Colby 1997-8.

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Gov. McGreevey Announces New Pinelands Commission Appointments

by Michael Gallaway, our Pinelands Issues Coordinator, and Carleton Montgomery, Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Governor McGreevey finally made good on his promise to get the Pinelands Commission back on track. In announcing his new nominations, Governor McGreevey said that he looked to these individuals to lead the Pinelands Commission back onto the path of preservation from which it has too often strayed in recent years. Although time will surely tell, at this point it looks like it was worth the wait. McGreevey helped close a circle in the history of Pinelands Protection with the nomination of former Governor Jim Florio to chair the Commission. As a NJ congressman in the 1970's, Florio was one of the key architects of Pinelands protection and sponsored the federal legislation creating the Pinelands National Reserve. With his wealth of experience and history in Pinelands preservation, Florio will hopefully provide the leadership needed to address the complex issues the Commission faces.

McGreevey had a unique opportunity to reshape the Commission as all seven gubernatorial appointments were open. Along with Candace Ashmun and Steve Lee—long-standing members of the body who were nominated for new terms by the Governor—the new Commissioners will include Betty Wilson, Ed Lloyd, Bob Hagaman, and Guy Campbell. Betty Wilson is a long-time public servant, a former member of the state Assembly and high-ranking official at the Department of Environmental Protection, and was a founder and member of the Board of Trustees of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. Ed Lloyd is the director of the Environmental Law Clinic at Columbia University Law School and for many years has been a trailblazing lawyer fighting for better environmental protection in New Jersey. Bob Hagaman is currently the mayor of Mullica Township in the Pines, and has demonstrated a consistent allegiance to preserving Mullica's natural areas and rural landscape. Pastor Guy Campbell is a Baptist minister from Moorestown, and the first African American Pinelands Commissioner. We do not know Pastor Campbell as well as the other new Commissioners, but we do know he believes in the importance of protecting the living world of the Pine Barrens. Candy Ashmun is no stranger to Sierra Club members, having served the NJ Chapter in a number of capacities, as well as being an original Pinelands Commissioner and a driving force behind the State Plan.

"The Pinelands protection program has helped create a strong sense among the citizens of our state that the Pinelands is a special place that merits special protection..."

Mr. Florio and the new Commissioners face a number of challenges that threaten to erode the goal of preserving an intact Pinelands ecosystem. Water quality and quantity, increasing growth pressures in the Regional Growth Areas, and endangered species protection are among the pressing issues that are demanding attention. The Pinelands Commission's long term ecological monitoring program has found that runoff from development and upland farming is contaminating Pine Barrens surface waters by adding nutrients (nitrogen) and raising the pH of these waters. These chemical changes make the waters appealing to non-Pine Barrens species of plants and animals, which compete with and often displace the distinctive Pine Barrens communities of so many rare, threatened and endangered species.

Just as troubling, well testing throughout the Pinelands and neighboring regions is revealing widespread pollution of the aquifers, including contamination with radioactive radium, mercury, nutrients and volatile organic compounds. The sources of this contamination include agricultural chemicals, leaking dumps, and years of unregulated spills.

The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan has been very successful in diverting development from most Pine Barrens natural habitats within the Pinelands National Reserve. It has, at least temporarily, saved vast stretches of forests, streams and wetlands from development, and slowed the degradation of water quality in the region's aquifers and surface waters. The Pinelands protection program has helped create a strong sense among the citizens of our state that the Pinelands is a special place that merits special protection before it is lost forever.

Yet the past twenty years have also revealed deficiencies in the program and raised fundamental questions about whether existing rules and plans are sufficient to save the Pine Barrens forever. It is becoming evident that the pattern, level and design of development permitted within and around the Pinelands is slowly destroying the region's natural infrastructure—potentially dooming the Pine Barrens to a slow and tragic demise. Those who think the Pinelands are "saved," need to look a little closer. Let's hope Mr. Florio and the new members of the Commission will do it. ☞

Fall Comes to the Hamilton-Trenton Marsh

by Carolyn Foote Edelmann, of the Central Jersey Group

excerpted from US1 Newspaper, Oct 16, 2002, with permission

My favorite haven, on foot and by kayak, has become the Hamilton-Trenton Marsh. I am frequently blessed by the company of Mary and Charles Leck, retired Rider University botanist and Rutgers University ornithologist, respectively. The Lecks turn formidable talents to exploring and documenting these nearby natural wonders. In the Marsh power towers rise. Highway abutments circle and stretch. Yet visitors can experience wilderness. Special gear is not essential beyond (preferably waterproof) hiking boots, sufficient water and bug spray in season.

This shimmering wetland comprises 1,250 acres. It straddles Trenton, Hamilton, and Bordentown. John A. Roebing

Memorial Park, at entry, consists of 260 acres, whittled to 200 when highways threaded through. A stately stairway leads to fake, fruitful Spring Lake, named for springs sacred to Leni Lenapes. The pale staircase testifies to faded glory, — White City Amusement Park (circa 1800). Patrons in fancy clothes toured amusements; bathers slid down a primitive water slide. The remainder of the Marsh belongs to various municipalities and some private owners: i.e., it's not officially protected.

In this "ancient meander of the Delaware River," Leni Lenapes and other tribes gathered for ritual and reunion more than 10,000 years ago. Europeans are Johnnys-come-lately. Revolutionary war boats rest at a Crosswicks Creek bend, scuttled by loyalists, lest they fall into British hands. It is stirring to kayak past on

ACTION ALERT: HELP BRING DOWN THE CURTAIN ON THE EMPIRE TRACT DEVELOPMENT

by Captain Bill Sheehan and Hugh Carola, Meadowlands Issues Coordinators

Lately many people have been asking our opinions concerning the redevelopment options for the Continental Arena site in the Hackensack Meadowlands. Needless to say, we have some pretty strong ideas. Many people have also been asking us if there's anything they can do to make sure that, regardless of what happens to the Arena, the Empire Tract wetlands get saved.

A quick history: In 1996, The Virginia-based Mills Corporation proposed to fill in over 200 acres of the Tract to build "Meadowlands Mills," a mega-mall, hotel and office complex. They also proposed a mitigation plan that would have transformed the remaining 400 acres of wetlands into their personal storm sewer.

Since 1996, New Jersey's environmental community (the Sierra Club, Hackensack Riverkeeper, NJ Audubon, and other groups large and small) have never wavered in our position that the Empire Tract is an integral part of the Meadowlands ecosystem. Additionally, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Environmental Protection Agency have all gone on record indicating that the Empire Tract wetlands are of national and regional importance; and done so in both the Clinton and Bush administrations! Many wetlands scientists have submitted data and opinions regarding the site's importance to the ecology of the entire Meadowlands.

So far, the Mills proposal has been stopped. In light of the above, we firmly believe that no one—not even the Mills Corporation itself—thinks that "Meadowlands Mills" will ever see the light of day.

But Mills is still determined to build something here and has spent tens of millions of dollars in the attempt. So now we come to the Continental Arena site. I suspect that most North Jerseyans have heard of their new plan as well as the competing proposals by Westfield and Hartz. As much as we would all love to see Mills simply leave, that's not going to happen. But, what makes their staying palatable, and what sets their proposal apart from the others, is what the company proposes to do with the Empire Tract.

Mills and its partner, Mack-Cali, have offered to donate the Empire Tract in its entirety to the State of New Jersey for conservation—if and when their Arena redevelopment proposal is approved. The State—and Bergen County—would receive 600 acres of critical open space and wildlife habitat at no cost to taxpayers. Sounds good, eh? Well, no sooner had Mills made the offer but the NJ Department of Transportation and the Port Authority began secret negotiations on how to turn the Tract into a massive wetlands mitiga-

tion bank—a designation that could fast-track wetlands destruction elsewhere in the New York / New Jersey harbor.

The Bergen Record reported on Nov. 21, 2002 that Governor McGreevey might prefer that the Empire Tract be turned over to the NJ Sports & Exposition Authority for, among other things, a practice field for the New York Jets! It is outrageous that our Governor—who received our endorsement—would even consider such a travesty. While title to the Empire Tract may be part of a deal, protection of the Tract as a wetland is the only acceptable option.

Governor McGreevey should take a long, hard look at the statements he made about the Meadowlands—the real Meadowlands, not the Arena—during his campaign for Governor. During his endorsement interview with The Record he stated, "I concur with the opinion expressed by Acting Governor DiFrancesco..." regarding the conservation of the Meadowlands in general and the Empire Tract in particular. Among other points, Mr. DiFrancesco had stated that Mills should not be permitted to build in wetlands.

To its credit, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) has adopted a conservation ethic for the Meadowlands and, as you are reading these words, it is preparing a new Master Plan for the region. Under the Plan, all of the remaining wetlands of the Meadowlands will be preserved. According to NJMC Executive Director Bob Ceberio, "The best plan for the Meadowlands is one with no wetlands loss."

So here's where we are: The NJMC, Mills, The Sierra Club, Hackensack Riverkeeper, all our colleagues in conservation, and the people of the Meadowlands region, all support the preservation of the Empire Tract. We are all waiting for the Governor to do the same. Please write, fax or e-mail Governor McGreevey TODAY. Tell him that you want the Empire Tract preserved, protected and restored for conservation. Period. Just tell him to do the right thing.

Governor James E. McGreevey
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
Phone: 609-292-6000
Fax: 609-292-3454

To send him an e-mail, go to: www.state.nj.us/governor/govmail.html

My friends, we are in the last act of this absurd drama. With just a little more help on all our parts this will be the LAST Empire Tract Action Alert you ever read. Let's bring that final curtain down! Contact us at 201-968-0808 and by e-mail at Hugh@HackensackRiverkeeper.org. ☞



species enhances the case of local ecologists, proposing Federal protection of this vulnerable region as a National Wildlife Refuge. If you know Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, Oceanville, you know what designation accomplishes for wildlife and the human spirit.

I could not induce either Leck to name favorite creature, nature site, or season. Both described "Ice Hikes" on the frozen Marsh: Walk-sliding over Marsh ice, these scientists have seen beaver breath on still

(continued on page 9)

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EYE ON

WASHINGTON

by Dennis Schvejda,
Chapter Conservation Director

THE BUSH ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY UNFOLDS

RUNNING THE GOVERNMENT AS IF THE ENVIRONMENT DIDN'T MATTER

SNOW JOB - The Park Service received more public comments on the Yellowstone snowmobile issue than any other in the agency's history. More than 360,000 e-mails and letters were received during five public comment periods, and 80% supported a ban on snowmobiles in Yellowstone National Park. An Occupational Safety and Health Administration study found that park rangers are exposed to unacceptable amounts of engine emissions and noise from snowmobiles. The EPA's regional office recommended last April that snowmobiles not be allowed in the park. A study released in May by the California Air Resources Board and commissioned by the Park Service showed park workers were exposed to hydrocarbons in concentrations 10 times higher than measured along Los Angeles freeways. So what's the Bush administration to do? How about allowing a 35% INCREASE in snowmobiles! "This plan says that Yellowstone can be managed by politics on behalf of special interests, and that science and the law protecting places like this can be set aside," said Jon Catton of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, an environmental group based in Bozeman, Mont.

POLLUTERS HOLIDAY - Polluters have paid 64% less in fines for breaking federal environmental rules under the Bush administration than they did in the final two years of the Clinton administration. A Knight Ridder analysis found that during the first 20 months of the Bush administration, civil penalties averaged \$3.8 million per month. During the last 28 months of the Clinton administration, civil penalties for the same types of violations averaged \$10.6 million a month. According to Senator James Jeffords, chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, "This administration is sending a message to polluters that if you break our environmental laws, you'll get a slap on the wrist rather than the full force of the law. Our laws are meaningless if they are not enforced."

SUPERFUND FAILING - The Inspector General of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has found that, under President Bush's leadership, the EPA failed to provide a single dollar for toxic waste cleanups at 32 Superfund sites, including ones where toxic waste is polluting water and risking families' health. Presidents Reagan, Bush Sr., and Clinton all supported the principle of "polluter pays." But this tax on chemical and oil companies expired in 1995, and Congress has refused to renew it. In 1996, the Superfund trust fund had a balance of \$3.8 billion collected from polluters for cleanups; next year, it's projected to have only \$28 million, thus shifting the clean-up burden to taxpayers. "Families shouldn't have to worry about toxic waste festering near their homes, said Ed Hopkins, Director of the Sierra Club Environmental Quality Program. "American families are paying a terrible price for the Bush Administration's decision to turn its back on the sensible, obvious solution: Make the polluters pay."

A BIRDER'S BEST FRIEND - Birders enjoy seeing rare birds and often go to great trouble and expense to do so. A Bush administration lawyer argued that bird-lovers benefit when the military kills birds because "bird watchers get more

enjoyment spotting a rare bird than they do spotting a common one." The Bush administration has succeeded in passing legislation granting the Defense Department a broad exemption from the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which protects 850 species of birds from harmful practices. "The provision, which was inserted at the Bush administration's request, will effectively give the Defense Department license to bomb and destroy the natural habitats of migratory birds, endangering more than a million birds and curtailing the enjoyment of more than 50 million bird enthusiasts in this country," said Rep. John D. Dingell (D-MI). We made it through two World Wars, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf War without this legislation, but birds are now threatening America's ability to defend itself, so it's bye-bye birdie.

BUSH CELEBRATES CLEAN WATER ACT'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY - CALLS BACK THE "GOOD OLD DAYS"

BACKWARDS ON CLEAN WATER - We are now moving backwards in terms of water quality. EPA's newest data shows that 45% of US waters do NOT meet water quality standards - two years ago that number was 40%.

BURY STREAMS WITH MINING AND OTHER WASTE - On May 3, 2002, the Bush administration made key changes to a Clean Water Act rule legalizing the burying of streams with waste from mountaintop coal strip-mines. Under the new rule, mining companies can legally dump waste produced from the destruction of hillsides and peaks into surrounding waters.

STOPPING RULES TO REDUCE OVERFLOWS OF RAW SEWAGE - Since January 2001, the Bush administration has held up a proposed Clinton administration rule that would have required municipalities to control releases of raw sewage and warn health authorities when they occur. The Centers for Disease Control estimate that nearly one million people become sick and 900 die each year from diseases like cholera, hepatitis and meningitis that are carried in waters polluted by sewage overflows.

EXPEDITING PERMITS FOR WETLANDS DESTRUCTION - The US Army Corps of Engineers implemented a new Nationwide Permit (NWP) system under the Clean Water Act on January 15, 2002. The Corps' new permit system weakens reforms the Clinton administration made in 2000, which included restricting wetland and stream destruction in floodplains and limiting the size of wetlands destroying development.

ABANDONING THE 'NO-NET-LOSS' WETLANDS POLICY - For the first time in a decade, the US Army Corps of Engineers unilaterally decided to abandon a 'no-net-loss' policy for wetlands protection. The US Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that nearly 58,500 acres of wetlands are destroyed annually.

THREATENING TO ELIMINATE ALL FEDERAL PROTECTION FOR MANY STREAMS AND WETLANDS - On September 19, 2002, Bush administration officials told a congressional subcommittee that the administration would propose new regulations redefining which waterways the Clean Water Act covers. Based on this testimony, periodically dry streams found in the upper reaches of

headwaters, as well as non-navigable tributaries and wetlands adjacent to tributary streams, might lose protection that the Clean Water Act currently provides.

DELAYING THE CLEANUP OF DIRTY WATERS - The EPA is designing weaker rules to implement the Clean Water Act's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program. Part of the original Clean Water Act, the TMDL program requires states and the EPA to identify polluted waterways, prioritize them for cleanup, and

develop pollution control limits for more than 20,000 rivers, lakes and estuaries. The EPA's new proposal attempts to weaken the federal government's mandate to issue cleanup plans when states fail to do so. It allows increased discharges from factories and sewage treatment plants based on speculative and unenforceable reductions in runoff pollution. It also creates new ways for states to take water-bodies off the cleanup list without reducing pollution. ☞

STATE-WIDE WRAPUP
DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director



THE NEW GOVERNOR'S FIRST YEAR

Under previous Governor Whitman the environmental community complained about the lack of enforcement, the weakening of regulations and the lack of access to the DEP and to the Governor and her staff. We have seen in the first year of the McGreevey Administration a 180-degree turnaround in the approach to the environment and the environmental community. DEP Commissioner Brad Campbell has quarterly meetings with the environmental community, as well as regular meetings on specific issues. We have seen many of the promises that were made to the Sierra Club during the campaign kept.

First and most importantly we have seen environmental enforcement increase under this Administration, whether it is raiding polluters in Camden, going after garbage trucks that are breaking the law, citing power companies for clean air violations, citing golf courses for operating without water allocation permits or citing a college for wetlands violations. This change in the philosophy at DEP means that there will be fewer environmental violations. This will lead to a cleaner and safer environment.

Governor McGreevey has reorganized the Pinelands Commission and appointed former Governor Jim Florio, who sponsored the original federal Pinelands Act, as its new Chair. Ed Lloyd, head of Columbia University's Environmental Law Clinic, was also appointed, as was Betty Wilson, a former Assistant Commissioner of DEP, and Candace Ashmun was reappointed. These new appointments will add strong environmental voices to a Commission that really needs them. The Governor also announced a moratorium in the growth areas in Atlantic County to help protect an area of the Pinelands that was being over-developed.

On Earth Day Governor McGreevey announced a program to upgrade protections to New Jersey's major drinking water sources. The first round of upgrades has reached the New Jersey Register. Under the old rules, a reservoir had no more protection than a mud puddle in a parking lot. These new protections call for no "measurable" change in water quality for water sources that serve close to four million people in the State of New Jersey. We continue to work with the DEP to outline even more streams and reservoirs for protection. The Governor also signed legislation to target Green Acres monies to protect water supplies.

Commissioner Campbell has also undone some of the worst proposals of the Whitman Administration, including deepening the Delaware River, the DeMarco cranberry permits and the Open Market Emissions Trading (OMET) program. The Delaware deepening would have had tremendous environmental impacts on southern New Jersey: by dumping contaminated mud on more than a dozen sites, and blasting the river bed, a critical aquifer for the southern part of the state could have been threat-



ened. Cranberry grower Garfield DeMarco, after he was caught violating the NJ Wetlands Act by destroying 22 acres of wetlands in the Pinelands was given his permits after the fact. Not only did Campbell cancel his permits; DeMarco is now ordered to restore those wetlands that he destroyed. The Sierra Club filed a complaint with the Inspector General of the EPA over an air pollution-trading scheme, OMET, proposed by the Whitman Administration. This scheme not only would have allowed for increased pollution in some of the most polluted parts of New Jersey, but there would have been no real reductions anywhere else.

Now, for the first time in a years, the word regulation is not dirty. The DEP has developed a new policy banning off-road vehicles in New Jersey's state parks and forests. Commissioner Campbell has proposed tightening the standard for phosphorus in discharge from sewer plants, the leading cause of water pollution in the State of New Jersey. New regulations are being proposed on storm water, which call for the recharge of ground water, as well as the cleaning up of non-point pollution. The rule also calls for stream buffers for high quality waterways, that could be as wide as 300 feet. New regulations to protect ground water are also being worked on, as well as regulations for endangered species. There is a proposal for a large rule package tied to a growth and non-growth map of the State that is also being prepared. This rule will deal with issues like septic, sewer service areas, water allocation permits and a whole range of other issues, to try to bring smart growth to the DEP's permitting process.

During the Fall, Governor McGreevey held a Sprawl Summit, where he brought together people from many different backgrounds to discuss the issues of sprawl. He outlined an ambitious agenda that called for redeveloping the cities, especially brownfields, limiting new highways and protecting our water. Because of this and his proposal to upgrade protections of our drinking waters, we are starting to see the impact on some of the sprawl projects in New Jersey. Proposals such as the luxury citizen development at the Delbarton Abbey may not get sewers. New sewer plants for Windy Acres and Milligan Farms in Hunterdon County may not get approval. The re-rating of the sewer plant for Powder Hollow in Wanaque may not

(continued on next page)

Celebrating the Donor of a Large Bequest to the New Jersey Chapter

by Dennis Schvejda, Chapter Conservation Director

I first met Ken Lloyd in the early 1990's when I was Chair of the North Jersey Group's Conservation Committee. We were working to protect High Mountain in Wayne, and Pyramid Mountain in Kinnelon, among a host of other issues. Ken was an avid hiker who loved the New Jersey Highlands, and we were working to protect two of his favorite places. For the next several years, Ken attended just about every Committee meeting. He never missed any of the monthly Wayne Town Council meetings, which we attended faithfully until we succeeded in protecting 1,200 acres of High Mountain.

Ken was elderly, tall and gaunt, wore glasses and a pork-pie hat. He was quiet, never testifying or speaking out at public hearings. But he was there, offering encouragement, advice and expressing a heartfelt gratitude for our efforts. Ken was a fellow we all liked.

After a time, Ken suffered from failing health, and he eventually stopped attending our meetings. After another few years, I learned of Ken's death. I had expected it, Ken being elderly, and ill, but it was sad news nonetheless. I was told Ken had left the Club a bit of money in his will. Ken had lived frugally; in fact, I thought him to be "poor" in means but rich in spirit.

Almost a year passes, and now I'm notified by National Sierra that Ken's bequest was the largest our NJ Chapter has ever received. Ken was quite wealthy.

Who would have thought that our work together would have made such an impression? I am deeply touched by Ken's gift. He leaves a legacy that will affect many lives. Ken's bequest is an investment in cleaner air and water, more open space, environmental laws enforced, and new laws enacted. The NJ Chapter will work hard to make this happen.

In my mind's eye, Ken, I see you smiling, chuckling at the surprise you had in store for your Sierra friends. ☺

Director's Report

(continued from previous page)

happen. These projects were originally done deals, and the fact that the State may not allow them to happen is a major victory whether we win all or some. We would like to win all.

Last year's State budget had a shortfall of more than \$3 billion. One of the places from which the Treasury Department raided money to close the gap was the Green Acres Program. It was the first time in the history of that Program where monies were taken for other uses. \$20 million of interest on Green Acres funds were used to pay the debt service on bonds (instead of general funds, which is what the law calls for). We were able to stop any further raids in this year's budget. (Instead, \$7 million were taken from the Garden State Trust to pay for staffing at Green Acres.

Two park diversions that were originally approved by Gov. Whitman's DEP Commissioner Shinn went forward under the new Administration: the Cape May site for Atlantic Cape Community College and Park Madison in Plainfield. Commissioner Shinn, as part of a Consent Order with the Cape May County Freeholders, settled a lawsuit and as a condition committed the DEP to support the transfer of parkland in Cape May County for a new college. We had testified before the State House Commission and asked the new Administration to kill this project. Instead, the transfer was approved. Now the Sierra Club and other organizations are suing to block this development on parkland. On his last day in office, Commissioner Shinn approved the diverting of four acres of parkland in Plainfield for a new county office building and a strip mall. The Sierra Club sued and won, stopping the diversion. However, special legislation was passed to move this diversion forward. We have asked the Governor to veto it and we are working with the Governor's office on this issue.

Early in the McGreevey Administration when the Open Public Records Act rules came out, many of us who had worked to pass this legislation, felt the rules were weakening their intent. We found that we were able to work with the Governor's staff and fix them.

There are many issues still to be resolved: clean car, Highlands, steep slope protection, TDR. There is a tremendous amount of opposition building against the changes that the new Administration has made. There was a polluter's paradise during the Whitman eight years and those groups who are used to getting their own way are now organizing to fight the new Administration. Part of their strategy is to claim that the Sierra Club has too much influence over the new Administration. Henry Hill, the Attorney for the Builder's Association, had on his web site, "What Sierra proposes, Campbell disposes." as a way of trying to diffuse any influence with the Commissioner. Jim Sinclair, lobbyist for the NJ Business & Industry Association, stated in his Environmental Notes that, "It seems that the main purpose of the DEP is now to please Jeff Tittel and the Sierra Club." So we have to be sure that the proposals for strengthening the protections of our waters, for implementing the Governor's sprawl agenda, as well as other programs to protect the environment, will happen. We will have to work harder and be more diligent in order to stop the special interests. If we do, New Jersey will have a better environment for future generations. ☺

BOOK REVIEW:

THE WATER IS WIDE

by Mark Oshinskie

Sometimes I wonder whether I read stuff in order to learn or, rather, to become more convinced that what I already believe is true. I suspect that most people daily reinforce, rather than reconsider, their worldviews through the prism of their preferred politically-charged media outlets. All Things Considered, my eye!

This may be why I enjoy reading books by Rutgers Professor David Ehrenfeld. I fundamentally agree with his notion that, since long before 9/11, the world has been degenerating environmentally, economically, socially and spiritually. He also thinks we're going downhill academically. I have less of a basis for an opinion on that, and less concern, as well.

In his best known work, *The Arrogance of Humanism* (1978), Ehrenfeld took aim at the notion that humans can systematically manage the world. He points out that many efforts to improve things fail and even cause other problems. Efforts to measure as a basis for problem solving are intrinsically flawed, misleading and, well...arrogant.

Fundamentally, he questions how we know what we know. I recently read a doctor's account of the first lecture he heard in medical school. The instructor said, "Half of what we will teach you is wrong. The only problem is we don't know which half." While he was clearly exaggerating to make a point, if that sentiment applies to medical curriculum, how can we structure the more complex natural and social worlds with much confidence? Ehrenfeld observes that most Western people internalize—and most institutions and inventions reflect—the dubious principle that every problem has a rational, human-mediated solution.

In *Swimming Lessons* (2002), Ehrenfeld updates these themes and purports to provide instructions to stay afloat in a technomaniac world. *Swimming Lessons* is an often charming series of 35 essays in which Ehrenfeld discusses everything from dinosaurs to ancient Jewish texts to detective novels—and spins anecdotes about gardening, raising children, bird watching, exotic camping trips and turning down, as a teen, an opportunity to read books, for pay, to his father's friend, some going-blind physician he knew as "Dr. Williams" (a/k/a William Carlos Williams), in Dr. Williams' final year. The latter is about not perceiving treasures placed right before us.

In this vein, while the author writes elegantly of his trips to Arctic isles, tropical forests and remote Canadian lakes, he also finds neglected beauty in New Jersey's outdoor spaces. He mentions the Millstone Canal and the Hutcheson Forest and centers a whole essay on New Jersey microenvironments he visits with his Field Ecology classes, such as highwaysides and railyards. He suggests that, in its own way, New Jersey is undervalued in relation to better known ecotourist destinations. Besides, it's accessible and it's home.

"...while the author writes elegantly of his trips to Arctic isles, tropical forests and remote Canadian lakes, he also finds neglected beauty in New Jersey's outdoor spaces."

Like his literary predecessors Lewis Thomas and Wendell Berry (his friend, to whom the book is dedicated), the author's method is to connect the micro to the macro, the specific to the general. I do the same thing in my own head, in ways that drive others, and sometimes myself, a little crazy. For example, both the author and I will agonize over the purchase of a tool because of the social, economic and global impact this purchase might have. I can't help myself. But sometimes I think I overdo this, principally because the choices are already so constrained and because my one vote counts for so little in this big world.

We also agree that the benefits of technology are greatly overstated and that technology often causes more problems than it solves. He slams genetic engineering and notes, for example, that computers are supposed to save society great amounts of energy but that computers account for about 15% of all domestic energy use. Do people drive less because of computer use?

Ehrenfeld favors older, slower, more face-to-face, more local, lower tech, more craftspersonlike ways of doing things. He rails, inter alia, against globalization and against Internet activism's inability to serve as anything close to a commensurately countervailing force. In so doing, he makes a lot of sense.

The author's instructions are most often subtly delivered. Most—the ones that resonate best with me—are philosophical and personal. Curtail emailing, Net surfing, TV watching and consuming. Instead, slow down, develop your faith, talk to your neighbors, make more

of your own food and, I would add, make some music, dance and do something athletic.

A few other instructions are more institutional and less helpful. For example, the author suggests that corporations should have charters for 20-year terms, at which time their conduct should be evaluated in order to adjudicate whether they have been sufficiently virtuous to deserve charter renewal. From my legal experience, I perceive more than a few practical problems with this proposal including, but not limited to, the glacial pace of due process, the impossibility of a thorough review of the multitudes of extant corporations and the Black Hand of partisan politics.

Setting aside these drier procedural concerns, is it really possible to measure a corporation's virtue?

Consider, for example, even a superficial examination of that paragon of corporate responsibility, Ben and Jerry's. Sure, they pay their farmers milk prices above federal milk order levels and pay their scoopers twice the minimum wage. And Ben and Jerry seem so nice! They wear wire-rimmed glasses and tie dyed shirts, have colorful stores and give their flavors hip, whimsical names. But does their sugary, (saturated) fatty and sometimes hydrogenated product induce cavities, obesity, heart-disease and prostate cancer? How many shops do they have in serious urban neighborhoods? Are they jovial, New Age redliners? Do they hire minorities or am I just visiting the stores at the wrong times? Besides, haven't Ben and Jerry succumbed to the endless growth business model? And is it really so laudable to pay teens enough that they can afford Camaros? Or should low wage labor be an adolescent rite of passage? If you can afford to routinely buy lunch out in your early twenties, you'll have less to look forward to in your forties.

If it matters, we have a few other differences. The author's views are more PC than mine. He also seems to see a meltdown in the nearer term than I do, after which things can be rebuilt better than before. I think the decline has—and will continue to be—gradual, deniable and partially exportable, and that it will be hard to reconstruct much of the good we have lost. But that's just my opinion. I won't try to convince you. ☺

Mark Oshinskie is an attorney and writer on environmental issues.

YOU HAVE MORE TO GIVE THAN YOU KNOW

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

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

Celebrating Appreciation Day

See story on page 1



Ken Johanson with Bob Cottingham



Mark Matsil, Jeff Tittel, Mitchell Stern and Tina Schvejda



Sunil, Tina, Dennis, Dick



Rep. Rothman and Comm. Campbell with Tittel, D. Schvejda, Meiling Chin and Mary Penney



Jeff Tittel, Dennis Schvejda, Brad Campbell



Mitchell Stern, Congressman Rothman, Dennis Schvejda, Mark Matsil, Commissioner Campbell



Joan Denzer, Sunil Somalwar, Tina & Dennis Schvejda, Dick Colby

Hamilton-Trenton Marsh

(continued from page 4)

January air. "Fall is the fruiting time," Mary admitted, as berries bent boughs over our heads. Charles and Mary remembered a recent full-moon walk. Striding between lake and marsh, they were startled by a Great Horned Owl sailing past to a convenient stump. You never know what gifts the Marsh will bring. ☞

Carolyn Foote Edelmann is a poet, writer, author and devoted naturalist. She expresses her love of nature and zest for life as part of a seven-woman critique and performance troupe. The seven-woman team has been reading for audiences ever since Princeton's Micawber Books requested Valentines Poems in February, 2000. "Hot Poems by Cool Women," their flip defense against expectations of "Roses Are Red," christened the group and won the press. Demand has been such that they have published two volumes of their collected work, the vivid covers painted by Cool Husband, Gary Lott. The Princeton University Store will showcase this year's official reading on Sunday, February 16, at 3pm.

REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION ISSUES:

TEA-21 RENEWAL

by Bob Johnson, our Transportation Issues Coordinator

TEA-21 is the federal Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st century. This is the main source of federal funding for surface transportation. It comes up for reconsideration every six years and the current law expires Sept 30, 2003. For more information about it, see <http://www.istea.org/> We need to pay attention to the debate over the renewal of this bill, because its final form will determine whether the United States will have more alternate trans-

New Jersey Sierra Student Coalition

A Network of New Jersey College and High School Student Environmental Activists

Online at www.ssc.org/nj – or send messages to nj@ssc.org

contributed by Dan Rosen, our SSC liaison. His contact information is below.

The NJSSC is a community of student activists who feel that calling New Jersey the Garden State shouldn't be false advertising. We are naive idealists who refuse to believe that it is somehow "rational" and "practical" to exploit and destroy the world and each other.

An entirely student and youth run organization, the NJSSC Community is challenging assumptions about students and youth as we organize to achieve real progress for our communities and our environment.

From being a district organizer to participating in the planning of the NJSSC's Environmental Justice and lobbying in Washington, there are numerous ways for you to be actively involved in planning and organizing the NJSSC.

DISTRICT ORGANIZERS NEEDED

NJSSC District Organizers work with high school and college students in their district as well as the national campaign coordinators of the Sierra Student

Coalition to lobby the Member of Congress in the district on crucial environmental legislation. (A brochure with the responsibilities of a District Organizer can be downloaded at <http://www.ssc.org/nj/districtorganizers/districtorganizer.pdf>)

A little hard work can make a very big difference. **STEP UP TO ORGANIZE YOUR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT!** Being a district organizer is a great way to make a difference in protecting the environment while also meeting other student activists locally and around the country. Get more info and apply online at <http://www.ssc.org/nj/districtorganizers>.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

When locating their environmentally hazardous operations, corporations often target places where working class people and people of color live, because it tends to be cheaper and easier to get away with. The situation is so bad here in the "Garden State" that, on average if you live in a low income community, you live next to twice the number of toxic Superfund sites as a person living in a high income community. (Read more about EJ at www.ssc.org/nj/ej/ej.html)

The NJSSC Environmental Justice Organizing Committee is planning a statewide campaign for environmental justice, urban environmentalism, clean energy, and public transit. Plans include organizing in our schools to promote alternatives to cars and install solar panels on our schools, working with community organizations who ask for our support, and lobbying state legislators to fight sprawl while addressing environmental racism and classism. A student EJ summit/activist training is being planned

for this Spring.

For more information, contact Dan Rosen at (201) 670-1980 or danrosen85@hotmail.com.

PUBLIC LANDS ACTION SUMMIT IN DC — MARCH 7th-11th

Less than a year ago, 150 students from 45 states descended on Washington, D.C. They came from high schools and colleges, from cities, suburbs, and small towns. All were united by a common belief: "Wilderness needs no defense, only more defenders." - Edward Abbey

Thanks to our energy and passion, our National Forests and wilderness lands have received added support from lawmakers. We took the fight back home, waging strategic campaigns to get even more cosponsors. We did great work, but now there's a new Congress, and it's time for students to return to Washington.

At Public Lands Action Summit (PLAS) 2003 we will be lobbying members of Congress to protect our National Forests, nine million acres of Utah's Redrock Wilderness, and Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

High school and college activists from around the country will gather at PLAS in Washington, DC from March 7th through 11th. By attending the Summit, you'll gain the knowledge and skills to help win permanent protection for magnificent and threatened lands. You'll learn how to work with media, talk with your elected officials, and plan a long-term campaign to win their support for wild lands protection. When the weekend is over, you'll take these skills home with you.

GET MORE INFORMATION AND APPLY ONLINE @ www.ssc.org - click on "Public Lands Action Summit". ☞

Book Summary

(continued from page 1)

dirt bikes, snowmobiles, and other two-stroke gasoline-powered machines. For one thing, their engines do not contain catalytic converters and other emissions controls. As a result, large amounts of hydrocarbons are created, which then turn into smog. An hour of water skiing can create nearly as much smog as driving a car from Washington D.C. to Florida.

When making decisions about transportation, know that your choices are truly important to the environment. Buying a high mileage, low emissions vehicle is the most obvious step. Today, excellent choices such as the Honda Civic hybrid provide a great combination of high-mileage in an all-around practical and reliable car. But there are other decisions we can make, such as driving less by combining or eliminating trips, or travelling with others. There really are many opportunities to do this if we keep it in mind before we use our car. Although we never previously considered it an option, my wife and I recently began commuting to work together. Not only does this reduce traffic and carbon dioxide emissions, it's enjoyable. Another major transportation decision is to move close to where you work or shop, or to a rapid transit station, so that you can reduce the amount of driving you do.

The second most important consumption choice relates to WHAT WE EAT. Growing and raising food are resource-intensive activities that contribute to water depletion, water pollution, and land use. Once again however, some activities are more harmful than others. Raising cattle, chickens and pigs are the three most environmentally

damaging activities. For example, compared with pasta, red meat is responsible for 20 times the land use (due to cattle grazing), 17 times the water pollution (due to animal wastes), and 5 times the toxic water pollution and water use (due to chemicals used on feed grains and water for irrigation and livestock). Livestock are a very inefficient food source in that only a small fraction of the grain fed to animals is ultimately converted into meat that people consume.

One helpful choice is to reduce household meat consumption. There are many satisfying meat alternatives available in regular grocery stores these days. Also, choosing certified organic fruits, vegetables, and other packaged food items is a good way support organic farming, which reduces the amount of chemicals that wind up in our water supply. This choice also reduces our pesticide intake and exposure. By the way, because pesticides build up in the fatty tissue of the animals, eating meat may expose us to several times more pesticides than consuming fruits or vegetables. Of course, the best organic produce is that which we grow in our own gardens.

The third most important consumption choice relates to the VARIOUS DECISIONS WE MAKE IN OUR HOMES. Whether a house runs on electricity, natural gas, or oil, and whatever fossil fuel is used by the local electric utility, energy used at home pumps significant toxins into the air and contributes to global warming. So reducing energy consumption can directly reduce air pollution. Generally, the larger the house, the larger the fuel bills and the larger the air pollution emissions.

To reduce energy consumption, here

are five easy-to-implement ideas.

a) Replace the incandescent bulbs used most often with compact fluorescent bulbs. Compact fluorescent bulbs generate much less heat, use four-fifths less energy, and last up to 13 times longer than incandescent bulbs. As a result, one such bulb, over its life, will avoid putting one ton of carbon dioxide into the air if powered by a coal fired power plant, and, if powered by oil, will save the burning of a full barrel of oil (42 gallons) and all the attendant emissions. Think of the difference we could make if everyone replaced just one bulb. In addition, the energy saved translates into money saved over the life of the bulb, even accounting for the higher initial cost of the fluorescent bulb. And if you buy a multi-pack at a discount like Costco, the savings are even greater.

b) Use less hot water. Efficient shower heads deliver as little as 1 gallon of water per minute (gpm) and still provide robust water flow. Older, inefficient ones may deliver up to 6 gpm, though the current maximum is 2.5 gpm. Modern front-loading washing machines use far less water than older top-loading ones. Choose warm or cold cycles for more of your washing. Turn down the temperature on your hot-water heater and be aware when the hot water is needlessly running, because it is running up your energy bill as well.

c) Make sure the windows, doors and walls are sufficiently weather-stripped and insulated. This includes making sure windows receive significant summer sun (east- and west-facing) are blocked by window coverings or shade trees, and making sure that south-facing win-

dows are not blocked to maximize heat uptake from the winter sun.

d) When you purchase appliances, consider the entire life cycle cost, instead of just the initial cost. This leads to purchasing much more efficient appliances, especially government labeled Energy Star® models. The refrigerator is typically the biggest energy user in the house, but they have become much more efficient and less polluting over the past decade.

e) Choose a green energy supplier. In many places we can choose an alternative to our local utility. Some power companies provide completely renewable energy, such as wind or solar. It may cost a little more right now, but will provide much needed help to a vitally important industry in its infancy.

Good ideas are wasted unless we take action. What specifically will you do to reduce your automobile travel, to eat in a more sustainable manner, and to improve the efficiency of your home? And don't forget another timeless, but powerful suggestion: plant a tree. By soaking up carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen, each tree offsets some of the harmful effects of our daily activities.

Incidentally, based on a study of the energy use and waste created, there is little difference between choosing paper or plastic bags. So choose whichever you prefer, or choose a reusable canvas sack. The key to making a difference is to keep priorities ordered and to focus time and energy on choices that matter most. ☞

Michael Minaides can be contacted at msminaides@hotmail.com



Group News

FROM AROUND THE STATE

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:

Chair: Ellen Pepin 973-252-5137
 epepin@worldnet.att.net

Vice Chair: Joseph Pepin 973-252-5137
 pepin@worldnet.att.net

Treasurer: Donna Rubin 973-726-9278

Secretary: Debbie Hambright 973-729-8015

Political Chair: Dean Shemenski 908-684-1515
 dshemenski@billbehrle.com

Publicity Chair: Claire Cifelli 973-726-8606

Outings Chair: Vacant

Attention: 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. Please help us by completing the survey below and sending it back to Ellen Pepin, 4 Cathy Place, Succasunna NJ 07876.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Our general meetings generally take place in Sparta, at 8pm. Please call for the dates and meeting place.

Jan 15: Pot luck supper at home of Ellen and Joe Pepin, 4 Cathy Place, Succasunna, NJ Please call Ellen Pepin if you need directions.

NORTHWEST JERSEY GROUP ELECTION:

The ballot published in the Oct-Dec issue of this newsletter was **FLAWED**, so the election must now (sadly) be **REPEATED**. Group members should please clip and return the ballot below, by **Feb 28**, to: Sierra Club Group Ballot, 4 Cathy Place, Succasunna, NJ 07876-1002.

GROUP BALLOT for Northwest Jersey Group

Executive Committee:

Vote for two candidates, maximum. The first column of boxes is for "individual" members. Family (joint) members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns. (To learn more about the candidates, contact Ellen Pepin at 973-252-5137.)

- Ellen Pepin
- Joe Pepin
- Write in: _____
- Write in: _____

Your membership # _____

(found on the address label of this newsletter or your SIERRA magazine)

Volunteer Interest Survey - Northwest Jersey Group

NEW MEMBERS AND OLD . . . PLEASE HELP US UPDATE OUR VOLUNTEER DATABASE!!!

Grassroots action made the Sierra Club what it is today—the premier national organization working for, and winning, environmental reforms in our communities, our states, our nation, and our world. Let us know how you would like to be involved. Please fill out the form below and return to Ellen and Joe Pepin, 4 Cathy Place, Succasunna NJ 07876-1002.

Date: _____
 Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 E-mail: _____

Phone: () _____ (h) () _____ (w)

Fax: () _____ Other: () _____

Membership # (if known): _____

Occupation: _____

I'd like to spend _____ hours/month volunteering.

I want to contribute financially only.

SKILLS • KNOWLEDGE • ABILITIES

I would like to volunteer the following skills:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting/Bookkeeping | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Expertise | <input type="checkbox"/> Political Organizing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Data Entry | <input type="checkbox"/> Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Design/Maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Word Processing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing/Journalism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performing Arts | |

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

I would participate in the following activities:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend a Sierra Club Meeting | <input type="checkbox"/> Write Letters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend a Community Meeting | <input type="checkbox"/> Perform Legal Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Answer the Club's Phone | <input type="checkbox"/> Greet People at Meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work at a Mailing Party | <input type="checkbox"/> Work at a Sierra Club Booth at Fairs and Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Testify at a Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> Positions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Calling | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | |

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

Northwest Jersey Group: Sussex & Warren
Hunterdon County Group: Hunterdon
North Jersey Group: Passaic & most of Bergen
Raritan Valley Group: Somerset & Middlesex
West Jersey Group: Gloucester, Camden & Burlington
South Jersey Group: Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland & Salem

Essex County Group: Essex
Hudson-Meadowlands 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

Hunterdon County Group

OFFICERS:

Chair: Ruth Prince 908-284-9103
 ruthp2@earthlink.net

Political Chair: Arnold Kushnick
 apkushn@eclipse.net

Co-Treasurers: Jeannie Geremia
 jeannieg@ptd.net
 and Arnold Kushnick
 apkushn@eclipse.net

For meeting times and locations, please contact Ruth Prince.

ACTIVITIES:

• **The Musconetcong Mountain** 90-acre proposed development in Holland Township received conditional pre-approval from the Holland Planning Board in October, despite massive citizen opposition and excellent media coverage. However, the approval imposed many conditions which may not be met, and there were legal irregularities in the approval process. Friends of Holland Highlands is mounting a legal challenge to the approval, and we continue to aid them. In further opposition to this proposed development, representatives of the Club's Hunterdon County Group and Chapter, in concert with Rutgers' Environmental Law Clinic, held a meeting with DEP in October regarding their practice of issuing stream encroachment permits for detention basins discharging to C1 streams. We have made it clear that if DEP issues a stream encroachment permit for this development, we will challenge it.

• We provided testimony at the Hunterdon County October DEP hearing on the draft NJPDES permit for the Milligan Farms development. Since Sydney Brook received a C1 designation in a DEP proposed rule entering the state register on November 18, 2002, we requested that discharge permits affecting this and other newly designated surface waters be frozen until final rule-making.

• During October we provided support to our endorsed political candidate.

• We respond to many citizen requests for advice regarding a broad range of environmental issues.

• We will be participating in Hunterdon County's Master Plan revision process, and will be involved with a County effort to design technically sound model ordinances for our municipalities to adopt as desired.

North Jersey Group

(All of Passaic County, Bergen County except for the eight southern towns mentioned in the Hudson-Meadowlands Group's description, below)

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
 SOLAA7@aol.com

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

Outings Chair: Kerry Miller
 ksmiller2@juno.com

Political Chair: Michael Cino 201-750-0447
 miata7@aol.com

Secretary: open position

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

Highlands Committee: Bill O'Hearn 973-962-0562
 william_ohearn@juno.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/CONSERVATION MEETINGS: Held at least four times a year (once every quarter). For date and location contact Betsy Kohn, Ellen Friedman or Hugh Carola (see above).

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held once a month at 7:30 pm on the following THURSDAYS and at the locations indicated:

Jan 23 at Paramus Public Library, E-116 Century Road, Paramus: "We are the Sierra Club" - an introduction to the conservation issues and hiking opportunities in northern New Jersey - video and discussion led by Betsy Kohn.

Feb 20 at Bloomingdale Senior Citizens Center, 101 Hamburg Tpke, Bloomingdale: "The Lure of Caves and Caving" - a slide presentation by longtime caver Adrian Sira, author of "A Guide to Responsible Caving" and instructor of vertical caving, about the fragile environment of caves and the adventure of exploring them. His talk will also include his 1991 caving experience in the Soviet Union.

Mar 13 at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood: "The Future of the Meadowlands" - a panel discussion with representatives from Hackensack Riverkeeper and the NJ Meadowlands Commission on the new Master Plan for the Meadowlands (to be published in early 2003). The plan, the first one to be drawn up since 1970, seeks to preserve 7,000 acres of wetlands and shift district development to brownfields and upland areas.

HIGHLANDS COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Held at 7:30 pm on the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of the month (EXCEPT JANUARY: SECOND Wednesday!) at Pompton Lakes Public Library, 333 Wanaque Avenue, Pompton Lakes, NJ. Everyone interested in Highlands conservation is invited. For information or to check the meeting schedule, contact Committee Chair Bill O'Hearn at 973-962-0562 or william_ohearn@juno.com

BECOME A SIERRA CLUB VOLUNTEER! Help with conservation issues to save our woodlands, wetlands and watersheds, and protect the Hackensack and Ramapo Rivers. Join the Highlands Committee (see above). Choose an issue to work on, such as water quality, air quality, brownfields redevelopment, environmental justice, nuclear energy, population, transportation, urban renewal, or wildlife and endangered species. Participate in our political endorsement process and help us interview State Assembly and Senate candidates next year. Work on public education programs, publicity, tabling at special events, river cleanups, petition drives, or fundraising. To find out how you can help, please contact Betsy Kohn or Ellen Friedman or Tom Thompson (see above).

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

NORTH JERSEY GROUP ELECTION:

The ballot published in the Oct-Dec issue of this

The Survey Form above is relevant to ALL our Groups. Consider completing it!

newsletter was **FLAWED**, so the election must now (sadly) be **REPEATED**. Group members should please clip and return the ballot below, by Feb 28, to: Sierra Club Group Ballot, 2400 Hudson Terrace #5D, Fort Lee, NJ 07024.

GROUP BALLOT for North Jersey Group Executive Committee:

Vote for four candidates maximum. The first column of boxes is for "individual" members. Family (joint) members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns. (To learn more about the candidates, contact Betsy Kohn at 201-461-4534.)

Hugh Carola
 Michael Herson
 Monica Maye
 Tom Thompson
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Your membership # _____
(found on the address label of this newsletter or your SIERRA magazine)

Hudson Meadowlands Group

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

OFFICERS:

- Chair:** Steve Lanset 201-860-9870
 slanset@hotmail.com
- Vice Chair:** Louise Taylor 201-224-3754
 l.g.taylor@erols.com
- Treasurer:** Steve Lanset 201-860-9870
 slanset@hotmail.com
- Secretary:** Tina Munson 201-941-5784
 artina@rcn.com
- Programs Chair:** Open position!
Publicity: Open position!
Political Chair: Open position!
Membership: Louise Taylor 201-224-3754
 l.g.taylor@erols.com

NEWS: Keep up with Group happenings at warp speed! Please send your e-mail address to Steve Lanset (slanset@hotmail.com) and you will be added to our distribution list. We are especially trying to network members who share similar environmental interests and to call meetings on shorter (two or three weeks) notice than usual. We are currently working on the Bergen Arches, Liberty State Park, and green transportation issues. Members are invited to help with these or other local issues. For those interested in our open volunteer positions, please contact Steve Lanset, at 201-860-9870, or at slanset@hotmail.com.

GROUP BALLOT 2003

Hudson-Meadowlands Group: Candidates for Group Executive Committee:

Vote for five maximum. The first column of boxes is for "individual" members. Family (joint) members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns. Please clip out and mail ballot to H-M Sierra Group, PO Box 347, Hoboken, NJ 07030. Place your name and return address on outside of envelope to establish eligibility to vote. Deadline for submitting this ballot: Jan. 31, 2002.

Bob Honsinger
 Don Koczynski
 Steve Lanset
 Tina Munson
 Louise Taylor
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Essex County Group

(Essex County)

OFFICERS:

- Chair:** Richard Isaac 973-716-0297
 risaax@aol.com
- Conservation:** Kyle Lischak 973-218-9388
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
- Open Space:** Michel Cuillerier 973-736-0913
 schatzidog@earthlink.net
- Treasurer:** Lori Tanner 973-857-0519
 Ljensen@montclairlaw.com
- Secretary:** Bob Wolff 973-509-7331
 robert_wolff@urscorp.com

- Env. Justice:** Dawn Breeden 973-763-8968
 rossbreeden@verizon.net
- Fundraising:** Kim McGuire 973-275-1030
 mackim@aol.com
- Programs:** Sue Slotnick 973-564-9589
 PSue82@juno.com
- Membership:** George Cluen 973-744-7430
 gcluen@hotmail.com
- Consumption:** Mike Minaides 973-470-0793
 msminaides@hotmail.com
- Rahway River:** Kirk Barrett 973-313-1218
 kbarrett@cimic.rutgers.edu

ACTIVITIES: Working to preserve wetlands in the Passaic River Basin and remaining forested areas in Essex County. Continuing to ensure that the Essex County Park and Open Space Trust Fund is implemented in a fair and consistent way. Addressing environmental justice (EJ) issues.

****OPENINGS**** The Group has openings for those interested in our Environmental Justice Campaign, our Wetlands Campaign, and for those who interested in recycling and consumption issues! For those interested in helping please contact Rich at 973-716-0297, or at risaax@aol.com for details!! Thanks!!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Held at 7pm the first week of the month. Please contact Rich at risaax@aol.com or 973-716-0297 for the location and day of the week, which may vary.

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

Jan, 2003: No meeting scheduled

Feb: No meeting scheduled

Mar 13: Can't remember the last time NJ had a white Christmas, or when you could keep your windows open during the summer months without getting heat stroke? Join Marc Brammer, founder of New York Climate Rescue (NYCR), for a slide show presentation on the science behind global warming and a discussion on how you can help make a change for the better. NYCR is a citizen-based action group, which is focused on climate change initiatives and concrete actions to make the metropolitan New York area "climate neutral".

Loantaka Group

(Morris and Union Counties)

OFFICERS:

- Group Chair:** Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414
 paulsanderson@aol.com
- Treasurer:** Joyce White 908-272-4478
 joyce00201@yahoo.com
- Secretary:** Open position.
- Conservation Chair:**
- Morris County:** Open position.
Union County: Ed Johnson 908-687-2778
- Legislative Chair:** Ken Johanson 908-464-0442
 kjohan@comcast.net
- Political Chair:** Meiling Chin 908-490-1054 (8-10pm)
 chinmeiling@yahoo.com
 Melody Gocklin
- Programs:**
- Outreach & Events Chair:** Bob Johnson 908-771-9676
 robert.johnson@comcast.net
- Publicity Chair:** Janice La Gala 973-895-2143 (before 9pm)
 jlagala@cs.com
- Membership:**
- Air Quality Coordinator:** Bob Campbell 908-273-5720
 wrobc@intac.com
- Highlands Coordinator:** Phil L'Hommedieu 973-425-2808
 plhommedie@aol.com
- Invasive Plants Coordinator:** Franz Leinweber 973-328-4625
 fjeinweber@aol.com
- Greenbrook:** Bob Muska 908-665-2296
 rmuska@erols.com

The Loantaka Group welcomes the chance to meet you and to introduce ourselves at one of our general meetings. We have some interesting programs coming up. Please see the meeting schedule which follows and join us!

Members are encouraged to attend an Executive Committee meeting. Currently, there are open positions on our Executive Committee. If you are interested in becoming more active, please contact Paul Sanderson.

To join our mailing list, send a blank email to: Loantaka-Group-Announcements-subscribe@topica.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Meetings are held on the **FIRST TUESDAY** of the month at 7:30 pm in the Library of the Chathams. We invite you 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:

Jan 8, 2003: Emily Ferry, who is the Mid-Atlantic Field Organizer of the Alaska Coalition, is the scheduled speaker.

Feb 12: To be announced. Please refer to the website.

Mar 12: Penny Jones Recycling Education Specialist with the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority, is our scheduled speaker.

Apr 9: To be announced. Please refer to our website.

May 14: Bonnie Tillery, NJ Sierra Club Chair on Population Issues, will speak.

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County, parts of Somerset and Middlesex)

WEBSITES:

- www.sierraactivist.org
www.sierraactivist.org/getbusy

2003 OFFICERS

(Appointments underway as issue goes to press)

- Co-Chairs:** Harold Rapp 609-671-0435
 HalRapp@aol.com
 and Ed Pfeiffer 609-581-1660
 ECPfeiffer@aol.com
- Treasurer:** Bill Wowk 609-587-0502
 bwowk@aol.com
- Conservation Chair:** Laura Lynch 609-882-4642
 llynch@mail.med.upenn.edu
- Membership Chair:** Corinne Egner
 conskayakr@aol.com
- Programs Committee:** Ken Mayberg 609-443-9138
 kjmayberg@aol.com
 and Lisa Ridge
 lisa.haile@worldnet.att.net
- Publicity Coordinator:** Janet Black
 jblack8084@aol.com
- Political Committee:** Tom Zolandz 908-874-4194
 earthsounds@yahoo.com
 and Kelly McNicholas
 kellymcnicholas@hotmail.com
- Outings Chair:** Ken Mayberg 609-443-9138
 kjmayberg@aol.com
- Wildlands Coordinator:** Dave Mattek 609-737-1342
 MattekDC@aol.com
- Parks & Biodiversity Issues:** George Schindler
 GESchindlerJr@worldnet.att.net
 and Pat Sayles
 Plsayles@aol.com
- Advisor:** Mary Penney
 Penney4Thoughts@aol.com

GENERAL MEETINGS:

We hold our meetings at the Mary Jacobs Library in Rocky Hill the **SECOND WEDNESDAY** of the month from September to June. We meet in the community room on the second floor at 7:30pm. We welcome everyone at our meetings and hope you can participate in some way. We are involved in many conservation issues at the local, state and national level.

Driving Directions: North on Rte 206 to just beyond Princeton Airport. Turn right (or east) at traffic light on Rte 518. Travel east on Rte 518 which becomes Washington Street as you go into Rocky Hill. Library will be on left (setback from road). Park in lot and come to second floor community room. South on Rte 206 past Montgomery Cinema and Shopping Center on left. At next intersection, get in left lane (WaWa on corner) and turn left on Rte 518. Travel east on Rte 518 which becomes Washington Street as you go into Rocky Hill. Library will be on left (setback from road). Park in lot and come to second floor community room.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

Jan 8, 2003: Dr. Thomas Darlington, former cranberry grower and owner of Whitesbog Village will offer a glimpse into the history of the cranberry and blueberry industry in the Pinelands. Whitesbog was the location where blueberries were first grown commercially. Join us for a slide program and discussion.

Feb 12: Linda Barth, the author of the recently published Arcadia book, The Delaware and Raritan Canal, will present a slide talk about the canal. A director of

(Continued on page 12)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 11)

the Canal Society of New Jersey, Mrs. Barth will show historic photographs and postcard views of the D&R and will sign copies of her book. Light refreshments will follow.

Mar 12: Get limber with us on a cross country ski in the High Peaks region of the Adirondack Mountains. Central Jersey Group member Don Griffin will present a brief slide show of a delightful day around Marcy Dam and Avalanche Pass.

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS AND CONTACTS:

Chair:	Steve Ember	732-926-8964
	sehiker@yahoo.com	
Vice-Chair:	open position!	
Conservation Co-Chairs:	Debbie Cohen	dabblersdeb@aol.com
	and Kathy Haskell	kmhaske5@aol.com
Membership Chair:	Sandi Phelps	abstract46@aol.com
Political Chair:	Dennis Anderson	dennisaza@aol.com
	open position!	
Programs Chair:	Michael Patton	mikepatton@att.com
Publicity Co-Chairs:	Kristy Thronson	kthronson@earthlink.net
	open position!	
Secretary:	Steven Zawid	steven.e.zawid@intel.com
Treasurer:	Don McBride	dmcbride@yahoo.com

ISSUES:

We are coordinating efforts with the Hunterdon County Group in opposing the extensive Solberg Airport Expansion project in rural Hunterdon County. Implementation of these plans will lead to noise, fuel and light pollution, increased traffic and adverse impacts on residential home values. A large underlying aquifer may also be affected.

We are fighting development along streams, wetlands, flood plains and steep slopes. This includes working to protect threatened and endangered species in these areas. Help us stop developers from buying sub-standard lots and obtaining permits and variances to construct new homes.

We are monitoring the drafting of the Hillsborough Township Master Plan to ensure that the existing agricultural lands, the Sourland Mountains, endangered and threatened species and open spaces are protected from destructive development.

We want to stop 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.

Calling All Volunteers: The Raritan Valley Group welcomes you to our activities. Currently, several positions are open. If you are interested in participating in our activities or filling any of the open positions, please contact Steve Ember, the Group Chair.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held at 7:30 pm on the **SECOND TUESDAY** of the month except for July and August. Currently, meetings are being held at the Bound Brook Presbyterian Church at 409 Mountain Avenue in Bound Brook. Take the Mountain Avenue exit off Rte. 22 towards Bound Brook. The church is on the right hand side at the first stop light (Union Avenue - Rte. 28). The public is invited and refreshments are served.

Executive Committee Meetings: Held at 7:00 pm on the **FIRST TUESDAY** of the month except for July and August. Currently, meetings are being held at the Somerset County Library on 1 Vogt Drive in Bridgewater. All Sierra Club members are invited to attend. Please contact us first in case there is a change of plans.

Jan 14: Steve Ember, long-time Sierra Club hike leader, will present a slide show of his hiking adventures in the Cascade Mountains. These slides represent the highlights from various backpacking trips in Washington. During the 1990s, the Cascades became the favorite of many hikers due to their sculpted peaks, ubiquitous waterfalls and cascades, numerous glaciers, ancient forests, and lush meadows. Come and see the grandeur of the most underrated mountain range in the United States.

Feb 11: Sailing - harnessing the earth's natural resources to travel and live. (Mike and I are still working on this blurb)

Mar 11: The Tongass - Alaska's Rainforest. Emily Ferry of the Alaska Coalition will present this slide show. It is an inspiring look at one of the rarest and most biologically productive ecosystems on earth. Before a stunning backdrop of coastal mountains towering to 18,000 feet, overlooking hundreds of mist-shrouded islands, the Alaska temperate rainforest spans a thousand mile arc along the Pacific coast. The Alaska rainforest boasts 12 million acres of ancient forest, including giant trees hundreds of feet tall and up to a thousand years old. It is also home to the world's healthiest remaining populations of grizzly bears, bald eagles and salmon.

RARITAN VALLEY GROUP ELECTION:

Group members should please clip and return the ballot below, by **Feb 28**, to: Sierra Club Group Ballot, 511 Grandview Street, Middlesex, NJ 08846

GROUP BALLOT for Raritan Valley Group Executive Committee:

Vote for three candidates, maximum. The first column of boxes is for "individual" members. Family (joint) members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns. (To learn more about the candidates, contact Steve Ember at 732-926-8964.)

- Kathy Haskell
 Michael Patton
 Kristy Thronson
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Your membership # _____
 (found on the address label of this newsletter or your SIERRA magazine)

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth and Ocean Counties)

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:	Steve Knowlton (see above)	
Monmouth Co.:	(vacant)	
Ocean County:	(vacant)	
Ocean County Section Chair:	(vacant)	
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
	mjverange@aol.com	
Membership Chair:	Steve Treson	732-933-1487
	xstre@comcast.net	
Program Chair:	Regina Maurer	732-335-1183
	rmaurer@sprintmail.com	

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Held at 8pm on the **FOURTH MONDAY** of each month - except in 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.

Jan 27: How Dry We Are. Join us for a very informative program on the drought in New Jersey. Our speaker is Dennis Hart, Administrator of Water Supply and Drought Coordination at the DEP. He will tell us all about the drought, as well as what we can do to help ease the situation, both as individuals and as a group.

Feb 24: Green Buildings for a Better Environment. Green technology incorporates environmentally friendly design and construction in both commercial and residential settings. Jason Kliwinski, an architect with the Prisco Group, will present a program focused on commercial applications, using as an example the three schools in Howell Township on which he is currently working.

Mar 24: Xeriscaping. Low water use landscapes are even more important now, during the continued drought conditions. You can use very little water and still have a beautiful yard. Monmouth County Master Gardener, Bob Mellert, will show us how.

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.

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Gina Carola	856-848-8831
	ginacee@snip.net	
Vice-Chair:	open position	
Secretary:	Karen Zbikowski	856-667-8853
Treasurer:	Trish Clements	856-768-5639
	psclem@aol.com	
Publicity Chair:	Bud Kaliss	856-428-8071
	budmilmilbud@yahoo.com	
Political Chair:	Marie Hageman	856-589-0606
	mdhageman@mail.com	
Pinelands Rep:	Lee Snyder	
Conservation Chair:	open position	
Membership Chair:	Mike Brown	856-547-9221
	eyebrown@snip.net	
Fundraising Chair:	Reiss Tiffany	856-829-6405
	r-stiffany@home.com	
Programs Chair:	open position	
Outings Chair:	open position	
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.

Jan 14: Jane Nogaki of the NJ Environmental Federation will present "Alternatives to Chemical Pesticides for your Home."

Feb 11: Stuart Chaifetz will speak about Wildlife Management and the Environment in New Jersey.

Mar 11: To be announced. Please check the website and local papers.

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. To help, contact either of the two leaders above.

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	

The central conservation issue, for which the Group was founded in the 1970s, continues to be protection of the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continues to consume the energies of those few officers who remain active—both within the Sierra Club and in two other organizations that have "spun off" from the South Jersey Group. Very few of our local members seem interested in the meetings we've scheduled in the past few years, and many of them have been cancelled for lack of interest. For the present, we'll continue to be listed in this Newsletter, and offer a point of contact for Club members in South Jersey who want help with local issues. If you have topics (and places) for meetings, please let the officers know about them. Those scheduled below are tentative. Please contact the officer(s) specified in advance of each meeting, if you wish to attend; otherwise we'll cancel. We welcome general comments from Club members in South Jersey.

Jan 27 (Mon), 7pm: Trekking in the Himalayas. Slide show of the Anapurna Circuit in western Nepal. Noted explorer Dick Colby will describe a trip he took in 1983. Call him at 609-965-4453 for meeting location if you wish to be included.

Feb 15 (Sat), 10am: Morning walk in the Big Goose Pond, an open grassy expanse of protected land and

water near Egg Harbor City, hopefully in conditions that will permit observation of mating salamanders. Fred Akers will guide us. Bring wading boots (Wellingtons or equivalent). Possibly followed by a meal at a local diner. RSVP to Dick Colby.

Mar 25 (Tues), 7pm: We'll piggyback on the annual membership meeting of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, to discuss River protection. Fox Nature Center, Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor, Milepost 15 on Rte 50, 4 miles south of Mays Landing. No need to RSVP (to the Akers) unless you'd like to join us for dinner nearby, beforehand.

Singles Section

(A chapter-wide special interest activity including hikes/cleanups, social gatherings, cultural outings, meetings, etc.)

The NJ Singles Section was specifically created to offer a variety of singles-oriented activities to New Jersey Sierra Club members and their guests. We are not a local group; we are a statewide additional "layer" of Club involvement. We welcome you! You do not have to be single, or even a member, to attend our events. Come out and meet fellow Club members and others who care about the environment. We can only offer as many activities as we have volunteers to run them - if you have the slightest urge to get involved, please give in to it!

Webpage: <http://njsierra.enviroweb.org/~singles/>

Phone announcements: (973) 364-7573

- Press 1 for: Old Movie Nights (currently the last Friday of each month)
- Press 2 for: Ron Pate's upcoming hike
- Press 3 for: 2nd Monday monthly meeting at the Chatham Library
- Press 4 for: 3rd Tuesday of the month dinner in Montclair
- Press 5 for: 1st Wednesday Morristown social dinners
- Press 6 for: Patrick Montague's hikes
- Press 7 for: Joyce Haddad's upcoming hike
- Press 8 for: any special events we may have

The best way to be notified of upcoming events is to join our listserver by sending an empty email message (no subject, no message) to: **NJ-Sierra-Singles-Announcements-subscribe@topica.com**. All events, including those planned after publication, will be announced by an email message sent directly to your email account.

If you prefer not to receive email, 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>. This is a good idea every so often, even if you've joined the listserver, because it's possible to get dropped from the list and not know it.

OFFICERS:

- Chair:** Bob Johnson
robert.johnson@comcast.net
- Outings Chair:** Joyce Haddad
jkhaddad@juno.com
- Conservation Chair:** Bob Johnson
robert.johnson@comcast.net
- Treasurer:** Joyce White
joyce00201@yahoo.com
- Webpage designer:** David Szalay
dszalay@comcast.net.
- 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: Diane Maroukian and Susan Long. Also, special thanks to Starbucks and Dunkin Donuts for their generous donations during cleanups, to Paul Cunningham, a retired carpenter who has spent many hours volunteering his skills in the rehab of the Environmental Center, and to Nancy Sullivan for helping with hikes and dinners.

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:

Casual pizza gathering and introduction to club issues and activities. **SECOND MONDAY** of each month at 7pm, latecomers welcome. Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St., Chatham (Main Street is Route 124.) Guest speakers at most meetings at 8pm — please join the listserver or call (973) 364-7573, ext. 3 for details. \$5 donation at door and RSVP required for pizza only to

joyce00201@yahoo.com or (973) 364-7573, ext. 3, by noon the day before. (Please specify plain or veggie pizza.) Free (and no RSVP required) if you're not having pizza.

Directions: From I-287: Take Rt. 24 East to Exit 8 for Summit Ave. Turn left at the top of the ramp and then left again so that you go back onto Rt. 24 headed West. Take exit 7A for Chatham and bear right onto Rt.124 (Main St.) Follow Main St. through the traffic lights at University and Hillside Avenues. The Library is to your right about 1/2 block past the Hillside Ave traffic light. To get to parking lot, go right at the next light, and turn right at the swimming pool into lot. If you need further directions, please see our webpage or call the library at 973-635-0603.

PLANNING/EXCOM MEETINGS preceding each general meeting.

SOCIALS:

FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month at 6:30pm. Join us for dinner in Morristown at the Famished Frog. RSVP required; join our listserver for further details.

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

LAST FRIDAY of the month - join us for the **FINAL FRIDAY FILM FEST!** Come see a great movie on the big (well, pretty big) screen, in an intimate setting. Movies start at 7:45pm, and the cost is \$5.

Dec 27, 2002 - keep the holiday good cheer going with a side-splitting collection of comedy shorts from yesteryear: Keaton, Chaplin, Lloyd, and Stooges are likely suspects. Bring the dreaded fruitcake you got for Christmas, or wear the ugly sweater your aunt knitted for you! **Location:** the Shillelagh Club, 648 Prospect Ave., West Orange.

Jan 31, 2003 - "Blue Angel" (1930) made Marlene Dietrich a star. See her lead poor Emil Jannings down the road to ruin. We show the German version (English subtitles) - impress your friends! **Location:** the Shillelagh Club, 648 Prospect Ave., West Orange.

Feb 28 - "Detour" (1945) This classic film noir packs a load of action into its 69-minute running time. Our hero Tom Neal has more than a bad hair day. **Location:** the Verona Park Boathouse, Verona.

Mar 28 - "Suddenly" (1954), starring Frank Sinatra. See Ol' Blue Eyes play a bad guy! **Location:** the Shillelagh Club, 648 Prospect Ave., West Orange.

Please **ALWAYS CONFIRM** these movie dates by checking our announcement at 973-364-7573, ext. 1. A lot can happen between now and then, and locations could change. You can also email abc77@msn.com with questions.

DIRECTIONS to the Shillelagh Club: Take Rt 280 to Exit 8A (Prospect Ave South). Go through 3 lights (the first 2 are close together as you pass the Essex Green shopping center on your right). Look for a small white sign ("Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh") on the left about 3/4 of a mile after the 3rd light. Food/beverages available in the Club.

DIRECTIONS to the Verona Park Boathouse (corner of Lakeside and Bloomfield Ave.): Take Route 280 West to Exit #7 (Pleasant Valley Way) towards Millburn/Verona. Merge onto Pleasant Valley Way. Pleasant Valley Way becomes Lakeside Avenue. Stay on Lakeside approximately 3 miles until it dead ends at Bloomfield Avenue. Turn right onto Bloomfield, then take your first right into Verona Park. The Boat House is approximately a 1/4 mile up the road, on your right.

Other special social events are scheduled throughout each month, such as our Dinner-And-A-Movie event on various Saturday evenings. Be sure to sign-up for the listserver email announcements for specific details regarding each event. All events are posted via listserver, but many do not make it into this Sierran or to the phone line.

HIKES:

Please see the outings section of this newsletter for our hikes. Many of Steve Ember's North Jersey hikes and Paul Serdiuk's South Jersey hikes/events are oriented toward singles.

North/Central Jersey Inner City Outings Section

(another Chapter-wide special interest activity)

- Chair:** Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953
Njicoutings@aol.com
- Volunteer Coordinator:** Patti Lynch
Njicoutings@aol.com

Inner City Outings is a community outreach program which provides wilderness adventures for inner city youth of NJ. Volunteer certified outings leaders conduct outings on weekends, generally day trips on Saturdays. 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 contact us at the above email address. To learn more, visit our web page at <http://www.sierraclub.org/ico/newjersey/>

NJ ICO has changed it's name to North/Central Jersey ICO due to the addition of a new ICO group in the Camden area, known as South Jersey ICO. If you are interested in volunteering with either group in NJ, please send email to the address.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Meetings are held every other month. Regional dinner meetings are scheduled as follows: September - New Brunswick, October - Morristown. New volunteers are welcome. Please call or e-mail Anne Dyjak for meeting, application and outings information.

Bart Semcer Reaches Out to Hunters and Fisherfolk

from Melanie Griffin, in the Club's Washington DC office

Bart Semcer, formerly the New Jersey Chapter's Biodiversity Issues Coordinator, and now a National Sierra Club staff member, has agreed to head up the Club's hunter/angler outreach campaign, which is an important part of our Environmental Partnerships Program. Bart will also continue in his role on the D.C. Land Protection team as primary defender of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Much of Bart's work as a lobbyist on wildlife and ESA issues has involved forming relationships with various hunting and fishing groups, and he is a sportsman himself. He very much enjoys this aspect of his job and believes that it will be even more crucial in the current political climate.

The Club will be expanding its program to form partnerships with national and regional organizations, as well as facilitating more Club work with hunters and anglers on the ground. Many of our major campaigns and state programs consider this constituency to be of great importance to the success of their efforts, and we will clearly need to work closely with them during these defensive times.

Feel free to contact him (Bart.Semcer@Sierraclub.Org) with your ideas for hunter and angler partnerships. ☺

Membership

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

email _____

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

Mastercard Visa Exp Date ____/____

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

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

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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

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



Outings

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

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

Central Jersey: Ken Mayberg

kmayberg@washington.trenton.k12.nj.us
Essex County: David Ogens 973-226-7107 (H)
29 Hatfield Street, Caldwell, NJ 07003

Hudson-Meadowlands: Vacant

Hunterdon: 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: Kerry Miller, ksmiller2@juno.com

Northwest Jersey: Joe Pepin 973-252-5137 (H)
4 Cathy Pl., Succasunna, NJ 07876

Raritan Valley: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com, see phone and address 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-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd. Warren, NJ 07059

Chapter Outings: Steve Ember 732-926-8964 (H)
511 Grandview Street, Middlesex, NJ 08846

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

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

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

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

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

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

Unless registration is required, such as for weekend trips or river tours, or if you have a question about the outing, it is not necessary to contact the leader before the trip. Do not call to join a trip after the posted deadline date. When phoning a leader, please honor his or her requested calling times and call 3 to 5 days before the outing. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) when writing to a leader. On popular trips, Sierra Club members will be given preference.

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

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

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

JANUARY

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

JAN 4 (Sat) Social Hike in Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park. We will hike about 6 miles of level terrain at a moderate pace. Highlights include the Delaware & Raritan Canal and its locks. Hiking boots are preferred and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & 2 quarts of water. Meet before 10:30 AM at the park office parking lot on Canal Road. Take Route 206 to Hillsborough to Route 514 east (Amwell Road), then make right onto Route 533 south (Millstone River Road), proceed 2.1 miles. Take first left across bridge onto Blackwells Mills Road and then make right on Canal Road, see park office and parking lot on left. Rain or snow cancels. Leader: Joyce White at (908) 272-4478 or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (L)

JAN 5 (Sun) Singles Hike at South Mountain Reservation. We will hike 6-7 miles at a moderate pace 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. Bring water, snacks and wear hiking boots. Meet before 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. A \$3 fee will be charged to nonmembers. Members must show their membership cards. Leader: Ronald Pate (973) 364-7573, option 2 (E)

JAN 5 (Sun) Singles Hike Apple Pie Hill. 7-8 miles. Moderate pace. Hike the highest point in SJ for a great panoramic view of the pines. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. No children/pets. Meet by 9:30 AM at Carranza Memorial parking, 6.7 miles SE of Tabernacle, Burl. Co., on Carranza Road. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccj.net (W)

JAN 11 (Sat) Eight to Ten Mile Hike at a moderate pace in Harriman State Park. Participants must pre-register for this hike. Group size limited to 10 hikers. Please email or call the leader to register and obtain details. Heavy rain or snow cancels. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@nrlirect.com, Phone 201-784-8417 (N)

JAN 11 (Sat) Recycle a House - Volunteer Activity. We will help Habitat for Humanity rebuild a row home. This is a way to give back to the community and create a positive image for the club. Bring lunch, water and boots. Meet 8 AM at the rear parking lot at the Hilton Hotel, Rt. 70, Cherry Hill. Leader: Tom J., 856-234-9369. Call in advance if possible so we know how many to expect. (W)

JAN 12 (Sun) Eight to Ten Mile Hike at a moderate pace in Harriman State Park. Participants must pre-register for this hike. Group size limited to 10 hikers. Please email or call the leader to register and obtain details. Heavy rain or snow cancels. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@nrlirect.com, Phone 201-784-8417 (N)

JAN 12 (Sun) Blue Mountain Lakes Circular. Meet 10:00 AM at Dale's Market on Route 94, Blairstown. Hike or XC to Hemlock Pond, one of the hidden treasures of the Delaware Water Gap NRA. Leaders: Joe and Ellen Pepin 973-252-5137 (NW)

JAN 12 (Sun) Ramanessin Hike. A mostly flat 5 mile hike over old farm roads and horse trails on the Ramanessin Greenway in Holmdel. We may make a side trip to Bayonet Farm. Bring comfortable walking shoes (or hiking boots) and water. Meet at 1 PM at the shelter building in Holmdel Park. Inclement weather cancels. Leader: Fritz Schwager (732)708-1181 (JS)

JAN 17-20 (Fri-Mon) Catskill Mountain Winter Weekend (Martin Luther King Weekend). Alpine Inn, Catskill Mts. Enjoy all of winter's white magic in the special beauty of the high peaks of the central Catskills by skiing the numerous alpine and cross country ski trails. Hikers and snowshoers can explore and photograph the scenic mountain beauty of the miles of the spectacular state maintained trail system covering this mountain range. In the evening by fireside we plan a great mountaineering color slide program or magic show. Excellent accommodations and gourmet food! Total cost for 3 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts, 1 trail lunch, 2 dinners and all taxes & gratuities \$290. This is a joint trip of the AMC, Sierra Club and UCHC. Our several cross country skiing and hiking trips are rated from the easiest to more difficult. Leader: Al Tatyrek (eve 973-763-2303 - no calls after 10:00 PM please). Send transportation, activities planned and other info with \$100 deposit and SASE envelope to our co-leader and registrar. Balance of payment is due on arrival at the Alpine Inn. Trip details are at <http://petebeck.freecyellow.com/page1.html>. Registrar & Co-leader: Brant Collins W (732) 458-8334, 1480 Route 88 West, Brick, NJ 08724 (E)

JAN 18 (Sat) Eight Mile Hike at a moderate pace in Harriman State Park. Participants must pre-register for this hike. Group size limited to 12 experienced hikers. Please e-mail the leader to register and obtain details. Leader: Kerry Miller, ksmiller2@juno.com (N)

JAN 18 (Sat) Singles Moonlight Hike: Campfire & Campout. 6 miles moderate pace. Hike under the Wolf moon as we walk on moonlit sand roads and return to a roaring fire. Camping is available call to reserve space. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. No Children/pets. Meet by 7 PM at Bryne (Lebanon) State Forest group camp site. Entrance to forest is on Rt. 72 1/2 mile from jtc. of Rts. 70 & 72. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccj.net (W)

JAN 25 (Sat) Eight to Ten Mile Hike at a moderate pace in Harriman State Park. Participants must pre-register for this hike. Group size limited to 10 hikers. Please email or call the leader to register and obtain details. Heavy rain or snow cancels. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@nrlirect.com, Phone 201-784-8417 (N)

JAN 25 (Sat) Tallman Mountain State Park. 7 miles. We will hike through Tallman Mountain State Park and view the berms and salt marsh. We will then walk the mile-long Piermont pier halfway across the Hudson! Trails include the Long Path. Bring lunch and water. You can take the 9:15 Rockland Coaches 9A bus from the Port Authority terminal to meet Leader in Piermont by 10:15. Drivers meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural) at 10 AM. Leader: John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10 PM) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

JAN 26 (Sun) Eight to Ten Mile Hike at a moderate pace in Harriman State Park. Participants must pre-register for this hike. Group size limited to 10 hikers. Please email or call the leader to register and obtain details. Heavy rain or snow cancels. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@nrlirect.com, Phone 201-784-8417 (N)

JAN 26 (Sun) Social Hike in South Mountain Reservation. We will hike seven miles over easy terrain. Highlights include a 25-foot waterfall and some very inviting woodlands in the heart of Suburbia. What a great way to celebrate Super Bowl Sunday! Please bring warm clothing, water and lunch. Hiking boots are required and participants should be in good condition. Meet BEFORE 10 AM at the South Mountain Arena parking lot in West Orange. Take Exit 10 on Route 280 West. Turn left onto Northfield Avenue. After a steep hill, the South Mountain Arena will be on your left. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

JAN 26 (Sun) Washington Crossing State Park, NJ Side in Titusville. Join us for a 5-6 mile hike through this historic park. Meet promptly at 2 PM in the parking lot on Route 29 next to Delaware River, across from Faherty's Pub. If you are traveling west from Pennington Circle toward Pennsylvania follow Route 546 (Washington Crossing Pennington Road) to intersection with Route 29. At traffic light, proceed through intersection and down small hill and make a right before you reach bridge. Precipitation cancels. Leader: Ken Mayberg, kjmayberg@aol.com or (609) 443-9138 for questions. (C)

JAN 26 (Sun) Singles Hike and Haddonfield Tour. 5 miles easy pace. We will hike Cooper River Park and then have a guided tour of historic Haddonfield, fee possible. We will eat lunch at a local eatery. Meet by 10 AM at Coastline Lounge, Brace Road off Rt. 561, Cherry Hill to caravan to park starting point. No children/pets. Leaders: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccj.net and Joe Russo 856-667-2295 sjoer2002@aol.com (W)

JAN 31 - FEB 2 (Fri-Sun) Catskill Mountain Winter Weekend. Alpine Inn, Catskill Mts. Enjoy all of winter's white magic in the special beauty of the high peaks of the central Catskills by skiing the numerous alpine and cross country ski trails. Hikers and snowshoers can explore and photograph the scenic mountain beauty of the miles of the spectacular state maintained trail system covering this mountain range. In the evening by fireside we plan a great mountaineering color slide program or magic show. Excellent accommodations and gourmet food! Total cost for 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 1 trail lunch, 1 dinner and all taxes & gratuities \$190. This is a joint trip of the AMC, Sierra Club and UCHC. Our several cross country skiing and hiking trips are rated from the easiest to more difficult. Leader: Al Tatyrek (eve 973-763-2303 - no calls after 10:00 PM please). Send transportation, activities planned and other info with \$75 deposit and SASE envelope to our co-leader and registrar. Balance of payment is due on arrival at the Alpine Inn. Trip details are at <http://petebeck.freecyellow.com/page1.html>. Registrar & Co-leader: Peter Beck, H (973) 625-4191, PO Box 267, Wharton, New Jersey 07885 (E)

How do you like our new masthead and interior formatting? (Comments gratefully received by your Editor.)

FEBRUARY

FEB 2 (Sun) Singles Tundra Swan Hike. 6 miles. Moderate pace. Hike the wintry beauty among ponds filled with Tundra Swans. Bring binoculars. Dress for the cold weather. No children/pets. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet by 10 AM at Whitesbog Village parking lot. Take Rt. 70 east to Rt. 530 north (Browns Mills/Ft Dix) go 1 mile turn right on Whitesbog Road to parking lot. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccnj.net (W)

FEB 8 (Sat) Singles Hike at Eagle Rock Reservation. We will hike 4-5 miles at a moderate pace. Well behaved dogs are welcome. Bring water, snacks and wear hiking boots. Rain cancels. Meet before 10:00 AM at the Highlawn Pavilion Parking lot off Eagle Rock Ave. in West Orange. Take Rte. 280 to Prospect Ave (exit 8B) head north, right turn onto Eagle Rock Ave, left turn into reservation. A \$3 fee will be charged to nonmembers. Members must show their membership cards and all participants must sign a liability waiver. Leader: Joyce Haddad (973) 364-7573 option #8 (E)

FEB 8 (Sat) Eight to Ten Mile Hike at a moderate pace in Harriman State Park. Participants must pre-register for this hike. Group size limited to 10 hikers. Please email or call the leader to register and obtain details. Heavy rain or snow cancels. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@nrlirect.com, Phone 201-784-8417 (N)

FEB 8 (Sat) Recycle a House - Volunteer Activity. We will help Habitat for Humanity rebuild a row home. This is a way to give back to the community and create a positive image for the club. Bring lunch, water and boots. Meet 8 AM at the rear parking lot at the Hilton Hotel, Rt. 70, Cherry Hill. Leader: Tom J., 856-234-9369. Call in advance if possible so we know how many to expect. (W)

FEB 9 (Sun) Eight to Ten Mile Hike at a moderate pace in Harriman State Park. Participants must pre-register for this hike. Group size limited to 10 hikers. Please email or call the leader to register and obtain details. Heavy rain or snow cancels. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@nrlirect.com, Phone 201-784-8417 (N)

FEB 9 (Sun) Assunkpink Wildlife Refuge. Join us for a brisk 5-6 mile hike through this wonderful area. Meet promptly at 2 PM at Roosevelt Post Office, Route 571, Roosevelt, NJ. Precipitation cancels. Leader: Ken Mayberg, kjmayberg@aol.com or (609) 443-9138 for questions. (C)

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

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

FEB 15 (Sat) Social Hike In Washington Crossing State Park. We will hike about 7 miles on mostly level terrain following Washington's march on Trenton and the Delaware & Raritan Canal. Highlights include historical buildings and a reproduction of the wooden ferryboats used by the Continental Army in 1776. Hiking boots are preferred and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & 2 quarts of water. Meet before 10:30 AM at the parking lot off Route 546. Take Route 287 to Route 202 South. Then follow Route 202 South to Route 29 (last exit in NJ). Go about 10 miles on Route 29 South to Route 546. Turn right toward bridge to PA, but do not cross bridge. Immediately turn right again, onto park road along river. See parking lot by river. Rain or snow cancels. Leader: Joyce White at (908) 272-4478 or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (L)

FEB 15 (Sat) Eight Mile Hike at a moderate pace in Harriman State Park. Participants must pre-register for this hike. Group size limited to 12 experienced hikers. Please e-mail the leader to register and obtain details. Leader: Kerry Miller, ksmiller2@juno.com (N)

FEB 15 (Sat) Singles Moonlight Hike, Campfire & Campout. 6 miles moderate pace. Hike the Pines under the Sap Moon and return to a campfire. Overnight camping available, call leader to reserve space. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Atsion Lake, Burl. Co., From Rt. 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 PM. No children/pets. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccnj.net (W)

FEB 16 (Sun) Manasquan River Reservoir. A 5 mile hike around the reservoir. Bring hiking boots or good walking shoes and water. Meet at 1 PM 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. ½ 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. Inclement weather cancels. Leader: Fritz Schwager (732)708-1181 (JS)

FEB 22 (Sat) Clausland Mountain. 6 Miles. We will climb up Clausland Mountain (700' Climb) through historic Rockland Cemetery to an old Nike missile base. Bring hiking boots, lunch, 2 quarts of water. You can take the 9:15 Rockland Coaches 9A bus from the Port Authority terminal to meet Leader in Piermont by 10:15. Drivers meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural) at 10 AM. Leader: John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10 PM) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

FEB 23 (Sun) Singles Hike Spring Hill. 7-10 miles moderate pace. Hike flat forest roads with great views of the Pygmy Pines, a Pine Barrens phenomena. Bring lunch and water with you plus a snack to share at the tailgate social after the hike. Meet by 10 AM at Lake Oswego parking lot off Lake Oswego road, off Rt. 563, 10 miles S. of Chatsworth, Burl. Co. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccnj.net (W)

FEB 28 - MAR 2 (Fri-Sun) Catskill Mountain Winter Weekend. Alpine Inn, Catskill Mts. Enjoy all of winter's white magic in the special beauty of the high peaks of the central Catskills by skiing the numerous alpine and cross country ski trails. Hikers and snowshoers can explore and photograph the scenic mountain beauty of the miles of the spectacular state maintained trail system covering this mountain range. In the evening by fireside we plan a great mountaineering color slide program or magic show. Excellent accommodations and gourmet food! Total cost for 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 1 trail lunch, 1 dinner and all taxes & gratuities \$190. This is a joint trip of the AMC, Sierra Club and UCHC. Our several cross country skiing and hiking trips are rated from the easiest to more difficult. Leader: Al Tatyrek (eve 973-763-2303 - no calls after 10:00 PM please). Send transportation, activities planned and other info with \$75 deposit and SASE envelope to our co-leader and registrar. Balance of payment is due on arrival at the Alpine Inn. Trip details are at <http://petebeck.freecycle.com/page1.html>. Registrar & Co-leader: Peter Beck, H (973) 625-4191, PO Box 267, Wharton, New Jersey 07885 (E)

MARCH

MAR 1 (Sat) Social Hike In the Great Swamp. We will hike about 5 miles on mostly level terrain at a moderate pace. Waterproof boots are required since the trails are often underwater and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & 2 quarts of water. Meet before 10:30 AM at the parking lot at the end of White Bridge Road. Take Route 287 to Exit 30A (North Maple Ave. & Basking Ridge). Follow Maple Ave. about 2 ½ miles, then turn left onto Lord Sterling Road. Go about 4 miles on Lord Sterling Road (which becomes White Bridge Road) and then see the parking lot at end. Rain or snow cancels. Leader: Joyce White at (908) 272-4478 or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (L)

MAR 2 (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 before 10:00 AM at the Environmental Center, 621 Eagle Rock Ave. in Roseland. Take Rt. 280, exit 4A (Eisenhower Pkwy South), go right at 1st light onto Eagle Rock Ave., 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 after the hike. Rain cancels. A \$3 fee will be charged to nonmembers. Members must show their membership cards. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Leaders: Patrick Montague and Ron Pate (973) 364-7573 option# 2 (E)

MAR 2 (Sun) Singles Birthday Hike and Brunch. 5 miles moderate pace. Help celebrate the leaders birthday as we hike the pines in winter and then enjoy an all you can eat buffet at Renault Winery Restaurant. No children/pets. Meet by 9 AM at Atsion Office on Rt. 206. Between Hammonton and Red Lion Circle, Burl. Co. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccnj.net (W)

MAR 8 (Sat) Recycle a House - Volunteer Activity. We will help Habitat for Humanity rebuild a row home. This is a way to give back to the community and create a positive image for the club. Bring lunch, water and boots. Meet 8 AM at the rear parking lot at the Hilton Hotel, Rt. 70, Cherry Hill. Leader: Tom J., 856-234-9369. Call in advance if possible so we know how many to expect. (W)

MAR 9 (Sun) Social Hike At Schooley's Mountain County Park. We will hike about six easy miles in a scenic area of western Morris County. Please bring warm clothing, water, lunch and a small backpack. Hiking boots are required and participants should be in good condition. Meet BEFORE 10 AM at the upper parking area beyond the main entrance. Take Route 24 or 206 to Chester. Drive 5 miles on Route 24 West to Long Valley. At the traffic light, turn right to continue on Route 24 West. After .7 miles, turn right onto Camp Washington Road. Go .7 miles on Camp Washington Road and bear right onto East Springtown Road. After .3 miles, turn right on East Springtown Road and turn right into the park. Continue straight to the upper parking lot. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

MAR 15 (Sat) Eight Mile Hike at a moderate pace in Harriman State Park. Participants must pre-register for this hike. Group size limited to 12 experienced hikers. Please e-mail the leader to register and obtain details. Leader: Kerry Miller, ksmiller2@juno.com (N)

MAR 15 (Sat) Social Moonlight Hike, Campfire, & Campout. 6 miles moderate pace. Hike sand roads around the lake under the full Sap moon and return to a warm campfire. Overnight camping is available, call leader to reserve space. No children/pets. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet by 7 PM at Goshen Pond group campsite, Atsion Lake, Burl. Co., from Rt. 206 turn west onto Atsion Rd. go 1.5 miles to Goshen Pond Sign, follow road to campsite. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccnj.net (W)

MAR 21-31 (Fri-Mon) Hiking, Kayaking and Wildlife in Costa Rica. This 10 day trip includes 3 days at Manual Antonio National Park (considered by many the most beautiful in the country) at Hotel Plinio (www.hotelplinio.com), a comfortable hotel with its own private preserve with 9 miles of walking trails; and 5 days at Corcovado (rated by National Geographic as most biologically diverse area on the planet) at La Paloma Lodge (www.lapalomalodge.com), a deluxe lodge nestled in the woods directly off miles of pristine beaches. First and last nights at beautiful coffee plantations (www.cafetal.com and www.xandari.com). Price of \$1500 includes all lodging, meals, guided day hikes, kayaking, snorkeling and transportation within the country. Call or email for daily itinerary. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@nrlirect.com, Phone 201-784-8417 (N)

MAR 23 (Sun) Highlands Hike At Pyramid Mountain (Special Interest: Conservation). We will hike about five miles in the New Jersey Highlands. Tripod Rock, a famous archeological site, is the primary feature. Come see a pretty area, close to Suburbia, which was saved thanks to the efforts of many good people. Please bring warm clothing, water and lunch. Hiking boots are required and participants should be in good condition. Meet BEFORE 10 AM at the Mars Court/Route 511 intersection north of Boonton. Take Route 287 North to the Wootton Avenue exit. Turn left onto Wootton Avenue and go through the traffic light. Turn right at a blinking light onto Route 511 North. Mars Court is about three miles to the north. Park on Mars Court - not at the Pyramid Mountain Park office. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

MAR 23 (Sun) Manasquan River Reservoir Hike (Special Interest: Birds). Easy 5 mile circular hike. On one of the largest reservoirs in the area, we may observe waterfowl. Bring bird books, binoculars, drinks and a snack. Bad weather cancels. Hiking shoes not required. Great for families. Meet at 9 AM at the main entrance of the reservoir on Windeller Road. Take the GSP to Exit 98. Head west on I-195 to Exit 28 for Rt. 9. Go north on Rt. 9 and take first right onto Georgia Tavern Road. Go approx. .5 miles and take next right onto Windeller Road. Travel approx. 1.5 miles to Reservoir entrance. Meet at parking area on far left towards back. Bad weather or snow cover cancels. Confirmation/questions please call. Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

MAR 23 (Sun) Whitesbog Village, Browns Mills. Meet promptly at 2 PM for 5-6 mile hike. Learn about the Pinelands and search for the Jersey Devil. Precipitation cancels. Leader: Ken Mayberg, kjmayberg@aol.com or (609) 443-9138 for questions. (C)

MAR 23 (Sun) Singles Hike Tyler SP in PA. 6-9 miles at moderate pace. We will hike gravel and paved trails that are hilly for the most part and reveal much of what Bucks Co. is known for rolling hills, open fields and stone farm houses. We hike through a restored covered bridge. Optional visit to New Hope Village or winery. Meet by 10 AM at park office. From Phila., take Rt. 95 north to Newtown-Yardley exit 30, then drive west on the four Lane bypass around Newtown. The park entrance is at the intersection of Swamp Road And the four-lane bypass. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccnj.net (W)

MAR 29 (Sat) Social Hike In Hacklebarney State Park. We will hike about 4 miles on rocky terrain 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. Meet before 10:30 AM at the parking lot of Hacklebarney State Park. Take Route 78 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 (Route 513) and proceed about 1 mile and make sharp left onto State Park Road. Drive about 2 miles & make right onto Hacklebarney Road. Drive about 1 mile & make left at entrance. Follow entrance road to parking lot and meet group near the park ranger office. Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce White at (908) 272-4478 or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (L)

MAR 29 (Sat) Hook Mountain Hike. 7 miles. Excellent views of the Hudson River and Croton Point. You can take the 9:15 Rockland Coaches 9A bus from the GWB terminal to meet Leader in Upper Nyack at the junction with Old Mountain Road and Route 9W at 10:30 AM. Leader: John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10 PM) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

FUTURE OUTINGS – ADVANCE NOTICE

APR 6 (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 required and participants should be in very 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 16-26 (Wed-Sat) Hiking, Kayaking and Wildlife in Costa Rica. This 10 day trip includes 3 days at Manual Antonio National Park (considered by many the most beautiful in the country) at Hotel Plinio (www.hotelplinio.com), a comfortable hotel with its own private preserve with 9 miles of walking trails; and 5 days at Corcovado (rated by National Geographic as most biologically diverse area on the planet) at La Paloma Lodge (www.lapalomalodge.com), a deluxe lodge nestled in the woods directly off miles of pristine beaches. First and last nights at beautiful

(Continued on page 15)

Have you enjoyed an OUTING lately?



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FOUNDED 1892

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Atlantic Coast Ecoregion Delegate

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Inner City Outings Coordinator

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

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

All members are welcome to attend these monthly statewide policy deliberations, held on second Saturdays. Details, including agendas, are available in advance from Sunil Somalwar, the Chapter Chair.

JAN 11 (Deciding Chapter Priorities)

FEB 8 (Reorganizing Leadership)

MAR 8

Meeting locations still to be determined. We'll use our new office location in Trenton if the move has been completed.

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.

NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS ELECTED:

Chapter ballots counted on Dec. 14 resulted in the following changes to our Executive Committee, effective in January: **Newly elected to two years on the ExCom:** Ken Johanson. **Re-elected:** Dick Colby, George Denzer and Tina Schvejda. **Continuing through 2003:** Steve Ember, Rich Isaac, Bob Johnson, Sunil Somalwar and Jane Tousman. The ExCom also includes delegates from each of our 11 Groups.

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 15)

ful coffee plantations (www.cafetal.com and www.xandari.com). Price of \$1650 includes all lodging, meals, guided day hikes, kayaking, snorkeling and transportation within the country. Call or email for daily itinerary. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@nrlirect.com, Phone 201-784-8417 (N)

APR 20 (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, snacks and wear hiking boots. Rain cancels. Meet before 10:00 A.M. at the Highlawn Pavilion Parking lot off Eagle Rock Ave. in West Orange. Take rte. 280 to Prospect Ave (exit 8B) Go north, right turn onto Eagle Rock Ave, 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 20 (Sun) Thompson Park/Brookdale Community College. Moderate 6.5 mile hike that follows part of the perimeter of the Swimming River Reservoir. Bring drinks and snacks. 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 #2. 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 26 (Sat) Blauvelt Parks: Piermont-South Nyack. Strenuous 10 miles. Visit Rockland Cemetery, an old Nike base and an abandoned National Guard rifle range. 2 quarts water. Hiking boots. You can take the Rockland Coaches 9:15 9A bus from the Port Authority Terminal to meet the leader in Piermont. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural) by 10:15 AM. LP out, return via abandoned RR. Leader John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10 PM) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

AUG 1-11 (Fri-Mon) White Water Rafting and Wildlife in Costa Rica. This 10 day trip includes rafting 2 of the most beautiful rivers in Costa Rica, visiting Tortuguero Canals during the giant sea turtle nesting season, and a small rainforest lodge for great hikes to waterfalls, horseback riding, tree climbing, and a day at the beach. First and last nights at beautiful coffee plantations. Price of \$1350 includes all lodging, meals, guided day hikes, white water rafting, and transportation within the country. Call or email for daily itinerary. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@nrlirect.com, Phone 201-784-8417 (N)

ELECTION ANALYSIS: RURAL VS. SUBURBAN VS. URBAN

from @Agriculture On-Line, and circulated on the Sierra Club's Political Chairs E-mail Forum

Cultural issues and strong support for President Bush among rural voters helped push Republican candidates to victory in last month's elections, despite concerns about the economy, according to a pre- and post-election analysis released Thursday by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The research suggests that while rural and non-rural voters largely shared the same concerns about the country, particularly the economy, their support was driven by their conservative views about religion, gun control, and abortion.

Widening a 21% margin of victory established in the 2000 election, Republicans this year won rural voters by a margin of 24%, with 60% of rural voters choosing Republican congressional candidates, Thirty-six percent of rural voters selected Democratic opponents. Democratic congressional candidates were competitive as recently as 1996, but by 1998, GOP won solidly by double digits (24%), the study found.

"If we were to write off the rural vote as simply echoing national trends, we'd miss a seismic shift in American politics," Bill McInturff, partner, Public Opinion Strategies, said. "There's a divide in US voting patterns separating America's heartland from urban and suburban areas. Data makes it clear that rural voting patterns are motivated to a great degree by cultural issues and generally conservative political views, distinguishing voters in rural areas from their counterparts in non-rural areas."

The study also found stronger support for President Bush among rural voters, 69% of whom approve of him, than among voters nationally, who gave him a 64% approval rating. Fifty-three percent of rural voters said they chose a candidate who supported Bush's policies or programs, compared to 44% of voters in the suburbs and 37% of urban voters. The President's position on Iraq is also supported more strongly in rural America than in other areas.

The study also found that rural women are more loyal to their party and more conservative in their political views than rural men, and unlike women elsewhere, their voting patterns closely mirror those of rural men. In short, the gender gap that is commonly accepted as political wisdom barely exists in rural America, distinguishing rural women from their urban and suburban counterparts.

Forty-nine percent of rural men and women voted Republican on Congressional ballots, compared with 51% of suburban men and 43% of suburban women, versus 33% of urban women and 46% of urban men who voted for GOP candidates in the latest elections.

Another of the study's more interesting findings is that 42% percent of rural voters support the National Rifle Association (NRA), compared with 28% of suburban voters and 27% of urban voters. What's more, the NRA's standing among rural voters is steadily improving. In 1998, 34% of rural voters supported NRA positions; in 2002, 42% supported the NRA.

Also 37% of rural voters said they were likely to vote for a pro-life candidate, compared to 34% of urban voters and 31% of suburban voters. In contrast, only 29% percent of rural voters reported they were more likely to vote for a pro-choice candidate, compared with 42% of urban voters and 40% of suburban voters. In addition, 35% of rural voters said they were highly supportive of conservative religious groups, compared to 27% of suburban voters and 22% of urban voters. ☞

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