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# The Jersey..... SIERRAN

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Roughly 23,000 Members in New Jersey

April-June 2003

## ADVENTURE AFOOT:

### Ringling Rocks Park, Pennsylvania

by Carolyn Foote Edelmann, Central Jersey Group  
Excerpted from US1 Newsletter, with permission

It's a little odd to drive along with hammers at your feet, odder still to walk into the woods with a hammer. But there's a purpose to it - revealed in tiny but unique Ringing Rocks Park. This 37-acre Pennsylvania site lies uphill from the Delaware, above the bridge at Upper Black Eddy. Take Route #32, - River Road on the Pennsylvania side - north from Lambertville, or Stockton or Frenchtown until you come upon tiny blue signs pointing left toward the park. Ascend Bridgeton Hill Road past the Bridgeton AA athletics field to a sudden right at Ringing Rocks Road. The park soon appears on your right. Best to be in long pants and long sleeves for deer ticks. Wise to wear sturdy shoes or boots. Remember water. Choose your (mostly metallic) hammer, and you're off.

At the end of the short trail to the left stretches a moraine of wan bald boulders, almost blinding in bright sun. Carefully place your feet between these giant's cobbles. Part of the excitement is that you've never been here. You don't even know exactly what you're looking for. It'll be something about clarity, something about pitch. And, yes, about being outrageous. You'll get it, really you will. Expect the unexpected.

Hold the hammer lightly, fingers as fulcrum. Hammers with rubber handles won't do it, and don't let your own fingers muffle results. Let the tool bounce, lightly. Yes, it feels silly, but hammer away. The rocks will teach you. And, like life itself, some will be duds, others thuds. Then, amazingly, you'll be coaxing tones from stones. Exuberantly, even in concert. Next thing you know, you're hooked. First, you'll be rewarded with resonance, even echoes. Then, with no apparent reason, your hammer will call forth a peal that would do justice to the Liberty Bell. You're caught up in the game, nearly leaping from

rock to rock, seeking the perfect tone. Then, you'll go in quest of variations. Other ringers on distant fringes will work in counterpoint. The Anvil Chorus will be born anew, out under the skies.

Just don't think of taking a Ringing Rock back with you. Word has it that, deprived of their fellow boulders, the rocks remain mute. Scientists cannot seem to agree on the reason. High levels of iron, aluminum and other minerals explain their ringing on site, but not their subsequent silence. At least, as you leave the rock field and set out for the falls, you'll have a new answer to the challenge, "When was the last time you did something for the first time?"

Most of the time, these waters will be trickle more than falls. But the walk to them is "worthy of the journey." You're in dense mixed woods, rocks of Stonehenge caliber now looming on either side of the trail. Again, as in the Sourlands, you can picture Lenni Lenapes in council in these stony circles. Some of the power, whether from native wise men or from the rocks themselves, still emanates. You could convince yourself of shamans among these elephantine presences. You'd love to be circled by them in moonlight...

Of course, you won't. Because, up ahead, tall trees and downed trees materialize - strangely light, even glowing. This, my fellow hikers, is bear sign. From the height of the claw marks, I'd say young bears; but I'm not an ursine expert. If the trees look seriously combed, their vivid golden hue startling, someone in a thick fur coat has been standing tall to scrape up an insect banquet not too long ago. You may be surprised by the quality of bear sculpture. "Nature raw in tooth and claw" is talented, indeed.

Ahead, in a clearing, stretches something that resembles a terrace. Once

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## New Chapter Leadership

The Club's Feb 8 Executive (ExCom), Political and Conservation Committee meetings, in addition a two hour visit with Commissioner Campbell (see story



on page 2), saw **Sunil Somalwar** nominated and approved as our new Chapter Chair. Sunil has been Chapter Vice-Chair, under **Tina**

Schvejda, for the last four years. He is a physics professor at Rutgers University, conducting experimental research on high-energy particles, and teaching an undergraduate course on energy. He has also initiated and led an effort to support the conservation of endangered tigers in his native India.

Sunil recommended that the Chapter's new Vice-Chair be **Ken Johanson**, a retired attorney from New Providence.

Ken has participated for many years in our Legislative Committee, and also chairs our Litigation Oversight Committee. His role as Vice-Chair includes responsibility for supervising the Chapter staff (currently Jeff Tittel, and Dennis Schvejda, but soon to be expanded). Sunil thought that he and Ken would function largely as Co-chairs.

**Laura Lynch** will continue to serve as Chapter Conservation Chair, and **Ruth Prince** will assist her as Conservation Vice-Chair. Other assignments to Chapter officer positions are largely unchanged from last year, and listed on the back page of



this Newsletter. Laura's role includes designation of all our Issue Coordinators, also mostly unchanged from last year, and listed on the back page.

Our new Trenton office can now be revealed: it's at 139 W Hanover St, only a block from the State House, in a newly renovated building shared by New Jersey Future. Our monthly ExCom meetings will be held there starting in April.

The ExCom approved a new lawsuit: appealing a DEP permit for stormwater discharge from a development in Riverdale, into the protected (C-1) Pequannock River (Morris County). It also approved early political endorsement, for the 2003 Primary and General Elections, of State Senate heroes Leonard Lance (R, 23rd District), and Robert J. Martin (R, 26th District), and State Assembly heroes George Geist (R, 4th District), and Loretta Weinberg (D, 37th District). The main round of political endorsements will follow a process of questionnaire responses and interviews that will start after the April filing deadline for the June primary election.

A new benefit to members will be a Theater Party, to include brunch, for a performance in New York City of *Gypsy*. The date is Oct 18 and the cost will be \$150.

The Political Committee approved a questionnaire that will be sent to candidates for State Assembly and Senate, and that will seek candidate willingness to sponsor and approve legislation on Clean Air (California car emissions standards), reinstatement of a Public Advocate, campaign finance reform, a battery of anti-sprawl initiatives, opposition to dredging the Delaware River, adding contraceptive coverage to health insurance, and protecting horseshoe crabs. Members are especially encouraged to contact their Group Political Chairs (see Group News elsewhere in this Newsletter) to participate in the interviews of candidates. ♪

## Statewide Conservation Efforts by Sierra Club Groups

compiled by Laura Lynch, Chapter Conservation Chair

Sprawl. You've seen it: the farm field with the sign that reads, "800 Acres Available." The next time you pass by, the sign reads, "Future Site of The Oaks at Cedar Ridge: 1600 Luxury Homes Starting in the Low Zillions." Soon your property taxes go up as the township is forced to build new roads, new schools, new sewers, and other essentials for the 5000 new residents and their 3000 new cars. Then the farm next door to The Oaks puts up a sign, "1600 Acres Available."

While Governor McGreevey and the DEP work on their Big Map, the 11 Groups of the Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter are working to stop sprawl at the county and municipal levels, and to improve public transportation as an alternative to roadway construction. What follows is a just a sample of the many projects we've taken on:

The **North Jersey Group** is working to have Bergen County re-instate its Open Space Trust Fund, which provides money for open space purchases and allows the County to use statewide Green Acres funds to offset the cost of any land it buys. The North Jersey Group

is requesting that the Bergen County Freeholders double the Trust Fund levy to one cent per \$100 of assessed property value. Meanwhile, the Group is working to stop a developer in Oakland from building 24 luxury homes on 73 acres at Camp Todd. The development hinges on County permission to build an access road through County-owned parkland. If the County says "no," the development will be stopped.

The **Northwest Group** is keeping an eye on Sussex County, which is wary of future State control of the Highlands region. The Sussex County Freeholders have passed a resolution stating that any agency overseeing development in the Highlands must be composed primarily of local officials. The Open Space and County Strategic Growth Advisory Committees have been meeting, as have the Freeholders. The Northwest Group welcomes any interested Sierra Club

members to join them at these meetings.

In Morris Township, St. Mary's Abbey wants to develop 200 acres next to the Morristown National Historical Park. Without sewer service, this land would

be better off preserved. Morris Township, the DEP, and our Loantaka Group oppose the project, but the local planning board is in favor of it. The **Loantaka Group** has also spoken publicly against development at the ExxonMobil site in Florham Park. At several hundred mostly undeveloped acres, the land sits on the Hidden Valley aquifer. The proposed development would cover nearly 50 % of the land with impervious surfaces. The surrounding townships of Madison, Chatham Borough, and Chatham Township have joined to oppose the development.

The **Essex Group** also has its hands full as they monitor three parcels of open space threatened by development. The

Kean estate, at over 200 acres, is slated to become 250 townhouses. Club members have created an alternate plan for the site and are asking the Governor to help stop the construction. In Roseland Township, a park may soon contain even more ball fields. The Hatfield Swamp may soon be overrun by an extension of the Eisenhower Parkway.

The **Raritan Group** is keeping an eye on several development plans: expansion

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## COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL ANSWERS OUR QUESTIONS

On Feb 8 Brad Campbell, New Jersey's Commissioner of Environmental Protection, made his third visit to a meeting of roughly 50 State Sierra Club Officers, taking two hours to summarize his accomplishments after his first year in office, offer suggestions to us, and to answer our many questions. It was clear that he has the utmost respect for most of our positions, for our ability to influence new legislation, and for our grassroots capacity to communicate to voters the positive and negative positions taken by members of the Legislature. He knows many of us by our first names!

On the topic of **sprawl**, he reminded us that NJ is losing 50 acres per day, and that water supply may impose an ultimate limit on population growth. He thinks the Big Map (with Red-Yellow-Green designations) will be adequate to limit sprawl, through protection of threatened and endangered species and protection of stream-water quality, but urged us to promote legislation permitting the imposition of timed growth limitations in municipalities. The Builders Lobby is powerful, and our best defense is probably to hurt our opponents in the Legislature by exposing the builders' campaign support for favored legislators.

Concerning **water quality**, there was concern by some Club members that the DEP has failed to stop some polluters from degrading high-quality (C-1) streams. Campbell said that a new round of C-1 designations will be made soon, and that the protection process is generally working well.

Regarding **water quantity**, he discussed the recent drought emergency, and noted that programs for water conservation and reuse were both on his radar screen. If treated wastewater were recharged to the ground, our water supply problems would be solved.

On the topic of **air pollution**, Campbell reminded us of the irony of former Gov. Whitman's preference for open market emissions trading. She is currently using the mechanism to permit air pollution to enter New Jersey from midwestern states. Campbell will be ending emissions trading within New Jersey.

On the topic of **enforcement**, Campbell described how he sent 70 enforcement staff to spend 70 days monitoring 700 facilities in Camden, resulting in over 100 citations for environmen-

tal violations. He feels especially responsible for restoring public trust in government by minority citizens, and has come down hard on pollution discharges in the Fairmont section of Newark.

Campbell spoke about changes in the State's **Open Space acquisitions policy**, giving the Green Acres program new priority for properties with high resource value, both for wildlife and for active recreation.

He answered questions about how we can oppose fraudulent Environmental Impact Statements that are submitted by developers, about how there needs to be caution before permitting growth in some of the "Green" zones on the Big Map, about what happens to the money recovered by DEP fines, about DEP participation in national "Orange Alerts," about the future of Liberty State Park (the Development Commission is about to be abolished, thankfully), and about whether Clean Car legislation might anger GM to the point of closing its factory in NJ (unlikely, thought Campbell).

Campbell was optimistic about the prospect for Horseshoe Crab protection, and is working with officials from Delaware. He has ensured that Green Acres projects will not accept uncertified tropical hardwoods. He anticipates that the states of New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania will join with us in a regional compact accepting Kyoto limits on greenhouse gas emissions. He encouraged us, in our public education campaigns supporting smart growth, to emphasize "resonant" issues such as lower tax rates, relief from waiting in traffic jams, and better schools.

Campbell said he is working with Jeanne Fox, and other members of the Board of Public Utilities, to promote a portfolio of renewable energy sources. He said that Former Gov. Florio, Chairman of the Pinelands Commission, will be seeking enforcement authority. He predicted that the battle over Route 92, currently in review by the Army Corps of Engineers, may be one of his deepest worries. He predicted that it will take six months to achieve TMDLs for phosphate and nitrate in the Passaic River, and that the methodology for setting them will be easily applicable to all our other rivers within a further six months. We should then be prepared for a "sustained and looming backlash" from developers. ☺

## Pinelands Residents Speak Out Against Water Withdrawals

by Mike Gallaway, the Club's liaison to the Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Over 300 members of the public gathered at a DEP hearing on Jan. 28th in Manchester Township, Ocean County, to protest a proposed increase in water pumped from the shallow Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer. The Crestwood Village Water Company (CVWC) wants an additional 12.8 million gallons per month to supply new development, which is a 17% increase in their water allocation permit. They have increased the amount of groundwater pumped from the aquifer in 8 of the past 9 years. Residents have complained that local streams and ponds are drying up.

The CVWC currently takes all of its water from 8 shallow wells. Only one of the wells is in the State-designated Pinelands Area, and the well slated for the increase lies outside the Pinelands boundary, but all the wells are in the Pinelands National Reserve designated by Congress in 1978. Approval of this diversion would seem to directly contradict an existing DEP-Pinelands Commission policy dated 1989, which required that water sources other than the Kirkwood-Cohansey be used for diversions, unless it can be demonstrated that diversions from the Kirkwood-Cohansey system would not adversely affect the Pinelands ecosystem. Residents complained that a draft DEP report, presented at the hearing, did not even mention - much less analyze - the ecological effects of the increased withdrawal. Also, many residents claimed that there are a number of viable alternative water sources available, including confined aquifers, Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) and water conservation, that should be explored first.

The ecological changes could be significant. Changes of as little as 4 inches in the water table can disrupt wetlands ecology, and the area is home to Knieskern's Beaked-Rush (*Rhynchospora knieskernii*), a federally threatened, State endangered species.

Other rare wetlands plants likely to be harmed by the proposed diversion include Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium americanum*), New Jersey Rush (*Juncus caesariensis*), and Curly Grass Fern (*Schizaea pusilla*), species for which the US Fish & Wildlife Service has sufficient information to support a proposal for a federal listing. A vernal pond in the area would also be jeopardized.

The Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer lies directly beneath large areas of the Pinelands, and provides over 90% of the water for local ponds, lakes and streams in the Manchester area. The New Jersey Geological Survey estimated that streams in the area would drop an average of 0.5 to 1.5 feet with the proposed withdrawal. An independent hydrological analysis obtained by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance challenged the applicant's figures and concluded that a number of streams would lose water, some losing so much they would not flow. (A similar situation has occurred within the last 2 years in Berlin Township, just outside the Pinelands border: A new shallow well coming on line caused a stream in adjacent Evesham Township, within the Pinelands, to go dry. The DEP ran tests that concluded the well was directly responsible and the well was shut off. It has not been permanently closed, though, due to water supply pressures in Berlin.)

Hopefully, the DEP will do the right thing and deny this application. The record will be closed by the time you read this, but the DEP needs constant encouragement to make prudent water supply decisions all over the State. If we can't learn to say no to such obviously bad ideas as this one, that giant sucking sound we'll hear will be from the Pinelands. And the results will not be pretty.

For more information on this or other Pinelands issues, contact Mike at 856-797-7922 ([m.gallaway@comcast.net](mailto:m.gallaway@comcast.net)) or the PPA website ([pinelandsalliance.org](http://pinelandsalliance.org)). ☺

The Delaware River Sojourn is an annual event to celebrate the river's outstanding natural, cultural, scenic, ecological and recreational resources. The Sojourn combines canoeing, camping, educational programs, historical interpretation, and more. First-time boaters are welcome and will find a supportive environment.

This year's Sojourn will take place June 14-21, 2003. People can sign up for a day, a weekend, or the whole trip. Space is limited, and participants are urged to sign up early. The registration deadline is May 31. More information can be found at [www.drbc.net](http://www.drbc.net).



BOOK SUMMARY:

### ASLEEP AT THE GEIGER COUNTER

by Sidney Goodman, PE., M.S.M.E.

"Asleep" is personable and easily accessible. It vigorously exposes the destructive sweep of nuclear scams and frauds. It documents why nuclear programs mean cancer everywhere, birth defects forever, the uncontrolled proliferation of nuclear weapons, increased chance of nuclear war, the loss of civil liberties, the undermining of our national defense, and unending multi-billion dollar subsidies which have been bleeding us white, while actually delaying genuine energy independence.

It documents and explains how responsible energy policies can give us a golden age of environmental and economic benefits, a more peaceful world, and conditions which will help rich and poor alike.

The author is an engineer who is deeply concerned about the direction in

which some science is taking the world. He has been on the front line of varied research design and development for more than 43 years. *Asleep at the Geiger Counter* unveils censored material and much that has been forgotten by the present generation. Personal encounters add a touch of humor to this grim topic.

The book plainly points out that nuclear promoters do not believe one word of their assurances about health, safety, and the security of our nation. If they did, they would not insist that the Price Anderson Act remain in effect. This Act provides extremely limited liability. Nuclear waste has been used as a fertilizer, typical of the ethics which confront us. As you read this, the industry is "recycling" nuclear wastes into all kinds of products.

(Continued top of page 6)

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# Editorial Environmental Impact of Western Civilization

by Dick Colby (dick.colby@stockton.edu)



In its Jan. 25 Survey of the Internet Society, the London *Economist*, a magazine I admire as the best newsweekly in English, predicts major changes in society in the next few decades, and offers a tongue-in-cheek taste of family life in 2033. I'm not convinced that the ubiquity of data-connections will make that much difference.

The BIG advances in civilization, that make life in 2003 dramatically different from life, say, in 2003 BC, include the printing press (which essentially ended the peasantry as a social underclass, not to mention autocratic forms of government), the technologies of metals and now plastics, electricity, internal (and external) combustion engines (which enabled suburban sprawl, destroying the community life characteristic of towns), antibiotics (and sanitation), TV (which destroyed much local culture) and, most recently, the curious change in the status of women (and children) that took them out of the home, especially at dinnertime. Feel free to send me a message if you think I'm overlooking anything major! Even computers didn't make much difference to daily lives; as someone who lived through the entire computer age, I think I can speak with authority. Nor did telephones.

I recommend a comparison of modern life with and without many of the "advances" just mentioned: just take a trek into the countryside of Nepal, uphill from either of the two cities there. But that's another story.

Of all the advances listed in my second paragraph, I suspect antibiotics have had

the largest environmental impact, especially in New Jersey. They are most responsible for sustained human population growth, which has led to habitat destruction, sewage, solid waste, and other pollutants. Without antibiotics the human population would be controlled more like other animal species are controlled - by disease epidemics (the influenza epidemic of 1918 killed more than 1% of all Americans), natural disasters and starvation.

Second on my list is the internal combustion engine (i.e. the automobile), primarily responsible for the post-World War II shift of Americans from cities and towns to suburbs. Again habitat destruction, in this case out of proportion to numerical population growth. Suburban homes average five times more water usage than urban homes.

Finally the technology of metal- and plastic-making, and of electricity: the organic and non-organic wastes spewed out by mines and factories of all sorts have had a devastating impact on the environment, polluting vast areas of land and subsoil aquifers, the oceans, and the atmosphere. Global warming (from carbon dioxide emissions) threatens millions if not billions of coastal homes in the next hundred years.

For better or worse, the technological urge is honored by modern society with fame and riches, and the imposition of environmental controls doesn't figure in the free-enterprise equation. Our duty as environmentalists is to demand such impositions. ☞

# Chair's Message HOMAGE

by Sunil Somalwar, Chapter Chair



Fast forward to a not-so-distant future. The Total Information Awareness Program, in the White House, has become operational. Mr. John Poindexter, the program honcho, is transfixed by the goings-on at 40 Marilyn Street in North Haledon, New Jersey. This house is occupied by only a husband and a wife, but the lights are on pretty much round the clock and a vast number of e-mail messages come in and go out all the time, not to mention phone calls, faxes and who knows what else. At the other end of these communication lines are thousands of recipients in New Jersey and across the Nation.

Mr. Poindexter's snooping software notices that the e-mails emanating from this house do not offer little blue pills (without prescription) or to augment various body parts (with or without surgery). Thus, **strike one:** In these times of national crisis, this couple is not doing its part to increase the national gross Domestic Product. **Strike two:** There's not even one SUV in the garage. **Strike three:** Periodically, the couple drops completely out of communication and disappears into the woods for days to weeks.

Mr. Poindexter gets up from his armchair and twists a few arms. Questioning only a handful of people, he learns that an army of thousands gets its marching orders and critical timely information from 40 Marilyn Street. The messages are full of sinister code phrases like horseshoe crabs, caribou, open space, bears, melting icesheets, Bengal tigers, receding glaciers, wetlands, tropical wood and so on. These obvious renegades want to subjugate this free Nation under the "Kyoto Protocol", whatever that is. "Toxic chemicals" and "drinking water" appear frequently in the same sentence, and the US Army Corps of Engineers seems to be a clear target. The

final piece of the puzzle falls into place when Mr. Poindexter makes a chronological list of all the Nation's wars and realizes that he is dealing with enemy combatants in the Bush administration's very first war, the War on the Environment.

The couple also seems to have evangelical zeal. It turns out that the wife, for the past four years, has been leading an army numbering about 23,000 people in New Jersey. She squirrels land away from New Jersey's construction industry in her day job and spends evenings and weekends cajoling her followers to protect the environment. She is constantly encouraging new recruits and making them feel at home. She even bakes brownies to make the new recruits feel welcome during meetings. She has been building up this ragtag group into a formidable army.

We leave Mr. Poindexter now, as he marches off to see Mr. Ashcroft, and rewind back to the present. We live in exceedingly difficult times for the environment. While glaciers melt and oceans rise, I sometimes have a strange urge to explain to New Jersey's Jane and John Doe how much they and their children owe to **Tina and Dennis Schvejda**, the occupants of 40 Marilyn Street. For now, I will stop preaching to the choir and dedicate this, my first Chair's column, to New Jersey's first family of conservation, the Schvejda family. It is not going to be easy to fill Tina's shoes. The good news is that I can count on multitudes of dedicated volunteers and staff in this wonderful Sierra Club Chapter. Want to become more active? We are only a phone call or an e-mail away! ☞

## POPULATION REPORT: LEGISLATIVE DAY

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, creating less demand on environmental resources. To this end, contraceptive coverage is an important step.

Population activists from around New Jersey recently met in Trenton to participate in a Legislative Day, which included discussion of how contraceptive coverage can be extended. The standing-room-only crowd included several youths from Newark who are involved in peer education and who will be directly affected by any legislation that is passed. It was affirming to see their involvement; to see the idea instilled in them, through this experience, that they can bring about change.

Contraceptive coverage legislation would ensure that health insurance plans that cover the costs of preventive healthcare medications would also cover the costs of contraceptive medications and devices. Currently, insurance companies will pay for medications to prevent high blood pressure, and even Viagra, but not contraceptives.

The Legislative Day discussions revolved around the refusal or "conscience" clause. This clause, which a religious (or other) organization might request, would allow exemption from a legal obligation. Such a clause does not question religious beliefs, but makes sure those beliefs are not imposed on others. The goal is a contraceptive coverage bill that gives the widest possible coverage, such as the one passed in California. This bill would allow a group to be excluded from contraceptive coverage if it: (1) exists primarily for religious reasons, (2) serves primarily people of its own religious beliefs, and (3) employs primarily people of the same religious belief.

Several legislators participated or looked in on the sessions, and we look for their support in the coming months — to see strong legislation passed so that women in New Jersey do not have to continue to pay 68% more out-of-pocket for health care than men. Many of those expenses are for non-covered contraceptive needs.

I will continue to keep you informed as work progresses. ☞

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### Acknowledgment:

The photographs on page 8 of the last issue were taken by Ellen Pepin.



Occupants of 40 Marilyn Street

Photo submitted by Tina Schvejda

### Sign Up Here to Make a Difference!

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## STATE-WIDE WRAPUP DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director



### SMART GROWTH, SMART POLITICS

Recent polls have shown that the people of New Jersey are fed up with being stuck in traffic, and by how sprawl is impacting our quality of life and our environment. We've seen local citizens in almost 200 towns and 20 counties vote to raise their property taxes in order to buy open space. We have seen dozens of towns change political parties over the issues of sprawl and overdevelopment. So, not only is the Governor's State of the State message important for New Jersey, but Smart Growth is becoming smart politics.

New Jersey has had four State Plans. The first in 1935 called for the protection of the Highlands, cleaning up the Passaic River and saving two million acres of New Jersey farmland. Here we are 68 years later and the Highlands aren't saved, the Passaic River is still dirty and as of this year we have actually saved only 100,000 acres of farmland out of the remaining 800,000 acres. We have heard previous Governors talk about sprawl and saving open space. But what makes Governor McGreevey's anti-sprawl agenda different is that it sets up a regulatory, fiscal and legislative framework to protect our natural resources and implement Smart Growth.

As part of the regulatory framework, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has come out with the "Big Map" which divides the state into red, green and yellow areas, based on natural resources. Red areas are environmentally sensitive: wetlands, groundwater recharge, reservoir catchment, and threatened and endangered species habitat, and farmland. The red areas are not sacrosanct: development is possible, but with tougher standards to be met. Existing development and growth-appropriate areas—our cities, older suburbs and small towns—are colored green. Applying stronger standards where we need to protect drinking water and natural resources, and alternatively using the regulatory process to encourage growth in the areas that are more appropriate, instead of one size fits all, is a quantum shift for the DEP. While the Big Map is still a work in progress, and has to be adopted by other agencies, what sets it apart from previous attempts to manage growth is that it establishes a regulatory framework for implementation.

As the Governor's plan goes forward, we environmentalists will have to work carefully in order for the green light areas to accommodate the amount of growth New Jersey is going to get. We can help identify underutilized lands, abandoned properties and brownfields as well as other sites, and then encourage the infrastructure that will allow them to be developed. We need to deal with issues like combined sewer overflow, schools, and existing utilities that are falling apart, and the need to provide more mass transit. We also need to give our green light areas green parks. To pay for this, we'll have to shift the monies we currently use to subsidize sprawl, like running sewer lines next to our reservoirs and highways through our open spaces and subsidizing office parks in farm fields.

The Governor's Smart Growth agenda will require new legislation. In the past, many bills proposed to manage growth in New Jersey have been defeated by the builders and others. For example, the first Transfer of Development Rights bill, proposed 25 years ago, was defeated. In the last legislative session Timed Growth legislation was stopped. It is going to take a lot of work and political will to pass bills that will allow towns to turn down development because of impacts to traffic or water, or to have a time out or moratorium on building, or to provide for regional planning—giving counties more say in border wars between municipalities.

We have seen how sprawl pollutes our air and water, makes droughts worse, causes increased flooding and increases traffic congestion. New Jersey is losing open space faster than at any other time in our history, and the public's demand to do something about it is at an all time high. We need to move quickly before we run out of time and land. The fix will not be easy because we need to pass major legislation and a large regulatory package, and we need to have financial resources at a time of tight budgets. New Jersey's population is denser than that of any other state—even denser than India or Japan. The only thing denser has been our politicians who don't get it, but at least now we do have a Governor who gets it. ☺

### REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION ISSUES:

## TEA-21 RENEWAL WORKSHOP on TRAFFICBUSTING

by Bob Johnson, our Transportation Issues Coordinator

The NJ Chapter will hold a traffic buster workshop on Saturday, May 3, in the Morris County library (<http://www.gti.net/mocolib1/>). The workshop will run from 10am to 4pm and will feature presentations on various modes of transportation including passenger rail, freight rail, bicycling and walking. The theme of the workshop will be "How can New Jersey's quality of life be improved by transportation?"

TEA-21 is the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st century. It is the main source of federal funding for surface transportation. It comes up for renewal every 6 years and the current Act

expires on Sept 30 of this year. For more information about it, see <http://www.tea3.org/>. Its renewal is important because it will determine how much money will be spent on new highways, and how much on alternate modes of transportation. The focus of the workshop will be to explore the various transportation options made possible by TEA-21

If you are interested in transportation, the chapter has a specialized list serve for this issue. To join, send a blank message to: [NJ-Sierra-Transportation-subscribe@topica.com](mailto:NJ-Sierra-Transportation-subscribe@topica.com). I can be reached at [robert.johnson@comcast.net](mailto:robert.johnson@comcast.net) ☺

## Conservation Efforts

(continued from page 1)

sion of the Solberg Airport in rural Hunterdon County (with help from the **Hunterdon Group**), which would lead to noise, fumes, and light pollution, as well as potential aquifer contamination; development of the Cornell Farm in Piscataway; and a proposed recycling center next to the Hillsborough Mercury Depot. In addition, the Group is fighting development along streams, wetlands, floodplains, and steep slopes, and is monitoring local master plans.

The **Hunterdon Group** is helping to develop the Hunterdon County Growth Management Plan, defining broad goals, then forming the specifics, as well as analyzing environmental indicators and build-out scenarios. The Hunterdon Group has been the only environmental advocacy group present at the committee meetings. Meanwhile, all of the contentious housing developments that the Hunterdon Group has opposed are in litigation.

In Mercer County, Washington Township has given approval for over half a dozen warehouses, "The Matrix," to be built on 300+ acres of farmland. Containing wetlands, streams, and the potential habitat for several endangered species, this site would be prime acreage for preservation. But Washington Township insists it needs the property taxes generated from this development, and it cares not for the Upper Freehold residents across the street, who would be affected by the noise, traffic, and runoff. The **Central Jersey Group** has asked the DEP to review the wetlands delineations for the site because it appears that the consultants hired by the Matrix missed a few. Central is also asking for a thorough wildlife survey.

Several Groups are working on transportation projects. The **Hudson-Meadowlands Group** is playing a leading role in substituting light rail for a highway in Jersey City's Bergen Arches rail corridor. The DEP's Bergen Arches Final Study Report lists a light rail line as one of the three best uses for the Arches. The Hudson-Meadowlands Group is drafting a response to the report in which the Group will stress the importance of public transit in an already crowded and transit-amenable city.

In the Highlands, the **North Jersey Group** has opposed the widening of Rte. 15 at its intersection with Rte. 206. Not only will the widening lead to more sprawl development and congestion, but it will also disturb the central

section of the Highlands. The North Group is hopeful, however, because the Governor's Big Map has placed this section of road in the red zone.

The **Jersey Shore Group** has been involved in hearings for the Monmouth-Ocean-Middlesex (MOM) rail line. The Group submitted comments at the EIS Scoping Hearing, encouraging the construction of a rail line that will encourage new riders to use the trains rather than shift current riders from one rail line to another.

The Central Jersey Group has been involved in the Penns Neck Area EIS Partners Roundtable, an effort by the DOT to include stakeholders, regulators, and citizens in a highly contentious highway bypass project. A portion of the proposed road would have been built near the Millstone River and the Delaware and Raritan Canal. Club members have been working with other environmentalists to propose alternate options, including bus rapid transit, that would move or eliminate the road from environmentally sensitive areas. As of early February, reports of bald eagles (endangered nationwide) and a long-eared owl (threatened in NJ) have been filed with the DEP, but the DOT continues to refuse to conduct a wildlife survey of the study area. The Central Jersey Group and others will continue to push for a wildlife survey.

We have several victories to report! 400 Acres on the top of Hamburg Mountain will now become State property and remain largely undeveloped, thanks in part to work by the North Jersey Group. An undeveloped site on the Princeton Ridge may stay undeveloped now that the Central Jersey Group alerted the State to a violation of an agreement with Princeton Township not to develop on environmentally sensitive land. The **West Jersey Group** helped residents of Bordentown City and Bordentown Township thwart an effort by Conectiv to build a power plant along the Delaware River. And the **South Jersey Group** has been working with the National Park Service in the designation and protection of the Great Egg Harbor as a Wild and Scenic River.

For more information, and to volunteer for any of these projects, please visit our Group Reports web site at <http://www.sierraactivist.org/groupreports>. ☺

**Our new Trenton office still needs donated furniture:  
Desks, chairs, and electronic equipment. Can you help?  
Please call Tina Schvejda at 973-427-6863.**



### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## RECYCLING RUBBER TIRES

In Nevada, a recycling program was developed to convert discarded automobile tires into heat and electricity, supplying electricity at 1.5 cents a kilowatt hour. This is about half the cost of conventional fossil fuel electricity.

Would-be pollutants are extracted to make valuable by-products. High-grade steel is removed and recycled. Sulfur is removed to make wallboards. Carbon is extracted to make carbon filters, more tires, or enough mascara to supply millions of women. Carbon dioxide is extracted and sold to the bottlers of car-

bonated beverages. It is also piped to hydroponic green houses to make bigger and better tomatoes.

The system greatly exceeds air quality standards. The effluent can be reduced to pure nitrogen.

Further information about this process can be obtained from <http://www.nathanielenergy.com>. How many rubber tires are clogging up our over-crowded landfills?

*Sid Goodman (our onetime Energy Issues Coordinator), Mahwah, NJ*

### 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.*

## Ringing Rocks

(continued from page 1)

upon an aeon, it must have been a thunderous waterfall. Fissures in dark grey rock hold quiet water and tannic leaves. People who've hiked the Burren of Ireland, say the falls area is eerily similar, lacking Eire's orchids. Again, the power of stones resonates. Give yourself a leisured stroll to seek the elusive source of these waters. Then return to the spillway, an exquisite and fairly unique place to open up a backpack picnic, legs dangling over the precipice.

On either side, you'll be treated to the original water music. Off in the distance, new ringers are creating concerti from wild sources. Someone in your party will be sure to refer to this as a 'Rock Concert.' You won't see the bears. You might hear a hawk. Jays and squirrels most likely protest your presence. You will not be in a hurry to leave this privileged place, alone in still and stunning beauty.

Others whom I take to Ringing Rocks try to put its allure into words. It reminds one of turning into his own wooded driveway, at the end of a long and satisfying academic day. Another friend was taken right back to the earliest, deepest reaches of Chartres and Mt. St. Michel, where the sacred wells burst forth. Someone else marveled at "emptied fullness." All of this waits for our eyes and hammers, within about 45 minutes of Route One doorways.

Food possibilities: Bucks Bounty, a roadhouse with Indian motifs and superb crab cakes, interesting beers and ales, on River Road on the right just below the Frenchtown bridge. The renowned Frenchtown Inn, back in New Jersey. Stockton for the hearty, quirky, homemade Miele's and Stockton Inn (more for atmosphere than food, "There's a Small Hotel, With a Wishing Well" was written here and well remains.) Lambertville's Swan Hotel for divine salmon.

## BOOK REVIEW: THE UNWELCOME GUEST

by Mark Oshinskie, an attorney and writer on environmental issues

**I**n *Waste is a Terrible Thing to Mind* (2001), former NJ DEP Assistant Commissioner and part-time folk and bluegrass radio DJ John Weingart conveys the 1994-1998 saga of his agency's attempt to find a New Jersey resting place for New Jersey-generated low level radioactive waste materials.

Radioactive wastes are by-products of both military (weapons tailings) and civilian uses of radiation. Civilian uses of radiation include energy generation (about half of New Jersey's electricity is generated by nuclear plants), and industrial and medical activities, such as diagnostic tests. (Incidentally, I've been told by a New Jersey scientist that you can tell if an area has more retirees than average by testing its sewage sludge. Sludge from Ocean County, with its many retirees, contains elevated levels of excreted radioactive materials from medical tests). Highly radioactive materials, such as spent fuel rods, severely threaten human health and must be carefully entombed for millennia in highly secure locations. The federal government is still working on establishing such a national repository. However, much radioactive waste contains much lower radionuclide levels. These low-level rad-wastes include trash that has become contaminated by contact with radioactive materials, such as tools and lab equipment.

Weingart chronicles his agency's many efforts to find a New Jersey municipality to volunteer to host a low-level radioactive waste facility within its boundaries. In return, the town would get \$2 million per year. Somehow this reminded me of Durrenmatt's *The Visit*.

But the author is convinced that his agency's quest was not nearly that sinis-

ter. He says most scientists agree his agency was not asking any of the towns to either sell their souls or internalize any real health risk. According to the present scientific consensus, these materials are not hazardous because they emit about as much radiation as a few chest x-rays (and less than the annual exposure from natural background), will be encased in concrete and stored on remote 300 acre sites.

The author found that municipal officials in about ten of New Jersey's 567 towns showed enough interest in accepting the waste that the notion was put to public discussion. At that point, the siting process jumped the track, principally because individuals would not tolerate the perceived risk. Townspeople in crowded gymnasiums shouted down distrusted government officials with statements of fear and defiance.

Weingart's central point is that, as has been observed by authors of books like *Tragic Choices* and some tort law scholars, people assess risk inaccurately because they rely on emotion and anecdotal perception rather than reason and statistics. For example, although it is statistically safer to travel by plane than by car, many fear flying. Events since the book's publication may intensify this emotional approach to risk assessment, both in transportation and generally.

Weingart raises another example of inaccurate risk perception, namely that the risks imposed by smoking and heavy drinking far exceed the risks of living near a landfill or low level rad-waste site. Yet, this overlooks the cool factor. Smoking and drinking are dangerous but people begin these activities because

(Continued on page 6, in box)

## Membership

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

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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

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**Once and future Chapter Chairs.**  
Photo taken by Ellen Pepin at a party for Tina Schvejda on February 22. L to R: Sunil Somalwar, Dick Colby, Tina Schvejda, Bill Green and Ken Johanson.

## Quality – Reliability – Support

### Quality

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## Book Summary

(continued from page 2)

Poisons, which are deadly for hundreds of millions of years, will only be safeguarded for ten thousand years. Sites for safeguarding are in the most earthquake prone areas, like Yucca Mountain. Yucca Mountain is also near a dormant volcano.

In terms of radioactive waste leaks, the nuclear industry has already been thousands of times less reliable than they must be, to protect us.

Every nuclear plant, and shipment of wastes, is a terrorist's dream come true.

Sources researched for *Asleep* include government reports, testimony by top scientists, and elementary principles of physics, engineering, common sense, and decency.

Some industry and government lies are brazen. They violate fundamental principles. For example, the industry has concocted a new law of physics. When you have a nuclear catastrophe, the wind stops blowing. Evacuation for a thousand-mile contamination is limited to ten miles. How claims conflict with elementary principles of the law of conservation of energy, and a basic thermodynamic principle are explained simply.

The book poses the question, "Is Murphy's Law legal?" You will need to read it to find out.

The book is available from Amazon.com, from the publisher, Blue Dolphin Publishing, Inc. (800-643-0765), and from your local bookshop. Discounts are available for quantity orders and for non-profit organizations. ☞

(We are honored to have a book summarized by its own author! Sid Goodman [sjgdesin@mindspring.com] was for many years the Chapter's Energy Issues Coordinator.)

## Book Review

(continued from page 5)

they're part of a rebellious identity, cf. living next to waste sites, which is ascribed low status.

And that's a big part of the problem. In *Squeezing out Sparks*, Graham Parker sang, "It's not the knife in your heart that tears you apart, it's the thought of someone sticking it in." I can't say when or what factors prompted Americans to adopt this mindset, but Parker's right: people don't want to be victims or chumps. The townspeople's resistance to the storage facility despite the attendant financial reward manifests that the desire to avoid chumpdom trumps even a potential tax reduction. The problem of risk assessment is especially acute in the radiation realm. The media has delivered many messages about how bad radiation and corporations are, from headlines, to pictures of real radiation victims from Chernobyl and wartime Japan, to movies like *Atomic Cafe*, *Silkwood* and *The China Syndrome*. (Sheesh, Erin Brokovich/Julia Roberts were practically canonized). Is this society too cancerphobic and star-struck and the world too complicated to expect people to rationally sort what's dangerous from what's not?

Mistrust of government is another key theme. Perhaps the most interesting statistic in the book is that only 25% of people polled would tend to believe a government pronouncement that a given environmental condition posed a threat to the public. In contrast, over 75% would tend to disbelieve a government assurance that a perceived environmental threat had been successfully addressed. That alone made sitting an uphill battle. Evoking Edmund Burke, Weingart also observes that subjecting radiation to so much regulation creates more concern about radiation than is justified by actual science. This observation may be generalized to other contexts. For example, does the threat of medical malpractice suits cause doctors to overtest, overtreating and, therefore, overspend? Do excessive security measures create a world in which people feel less secure? And so on.

The author notes that collectivist appeals did not advance the search for a waste storage site. Yet, the notion that a small group of people might willingly accept the burdens of a larger group is not supported by what I see. Excepting JFK's inaugural address, the major social movements and political rhetoric of both major American political parties during my lifetime have focused more on benefiting individuals, less on advancing the welfare of the larger society. Asking individuals to accept the burdens of the group is a hard sell, even if we are told that we all somehow benefit by processes that created low level rad-waste. How does the search turn out? If I told you I'd deprive you of some of the author's other interesting insights and clever wisecracks.

But wasn't that a low-level radioactive waste truck I just saw heading for South Carolina? ☞



## 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:

<b>Chair:</b>	Ellen Pepin	973-252-5137
	<a href="mailto:epepin@worldnet.att.net">epepin@worldnet.att.net</a>	
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Joseph Pepin	973-252-5137
	<a href="mailto:pepin@worldnet.att.net">pepin@worldnet.att.net</a>	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Donna Rubin	973-726-9278
<b>Secretary:</b>	Debbie Hambright	973-729-8015
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Dean Shemenski	908-684-1515
	<a href="mailto:dshemenski@billbehrl.com">dshemenski@billbehrl.com</a>	
<b>Publicity Chair:</b>	Claire Cifelli	973-726-8606
<b>Outings Chair:</b>	Vacant	

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

#### LOCAL ISSUES:

One issue we have been involved with is the proposed plan to widen Rte. 15 from Wharton to its terminus at Rte. 206. The widening of Rte. 15 will not only disturb the central part of the highlands, but will only lead to more sprawl development and more congestion. Since Gov. McGreevey and the DEP have come out with their anti-sprawl plans and the "Big Map" it may be a little easier to block those plans.

A second issue concerns the air quality in parts of Warren County. This is greatly affected by power plants across the river in Pennsylvania, one in Martins Creek and the other in Portland. Both these plants have expansion plans that do not include improvements to the older coal fired units. We think that this should take place before these plants are allowed to expand. We need local help to become more involved with this issue.

We have also helped a small number of families in Washington Twp. (Warren Co.) whose wells are polluted with the chemical MBTE. We provided support in appealing to local authorities and DEP for immediate help. They have gotten some assistance, but it is an ongoing issue.

We are pleased to announce that a sale agreement has finally been reached between the State and the Intrawest Corporation. The State will buy 400 acres of land on the top of Hamburg Mountain for approximately \$7million dollars. Intrawest will then donate approximately 1400 acres more to the state. The DEP will administer the property and the State will allow some expansion of the ski operation subject to proper approvals. To celebrate this agreement the Northwest Group is planning on having an Earth Day hike on May 4. We will try to hike on the top of the mountain, but that may have to change if there is no access.

Even though it is not really the Northwest's territory, we have been attending the planning board hearings in Mine Hill. Canfield Associates (Kushner) is planning to build 760 two and three bedroom town home and rental units on steeply sloping land that was extensively mined in the 18th and early 19th centuries. There are at least five old mines on the property. To make matters worse, the site contains the headwaters of the Black River, a C1 stream. Downstream is the Almatong Well Field, which supplies water to a good part of western Morris County. Some of the board members seem to be opposed to this proposal, but they are not asking the right questions of the "experts". There were quite a few residents at the first meeting. Subsequent meetings have produced a varied turnout. We need to let the board know that the residents are against this plan. Any help would be appreciated.

Sussex County officials seem to be trying to head off any state control of the Highlands region, which is a good deal of the county. There have been meetings of a new Open Space Committee and the County Strategic Growth Advisory Committee. Also, the Freeholders have passed a resolution stating that local officials should make up the majority of any agency that oversees development in the county. Their goals are not matched to the goals of the Big Map. We would like to hear from

## 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*

people who would be willing to attend meetings of the Freeholders and/or the Strategic Advisory Committee.

#### MEETINGS:

Our general meetings take place in Sparta. Please call for the meeting place.

**Apr 9:** 6:30 pm. Pot luck supper and discussion of local issues. Please call Ellen Pepin for details.

**June 8:** 1pm. This meeting will be a little different. We are going to combine a program and a walk. Please join us at one of the state's newest parks, Kittatinny Valley State Park, for a slide presentation on the park and its many attractions. A walk will follow the program. This program will be suitable for families.

#### OUTING:

May 4: 10am Meet at the AT parking lot on Rte. 94. We will attempt to hike on the top of Hamburg Mountain. This will be a victory hike as this area was recently purchased by the State from the Intrawest Corporation. The purchase means no development will take place on the top of the mountain. The location of the hike may be changed, so please call Joseph or Ellen Pepin to be sure.

### Hunterdon County Group

#### OFFICERS:

<b>Chair:</b>	Ruth Prince	908-284-9103
	<a href="mailto:ruthp2@earthlink.net">ruthp2@earthlink.net</a>	
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Arnold Kushnick	
	<a href="mailto:apkushn@eclipse.net">apkushn@eclipse.net</a>	
<b>Co-Treasurers:</b>	Jeannie Geremia	
	<a href="mailto:jeannieg@ptd.net">jeannieg@ptd.net</a>	
	and Arnold Kushnick	
	<a href="mailto:apkushn@eclipse.net">apkushn@eclipse.net</a>	

For meeting times and locations, please contact Ruth Prince.

#### ACTIVITIES:

We are involved with the development of the Hunterdon County Growth Management Plan, an effort that has been funded by the state DCA. This is a multi-year process (as all planning is!) beginning with defining the broad goals followed by the specifics for the county, as well as environmental indicators, looking at build-out analyses, etc. Since municipal representatives will be involved throughout this process, we are hoping that this plan will actually be followed. Our group reviewed the goals, and then attended the first Land Use Committee meeting led by Hunterdon County Planning Board members. We were the only representatives of an environmental advocacy group present! This will continue throughout the year as monthly meetings and additional workshops, etc. We have also joined the County Planning Board's Environmental Toolbox Subcommittee spearheaded by one of our freeholders. This group will review draft ordinances designed to be environmentally protective and legally defensible, which our municipalities can then use as needed.

All proposed developments that we have been working on are now mostly in litigation or in some decision-making process.

This spring, we will also be working on environmental outreach to kids in the county; we are currently considering elementary through high school. The upper grades have school-run environmental clubs that we will try to get involved in. Our own children will be our first test subjects!

**A New Jersey volunteer is needed to help lobby Congress on Utah Wilderness issues. Please contact [Barbara.Hayes@NJWild.org](mailto:Barbara.Hayes@NJWild.org)**

## 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  
Anne Sumers 201-825-8395  
annesumers@aol.com

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

**Outings Chair:** Ellen Blumenkrantz  
eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

**Legislative Chair:** Patrick Maloof 201-405-0970  
patrickmaloofo@yahoo.com

**Political Chair:** Charlotte Foale 201-921-3059  
cfoale@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 at 7:30pm on the following Thursdays at the locations indicated. For directions or other information, contact Betsy Kohn (see above)

**Apr 10:** at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Av, Englewood. The Asian Longhorned Beetle in New Jersey - a slide presentation by NJ Agriculture Department officials about efforts to control this tree-eating pest that has been detected in over 100 trees in downtown Jersey City. Learn about identifying ALB, its preferred tree-hosts, extent so far of infestation, and more — and how you can help.

**Apr 17:** at Wayne Public Library, 461 Valley Rd, Wayne, 973-694-4272. The Asian Longhorned Beetle in New Jersey (see Apr 10 above)

**May 8:** at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 442 Van Nostrand Av, Englewood: Program TBA.

**May 15:** at Bloomingdale Senior Citizens Center, 101 Hamburg Turnpike, Bloomingdale. (tentative location at print time; please check beforehand with Betsy Kohn): Living Safely with Black Bears - a slide presentation by Lynda Smith of the nonprofit Bear Education and Resource (BEAR) Group about New Jersey's bear situation; dos and don'ts when encountering a bear, and how to peacefully coexist with black bears. Discussion will include black bears' social organization, habits, diet, ecology, and more.

**Jun 12:** at Louis Bay II Public Library, 345 Lafayette Av, Hawthorne. 973-427-5746: Conservation Meeting - a roundtable discussion of local issues: Sterling Forest, Ramapo River watershed lands, Meadowlands, Highlands) and the campaign to place and pass a referendum reinstating Bergen County's Open Space Trust Fund (which expires at the end of 2003). An opportunity to bring attention to your concerns and issues.

**HIGHLANDS COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** Held at 7:30 pm on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month at Pompton Lakes Public Library, 333 Wanaque Av, Pompton Lakes. (Apr 2, May 7, Jun 4). 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.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** This year, you can help with our campaign to persuade first the Freeholders and second the voters to extend the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund for another five years; or help interview and endorse candidates for the NJ Assembly and Senate; or work on conservation issues in the Ramapo and Hackensack River watersheds and NJ Highlands; or help with public education programs, publicity, tabling, river cleanups, petition drives or fundraising. Or if you prefer, you can focus on an issue, such as air quality, environmental justice, nuclear energy, population, transportation, urban renewal or wildlife and endangered species, or another issue of your choosing. To find out more, please contact Betsy Kohn, 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.

## You're invited! WALK THE HACKENSACK RIVER GREENWAY IN TEANECK!

**SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 3pm**

(walk lasts about 1 - 1.5 hours)

Meet at Andreas Park parking lot (near the tennis court), River Rd, Teaneck. Entrance is just south of West Englewood Av. Led by a member of the Teaneck Greenway, this guided walk will include the cultural history of this area of the Hackensack River, flora and fauna and the story of restoring this large buffer in the county's most populous municipality.

**FREE! Everyone is welcome!**  
Contact: info@teaneckgreenway.org

## 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.

## Essex County Group

(Essex County)

### OFFICERS:

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

**Conservation:** Kyle Lischak 973-218-9388

**Political:** Janine Schaeffer 973-736-0898  
jschaeffer@sealtechcompany.com

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 Cuillier 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:** Open Position

**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, and addressing environmental justice (EJ) issues.

**\*\*OPENINGS\*\*** The Group has an opening for Membership Chair, as well as 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 risaacx@aol.com for details!! Thanks!!

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

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

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

**April and May:** No meetings scheduled.

**June 12:** Frustrated that you can't get from point "A" to point "B" in New Jersey via public transportation without hassles and headaches? Come hear about the recent implementations and future plans the New Jersey Association of Railroad Passengers (NJ-ARP) has for improving mass transportation in New Jersey. Doug Bowen, VP of the non-profit corporation, will share his vision for a more efficient, balanced statewide transportation network.

## Loantaka Group

(Morris and Union Counties)

### OFFICERS:

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

**Treasurer:** Joyce White 908-272-4478  
joyce00201@yahoo.com

**Secretary:** Lisa Melanie 908-875-5570  
lisamelanie@comcast.net

### Conservation Chairs:

**Morris County:** Chris Mills 973-377-1742  
milssc@citigroup.com

**Union County:** Open position!

**Legislative Chair:** Ken Johanson 908-464-0442  
kjohan@comcast.net

**Political Chair:** Meiling Chin 908-490-1054 (8-10PM)  
chinmeiling@yahoo.com

**Programs:** Kathy Nelson 908-604-2331  
ktnelson@mail.com

### Outreach &

**Events Chair:** Bob Johnson 908-771-9676  
robert.johnson@comcast.net

**Publicity Chair:** Janice La Gala 973-895-2143  
jlagala@cs.com (before 9PM)

**Membership:** Open position.

**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  
fjleinweber@aol.com

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

The Loantaka Group has some very interesting meetings planned for this Spring. We'd welcome the chance to meet you and to introduce ourselves at one of our general meetings. Please see the meeting schedule which follows and join us!

This is your Club and there is always an open invitation to attend Executive Committee meetings. Right now, we have an open position on our Executive Committee. If you are interested in the position or would just like to find out more, please contact Paul Sanderson.

To join our emailing 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. ExCom meetings are open to all members. Please 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:

**Mar 12:** Penny Jones, a member in good standing with the Fluorescent Green Party, will present "Splendid Scarabs". She is also the Recycling Education Specialist with the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority.

**Apr 9:** The current proposal to develop the Exxon tract in Florham Park threatens the Buried Valley Aquifer, which serves several surrounding communities. Ernie Cicconi is a Madison resident who opposes the development. He will speak and include visual materials to help you better understand the threat to the water supply.

(Continued on page 8)

## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

**May 14:** The population of the world is 6.3 million and growing. How does that affect us here in New Jersey and what can we do about it? Learn more about the Sierra Club major campaign on population stabilization and reduction of excess consumption through this slide program presented by Bonnie Tillery, Population Issues Coordinator for the NJ Chapter.

**June 11:** We are delighted to welcome Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr. as our guest speaker this evening. Senator Kean is serving his first term in the New Jersey State Senate representing District 21, which includes 16 towns in Essex, Morris, Somerset and Union counties. In January 2003 he was unanimously selected by Republican Committee members to fill a vacancy in the Senate left by the resignation of Richard H. Bagger. Senator Kean serves on the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Senate State Government Committee. He will share his view of the environmental issues currently before our legislature. You will have an opportunity to learn and to ask questions.

**July and August:** No general meetings are scheduled. Have a great summer! See you in September!

### Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County, parts of Somerset and Middlesex)

**WEBSITES:** [www.sierraactivist.org](http://www.sierraactivist.org)  
[www.sierraactivist.org/getbusy](http://www.sierraactivist.org/getbusy)

**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  
kjmberg@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  
kjmberg@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 do not hold meetings in July or August, but often plan a group picnic or activity. 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:

Apr 9: The Sourland Region spans over 60 miles in seven municipalities-Montgomery, Hillsborough, East Amwell, West Amwell, Lamberville and Hopewell Township and Borough. It has undergone many changes and development in the past 100 years. Our guest speaker will be Jim Luce, Princeton Professor Emeritus, and author of New Jersey's Sourland Mountain. Come learn about such fascinating topics as Sourland "Ghost Towns," the Lindbergh Family and surviving villages.

**May 14:** Rick Cooper, a professional entomologist will discuss integrated pesticide management for your home and lawn. Rick will provide valuable information for the homeowner who wants to manage the chemicals used in the home.

**June 11:** Our speaker tonight will be from the Nature Conservancy and the program is about the Pine Barrens. We will discuss the ecology, culture and history of this precious and irreplaceable area.

**EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES:** We experienced the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh by kayak and canoe last fall. Now is your chance to help spruce-up the banks of the Crosswicks Creek. This will be a joint project with Friends of Hamilton/Trenton Marsh. It is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 26. Please check our web site for further details or send an e-mail to HalRapp@aol.com with the title "Earth Day Volunteer."

### Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties, approximately)

#### OFFICERS AND CONTACTS:

**Chair:** Steve Ember 732-926-8964  
schiker@yahoo.com

**Vice-Chair:** open position!

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

**Membership Chair:** Sandi Lowich  
abstract46@aol.com

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

**Programs Chair:** open position!

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

**Secretary:** open position!

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

**Webmaster:** Don McBride  
dtmcbride@yahoo.com

#### ISSUES:

We are fighting development along streams, wetlands, flood plains and steep slopes. Group members are involved in local issues, answering questions for concerned citizens regarding development and stewarding local master plan initiatives. 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 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 monitoring the environmental/health impact of the US National Stockpile Center in Hillsborough, which contains the largest depository of mercury in the nation. We are calling for proper containment of the existing mercury while we lobby for removal of the mercury to a more suitable site.

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.

We have discussed various wildlife matters at our general meetings. Although the Black Bear issue has been prominent, we have identified a link between the development and hunting industries. At this point, we are continuing to have discussions without any specific actions planned. So far, we have been able to include various points of view and encourage other members to join in our dialogue.

**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 Route 22 towards Bound Brook. The church is on the right hand side at the first stop light (Union Avenue - Route 28). The public is invited and refreshments are served.

**Executive Committee Meetings:** Held at 7pm 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.

**April 8:** Scenery and Geology of the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. Martha Oliver Withjack and Jim Grieshaber will present slides of their trip to California in December 2002 and January 2003. The slides show the remarkable scenery and geology characteristic of the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. Included are views of Mt. Whitney, the highest point in the lower 48 states; Death Valley, the lowest point in the western hemisphere; and Sequoia National Park, home of the largest living objects on earth. The diverse climate, vegetation, and geology of the area provide a varied and beautiful display of nature that is both provocative and fascinating.

**May 13:** Bicycling and Camping in Norway. Ken Mayberg, Outings Chair of the Central Group, will show slides from his exhilarating trip through Norway. Come and share his stories from an amazing adventure.

**June 10:** Energy Efficiency and a Shorter Work Week. Dan Aronson, a Professor at Raritan Valley Community College, will conduct an interactive session with us. Energy efficiency can enable us to improve quality of life while reducing costs. In turn, reductions in household costs can enable us to use increases in labor productivity to reduce the work week without a cut in pay. Sound too good to be true? In the 1st half of the 20th century, the work week fell by 25% while total pay increased. Currently, all other industrialized nations are reducing work time, leaving Americans as the most over-worked in the industrialized world.

### Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth and Ocean Counties)

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

#### OFFICERS:

**Group Chair:** Dennis Anderson 732-888-3158  
dennisaza@aol.com  
612 Second St., Union Beach, NJ 07735

**Vice-Chair:** George Newsome 732-308-1518  
newsome1@optonline.net

**Secretary:** Judy Maxcy 732-458-5074

**Conservation:**

**Monmouth Co:** Steve Knowlton 732-747-7011  
knowlton@worldnet.att.net  
(vacant)

**Ocean County:**

**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.

**April 28:** Travel Time Join us for an interesting and enlightening visit to the land of the kiwi, New Zealand. Group member Marty Judd will stimulate our travel urge with slides of his vacation to this exciting land.

**May 19:** Green Night PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN SCHEDULE — THIS IS THE THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH!!! Here is your chance to do something positive for the environment. We will present current environmental issues — you will write letters to elected officials and others. We supply the pens, paper, and stamps!

**June 23:** What's Bugging New Jersey Now? The latest foreign insect to invade the Garden State is the Asian longhorned beetle. Join us as we learn about this potential scourge, and what is being done to stop it, from Barry Emens of the US Department of Agriculture, Plant Protection & Quarantine unit.

#### 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 regarding the Conservation Committee, or Dennis Anderson at 732-888-3158 for the Executive Committee.



### West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

- OFFICERS:**
- Group Chair:** Gina Carola 856-848-8831  
ginacee@snip.net
- Vice-Chair:** open position
- Secretary:** volunteer needed
- Treasurer:** Trish Clements 856-768-5639  
pslem@aol.com
- Publicity Chair:** Bud Kaliss 856-428-8071  
budmilbud@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.

**Apr 8:** Tom Knoche will present "The Camden Greenways"

**May 13:** Eric Schenk will present "Pedals for Progress". Bring your old bicycles to be recycled for people in developing nations.

**June 10:** Dick Colby will describe and illustrate a trek he made in 1983 on the Anapurna Circuit in the Himalaya Mountains of western Nepal.

**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.

**Apr 19 (Sat), 10am:** Explore the Dorothy Reserve - for frogs, salamanders, and deer enclosures. Noted conservationist Fred Akers will lead us through this protected area of Estell Manor in Atlantic County. Call him at 856-697-3479 for meeting location if you wish to be included.

**May 27 (Tues), 7pm:** We'll piggyback on a scheduled public 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.

**June 16 (Mon), 6pm:** Perfect time for a pot-luck picnic in some member's backyard, ideally on the edge of a gorgeous natural lake or stream. Possibly yours! Dick Colby will try to organize this, and might be convinced to sing you some of his songs from Middle Earth. Please call him if you wish to make an offer. 609-965-4453.

### 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:** Final Friday Film Fest (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](mailto: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! Email us!
- Publicity:** Lynn Forrest  
abc77@msn.com
- Secretary:** Nancy Sullivan  
nancysullivan@comcast.net
- Membership:** Barry Britton  
JerseyVox@aol.com

Volunteers needed for the positions of: outings leaders, Programs coordinator, 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. You may co-chair any position with a friend, if desired. We're happy to help you learn the ropes.

**GENERAL MEETINGS:**

Casual pizza gathering and introduction to club issues and activities. SECOND MONDAY of each month at 7pm, late-comers 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.

**May 12:** Penny Jones, aka Glinda Garbahj, Recycling Education Specialist, confides to us her long and tawdry love affair with the dung beetle.

**Directions:** From I-287: Take Rte. 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 Rte. 24 headed West. Take exit 7A for Chatham and bear right onto Rte.124 (Main St.) Follow Main St. through 2 traffic lights. The Library is on your right ½ block past the second 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](mailto: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, with a roomful of nice people. Movies start at 7:45pm, and the cost is \$5. The following movies will be shown at the Shillelagh Club, 648 Prospect Ave., in West Orange.

**No movie in April.**

**May 30:** Kicking off our mini-Hitchcock fest with "The Lady Vanishes" (1938). Iris Henderson falls asleep on a train, and when she wakes up, her companion has disappeared and no one admits to seeing her, including the waiter that served them both tea.

**June 27:** "The 39 Steps" The film that established Hitchcock as master of the mystery spy-thriller. Bring a lawn chair - if nice weather, we'll show it outside, but come rain or shine.

**July 25:** Yet another classic mystery to be announced. Will definitely be outside if no rain. Bring lawn chair. Show goes on rain or shine.

Please ALWAYS CONFIRM these movie dates by checking our announcement at 973-364-7573, ext. 1. You can also email [abc77@msn.com](mailto:abc77@msn.com) with questions.

**DIRECTIONS** to the Shillelagh Club: Take Rte. 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 ¾ of a mile after the 3rd light. Food/beverages available in the Club.

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/>. Also, copies of an annual report are available from the Chair.

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.



# 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:** Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417

**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:** Vacant

**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 July-September write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator (NOT to Steve Ember!) before April 30. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our bimonthly publication periods, please submit it for the previous Sierran, due to the occasional lag in mailing. Also, please send outing rosters or sign-up sheets to the Chapter Office as soon as possible after each outing.

**Group Outings Coordinators:** Please submit your July-September trip write-ups by May 5.

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

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

Please arrive early at the meeting place so that the outing can start on time. For day hikes, lunch, water (at least a liter), extra clothing, rain gear, and emergency equipment should be carried in a small 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.

## APRIL

**APR 5 (Sat) Cleanup at the old Essex County Environmental Center.** 621 Eagle Rock Ave in Roseland. Take Rte. 280 west to Exit 4B. Turn right at first light on to Eagle Rock Avenue. Look for an old white house on the left with a parking lot in the front, 1/2 mile west of the intersection of Eisenhower Pkwy and Eagle Rock Ave. Rain cancels. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Work gloves will be provided. Leader: Ron Pate 973-364-7573 option #2 (E)

**APR 5 (Sat) Singles Bike Ride.** Class D moderate pace with frequent stops. Bike through rural countryside of South Jersey past lakes and forests. Meet by 9:30 AM at Park Office. Plan to stay for the star gazing tour that evening. Take Rte. 55 south to Rte. 47 south to Rte. 347 south to Rte. 550 east, then follow signs to park office. Allow for drive time. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccjn.net (W)

**APR 5 (Sat) Singles Hike, Star Gazing and Campfire Belleplain State Park.** 6 miles moderate pace. Late afternoon hike through pine and oak forest ending with a campfire and star gazing of the celestial heavens with the S.J. Astronomy Club. Overnight camping Fri & Sat in heated lean-tos or tents is available. Call leader to reserve space. No children/no pets. Please bring lawn chair/blanket and picnic type food to share for tailgate social after the hike. Meet at park office at 3:00 pm for hike or meet at park office at 6:30 pm for star gazing. Take RT 55 south to Rte. 47 south to Rte. 347 south to Rte. 530 east, then follow signs to park office. Allow for drive time. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccjn.net (W)

**APR 6 (Sun) Singles Hike Cape May Point State Park** 5 miles easy pace. We will visit various ponds, marshes and coastal dunes in the park while observing various migratory birds by an accomplished birding expert. We will tour the Victorian town of Cape May or Cold Water Spring Village after the hike. Bring picnic type food to share at the tailgate social after the hike.

Bring binoculars and swimwear (if you dare). No children/no pets. Meet by 10:30 AM at Park parking lot. Take Garden St. Pky to Cape May bridge, cross Bridge and turn right onto County Rd. 606, Sunset Blvd, and then left onto Lighthouse Ave. or take Rte. 9 to County Rd. 626, cross bridge and follow directions above. Leaders: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccjn.net Elise Spata and Tom Niegiel. (W)

**APR 6 (Sun) Tulip Springs.** 6 miles at a moderate pace. Hike the South Mountain Reservation and see some of the many highlights this 2000-acre track has to offer including a 25-foot waterfall and a spectacular view of New York City and South Jersey. Children 9 years or older and dogs are welcome. Bring water and snacks. Meet 10 AM in the Tulip Springs parking lot just off Cherry lane that run between Northfield Avenue and South Orange Avenue in South Orange. Rain cancels. Leader: David Ogens (973) 226-7107, Bandit29@aol.com (E)

**APR 6 (Sun) Harriman State Park.** 5-6 hour hike (about 9-10 miles) at a moderate pace in Harriman State Park. This hike will loop past several lakes and a great viewpoint of the New York skyline (on a clear day). We'll take our lunch and afternoon snack breaks along the lakeshores. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 8 people. 9:30 AM start. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 (N)

**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 Rte. 206. Proceed north on Rte. 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 12 (Sat) Singles Hike Bull's Island.** 7 miles, easy pace. We will do a loop and lunch hike. Hike on one side of the Delaware, we stop for lunch in a small restaurant in Stockton, and then finish hiking on opposite side of River. No children/no pets. Call leader for carpool/caravan availability or meet at 10:00 am at second parking lot past footbridge over river, Bulls Island SP on Rte. 29, 6 miles N. of Rte. 202 bridge. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccjn.net (W)

**APR 12 (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, Rte. 70, Cherry Hill. Leader: Tom J., 856-234-9369. Call in advance if possible so we know how many to expect. (W)

**APR 13 (Sun) Fifteenth Anniversary Hike in Harriman State Park.** This event is my fifteenth anniversary of leading outings for Sierra Club. We will hike eight miles at a moderate pace along various trails. Highlights include several viewpoints and beautiful Pine Meadow Lake. Hiking boots are recommended. Meet BY 10 AM at the Visitors Center on Seven Lakes Drive. Drive north on the Garden State Parkway (or Rte. 287 North) and take the Rte. 17 exit. Proceed north on Rte. 17 into New York. Immediately after the town of Sloatsburg, turn right on Seven Lakes Drive. The Visitors Center is less than two miles up Seven Lakes Drive. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

**APR 13 (Sun) Wells Mills County Park.** A 6-7 mile hike over mostly flat to rolling terrain. Bring water, hiking boots or good walking shoes. Meet at the park Visitor's Center at 10 AM. Inclement weather cancels. Take GSP northbound, exit 69 (Rte. 532), turn left (west), proceed 2.5 miles to park entrance on left. From GSP southbound, exit 67, (Chatsworth), turn right on West Bay Ave. (Rte. 554) for about 5 miles to Rte. 72. West on 72 a short distance to Rte. 532 east. Turn right and proceed 3.8 miles to park entrance on right. Leader: Fritz Schwager (732) 708-1181 (JS)

**APR 13 (Sun) Tyler State Park, PA.** Hike at moderate pace for about 5 miles, hilly. Meet at covered bridge parking lot. Take Newtown exit off of Rte. 95 South and continue right onto Newtown bypass. This becomes Rte. 413. Continue for several miles until it becomes Swamp Rd. Pass main entrance to park and Bucks Co. College. The next dirt road on left is the meeting place. Hike offers fields, forests, old homes, and good views. Meet at 10 AM. Leader: Ken Mayberg, kjmayberg@aol.com or (609) 443-9138 for questions. (C)

**APR 19 (Sat) Singles Earth Day Hike and Cleanup 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 AM at the Highlawn Pavilion Parking lot off Eagle Rock Avenue in West Orange. Take Rte. 280 to Prospect Avenue (Exit 8B). Go north, right turn onto Eagle Rock Avenue, left turn into reservation. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Work gloves will be provided. Leader: Ron Pate (973) 364-7573 option #2 (E)

**APR 19 (Sat) Social Hike in Palisades Interstate Park.** Join us for a strenuous 4-5 mile hike at a moderate pace as you enjoy the majestic views of the Palisades. Highlights include Peanut Leap Falls & the Giant Steps. Hiking boots over the ankles are required and participants must be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & 2 quarts of water. Meet before 10:30 AM at the State Line parking lot off Palisades Parkway. Take the NJ Turnpike north toward George Washington Bridge. When Turnpike divides, bear RIGHT (spur that forks right). Then stay in left lane, following signs for local NJ exits as you head toward the George Washington Bridge and go thru tollbooths. Take Exit 72 for Fort Lee/Palisades Parkway. At first light go left onto Fletcher Ave. (9W). Get into right lane & follow Fletcher Ave. for short distance and bear right onto Palisades Parkway. Then take State Line Lookout exit, just past Exit 2. Follow road a short distance to parking area near Lookout Inn. Meet group at the snack bar. Leader: Joyce White at (908) 272-4478 or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (L)

**APR 19 (Sat) Harriman State Park.** 6-7 hour hike (about 10-12 miles) at a moderate pace in Harriman State Park. Starting at Anthony Wayne parking lot we'll hike over the Timp to great viewpoints of the park and the Hudson. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 8 people. 10 AM start. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 (N)

**APR 19 (Sat) Singles Moonlight Hike and Campfire.** 6 miles moderate pace. Hike the Pines under the Pink Moon and return to a campfire. Overnight camping available. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet at 7:30 PM at Atsion Lake, Burl. Co., From Rte. 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. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccjn.net (W)

**APR 26 (Sat) Blaauvelt Parks: Piermont-South Nyack.** Strenuous 10 miles. Visit Rockland Cemetery, an old Nike base and an abandoned National Guard rifle range. Bring hiking boots, lunch, 2 quarts of water. Joint with AMC. Take Rte. 9W to Piermont NY. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural) by 10:15 AM. You can take the 9:15 Rockland Coaches 9A bus from the Port Authority terminal to meet Leader in Piermont by 10:15. LP out, return via abandoned RR. Leader John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10 PM) or Jurasek@opton-line.net (ACOC)

**APR 27 (Sun) Singles Hike in Watchung Reservation.** This is a singles-oriented activity; however, anyone who is adequately prepared is welcome except children under the age of 18. Well-behaved dogs are allowed. We will be hiking mostly on the sierra trail, about 7 miles of hills & level terrain at a moderate pace. Highlights include pine plantation & Deserted Village. Wear hiking boots, bring lunch or snack & 2 quarts of water and all participants should be in good condition. Meet before 10:30 AM at the Trailside Nature Center parking lot. Take Rte. 78 west to exit 43 (New Providence/Berkeley Hts.) At light turn right onto McMane Ave. Then turn left onto Glenside Avenue. Drive about 1 mile, turn right onto Rte. 645 and pass Lake Surprise. At traffic circle, take first right and proceed 1/2 mile to Trailside. OR Take Rte. 78 east to exit 44, turn left at the light onto Glenside Ave. Then follow directions above. Rain cancels. Leader: Patrick Montague (973) 364-7573 (option # 6) zookeeper108@aol.com (E)

**APR 27 (Sun) Social Hike in Harriman State Park.** We will hike seven miles at a moderate pace partially on the Appalachian Trail. Highlights include excellent views and the famous Lemon Squeezer. Hiking boots are recommended. Meet BY 10 AM at the Lake Tiorati Circle on Seven Lakes Drive. Drive north on the Garden State Parkway (or Rte. 287 North) and take the Rte. 17 exit. Proceed north on Rte. 17 into New York. Immediately after the town of Sloatsburg, turn right on Seven Lakes Drive. The Lake Tiorati Circle is about eleven miles up Seven Lakes Drive. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

Have you enjoyed an outing lately?

**APR 27 (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 Rte. 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 27 (Sun) Singles Flatwater Kayak Training.** Learn how to handle a flatwater kayak or improve your skills, great for beginners. Call leader to reserve space. After lake training we will do the Wading River. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after trip. No children. Meet at 8:30 AM at Bel-Haven Canoes on Rte. 542, Atl. Co., 12 miles E. of Hammonton. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870. Pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**MAY**

**MAY 2-4 (Fri-Sun) Singles Outdoor Weekend Ricketts Glen State Park, Pa.** Hike 7 spectacular water falls and campout in the deep woods. Camping is available both Fri and Sat nights. Call leader by April 9th to reserve space. Call leader for carpool/caravan availability or meet at Ricketts Glen SF office, Rte. 487, exit 35 off I-80 PA Turnpike at 10:00 AM for hike. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccnj.net No children/no pets. (W)

**MAY 3 (Sat) Social Hike at Eagle Rock Reservation.** We will hike 4-5 miles at a moderate pace. Bring water and snacks and wear hiking boots. Rain cancels. Meet before 10 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. Well behaved kids and dogs are welcome. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce Haddad (973) 364-7573 option #7 (E)

**MAY 4 (Sun) Hamburg Mountain Victory Hike.** Meet 10 AM at the AT parking lot on Rte. 94. We will attempt to hike on the top of Hamburg Mountain. This will be a victory hike as this area was recently purchased by the State from the Intrawest Corporation. The purchase means to no development will take place on the top of the mountain. The location of the hike may be changed so please call to be sure. Leaders: Joe and Ellen Pepin 973-252-5137 (NW)

**MAY 4 (Sun) Monmouth Battlefield. Hike** at moderate pace for about 5 miles. Off Business Rte. 33, Manalapan. If we're lucky, we might see the apple orchards in blossom. Hike on open fields filled with history. Meet at 10 AM. Leader: Ken Mayberg, kjmayberg@aol.com or (609) 443-9138 for questions. (C)

**MAY 10 (Sat) Harriman State Park.** 6-7 hour hike (about 10-12 miles) in northern Harriman State Park. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 8 people. 10 AM start. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 (N)

**MAY 10 (Sat) Singles Hike Allaire State Park and Abandoned Town.** 7 miles moderate pace. Hike oak and pine forest. Visit restored iron town w/church, forge, general store and blacksmith shop. Listen to narrative about the history of the area and how iron was made here. Visit many original standing buildings. No children/no pets. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social. Meet at 9:30 AM. Take Rte. 295 N. to Rte. 195 E., take Exit 31B, follow signs for Park main entrance, and then go to the inner parking lot ¼ mile off road, look for OCSJ sign. Leaders: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**MAY 10 (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, Rte. 70, Cherry Hill. Leader: Tom J., 856-234-9369. Call in advance if possible so we know how many to expect. (W)

**MAY 17 (Sat) Singles Hike, Clean Up and Picnic in South Mountain Reservation.** Wear hiking boots. Gloves will be provided. Take Rte. 280 to Pleasant Valley Way South. Go 3 miles into reservation. Meet before 10 AM at the Tulip Springs parking area on your left. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Rain cancels. Please RSVP if you are coming. We will be asking for a small donation for picnic. Leader: Ron Pate (973) 364-7573 option #2 (E)

**MAY 17 (Sat) Social Hike in Sherman Hoffman Sanctuary.** We will hike about 4 miles of somewhat rocky terrain at a moderate pace. Highlights include the Passaic River & bird watching. Hiking boots are preferred and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & 2 quarts of water. Meet before 10:30AM at the lower level parking lot called SHERMAN SANCTUARY - NEW JERSEY AUDUBON SOCIETY VISITORS PARKING LOT. Take 287 to Exit 30B (Bernardsville/ US 202) and bear right at end of exit ramp. At the traffic light by the Old Mill Inn, go straight across onto Childs Road. At the fork bear right onto Hardscrabble Road and proceed about 1 mile to the lower level parking lot (name noted above) on right, just past the main entrance to the sanctuary. Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce White at (908) 272-4478 or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (L)

**MAY 17 (Sat) Minnewaska State Park.** 6-7 hour hike in Minnewaska State Park. We'll walk a combination of carriage roads and trails from Minnewaska to Lake Awosting. Great views. Lunch at Lake Awosting. Optional dinner stop in New Paltz. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 8 people. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 (N)

**MAY 17 (Sat) Singles Moonlight Hike.** 6 miles moderate pace. Hike under the Flower Moon as we walk along old cranberry bogs. Bring snack type food to share at tailgate social after hike. No children/no pets. Meet at 7:30 PM in parking lot at Whitesbog Village, Burl.Co., from Rte. 70E take Rte. 530 N. go 1 mile, turn right onto village entrance road. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**MAY 18 (Sun) Singles Hike Winslow WMA.** 6 miles moderate pace. We explore new parts of this little used wilderness area to include a natural reclaimed sand wash. No children/no pets. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet at 10 AM at the Archery Training Area, on Piney Hollow Road 2.1 miles south from Rte. 73 or 1 mile north from Rte. 322, Williamstown, Glouc. Co. Leaders: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve or pis1@cccnj.net and Michael Marinelli. (W)

**MAY 18 (Sun) Hatfield Swamp Natural Area in West Essex Park.** 5 miles at a moderate pace. Hike through marshes, forested wetlands and see the Passaic River in its natural setting. Children 9 years or older and dogs are welcome. Bring binoculars, water and snacks. Meet 10 AM in the parking lot on Kilpatrick Lane off Bloomfield Ave south of Johnny's Motors, which is ¼ mile west of the intersection of Passaic Ave and Bloomfield Ave in West Caldwell. Rain cancels. Leader: David Ogens (973) 226-7107, Bandit29@aol.com (E)

**MAY 18 (Sun) Harriman State Park.** 6-7 hour hike (about 10-12 miles) in southern Harriman State Park. Walk along beautiful stream, past several lakes and along ridges with some great views. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 8 people. 9:30 AM start. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 (N)

**MAY 18 (Sun) Highlands Hike in Norvin Green State Forest (Special Interests: Conservation).** We will hike about seven miles at a moderate pace in the Wyanokie Highlands. Scenery includes Wyanokie High Point and views of Wanaque Reservoir. Participants are encouraged to protect the threatened Wyanokies from development. Hiking boots are recommended. Meet BY 10 AM at the ProMart parking lot across from the Grand Union on Skyline Drive in Ringwood. Take Rte. 287 to Skyline Drive. Drive up Skyline Drive towards Ringwood. After about five miles, look for the ProMart on your left. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

**MAY 18 (Sun) Southern Allaire State Park (Special interest Geology).** Moderate 4.75 mile hike is located in the northern fringes of the Pine Barrens. Please bring a drink and snack. Hiking shoes are preferred. Meet at 9 AM at the large dirt parking lot on the right, off Hospital Road on Wall Township. Bad weather cancels. Take 34 south of GSP exit 98. Turn right onto Allenwood

Road. At "T" intersection, Ramhorn Road, turn right. Make next left onto Hospital Road. Parking lot is approx. one mile ahead on the right. Confirmation/Questions Please call. Leader Mike Verange 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

**MAY 24-26 (Sat-Mon) Singles Memorial Day Activities Weekend.** We will visit PA's "Grand Canyon" where we will camp, hike, bike, canoe/kayak, and birding. We will link up with the other camping group. Base camp at Group Area #1, Coulton Point State Park. Smorgasbord dinner Sat night. No children/no pets. Call leader for availability to carpool/caravan to campsite. Meeting time is 8 AM. Call Leader by May 1st to reserve space and for additional info. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**MAY 30-JUN 1 (Fri-Sun) Singles Whitewater Rafting Part 1.** This is the first of three progressively challenging trips. Whitewater raft the Leigh River with class III rapids. Sunday we hike or bike in area. Reservations must be in by April 30. Camp in Hickory Run SP or stay in local motels on Friday. Call leader to reserve space and for additional info. Call leader for carpool/caravan availability, or meet at 9 AM on Sat. at Outfitter in White Haven, Pa. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve. pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**MAY 31 (Sat) Schunemunk Circular.** Moderate 8 miles. Steep (1200 foot) initial climb will reward the hiker with fantastic views in all directions from the highest point in Orange County! A brief geology lesson is included for free. Bring hiking boots, lunch, 2 quarts of water. Joint with AMC. Meet at 10 AM in Mountainville NY. Take Rte. 32 North from the Harriman Exit of the NYS Thruway about 7 miles to Angola/Pleasant Hill Road. Park at the Black Rock Fish and Game Club sign. Leader John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10 PM) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

**JUNE**

**JUN 1 (Sun) National Trails Day Hike at Sunfish Pond.** Let's celebrate National Trails Day by hiking eight miles at a moderate pace on the Kittatinny Ridge. Highlights include Dunnfield Creek ravine and picturesque Sunfish Pond. Hiking boots are recommended. Meet BY 9:30 AM at the Appalachian Trail parking lot on Rte. 80 West. Take Rte. 80 West past Exit 4 and look carefully for the Rest Area sign. Leave Rte. 80 at the Rest Area exit; however, continue down the exit ramp to the Dunnfield Creek/Appalachian Trail parking lot. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

**JUN 1 (Sun) Baldplate Mountain.** Hike at moderate pace for about 5 miles, hilly. Meet at Washington Crossing parking lot (NJ) by river to car pool. Hike this new park before the county develops portions of it. Good views, old buildings, forest and pond. Meet at 10 AM. Leader: Ken Mayberg, kjmayberg@aol.com or (609) 443-9138 for questions. (C)

**JUN 7 (Sat) Social Hike in Jenny Jump State Forest.** We will hike about 5 miles of hills & level terrain at a moderate pace. Highlights include panoramic vistas of the Highlands. Hiking boots are preferred and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & 2 quarts of water. Meet before 10:30 AM at the state park office parking lot. Take Rte. 80 West to Exit 12(Rte. 521 - Hope) From the off ramp go left on 521(under Rte. 80) for 1.2 miles. Turn left at the light in Hope (there is only one). Then take the first right turn on Great Meadows-Hope Road. Travel 2.4 miles to Fair View Road. Turn left on Fair View Road. Follow 1.7 miles to the park office entrance on right (turn right at the Jenny Jump State Forest sign). Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce White at (908) 272-4478 or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (L)

**JUN 7 (Sat) Canoe Trip on the Passaic River (9 AM).** This is a one-way trip and we will car pool back. Canoe 3-4 hours at a leisurely pace observing the wildlife and natural settings. Bring water, a hardy snack and comfortable clothes. Meet promptly at 9 AM at the old Environmental Center at 621 Eagle Rock Ave in Roseland. Look for an old white house on the left with a parking lot in the front located on Eagle Rock Ave, ½ mile west of the intersection of Eisenhower Pkwy and Eagle Rock Ave. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. A limited number of canoes are available at \$15 per seat (\$20 for non-members). Older children are welcome and can sit in the middle. Life jackets are required which come with each canoe. Rain date: Sunday. Leaders: Patrick Montague (973) 364-7573 option #6 and David Ogens (973) 226-7107, Bandit29@aol.com (E)

**JUN 7 (Sat) Canoe Trip on the Passaic River (12:30 PM).** This is also a one-way trip (the other way), we will car pool back. Canoe 4 hours at a leisurely pace observing the wildlife and natural settings. Bring water, a hardy snack and comfortable clothes. Meet promptly at 12:30 PM. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. A limited number of canoes are available at \$15 per seat (\$20 for non-members). Older children are welcome and can sit in the middle. Life jackets are required which come with each canoe. Rain date: Sunday. Leaders: Joyce Haddad and Ron Pate (973) 364-7573 option #7 (E)

**JUN 7 (Sat) Cedar Creek Kayak.** Meet at Triple T Canoes by 10 AM. Double Trouble Road, Beachwood, NJ - off GSP exit 80. Inclement weather cancels. Call Triple T at (732) 349-9510 to reserve kayak. For experienced kayakers. No Pets/No children. Leader: Fritz Schwager (732) 708-1181 (JS)

**JUN 8 (Sun) Social Hike in High Point State Park.** We will hike about seven miles at a moderate pace on the Kittatinny Ridge. Highlights include Lake Rutherford, Dutch Shoe Rock, Saw Mill Pond and several excellent viewpoints. After the hike, there will be an optional excursion to the High Point monument for a superb viewpoint. If it is very warm, there may be an opportunity for swimming. Hiking boots are recommended. Meet BY 10 AM at the Appalachian Trail parking area about 75 yards southeast of the Park Ranger's office on Rte. 23. Take Rte. 23 to High Point State Park. Do not enter the park! The parking area is just before you reach the park on the left side of Rte. 23. Rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

**JUN 8 (Sun) 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 cancels. Confirmation/questions please call. Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

**JUN 8 (Sun) Singles Hike Wissahickon Gorge.** 8 miles moderate pace over hills. Hike the Gorge in late spring with its spectacular views. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet at 8:30 AM in rear parking lot Hilton Hotel, on Rte. 70 Cherry Hill to carpool/caravan. Or meet at 9:30am at Valley Green parking lot in park. Leader Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**JUN 13-14 (Fri-Sat) Singles Moonlight Hike, Campfire & Campout.** 6 miles moderate pace. Enjoy early summer hiking and camping as we hike firm dirt roads lit by moonlight. Camping available both Fri. and Sat. nights. Call leader to reserve space. No children/no pets. Please bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet at 7:30 PM at Group Campsite C, Bass River SF, off Stage Road, 6 miles W. of Tuckerton or 3 miles N. of New Gretna, Burl. Co. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve or pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**JUN 14 (Sat) Singles Mountain Bike Ride.** Moderate pace 10-15 miles, on firm and sandy roads, with frequent stops. Good for beginners and intermediate riders. Meet at 10 AM at Group Campsite C Bass River SF, off Stage Road, 6 miles W. of Tuckerton or 3 miles N. of New Gretna, Burl. Co. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 eve or pis1@cccnj.net (W)

**JUN 14 (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, Rte. 70, Cherry Hill. Leader: Tom J., 856-234-9369. Call in advance if possible so we know how many to expect. (W)

**JUN 15 (Sun) Canoe Trip on the Passaic River.** During this round trip tour we will paddle 4 hours at a leisurely pace stopping after 90 minutes to relax and observe wildlife and nature. In this quiet area we may get lucky and see one of the many Blue Herons who live there. Bring  
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