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The Jersey... SIERRAN

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Roughly 23,000 Members in New Jersey

October-December 2003

Sierra Club Endorses Legislative Candidates for November Elections

by Rich Isaac, Chapter Political Chair

On November 4th, the entire State Legislature with its forty districts will be up for reelection - we'll choose 40 Senators and 80 Assemblypersons. With the Senate currently deadlocked in a 20-20 tie between Democrats and Republicans, and with the Assembly's Democratic majority down to just 41 out of 80 seats, this year will probably see major changes in the control of one or both legislative bodies. And with uncontrolled sprawl, air and water quality problems and other major environmental problems still besetting our state, it's more important than ever for Sierra Club members to make their voices heard at the polls.

Our Chapter has worked all Spring and Summer on endorsements: Questionnaires were mailed to major party candidates, responders were interviewed rigorously, and voting by both the Chapter Political and Executive Committees determined which candidates best meet our environmental standards. In particular, we looked at the legislation and issues below:

THE ISSUES

Candidates responded to a questionnaire seeking their positions on specific legislation:

A2439/S409 would adopt **California-level auto emissions standards** for vehicles in New Jersey as was done recently in Massachusetts and New York.

A2395/S505 would expand the existing **Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)** Program, allowing municipalities to apply to the existing State TDR Bank for program and planning funds.

A926/S629 would increase **protection for public water supplies** by establishing buffer zones around feeder streams and by limiting construction in watershed management areas.

A288 would **protect sensitive coastal areas from over-development** by closing a legal loophole allowing environmentally destructive development.

AR44 would oppose the use of State tax dollars for **unnecessary dredging of the Delaware River**.

In addition, candidates were asked for their positions on banning the **harvest of horseshoe crabs** (so that crab eggs would be available to migrating birds), **protecting steep slopes from development**, supporting **family planning** by requiring health insurers to provide prescription coverage for contraceptives, **re-establishing the Department of the Public Advocate**, including an Office of Environmental Advocate, **prohibiting campaign contributions by State contractors**, and requiring every municipality to include a **build-out analysis** within its master plan, as well as other issues of concern to the Club, such as **transportation**.

ENDORSED CANDIDATES

It would be impossible in this space to provide particulars for each endorsed candidate. Club members (and other readers) are invited to direct questions to the Group Political Chair in your area, identified in the Group News section on pages 10-13 of this newsletter. Please review the adjacent table, listing the endorsed candidates by District, and please take particular note of the races in Districts 3, 4, 12, 14, 19, and 38, which are most likely to be especially close for Club-endorsed candidates. (Note: the process continues beyond the press deadline for this issue of the *Jersey Sierran*. Additional candidates will be endorsed at our September and even October ExCom meetings. If you want the full details on candidates in your District, call your Group Political Chair, listed in this issue's Group News.)

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT! If you want to know your election District, more about the race in your District, or help us campaign for a candidate, please call me, Richard Isaac, at (H) 973-716-0297.

2003 LEGISLATIVE ENDORSEMENTS

(as of 1 Sept.)

Dist.	Senate/Assem.	Party	Candidate
3	S	D*	Stephen Sweeney
3	A	D*	Douglas Fisher
3	A	D*	John Burzichelli
4	S	R*	George Geist
4	A	D	David Mayer
5	S	R	Anthony DeMasi
7	A	D*	Jack Connors
11	S	R*	Joseph Palaia
11	A	R*	Sean Kean
12	A	D	Michael Panter
12	A	D	Robert Morgan
13	A	D	Leonard Inzerillo
14	A	D*	Linda Greenstein
14	A	D*	Gary Guear
15	S	D*	Shirley Tuner
15	A	D*	Reed Gusciora
15	A	D*	Bonnie Watson Coleman
17	S	D*	Bob Smith
17	A	D*	Upendra J. Chivukula
18	S	D*	Barbara Buono
18	A	D*	Peter J. Barnes, Jr.
18	A	D*	Patrick Diegnan
19	S	D*	Joseph Vitale
19	A	R*	Arline Friscia
19	A	D	Joseph Vas
21	S	R*	Thomas Kean, Jr.
21	A	R*	Eric Munoz
21	A	R*	Jon Bramnick
23	S	R*	Leonard Lance
25	S	D	Blair MacInnes
25	A	D	Thomas Zelante
26	S	R*	Robert Martin
26	A	D	Laurie Fierro
27	A	D*	John McKeon
34	A	D*	Peter Eagler
37	A	D*	Loretta Weinberg
38	A	G*	Matt Ahearn
39	A	R*	John Rooney
39	A	R*	Charlotte Vandervalk
40	A	R*	David Russo

* Incumbent

Close Races

CLUB-BALLOT OVER-LEAF:

TO BE DETACHED AND RETURNED, PLEASE.

2003 Election of NJ Sierra Club Officers:

Five members of the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) will be elected to two-year terms, joining the four members elected last year, and the 11 Group Chairs or their delegates. (The four members elected last year are Dick Colby, George Denzer, Ken Johanson and Tina Schvejda.)

This 20-member ExCom elects, at each January reorganization meeting, the Chapter Chair, Vice-Chair, Conservation Chair, Legislative Chair, Political Chair, and other officers included on the Leader List — back page of this Newsletter.)

On page 2 are statements from the six candidates selected by a Nominating Committee (consisting of Ken Johanson, Dick Colby, Tina Schvejda and Lee Snyder). There was an opportunity, (announced in the two previous issues of this Newsletter), for nomination of petition candidates, but no petitions were received this year.

Please **detach** the **entire** ballot along the dotted line. It includes your member label (above) which will authenticate your ballot and which will be removed before any ballots are counted.

Vote for UP TO FIVE candidates. The second column of boxes is for the second member of a FAMILY membership.

Please mail the completed ballot in your own envelope to **Ballot, Sierra Club, 139 West Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618** — to arrive by Dec. 1. Ballots will be counted at our annual holiday party on December 7.

Note that the ballot includes portions for GROUP and SECTION ExCom elections. If you vote one or more of them, please follow mailing instructions on it/them.

NJ BALLOT QUESTIONS IMPACT HIGHLANDS

by Tom Gilbert, Executive Director of the Highlands Coalition

When NJ voters go to the polls on November 4 they will be asked to vote on three statewide ballot questions in addition to candidates and local questions. Each of these three questions could have some impact on the protection of the Highlands.

The question with the most direct impact on the Highlands seeks to increase the amount of funding the **Garden State Preservation Trust** can spend on open space and farmland preservation and community park development by \$150 million. Governor McGreevey has pledged \$75 million of this additional funding to open space and farmland preservation in the Highlands, with the other \$75 million earmarked for community park development statewide.

The \$75 million targeted for the Highlands will increase the State's commitment to protecting priority lands in

the Highlands and the water supply for over half of New Jerseyans. In addition, the \$75 million for community parks will help to reduce development pressure on rural areas like the Highlands by improving the quality of life in older, more developed communities.

The additional funding will be supported by bonds issued by the Garden State Preservation Trust. No additional taxes or state appropriations are required to issue these bonds because of the low interest rates in today's bond market.

Also on the ballot is a question that, if approved, would create a stable and permanent source of funding for the **cleanup of brownfield sites**. The changes proposed by this question create a fund of \$20-\$40 million per year to clean up brownfield sites and also release over \$100 million that has been dedicated for this purpose but remains unused. Because this proposal merely

entails changes to an existing program, no additional taxes are necessary to implement it.

This program would help the Highlands in two ways. First, the majority of the state's brownfields are in New Jersey's older, more developed communities, and cleaning up these sites makes them more attractive for development, reducing pressure on the Highlands and other rural areas. In addition, although brownfields are often thought of as large abandoned factories, smaller sites, such as gas stations, can also be brownfields. There are a number of brownfields in Highlands communities that would be candidates for cleanup, which would improve the environment in the Highlands.

The third question seeks authorization to issue \$200 million in **bonds to finance dam restoration and repairs**, lake and stream dredging and cleaning, and water

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CHAPTER ExCom BALLOT

(Randomized Name Order)

Vote for FIVE maximum.

The first column of boxes is for "individual" members. Family (joint) members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns.

Return in your own separate envelope by Dec 1 to: Ballot, Sierra Club, 139 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618.

- Joan Denzer Steve Ember
 Sunil Somalwar Rich Isaac
 Bob Johnson Jane Tousman
 Write in: _____

GROUP BALLOTS

Vote only the Group(s) and/or Section in which you participate. Club rules recommend nomination of at least two more people than the number of positions open; when those two people haven't been identified, spaces for write-in candidates are provided.

North Jersey Group Executive Committee

Group members should please clip and return the ballot below by Nov 30 to: Sierra Club North Jersey Group, 2400 Hudson Terrace #5D, Fort Lee, NJ 07024.

Vote for five candidates maximum. The first column of boxes is for "individual" members. Family (joint) members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns. (To learn more about the candidates, contact Tom Thompson at 201-848-1080.)

Membership # _____
 (From your membership card or Sierra magazine.)

- Mark Becker Sandi Sola
 Betsy Kohn Janathan Woolley
 Mary Ellen Shaw
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Central Jersey Group Executive Committee

Vote for four maximum. The first column of boxes is for "individual" members. Family (joint) members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns.

Send along with Chapter Ballot (top of this column).

- Ed Pfeiffer Nancy Carringer
 Bill Wowk Laura Lynch
 Write-in: _____
 Write-in: _____

Loantaka Group Executive Committee

The following candidates have been nominated for 5 openings on the Executive Committee. Please vote for 5 and mail your ballot by November 1, 2003.

Vote for five maximum. The first column of boxes is for "individual" members. Family (joint) members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns.

- Paul Sanderson Ken Johanson
 Bob Johnson Meiling Chin
 Write-in: _____

Membership # _____
 (From your membership card or Sierra magazine.)

Mail ballot to: Sierra Club Loantaka Group
 P.O. Box 293
 Summit, NJ 07901

Raritan Valley Group ExCom

Group members should please clip and return the ballot below, by November 28, to: Sierra Club Group Ballot, 44 Chestnut Street, Milltown, NJ 08850

Candidates: (Vote for three, maximum) The first column of boxes is for "individual" members. Family (joint) members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns. (To learn more about the candidates, contact Sandi Lowich at 732-247-5760.)

Membership # _____
 (From your membership card or Sierra magazine.)

- Lorraine Bell Don McBride
 Steve Ember
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

NJ SINGLES SECTION ExCom

To be eligible to vote in the Singles Section ExCom election, you must have attended at least one Singles meeting (not other events, only second-monday-of-the-month meetings at a library) within the past year.

Vote for up to seven candidates, and return the ballot with the Chapter ExCom ballot at the top of this column.

- Bob Johnson Patrick Montague
 Kathy Holusha Diana Eichholz
 Joyce White Lynn Forrest
 David Szalay
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

CHAPTER ExCom BALLOT STATEMENTS:

JOAN DENZER

As a member of the Club since 1983, I have held positions on the local, regional and national levels, working on such issues as clean air, open space and pollution control. I've learned that no battle is ever over: while we have made considerable progress on all of these issues all of us who care about our environment need to be ready to continue fighting for what we believe in. As a member of the Executive Committee I will work to continue the Chapter's effective voice for New Jersey's environment. I would appreciate your vote.



SUNIL SOMALWAR

Chapter Chair since October 2002, Chapter Vice Chair 1999-2002. Proud to be associated with NJ Chapter's magnificent activists and staff. Last year saw Jeff Tittel continue to dominate NJ's environmental scene, Dennis Schvejda join as Conservation Director, office move from secluded Princeton haunts to main-street Trenton, Kelly McNicholas (about to) take over running the office and Gina "No Dredging" Carola win the national Club award for defeating the Army Corps. Financially independent Wild Tiger project continues successfully. Vision: develop Chapter financially while ensuring smooth running, AND TO DO UTMOST TO STOP WASHINGTON DC'S WAR ON THE ENVIRONMENT.



BOB JOHNSON

Member since 1993. Life Member, Issue Coordinator for Transportation, Loantaka Group Outreach Chair, NERCC alternate, Singles Section Chair. Sprawl, driven by the automobile, is the most serious environmental issue facing New Jersey today. Transportation planning can significantly improve land use patterns and air quality. I continue to explore ways that environmentally efficient transportation can improve the quality of life in NJ. I practice what I preach by bicycling to work and to Sierra Club meetings and functions. The Sierra Club is the best organization to spearhead positive environmental changes, and I am proud to be part of it.



STEVE EMBER

I joined Sierra Club 20 years ago. Since 1988 I have held various leadership positions and led more than 200 outings for about 10,000 people. Currently, I am Chapter Outings Coordinator and a Chapter Executive Committee member. New Jersey is challenged by sprawl. What happens here affects the entire country. The public looks to us for leadership. We must organize and educate to protect the environment and the quality of our lives. We can reach out to our membership via the Internet, events, phone calls and mailings. We can save New Jersey by working together. It is not too late!



RICH ISAAC

Rich has been active with the Club for years. He served as Chair and Political Chair of both the North Jersey and Loantaka Groups,



created and organized the Hudson Group, and is now Chair of the Essex County Group. Rich is also currently serving his seventh year as Chapter Political Chair. For his efforts, he has received the Chapter's only Political Action Award in 1992, its Outstanding Group Chairperson Award in 1994, and in 2000, an award for being Essex County Group Chair. Rich enjoys walking with his wife, son, and Frisky (his cocker spaniel) together in the woods.

JANE TOUSMAN

Jane is a long time activist in supporting various environmental causes, such as the successful "Save Our Swamp" effort where she helped save 200 acres of wetlands and forest. A certified paralegal and former President of the Edison Township Council, Jane has been active in a number of government and private environmental groups, including the New Jersey Clean Air Council; Plaintiff in Save the Oak Tree Pond, and The Freshwater Wetlands Coalition. Additionally, Jane is currently a member of the Club's Chapter Executive Committee, and has been its representative to the Club's national annual meetings since 1999.



Our First Green Party Candidate Endorsed: MATT AHEARN

by Rich Isaac, Chapter Political Chair

This year the Chapter has endorsed a Green Party candidate for the first time. **Matt Ahearn** is an incumbent Assemblyman in District 38, central and southern Bergen County.

Here in New Jersey, just about all the candidates like to say they care about the environment, but Matt Ahearn actually does. His integrity cannot be compromised, and his voice cannot be silenced. He is the driving force behind clean car legislation and, if re-elected, will work tirelessly to pass it so that our children and seniors, who suffer some of the highest asthma rates in the country, will be able to breathe more easily.

I (Rich Isaac) will be personally taking the lead on his campaign, on behalf of the Chapter, and I urge you to help us win this critical election. If you'd like to help, please call me at my home, 973-716-0297.

Unlawful Motors in the Woods: Will We Find the Road to Public Protection and the Rule of Law?

By: Fred Akers, Conservation Chair of our South Jersey Group and our ATV Issues Coordinator

The public is well aware of the need for open space to preserve our quality of life, and the rush is on to acquire and protect as much land as possible. While ex-Gov. Whitman's so called "million acre initiative" was aimed at new protection for farms and woodland, there has been too little focus on what happens **after** properties become "protected." Right before our eyes, our growing open space, and private property as well, are increasingly suffering damage from off-road motorized vehicles (ORVs).

Thousands of riders of ORVs: 4-wheelers and dirt bikes, deliberately disregard property trespass laws, invading property they do not own, crunching everything in their paths and leaving trails of ruts and potholes, damaged soils, dead cleared vegetation, disturbed wildlife, and their damaged habitats behind them. Many of these riders have a "catch me if you can" mentality as they thumb their accelerators at the rule of law, and the manufacturers and dealers are in denial that their products and customers cause deaths, injuries, and serious damage to the land.

Protecting the public from the proliferation of this onslaught is now up to the State Legislature: little progress has been made to date. The extent of the problem really hit home on June 6,

2002, when Leatha Barr was killed by a wildly-driven 4-wheeler on East State Street in downtown Trenton.

On June 27, 2002, Assemblyman Reed Gusciora, District 15 (Mercer), introduced bill A2595 in the Assembly's Law and Public Safety Committee. It called for stronger penalties for illegally operating a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle. While well intentioned, the bill failed to provide a funding source to pay for the its enforcement necessary to achieve the higher fines. A companion bill, S1692, passed unanimously in the Senate on October 7, 2002, but A2595 is still "in committee" over a year later.

Well before the Trenton fatality, other lawmakers and the NJ-DEP had also been struggling with this growing problem. While Commissioner Bradley Campbell was in the process of developing a policy to deal with damage to State land and injuries to Conservation Officers by ATV outlaws, Assemblyman Eric Munoz, District 21, (Essex, Morris, Somerset and Union), introduced Assembly Bill A2238 on May 9, 2002. This bill called for prohibition of ORVs in State parks and forests. It did not address the need for a solid funding source for enforcement, and, since it would take away the currently allowed special use permits for dirt bike events on State land, the American

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ELM COURT MATTERS!

by Ed Pfeiffer, Co-Chair of our Central Jersey Group

Elm Court (a senior housing development located in the Mountain Brook area of Princeton, bordering on Princeton Township) still matters as an issue in Central New Jersey. The proposal to expand Elm Court with three acres of Green Acres land will be considered at a public hearing in early August, at which a substitute parcel will be offered as a trade-off for the Green Acres parcel.

Taking stock of our situation, like Janus, the god of entrances and exits, we should be looking both backwards and forwards. Although we lost our first case in Judge Feinberg's court last February,

we succeeded in forcing a "diversion" proceeding in the Green Acres Program. Now Green Acres reports that Princeton has been negotiating to purchase approximately 20 acres (of equal value) close to River Road and the D&R Canal. We in the Central Jersey Group believe that this would never have happened without our vigorous legal protest.

Our defense of Green Acres land had nothing to do with its use for senior housing. We appreciate the need for affordable senior housing. But in this case the decision to remove land from

(continued on page 8)

Editorial

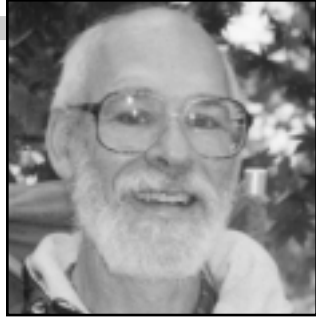
CLOSE CALLS

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

I write from my usual summer work-location in Milton Keynes, central England, where a feature of the BBC's summer TV faire has been a series of programs on the American Revolutionary War, presented by a popular British historian of warfare. He emphasizes the involvements of Colonial slaves and Native Americans, and how their destinies were shaped by the war, but he also emphasizes how close were some of the battles and campaigns such that, with only a small alteration of luck or strategy, the outcome of the war could have been completely different, and we would today make purchases with sturdy Pound coins instead of Dollar bills.

So it was with the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, with the Blitz of London in World War II, and with the campaigns of more recent wars in Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East. So it is in many of the battles fought by Club members and other environmentalists in the Halls of Congress, such as the July attempt by NJ Congressman Rush Holt to stop the destruction of Yellowstone National Park by snowmobiles, which failed by only a single vote—and which would have succeeded except for the opposition of two of our other NJ Congressmen: Scott Garrett and Rodney Freylinghuysen. (I'm sure Congressman Holt will keep trying!)

President Bush thinks the destruction of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife



Refuge, by oil companies, would help solve our energy crisis, and the willingness to filibuster of Senators such as our Jon Corzine and Frank Lautenberg is the only thing that is saving that precious resource. These superb legislators need our frequent messages of appreciation to bolster their courage! Speaking of close calls, remember how narrow was the victory that put Bush into office!

And speaking of close elections, now is the season to examine the performance of all our STATE legislators, and many local ones, and to ACT appropriately. One page 1 of this newsletter you'll find the list of our endorsed candidates, and instructions on how you can promote their campaigns for public office. The LEAST we can do is to knock on some doors and try to influence our neighbors! One of our Group officers, Dean Sheminski, is actually running for office—in Warren County. There should be many more of us willing to make such sacrifices—to save open space, to protect drinking water, to clean the air, to limit population growth, and to mitigate pollution. Please ACT in whatever way you can. For our families and for our future! ☺

Chair's Message

Dawn of Civilization and Rush Limbaugh

by Sunil Somalwar, Chapter Chair



It is 2003 A.D. and Iraq is dominating the news. But what if we could turn the clock back by six thousand years to 3097 B.C.? Had there been newspapers back then, the contemporary headlines would also have been dominated by Iraq, or rather Mesopotamia, which was in the process of giving birth to civilization as we now know it.

The rise of civilization had a lot to do with agriculture: An excess of grain production probably freed up a few citizens of ancient Mesopotamia to pursue "idle" hobbies such as music and other arts, and astronomy and other sciences. The astronomers gazed at the constellations moving through the heavens, figured out the seasons and told the farmers when to plant the seeds to get a good harvest. The biologists experimented with cereal strains and improved yields. Increased agricultural output and pursuit of science and technology fed each other and, in an evolutionary blink of an eye, we had an explosion of culture and civilization.

I am sure you have heard all this before, but there is one interesting detail worth thinking about. The Mesopotamian farmer probably did not feed the artists and the scientists out of the goodness of his heart. There had to be an authority in the form of a king or a council that made him cough up "taxes" after every harvest. Now let us ask how the story would have played out if this farmer could have read George Will in the newspapers or tuned to Rush Limbaugh on his radio. I can almost hear the words: "The big bad government is taking away your hard-earned crop and giving it away to these lazy astronomers. They sleep all day and who knows what they do all night. What a waste of your taxes." Goodbye culture and adios to civilization!

OK, what does all this have to do with the environment? Government is the caretaker of the common good, which includes the environment. The likes of Rush Limbaugh are bent upon destroying the government with a three-pronged attack of enacting bad legislation, appointing zealots masquerading as judges and spending irresponsibly so that the government starves to death. The net result today is that, by cutting taxes and downsizing government, not only are we saddling our children with

trillions of dollars of debt, but we are giving ourselves a defunct government, with broken infrastructure and an environment choking on sprawl, pollution and global warming.

These sham conservatives are quite sophisticated in their strategy. They practice Orwellian doublespeak ("Clear Skies Legislation", "Healthy Forest Initiative") while opposing emissions controls on coal-fired power plants, clear-cutting public forests, diluting environmental laws and siphoning funds away from their enforcement, and from programs like superfund cleanups. They tar environmental regulations with catchphrases like "command and control" to evoke totalitarian images. Their approach to environmental protection is "benevolent voluntary compliance" by polluters. Right! Cynical as this agenda is, it can be seductively persuasive in the mouth of our ex-governor Whitman and in Wall Street Journal editorials that tell us how incentives can replace regulations. (Can you picture Benjamin Franklin proposing to build a public library in today's atmosphere?)

So what is one to do? Most urgently, recognize that we have a difficult task ahead because it is inherently easier to tear down an edifice than to build one. Fortunately, we have two very powerful tools in our arsenal. One is education: Don't waste an opportunity to educate friends, colleagues, classmates, neighbors, legislators and strangers — in classrooms, on the street, in a letter to the editor of a local paper, or in a spirited letter to a legislator or other official. The second tool is the money in your wallet. I'll bet you don't know that the portion of your taxes needed to support our current activities in Iraq exceeds \$2000 per year for an average family of four. We should be willing to strategically "invest" at least a small fraction of that amount in a few political candidates and movements which care for the environment instead! Although the political allies of Limbaugh and Co. are loaded with money from the polluting corporate interests, they could not overcome spirited opposition with mass political participation. ☺

(I welcome your comments: svsomalwar@sierraactivist.org)

Resolutions Adopted by the Chapter's Executive Committee (ExCom) in June, July and August:

Budget for Calendar 2003: We accepted our Treasurer's estimated expenses of \$274,606.27 including amounts for Groups that had requested funds, balanced against projected revenues of \$272,890.00, requiring a draw-down of \$1716.27 from reserves. (June)

Princeton bypass: The Chapter approved its Conservation Committee's proposal known as "D2 alignment" for the Millstone Bypass Project, as contained in the Penns Neck Environmental Impact Statement. (June)

Purchasing the DeMarco Pinelands property: We support efforts to obtain federal money for the DeMarco property, once his wetlands violation is resolved. (June)

Sussex Lawsuit: ExCom authorizes the filing of an appeal with the Appellate Division of the Superior Court - contesting Center designations by the State Planning Commission in Montague and Sandyston, and retains the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic to represent us on a pro bono basis. (June)

Transportation: moving freight by rail instead of by truck: Sierra Club's NJ Chapter supports the cross-border rail freight tunnel from Jersey City to South Brooklyn as proposed by the MoveNY coalition, or alternatives that would encourage freight movement by rail. (July)

Increasing State funding of Open Space preservation, especially on brownfield sites: We favor ballot questions in support of raising the spending cap for the Garden State Conservation Trust Fund and dedicating money from the Corporate Business Tax to brownfield cleanup and opposing a bond referendum for dam repair because it provides money for environmentally unsound

dredging, sewer plants and sewer line projects. (July)

Opposing school construction on Green Acres parkland in Monroe Twp, Middlesex County: Specifically opposing construction of a high school on Thomson Park. (July)

Lawsuit on watersheds: Sierra Club's NJ Chapter resolves to intervene in the lawsuit between NJ Builders and the DEP regarding the C1 watershed classifications, anticipating pro bono legal representation from the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic. (July)

Protecting bears: We resolve to assist the DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife in an application for a grant from the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies for a demonstration project to teach bear-proofing techniques to residents who live near bear habitat. The Division of Fish and Wildlife would be the lead agency. (July)

Policy on bear-hunting: The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club opposes the 2003 black bear hunt because we oppose the basis upon which a harvest target goal was established. The methodology for counting bears is controversial, and the New Jersey Independent Bear Review Panel Report reached no consensus regarding population. Until the Panel and the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife can reach an agreement on the black bear population numbers, the State's approval of a hunt is not warranted. New Jersey black bear management does not place enough emphasis on bear-proofing, education and habitat conservation. The hunt as planned will not achieve proper management of the black bear population. (August)

Political Endorsements: See list of endorsed candidates on p. 1. (August) ☺

SIERRA CLUB THEATRE OUTING FUNDRAISER

Saturday, October 18, 2003

Come join some of your fellow Sierra Club members for a fun day in New York City. We'll all get to mingle and enjoy a fine lunch in the theatre district, followed by a matinee performance of the new production of *Gypsy*, starring Bernadette Peters.

GYPSEY, the consummate show-biz musical suggested by the memoirs of the stripper Gypsy Rose Lee, features original choreography by the late Jerome Robbins, and new choreography by Hairspray's Jerry Mitchell. Academy Award winner Sam Mendes will helm the production. The great music score was written by Jules Styne and Stephen Sondheim, and includes *Some People, Let Me Entertain You, Together, Everything's Coming Up Roses, and All I Need Is The Girl*.

At Noon we'll enjoy an Italian lunch at Becco's, on Restaurant Row (W 46th St): choice of salad or grilled vegetables and all you can eat of 3 pastas (pasta primavera, cheese tortellini in a cream or pesto sauce, linguini with broccoli rabe and Italian sausage or meatballs). Choice of two deserts; coffee or tea.

The price of \$150 per person includes lunch and show ticket (normally \$101.25 just for the ticket), as well as a contribution to the New Jersey Chapter. Tickets are limited, and will be assigned on a first come - first served basis.

Contact Ellen Blumenkrantz at eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com or 201-784-8417 to order your tickets.

What's New With the Delaware Deepening?

by Gina Carola, our Coordinator for this issue

For several years now the Club's West Jersey Group and the Alliance to Dump the Delaware Deepening have been working to stop the Army Corps of Engineers and the Delaware River Port Authority from embarking on a project to deepen the Delaware River by 5 feet and dump the toxic sludge along the riverbanks in South Jersey. The spoils have the potential to pollute South Jersey's drinking water with dangerous contaminants such as mercury, arsenic and lead. Fortunately, with the help of local officials along with state and federal representatives, the project has been unable to move forward and it appears that it never will. Here is an update of what has taken place this year.

State Senator George Geist, when he was in the State Assembly, sponsored a resolution opposing any funding by NJ for the Deepening. Assemblymen Doug Fisher and John Burzichelli co-sponsored. After accepting a seat in the Senate vacated by Senator Matheussen, Senator Geist sponsored the identical bill in the Senate. It is awaiting passage in both houses.

In July, Congressman Andrews (1st District) posted an amendment to the federal bill to fund the deepening. The amendment called for dropping the \$8 million appropriation. The amendment failed to pass but it was a much closer vote than the last time the Congressman attempted to squash funding. This time, Congressman Pascrell (8th District) and Congressman Frelinghuysen (11th District) voted against the amendment thereby voting to dump on South Jersey. They must be held accountable: Please call Congressman Pascrell at 973-680-1361 or Congressman Frelinghuysen at 973-984-0711 and register your displeasure.

Another interesting development is that even some members of the Delaware River Port Authority, the sponsor of the project, are now having doubts about the need for the project.

DRPA Vice chairman Jeffrey Nash has written to Congressman Andrews to tell him that he would urge the authority to block the use of its funds for the project. He cited environmental risks and dubious economic benefits.

In the meantime, along the banks of the Delaware River in Gloucester County, instead of 70 foot high piles of toxic sludge, we now have a beautiful 300 acre riverfront park in West Deptford Township. The park provides opportunities for both passive and active recreation with nature trails, a recreation center, softball fields, tennis courts and an amphitheatre. Local officials moved quickly to purchase the land before the Army Corps of Engineers could condemn it and use it for a dredge spoil site.

Even more exciting news is the proposed 1,400 acre riverfront park to be built in Logan Township, Gloucester County. The Corps also had this site in their crosshairs for dumping dredge spoils. Luckily, the county Freeholders moved quickly to piece together over 70 separate parcels of land to make one big contiguous piece on which to develop a county park. That meant over 70 Environmental Impact Studies and an equal number of negotiations with land owners to acquire the property. They plan to break ground this October. Our thanks go out to Freeholder Director Steve Sweeney and the rest of the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders. ☺

Contact Gina Carola at ginacee@snip.net.

Unique Opportunity to Protect the Pinelands of New Jersey

by Lee Snyder, our Pinelands Issues Coordinator

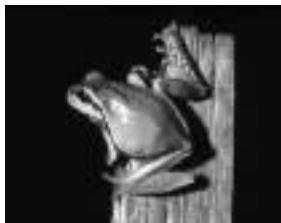
A unique opportunity exists right now for the public to pitch in and save a large chunk of fragile habitat in the heart of the million acre New Jersey Pinelands. The 9400 acre tract, owned by the DeMarco family, has been offered for sale to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. NJCF, in turn, is asking the public, as well as corporate and foundation donors, to help fund the \$12 million purchase. NJCF then plans to preserve the land for present and future generations as a public nature preserve. This key property will connect the five State Forests of Bass River, Brendan T Byrne (Lebanon), Greenwood, Penn, and Wharton into a greenway corridor of 200,000 contiguous acres.

The Pinelands cover a large portion of New Jersey, and enjoy some level of protection through administration by the Pinelands Commission. The "Pine Barrens", as the region was historically known because it was believed to be barren and of little value, is a misleading term. The "Barrens" contain pine and oak forests, cedar swamps, tea colored rivers, wetlands and bogs, rare plants and flowers, and endangered and threatened wildlife. Also in, and mostly under, the Pinelands is an extensive aquifer system containing 17 trillion gallons of sand filtered water that is some of the purest in the world. Of the 1200 plant and animal species found here, more

than 80 are threatened or endangered, including the Pine Barrens tree frog.

The 9400-acre DeMarco property includes 800 acres of cranberry bogs, 370 acres of blueberry fields, and 600 acres of shallow reservoirs. The remainder of the 15 square mile property is mostly pristine natural habitat, including forest, wetlands, meadows, and 14 streams. Under a provision in the agreement, DeMarco would be allowed to farm the bogs for two years after closing the deal, although he has not done so for the last few years and is not likely to resume. The bogs would then be allowed to revert back to their natural state. James Garfield DeMarco who, along with his family, is the nation's third largest cranberry grower. He is also a major shareholder in Ocean Spray.

Under an extension of the original deadline, the \$12 million is to be paid by 2008 according to the restructured deal, with NJCF planning to take delivery by the end of this year. The average price per acre is about \$1276. The price tag is said to be half of the two independent appraisals of the value of the land. However, there are two things worth noting: First, the State has already paid the owner \$7.2 million for preservation-related deed restrictions which prohibit any residential or commercial development to



LEADERSHIP FAILURE CAUSES POWER FAILURE, ACCORDING TO CLUB STAFF MEMBERS

from a Press Release issued by the Chapter

With people in New Jersey and the Northeast still recovering from the effects of the August 14-15 blackout, it is important for us to look not just at the direct cause of the power failure but also at those indirect causes that contributed to making this the worst blackout in US history. "The failure of leadership by our government when it comes to having an energy policy is the real cause of the blackout," said Jeff Tittel, our Chapter Director.

When we opposed energy deregulation in New Jersey in the late 1990s, we felt that this change would lead to higher costs, worse service and more power failures. It is unfortunate that this has turned out to be the case. Deregulation has led to more reliance on the power grid and less investment in that grid by the energy utilities. At the same time we gave the utilities control of the Conservation Renewable and Alternative (CRA) energy funds, paid by their customers, which is a classic example of letting the fox guard the chicken coop. Hundreds of millions of dollars, that could have been spent on energy efficiency and conservation programs and new non-polluting renewable and alternative energy sources, went unspent. This also happened in the other northeastern states. Also, had the federal government and states adopted energy efficiency standards for appliances, millions of megawatts of electricity would have been saved.

"The Bush Administration is more concerned about drilling in ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, than they are about providing clean energy to the people of New Jersey and the United States," said Dennis Schvejda, our Conservation Director. Noting that the Bush Administration and some Senators are pushing an outdated energy policy, the Sierra Club offers instead some workable solutions that would reduce the vulnerability of our current energy delivery system, increase the efficiency and security of our energy supply, and protect consumers in an environmentally responsible way.

"The blackout is a wake-up call that our existing system needs to be updated. There's a better way," said Debbie Boger, the Club's Washington specialist on Global Warming and Energy. "The best way to prevent energy bottlenecks and grid overload is to increase the efficiency of our buildings, homes, factories and appliances, in addition to our transmission lines. Building more power plants won't help because we're looking at transmission line bottlenecks. Instead, we need to decentralize America's power sources, use more renewable energy like wind and solar, and ensure that power companies aren't allowed to deregulate

and manipulate markets. Unfortunately, the Bush Administration's energy plan, developed with the energy industry, will take us backwards on all these counts."

Once power is restored to all of the affected areas, Americans should start working on the following steps to solve America's overall electricity problems:

- **Increase Efficiency:** There is some evidence that the outage was due to the system being overloaded, and transmission lines getting bottlenecked. This is not surprising given the heat wave in the Northeast, with many air conditioners running. We can help protect ourselves against these types of bottlenecks in the future by making sure we have the most energy efficient buildings, air conditioners, factories and appliances - this will ease the demand and prevent more bottlenecks. Last year the Bush Administration weakened a provision to make air conditioners 30 percent more efficient. Enacting such provisions, and providing tax incentives for buildings to increase their efficiency, would go a long way to reducing strain on the grid.

- **Decentralize Power:** Another factor in the blackout appears to have been transmission failures in moving electricity over long distances. It is important, both for security and reliability's sake, to make sure that we have reliable local sources of power, such as solar and wind. These types of decentralized, homegrown sources can increase the reliability of the overall grid and lessen the chances that a problem in one area of the country will affect other areas.

- **Improve Power Lines:** The Sierra Club supports improving the efficiency of transmission lines and responsibly siting these lines after Environmental Impact Statements have been completed. New technology allows transmission lines to carry 1.5 to 3 times more power than conventional transmission lines. In addition, they significantly reduce line losses.

- **Protect Consumers:** The Bush Administration's plan would severely weaken consumer protections in the electricity sector, further exposing consumers to Enron-type manipulation. This is especially troubling given the role that Enron played in manipulating the California electricity markets. While there is no evidence that manipulation played a role in the August blackout, we certainly should not be opening the door to further abuses and manipulation.

- Pass legislation providing energy efficiency standards for appliances.

- Let the Board of Public Utilities take over CRA funds.

- Implement the goal of 20% renewable energy by the year 2020.

- Upgrade electric transmission lines without sticking it to the consumers. ☺

occur. This restriction would not prevent logging or the expansion of bogs and berry farming. These allowed uses could, if exercised, destroy this important habitat. Second, still to be resolved is an outstanding fine that NJ DEP is negotiating with DeMarco for improperly expanding cranberry production into wetlands, which NJCF hopes will be resolved soon. The wetlands violation was uncovered by the NJ Sierra Club, and, after much investigation, resulted in the fine in excess of half a million dollars. This has made the State of New Jersey reluctant to become a partner in the acquisition, in spite of requests by former Governors Byrne, Kean, and Florio in a recent letter.

In July the US House of Representatives voted to gut popular and needed preservation programs such

as Forest Legacy and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Now, more than ever, much of the burden falls to individual states and private citizens to save what remains of the natural world. Preservation of this important tract of mostly untouched Pinelands will go a long way toward keeping New Jersey green and biodiverse.

Anyone interested in helping save this property may send a tax-deductible gift to NJCF's "Heart of the Pine Barrens" Fund, which is accessible from their Web site, <http://www.njconservation.org>. Donations may also be sent to New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Bamboo Brook, 170 Longview Road, Far Hills, NJ 07931. ☺

Contact Lee Snyder at 856-596-0621.

Most members will soon receive our long-delayed 2003 fund-raising appeal. Please be generous.

How About Zoning for Snakes?

By Michael Gallaway (our liaison to the Pinelands Preservation Alliance) and Ted Korth, Project Manager, Law and Public Policy, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Imagine this all too common scenario: Earthmoving equipment from "Vast Homebuilders" is rumbling across a parcel in the Pinelands that is slated to become "Treefree Acres", and the driver finds a snake. And let's assume the snake is a mellow and harmless Northern Pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*) - it could be a shy and reclusive Timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) or a petite and extravagantly marked Corn snake (*Elaphe guttata*) - but ours is a Pine snake. How much of the Pine snake's woods should they be allowed to destroy?

In the Pinelands, habitat critical to Pine snakes is thought by many to be protected. Ostensibly it is: "No development shall be carried out unless it is designed to avoid irreversible adverse impacts on habitats that are critical to the survival of any local populations of [Pine snakes]." Sounds good, but in much of the uplands of Ocean County, as elsewhere in the Pinelands, the reality is very different.

Twenty four years ago when the Pinelands Protection Act was written, wetland protection was all the rage. Wetlands are obviously important, but the focus on wetland protection resulted in much of the uplands of Ocean County being designated for fairly intensive development. These uplands contain threatened and endangered species - like our Pine snake - which are now being subjected to heavy development pressures.

The problem is not so much that upland Pine snake habitat is particularly "buildable," but that review of development projects does not include consideration and protection of critical habitat. Review is generally done on a site-by-site basis, without regard to the broader regional ecological impact of the project.

A prime example is what happened in the aptly named "Sanctuary" development in Evesham Township, Burlington County, several years ago. Extensive development was permitted in the foraging area of a population of Timber rattlesnakes, which are an endangered species in New Jersey. The snakes hibernate along streams, so they receive some protection from wetlands buffers. But what good is a home without a place to eat? The results were predictable - residents started finding rattlesnakes in their yards and driveways, the same areas that generations of snakes had used for foraging. The Pinelands Commission tried to jury rig a network of fences to contain the snakes, but the results were dismal, and the population is dwindling further.

To prevent continued habitat loss, development applications must be reviewed not site-by-site, but in light of a species' biology and habitat needs. This ecology-based planning would include:

(1) examining each development application in the context of species occurrences in the broader area; (2) identifying the critical habitats of each local population; and (3) evaluating the individual and cumulative impact of existing and planned developments on such critical habitat. That knowledge, mixed with a touch of population dynamics, may then be used to identify the habitat needed for continued survival of the local and total population of the species. In our example, picture a zoning map drawn from the Pine snake's perspective.

The Pinelands Commission, the State body charged with implementing habitat protections in the Pinelands, understands the problem, and seems to support moving toward a scientifically grounded, ecology-based decision-making process. The Commission's staff are understandably trying to avoid the recurring "Sanctuary" type site-by-site battles which arise from the current "don't find-don't tell" process.

The area of southern Jackson Township, between Lakehurst Naval Air Station and the Toms River, provides an opportunity to get habitat protection back on track. The Jackson area represents part of the historic habitat of Pine snakes and contains appropriate physical and biological habitat features. In fact, Pine snakes are found throughout the Jackson Area. Many development applications are pending in the area as well.

A committee of the Pinelands Commission is currently looking at ways to better protect contiguous habitat in the Jackson area, a strategy strongly endorsed by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. But acquisition of land is expensive, time consuming, and, by its nature, proceeds piecemeal. Amending the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) to change the development intensity allowed in uplands could provide habitat protection, but that process would be difficult, to say the least.

There is little time to contemplate the merits of ecology-based land use decision-making - though extirpation of the snakes would end the discussion. We need an ecology-based process to determine development impacts, as the Pinelands Act contemplates and the CMP intends, and we need to apply it now. The Jackson area represents an excellent opportunity to bring current scientific knowledge and technical know-how together to protect critical habitat and implement the CMP. ♪

Michael Gallaway, Sierra Club Trustee of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Ted Korth, Project Mngnr, Law and Public Policy, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

An Important Milestone for Shorebird & Horseshoe Crab Protection!

Dialog between Dennis Schvejda, our Conservation Director, and Fred Akers, Conservation Chair of our South Jersey Group.

from Dennis:

On June 12 we achieved an important milestone in our efforts to protect shorebirds and Horseshoe Crabs. On that day the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council (NJMFC) did not veto an emergency rule that limits NJ's annual Horseshoe Crab harvest to 150,000 crabs, and bans harvesting altogether for five weeks in May and June while shorebirds feed on crab eggs along Delaware Bay. This rule thus became permanent.

Although NJ Audubon, American Littoral Society, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Sierra Club (the HSC Team) and scientists will continue to call for a full moratorium on Horseshoe Crab harvesting, this 50% reduction and harvest ban during May and early June, the usual shorebird feeding time, is a big win for shorebirds.

The Council's vote was 8-3. Along with the bird-friendly audience, it constituted a big improvement over last March's meeting. Thank you to those attending and testifying at these hearings, and to those contacting their elected officials calling for a moratorium on the Horseshoe Crab harvest.

Looking ahead, there will be a hearing in Delaware, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is also moving towards a reduction of the Horseshoe Crab harvest. Both actions are to protect shorebirds.

from Fred:

I am concerned by the politics of allowing the harvest of even 150,000 endangered Horseshoe Crabs. The DEP, through its Marine Fisheries Council, subsidizes this harvest through a rigged bidding process that is open only to favored watermen. I am trying to understand why the Sierra Club and the other environmental organizations on the HSC Team would support financial subsidies to permit holders to buy them out. In the past, the catch quantities or consumption has been permitted at an unsustainable level, which has already created unsustainable economic expectations from the permit holders.

More generally, permission to fish, log, mine, graze, and pump water from public land gives public resources away to special interests who don't own them and who never pay full value for what they receive, so why should we have to waste limited public money to buy them out to protect the public trust? Instead of catering to this blackmail to support a few special interest individuals and their personal wealth, car payments, vacations, etc., we should spend public funds on the science and enforcement so badly needed for the real management and protection of our important species at peril, and their breeding habitat.

I believe the compelling question at the heart of this particular issue is, "why is the public last in line"? The answer may be that the public has been asleep at the wheel when it comes to ocean fisheries management, and has allowed members of the NJMFC to mismanage our resources by oiling the squeaky wheels of the special interests.

I must say that your strong initiatives to mobilize the public certainly helped to increase my activism on the entire marine fisheries debacle, and I am now looking for ways to get more people involved with the process. Right now it is very easy to have a big impact with the fisheries councils because they are not used to having anyone but the fishermen attend their meetings and express opinions. It now looks like the HSC Team has succeeded in mobilizing

quite a few other folks, judging by the turnout in favor of more protections for the crabs and their dependent bird species at the last meeting.

Here is a list of questions that I am using to prepare continuing comments for the next Marine Fisheries meetings. I want to make sure that those appointed to protect our natural resources know just what the public expects them to do. As you well know there are many more species in the ocean that need additional protections, and it is time for the public to be first in line to demand their preservation.

1. What are the permit fees to harvest Horseshoe Crabs?
 2. How many permits are issued each year, and do past permit holders have preference for renewals?
 3. Do the permit fees cover all the science necessary to adequately manage the resource, or does this management require additional public subsidies?
 4. Does the permit transfer any rights to the permit holder? For example, does a permit holder receive a transfer of ownership rights to a percentage of the resource, or any other guarantees?
 5. How is the actual catch measured, and what is the statistical degree of accuracy in that measurement?
 6. Do the permit fees cover the total cost of enforcement, or does this require additional public subsidies?
 7. Do the managing agencies create and publish any comprehensive annual economic reports for individual fisheries, like a profit and loss statement?
- It just seems to me that any buyout of the permit holders is unjustifiable in terms of fairness to the public, and only adds additional subsidies to an already unbalanced system. Why can't simply refunding the permit fees or non-renewal of permits be adequate to limit the consumption until the science proves the resource is sufficient to sustain a controlled level of consumption?

from Dennis:

Plenty of great questions, Fred, which I'll forward to our colleagues working
(continued on page 7)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fresh Water from Sea Water - Another Option

After reading the article "Ground Water Shortages" (NJ Sierran issue Vol. 32, No. 3), I propose adding another solution to freshwater problems.

Lawrence J. Schmerzler, Professional Engineer, and former New Jersey State Coordinator for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, researched and developed an ingenious application for solar energy. Decades ago he tested and patented an invention that converts sea water to freshwater. It was a university research project.

The State of California is a region which is notoriously short of fresh water.

Lawrence offered his solution to California. California officials admitted that his system was effective, but they rejected it.

They said they had a cheaper method. Lawrence found out that their so-called

cheaper method was actually twice the cost of his. It was cheaper to California because the federal government was subsidizing a non-solar approach. It was another way that stupidity sabotages our energy mess.

Lawrence's patent is now public domain. Anyone can use it. For further information about the patent, Schmerzler can be reached by E-mail at schmerz@aol.com. If you have difficulty reaching him, E-mail me at sjgdesin@mindspring.com, or phone me at (201) 327-5158

In the future, wars may be fought to secure scarce freshwater. It need not happen if common sense prevails. ♪

from Sid Goodman, Secretary, North Jersey Section American Society of Mechanical Engineers

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THE "FARM TO SCHOOL" PROJECT

I am writing to introduce Chapter members to a project that I believe may be of interest to them.

In September 2000 the New Jersey Urban Ecology Program at Rutgers University, as well as several other public and private partners throughout the country, received \$2 million from the United States Department of Agriculture's Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS) to participate in a project entitled "From Farm to School: Improving School Meals and Small Farm Viability (the "Farm to School Project").

The primary goals of the Project are to increase access to fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables in school lunch programs and to improve small farm viability through increased access to institutional markets. A key element, then, of this project is the formation of direct links between New Jersey's farmers and school food service personnel. We believe this relationship will provide the highest quality produce (that is, with the greatest freshness, taste, nutrition, and safety) to school children, support New Jersey farm landscapes and livelihoods, and contribute to local economic development.

Farm to School Projects assume many shapes including, but not limited to, the purchase of locally produced and processed fruits and vegetables for salad bars, special events such as "Jersey Fresh" theme days, schoolyard gardens,

farm tours, composting projects, and education to improve agriculture and nutrition literacy. While the primary focus of the Project is on the K-12 educational environment, we are also engaged in the same activities at institutions of higher education.

I am currently seeking students, parents, school teachers, administrators and food service personnel, agricultural professionals, farmers and other interested stakeholders to participate in the New Jersey Farm to School Project Advisory Council. The purpose of this group is to consider multiple strategies to overcome the challenges and recognize the opportunities we encounter as we strive to achieve the Project's goals. The concern for social and environmental justice expressed in this newsletter suggests that members could make an important contribution to the Advisory Council.

Your questions, comments, and suggestions regarding this project will be both welcome and gratefully received. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Claire Homitzky

Claire Homitzky is the Community Food Projects Director at the New Jersey Urban Ecology Program in the Department of Nutritional Sciences at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. She can be contacted at (732) 932-1688 or Homitzky@aesop.rutgers.edu.

Help Requested to Save an Historic Sierra Club Landmark

by Susan Schirmer, of our Hunterdon County Group

In May I was out at Clair Tappan Lodge, located at 7000 feet in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains. It was built by Club members in the 1930s as a center for summer mountaineering and winter skiing and snowshoeing. It is a truly amazing place surrounded by astounding views and rich history—both political and geological—and is located in Donner Pass above Donner Lake, where (some) overland pioneers survived the bitter winter of 1845.

Club members can stay for \$39 per day including meals (family style gourmet!). The national Sierra Club Directors recently leased management to Mirimar Corp, to cut costs. The Lodge is usually fully booked in winter, when the snowpack averages more than 10 feet, but in spring through fall bookings have been problematic.

Inside, every passage is haunted with laughter and warmth. In the family-style dining hall you'll help set the tables and savor the simmering meal. After dinner you'll relax in the Great Room snuggled up to the stone hearth, chat with new friends, peruse the library to research that curious blue bird outside your win-

dow or unwind in the hot tub. Your sleep will be deep and thorough and by breakfast you will be left with the distinct notion you have grown younger overnight. If only Alice's rabbit hole and Dorothy's twister had led them here!

My family enjoyed four day-hikes, including the "Donner Party Wagon Trail" and a visit to the Sugar Bowl ski area—with husband/wife - meteorologist/geologist team leaders who gave lectures along the way and during lunch break. One evening we watched old home movies of the lodge construction.

I have photographs and basic information about the lodge that I'd be happy to share with Club members at New Jersey Group meetings. I'd like to recommend that New Jersey members use the Lodge more for vacations: It's 30 minutes from Lake Tahoe, 45 minutes west of Reno, and one and a half hours east of Sacramento. Group leaders may be eligible for discounts. Contact the Lodge Manager, Herb, for more details. You can get more information at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/lodges/ctl/>

Contact Susan at 908-996-7722

ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

SAVING TIGERS

from Sunil Somalwar, our Tiger Conservation Coordinator

Here are some updates/milestones from our (independent) Saving Wild Tigers effort. One of our projects is in the Sunderban mangroves on the India/Bangladesh border, where a significant number of fatalities occur every year.

1) Mr. Susanta Sardar of Satjelia Island, Sunderbans, with the help of our education scholarship, has passed the Bengal School Service Commission exam and is awaiting his posting as a higher secondary school teacher. He lost his father to a tiger attack when he was only 8 years old and should now be in a posi-

tion to support his mother and two younger sisters.

2) Mr. Luther Tirkey, a dedicated forest guard, was brutally murdered in December, 2002. His wife was given a check for Rs 25,500 (= \$510) which included our contribution of \$300. This function was attended by the Ministers of Health, Forest & Environment, the Speaker of the state Assembly, local members of the state Assembly and a host of Forest Department Officials.

Contact Sunil at svsomalwar@sierraactivist.org

Corzine Meeting

by Dennis Schvejda, our Chapter Conservation Director

On July 2 about 20 folks representing various NJ enviro organizations had an hour and a half meeting with Senator Jon Corzine. Corzine feels the NJ enviro community is not speaking out enough against the Bush administration.

After giving an overview of the DC scene, Corzine stressed that each group should get more "political." We responded that, except for Sierra and NJEF, that would violate these groups' non-profit tax status. In response, Corzine then emphasized that separate sub-organizations should be created that would allow political activities. Every opportunity should be used: meetings, publications, press conferences, etc., to get the word out against Bush. Fund raising for opposition candidates was also mentioned several times. Without men-

tioning the Green Party, Corzine spoke of unity and of being weakened by the fracturing of Progressives, whereas our opponents stand as one.

Various issues, were then brought up against this backdrop. Corzine felt many programs are being starved out of existence rather than killed by legislation. No money, no Land & Water Conservation Fund. No money, no Superfund. And so on.

I have followed Corzine's activities and he has always been active and vocal against the Bush Administration. Most of what he said politically is really for the other groups, not Sierra. He has worked well politically with the Club.

While most of our issues were touched upon, I passed along all our "off-the-cuff" comments to his aide, who will make sure the Senator sees them.

Angling for Safety: SOLVING THE RISING MERCURY THREAT

by Dennis Schvejda, our Chapter Conservation Director

It is ironic that those who catch fish (like myself) and those who at least like to eat it (like my wife Tina) are now threatened by a distinctly modern hazard: **mercury contamination**. A toxic by-product of coal-burning power plants that accumulates in fish tissue, mercury pollution poses an increasing threat to our health and safety.

In the interest of protecting our families' health, preserving a nutritious food source, and ensuring the survival of fishing as a meaningful pastime, the Bush Administration ought to dramatically reduce mercury pollution in our environment by enforcing America's environmental regulations.

Currently, 43 states, including New Jersey, have advisories in effect for mercury, warning residents to reduce or avoid eating contaminated fish. According to recent estimates from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), there are over two thousand mercury

advisories that cover approximately 30% of all lake acres and almost 13% of all river miles in America. And unfortunately, the problem is growing, with more advisories added every year.

The high rates of mercury contamination in America's lakes, streams and coastal waters should concern everyone who eats fish regularly; once mercury dissolves in water it is transformed into methylmercury, a potent toxin that builds up in fish and the people who eat them. When ingested by pregnant women, methylmercury can pose a serious threat to the growing embryo. Even relatively tiny amounts can produce serious developmental delays in walking, talking, hearing and writing.

Much of the mercury that ends up on our dinner tables originates from coal-burning power plants --- the single largest source of mercury pollution in the U.S. A typical coal-burning power plant emits about 250 pounds of mer-

cury a year, an amount that doesn't sound too threatening until you consider the potency of this pollution. Just 0.0007 pounds of mercury a year—about 1/70th of a teaspoon—is enough to contaminate a 25-acre lake to the point that fish would be unsafe to eat.

What is the Bush Administration doing to protect pregnant women and children from mercury pollution? Not enough. So far the EPA has failed to place any controls on mercury emissions from power plants, which continue to spew the chemical without restraint.

We can do better. Due to recent improvements to clean air laws, the EPA can now demand that power plants upgrade to modern air pollution control technology. The EPA has predicted that enforcing this law could cut power plant mercury pollution by nearly 90 percent, from 48 tons today to about 5 tons by 2008.

Unfortunately, snatching defeat from the claws of victory, the Bush Administration has instead proposed a plan that would allow power plants to continue emitting high amounts of mercury. While the Bush proposal claims to reduce mercury emissions, it would actually permit three times more than current law allows—and for decades longer.

Mercury advisories serve as vital warnings for anglers and those who eat fish. But the only way to solve the growing mercury threat is to reduce mercury pollution at the source. President Bush should heed the words of his Republican predecessor (and fellow fisherman) Herbert Hoover, and realize that fishing is an American pastime too valuable to endanger for the gain of a few polluting energy utilities. America can do better; we have the technology to clean up mercury pollution, all that we lack is the will to use it.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD PRODUCTS

by Harold Rapp, Co-Chair of our Central Jersey Group

Spin, emotion, politics and business have somehow unwittingly created an atmosphere of fear and rejection of what may yet become one of the most important inventions that man has made. I am speaking the invention of genomics, the ability to insert a gene into the chromosome of a useful organism and thereby impart to it desirable properties. Gene transfer is nothing new. It happens all the time when pollen from one plant is transferred to another either haphazardly by an insect or the wind or purposefully by a human with a test plot. What is new is the transfer of genes from an unrelated species, such as a bacterium, to a plant. The long term consequences of such gene transfers are unknown. It is impossible to segregate GM (gene-modified) crops from regular crops and the results of the spread of GM crops could be the loss of age-old gene pools and the spreading of undesirable side effects such as allergens and toxins. The benefits that could be realized from GM crops include increased crop yields, improvements in crop quality and nutrition, and a decrease in the use of pesticides.

One of the early examples of the possibilities of genomics was the creation of golden rice by European plant scientists. Golden rice is yellow by virtue of its beta-carotene content. Beta-Carotene is metabolized to Vitamin A which is an essential human nutrient. The lack of this vitamin is reported to cause the death of 1,000,000 Asian children each year and another 350,000 go blind. Although beta carotene is found in the leaves and husks of the rice plant the pigment had never before found its way into the rice grain. The scientists, a German named Beyer and a Swiss named Potrykus, had isolated 3 genes—2 from a daffodil and 1 from a bacterium—and inserted them into the rice plant's elaborate genome, which contains about 50,000 genes. The result was that the rice plant completed a chain of chemical reactions ending with the production of beta-carotene.

Proponents of transgenics seized on the development of golden rice and launched a TV advertising blitz that trumpeted the possibilities for ending world hunger and disease. Golden rice was said to be just the first of many transgenic crops for the underprivileged: bananas with vaccines against tropical diseases, corn plants that produce pharmaceuticals more cheaply than factories, and plants that would produce a wide range of the basic nutrients needed for healthy life.

Opponents of genetic engineering had their own set of arguments. The creation of a monoculture by growing golden rice on vast acreages would encourage crop failure as occurred with potatoes in Ireland in the mid-19th century. Others pointed out that there was enough food to feed all but the poor could not afford it. In America activist groups accused the corporations developing this technology of keeping information about the technology secret and of having a profit-rather than a humanitarian motive.

In the US the transgenic Flavr Savr tomato developed. It lasted much longer than ordinary tomatoes before becoming soft. But, somehow, it was not a commercial success.

One objective of gene engineering is to make a crop resistant to insects, and

thus to decrease the need for insecticides. To do this genes are extracted from plants that produce natural insect poisons. Use of genes from a common soil bacterium to accomplish this led to a great flap over the possibility that millions of Monarch butterflies could be killed by consuming plants that contained these genes. The predicted demise of the Monarchs has not occurred.

Another objective of gene engineering is to produce plants that are resistant to chemical herbicides such as the Monsanto product Roundup. This allows for a greater destruction of weeds without harming the crop plant. Whenever genes are inserted they are first arranged in a packet. The packet contains 2 or more functional genes, one of which is a marker. The marker gene makes it easy to identify whether or not a given genome actually contains the inserted genes. Since the marker genes often emanate from a bacterium there has been some concern raised about their use.

There are fears that gene transplants could cause development of toxins or allergens. There are a variety of undesirable results that have been theorized as possible from unintended spreading of GM (genetically-modified) crops. Indeed a lot of spreading is known to have taken place, some intentional and some not intentional. As a result of these fears, and probably due to economic interests, until recently the Europeans and Brazil have not allowed importation of transgenic crops. Some African nations have adopted the same policy. Zambia, a country of 3 million starving people, prohibits the importation of GM crops. The latest news is that the EU may allow the importation of GM foods as long as specific labeling requirements have been met. Such labeling is not required in the US.

StarLink corn used a gene that had the potential for becoming an allergen. Therefore it was approved for use only in corn that was destined for animal feed. This was an injudicious decision because it is rather difficult to keep animal and human corn feedstocks separate. StarLink showed up in some Kraft Taco Shells and there was a big fuss. StarLink was withdrawn from the market. Some people claimed to have been made sick but the Centers for Disease Control could not confirm the connection between StarLink and illness.

We in the Sierra Club should not be too quick to condemn gene engineering. In the US 35% of the corn crop and 75% of the soybean crop is already GM. Do we know of illness or catastrophe resulting from these huge amounts of consumption of GM crops? Not to my knowledge. We need to learn more about this technology. We need to know if there can be toxins or allergens that are harmful to humans. We need to know if the use of transgenics will wipe out irreplaceable gene stores. We need to insure that public safety is deemed more important than corporate profits. We should not allow ourselves to be unduly influenced by spin, emotion, politics or business interests. ☞

You can contact Hal at HalRapp@aol.com. The Club has a national website for this issue: www.sierraclub.org/biotech

MILESTONE FOR HORSESHOE CRABS

(Dialog continued from page 5)

on the issue. I agree with you that life is not fair and is driven by politics and special interests. You attended the last two NJMFC meetings and had a firsthand look at the Council's commitment, not to the public, but to the watermen. This is the same problem with logging, mining, grazing, and water allocation on public lands. The public is the last in line, and pays for subsidies and to repair the damage caused by extractive use.

Another point is equity. The Feds pony up hundreds of millions to buy out permits and retire fishing vessels to prevent further harvesting of over-fished stocks. Since NJ is a "donor" state, sending many more tax dollars to DC than we receive back, we may as well get our fair share of the "pork" and do some good, such as saving the Horseshoe Crabs and feeding grounds of ever more endangered shorebirds.

Unfortunately, subsidies, or "corporate welfare," are an entrenched fact of life. Some Western states gain more from agricultural subsidies than from any actual products. The situation is not new; it goes back many decades—in the case of mining to the time of President U.S. Grant. I have worked with our Congressional delegation, and they are with us (except for beach replenishment) in opposing these handouts.

In fact, I testified before a Congressional Budget Committee, and was involved in quite a bit of Q&A with the Committee members. Eastern Reps. loved my reference to "Cowboy Welfare." I was on NJN, CNN and was mentioned in several editorials the following day.

The fight to end subsidies, actually wasteful government spending, reached a new level with the introduction in the '90s of the Green Scissors Report — <http://greenscissors.org/>. See also, <http://www.taxpayer.net/> for similar info.

Our efforts to end Horseshoe Crab harvests by providing a conservation subsidy to buy the permits have been quite minimal. We have focused on getting folks to public hearings, contacting the DEP, Governor McGreevey, the NJ Legislature, talking with reporters, meeting with newspaper editorial boards, providing op-eds, and writing letters-to-the-editor.

We have made quite a bit of progress since the '90s, but it has always been just not enough. The shorebirds continue to decline. Buying the permits may be the final solution in NJ. We were able to get Assemblyman Jeff van Drew to end his effort to promote legislation protecting the watermen's Horseshoe Crab harvest. Instead, van Drew is interested in some sort of buyout legislation. But, given the budget in NJ, that won't happen.

Reason tells us these buyouts and subsidies don't make economic sense. But we will never get rid of subsidies until the public demands it. We need more folks to get out and demand good value for their tax dollars. The Sierra Club will continue to educate and activate the public. Although we may advocate for a cookie from the jar now and then, we are not turning our backs on ending harmful environmental subsidies. ☞

A Green Ground Zero

by Lynn Forrest, Publicity Chair of our Singles Section

New Jersey was greatly impacted by the September 11th catastrophe. As we watch lower Manhattan rebuild, wouldn't it be great to see the newly-built structures incorporate the latest in green building principles? This includes things like non-toxic building materials, energy efficiency, passive and active solar power, and pedestrian-friendliness.

Imagine the buildings surrounding the memorial at Ground Zero producing their own electricity from solar cells embedded in their "skin", with no greenhouse emissions. They would need less than half the electricity of a traditional commercial or residential complex. The original World Trade Center used nearly 100 megawatts of electricity on peak days, with associated emissions. These new buildings could be a net-zero emission development.

This vision is a real possibility. Green Ground Zero, a public advocacy campaign for a sustainable downtown, has been launched by New York Climate Rescue. The goal is to transform Lower

Manhattan into a showcase for cutting-edge technologies and a prototype for future green cities worldwide.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is the owner of the site. Thus, New Jerseyans have a stake in the new developments that will take place, and need not be hesitant about pushing for renewable, green technology. We are all increasingly aware of the need to become energy independent. Embracing these green building principles at such an important and meaningful site can show that America has a vision for its energy future.

Sign the online petition telling New York's public officials to ensure that the structures surrounding the World Trade Center memorial incorporate the latest renewable-energy technologies at <http://www.petitiononline.com/greengz/petition.html>. More information, and a link to the petition, is available at <http://www.greengroundzero.org/>.

You can contact Lynn at abc77@msn.com

BALLOT QUESTIONS

(Continued from page 1)

supply, water resources or wastewater treatment projects. According to the Legislature, the bond issue is proposed to address flood control needs and water quality concerns related to protecting ground and surface water from pollution and addressing the water supply needs of residents with contaminated wells.

During debate on the bill concerns were raised that despite what are in many cases valid concerns related to these issues, this remedy was not the appropriate solution. For example, the bill notes correctly that one reason for New Jersey's flooding problems is its "high degree of urbanization," yet sewer extensions - and the increased urbanization they invariably

produce - are to be financed by the bonds. Several environmental organizations that testified before the legislature suggested that the positive aims of this legislation could be accomplished in ways less likely to have the unintended consequences that may accompany this bill.

The Highlands Coalition, comprised of more than 90 local, state, regional and national citizens' organizations including the Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter, is a grassroots movement that seeks to protect this irreplaceable region of water, beauty and life. For more information visit their website: <http://highlandscoalition.org/> or write to Tom Gilbert, tgilbert@igc.org. ☞

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.

Highlands Coalition Congressional Tour

by Dennis Schvejda, our Chapter Conservation Director

Senator Jon Corzine (D-NJ) and Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) have reintroduced federal legislation to protect priority lands threatened by suburban sprawl in the Highlands region of NJ, NY, PA and CT. The Highlands Stewardship Act (H.R. 1964 - S. 999) would designate the more than two million acre Highlands region as the nation's first "Stewardship Area" and provide up to \$25 million annually over ten years to help the Highlands states conserve critical and threatened open spaces. The Highlands region provides and protects the water supply for over 15 million people and has been declared "nationally significant" by the U.S. Forest Service in several studies of the region.

This past Spring, the Highlands Coalition and its member groups sponsored a Highlands Tour for the staff of the NJ/NY Congressional delegations. The Tour brought the Highlands to life. No longer just another "issue," the hike, paddle and flyover gave the DC staffers a first-hand look at the beauty and importance of the Highlands. The Tour was also a tribute to the organizations comprising the Coalition. They all worked together,

each contributing a key component of the Tour. Especially noteworthy were the efforts of Tom Gilbert, Executive Director of the Highlands Coalition; Rich Innes, their federal consultant; and Tina & Dennis Schvejda of the Sierra Club. This group spent months putting the event together, and worked during the entire Tour to make each component run flawless.

The Tour may be history, but a record lives on. Tom Gilbert and Dennis Schvejda have put together over 40 photos of the event with commentary posted as a photo album. Join us as we visit Bearfort Tower in the heart of the Newark Pequannock Watershed, paddle down the Wallkill River, and get a bird's eye view of the Highlands from a helicopter. Visit: <http://sierraactivist.org/gallery/>



PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM GILBERT, HIGHLANDS COALITION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Front row, from left: Ross Kushner, Pequannock River Coalition; Tina Schvejda, former NJ Chapter Chair; Cindy Bethel, Senator Lautenberg's office; Ed Goodell, NY/NJ Trail Conference; Kerry McKinney, Congressman Payne's office.

Second row standing, from left: Pam Their, NJ Green Acres; Don Freiday, NJ Audubon; Dennis Schvejda, Conservation Director, NJ Chapter Sierra Club; Chris White, Congressman Hinchey's office; Susan Quatrone, Congressman Pascrell's office; Katie Anderson, Congressman Smith's office; Mike Anderson, NJ Audubon

Far back, behind Dennis: Dennis Miranda, NJCF; Rich Innes, federal consultant for the Highlands Coalition.

CATS INDOORS!

The Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats.



The New Jersey Audubon Society (NJAS) is proud to announce, in co-operation with the American Bird Conservancy, the launch of this New Jersey campaign. Through a grant from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the campaign will educate cat owners and non-owners alike on the benefits to birds and other wildlife, and to cats and their owners, of keeping cats indoors.

NJAS President Tom Gilmore explained, "Domestic cat predation has an enormous impact on New Jersey's birds and other wildlife. Birds are already facing intense pressures from habitat loss and degradation; the last thing our native wildlife needs is the added threat of an introduced predator. Through this important campaign, NJAS and our partners will reduce cats' impact on wildlife, and safeguard cat and owner health at the same time."

Scientists estimate that free-roaming domestic cats kill hundreds of millions of birds and more than a billion small mammals each year nationwide. Cat predation on birds is especially significant in New Jersey because our state sits along one of the continent's major bird migration routes and contains key breeding grounds for endangered species such as the Piping Plover.

Felines feed on small mammals and also compete with native predators. Predatory birds including the Great Horned Owl and Red-tailed Hawk, and mammals such as the Bobcat (a state endangered species) and Gray Fox, rely on such prey as a food source.

Just as important as the health of our native wildlife is the health of domestic cats and their human owners. Cats allowed to roam outside have shorter life spans than their indoor counterparts. Many outdoor cats are killed by each year by cars, and they are far more likely to contract parasites and diseases and transmit them to other animals. They can also transmit diseases such as cat-scratch disease, toxoplasmosis, and rabies to humans.

Through its New Jersey Field Office, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is partnering with the NJAS in this campaign. Clifford Day, Supervisor of the Field Office, observes, "With ever-increasing development along the Atlantic seaboard, habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife is shrinking and becoming

increasingly fragmented. Predation by cats from adjoining neighborhoods can severely reduce the quality of these remaining habitats."

Also continuing their involvement in the campaign, the New Jersey Division of Fish and wildlife will be key in disseminating information and making a positive impact on the cat predation problem in the state.

Dave Jenkins, Principal Zoologist with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife notes, "Wildlife biologists have long-suspected that free-ranging cats pose a significant threat to our native wildlife and in the past decade scientific studies have begun to validate this suspicion. The Cats Indoors! campaign is the first organized initiative to begin dealing with this problem and it provides the hope that by partnering with concerned conservation organizations and agencies, we can actually begin to address the very real threat that free-ranging cats pose to our native wildlife populations, especially to imperiled and declining species. The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife—Endangered and Nongame Species Program looks forward to continuing and increasing our involvement in this vitally important initiative."

In addition to these partner sponsors Cats Indoors! is also supported by national veterinary groups including the Alliance of Veterinarians for the Environment, and the Association of Avian Veterinarians, by animal advocacy groups including the Humane Society of the United States and the American Humane Association, and by many animal shelters. With this support, NJAS will provide educational programs and materials to inform the public of reasons to keep cats indoors, how to create a safe and nurturing environment for indoor cats, and dispel myths about cat predation.

Public participation is critical to the success of this initiative. We invite all to join this campaign by contacting NJ Campaign coordinator Brian Vernachio (brianv@njaudubon.org or 609-897-9400) or through our website at <http://www.njaudubon.org/Conservation/CatsIndoors>. Or you can write to the New Jersey Audubon Society's Department of Conservation & Stewardship, Plainsboro Preserve, P.O. Box 446, Plainsboro, NJ 08536.

UNLAWFUL MOTORS

(Continued from page 2)

Motorcycle Association coordinated a national lobbying campaign against the bill.

On October 4, 2002, Commissioner Campbell announced a comprehensive policy directive for off-road vehicle use, which was basically a "zero-tolerance" policy for unauthorized use of state land, combined with a plan to create more legal riding areas in the state. (<http://www.state.nj.us/dcp/newsrel/releases/orvpolicy.htm>) Commissioner Campbell also promised to work with the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation and the "Fix DMV Commission" to develop appropriate legislation to both increase penalty provisions and "establish comprehensive registration, licensing, and insurance requirements for ORVs."

Since last October, positive steps have been taken through the establishment of a DEP special committee, working to locate appropriate State lands for legal ORV use. Many potential sites have been identified, and the environmental community through the Non-Game and Endangered Species Program has been invited to participate in the qualification and selection process. A site inspection tour was conducted this summer, and several of the sites have received preliminary approval by the environmental interests, including the Sierra Club.

But there is a broad-based recognition that the creation of more legal playgrounds for ride ORVs will not prevent their proliferation of unlawful use on not only on other State land, but other public county and municipal land, and

private property as well. On May 18, 2003, Conservation Officer Tracy Stites was severely injured when a malicious ORV rider ran him down in an attempt to elude apprehension. Actual enforcement initiatives, given the speed and maneuverability of the vehicles, the often remote areas involved, and the hostile and malicious attitude of many riders, carries high levels of cost and risk. Right now the general public pays both the direct costs of enforcement, and the indirect costs of land damage and personal injuries.

It is now time for the NJ Legislature to introduce and pass into law a comprehensive state policy to control all off-road vehicle uses and abuses. The key element to this policy should be a substantial registration fee at the time of purchase, so that all ORV riders will pay for the management and enforcement required to protect the public from their actions. Identification license tags, adequate insurance, and safety training and environmental education should also be required.

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has picked up the ball and drafted a 32- page amendment to the current DMV Title 39 laws to create this comprehensive plan. What we need now are legislative champions in the Senate and Assembly—willing to protect the public and the quality of our open space by sponsoring new motor vehicle laws designed to properly fund off-road vehicle enforcement and make this activity safe for everyone.

Sierra Club's 2003 Northeast Regional Conservation Committee (NERCC) Conference
October 3-5
Hilbert Outdoor Center, Fairlee VT
for information contact Joan Denzer at 609-799-5839

ELM COURT

(Continued from page 2)

Princeton Borough's Open Space Inventory ignored New Jersey's Green Acres laws and the specific protection they provide for locally-held open space.

There are important implications of this issue, since many other municipalities are, like Princeton, near their build-out limits and under pressure to expand into protected open space. We

hope we are setting a precedent. If Princeton had succeeded in using public land as a "land bank," then any public land - even the Princeton Battlefield Park or Marquand Park - could be given away to a developer!

Contact Ed at 609-581-1660, or ecpfeiffer@aol.com



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ROUTE 92: A Litmus Test for Gov. McGreevey's Sprawl Agenda

by Steve Masticola

The New Jersey Turnpike Authority's proposed Route 92 extension will be a litmus test of Governor James E. McGreevey's true intentions on both fighting sprawl and fiscal responsibility. Route 92 is proposed to connect the NJ Turnpike at Exit 8a west to Route 1, in South Brunswick.

On the most recent version of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's "Big Map," 92 was squarely in the red zone, where sprawl-inducing road construction is supposed to be severely limited. 92 also runs through environmentally sensitive areas of the older State Plan. (For detailed maps, see the www.no92.com web site.)

Route 92 would:

- Destroy irreplaceable wetlands (including Green Acres land)
- Spread sprawl throughout the four-county region to the west of its western terminus
- Pollute the recharge area of the smallest aquifer in the State
- * Bombard our already clogged roads with tens of thousands of extra cars and heavy trucks
- Waste a large fraction of a billion public dollars
- Threaten an entire string of historic villages and hamlets
- Split South Brunswick Township in half, and
- Harm the entire region to the west of Route 1.

It would bring every citizen in four counties—Mercer, Somerset, Middlesex, and Hunterdon—six miles closer to Turnpike traffic, sprawl, and pollution.

92's supporters include the well-heeled sprawl industry and its powerful political apologists in both major parties, who are pitting one municipality against another by selling the road as a "bypass." It's worth noting that Britain is no longer building any bypasses, since they have proven to be the traffic equivalent of drilling holes in a sinking boat to let the water out. Studies by the Sierra Club and the Surface Transportation Policy Project show that adding road capacity does not cure traffic, but instead just creates more—and in a very short time.

The Turnpike Authority has estimated that Route 92 will cost us \$350 million. However, this figure may well be too low by a factor of at least two or three. You may recall that the Turnpike Authority estimated that the E-ZPass system would pay for itself—at last count over \$400 million of your dollars has been spent on it. Since there is already a road that does the same job as 92—Middlesex County 522—within one mile of the proposed route, it's clear that 92 is fiscally ludicrous.

There are other "smart growth" transportation construction projects already in

the works that deserve funding far more than 92. Park-N-Ride, "smart highways," and public transit projects are already being promoted by McGreevey's Blue Ribbon Transportation Commission. Also: the 2,000 deteriorated bridges in the state. A senior New Jersey official recently said on television that it was "absurd . . . for the Turnpike to be building some new stretch when we have bridges that are falling down."

The construction unions need not worry that cancelling 92 will cost jobs. There is enough worthwhile transportation construction work to be done, work that will help our state rather than hurt it. Turnpike money is currently funding reconstruction of the Driscoll Bridge and several other worthwhile projects.

Aside from the transportation issues, the State government is in a budget crisis. State funding has been cut for scores of vital programs, including child abuse, home health care, care for the developmentally disabled, nursing homes, and special-needs school districts. Spending hundreds of millions on 92, subsidizing sprawl in the face of these cruel cuts, would be unconscionable.

In 1999, the United States Environmental Protection Agency denied wetlands permits for Route 92, citing lack of clear need, environmental damage, and the possibility of using a less damaging alternate route. Since then, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has had jurisdiction over the 92 wetlands permits, and has recommended that a full environmental impact study be conducted.

As of this writing, the Big Map is under review by the McGreevey Administration, following intense pressure from the developers and the sprawl industry. Likewise, the Turnpike Authority has requested that the McGreevey Administration review 92's impact on its smart growth agenda. This last is likely a positive development, but it may also signal a greenwash on 92.

Following the completion of the draft EIS, the Army Corps will hold a public comment meeting. We will announce this meeting as soon as we know the date. We ask that you be prepared to attend on short notice, regardless of whether the Army approves or denies Route 92. Please stay tuned! To keep abreast of the latest news, and learn more about Route 92, log onto www.no92.com. ☞

Steve Masticola is a resident of the Village of Kingston (Somerset and Middlesex Counties), and has been active in the No 92 Coalition and other community issues in Kingston since 1997. Contact him at steve.masticola@mindspring.com

Gina Carola wins National Sierra Club Award

In recognition of her Herculean efforts to prevent dredging of a deeper ship channel in the Delaware River, Gina will have attended the Sierra Club's annual awards dinner in September in San Francisco. See p. 4 of this issue for Gina's current report on her efforts.

Upwards of 20 awards are made each year, for a variety of Club conservation, political, literary, artistic, and administrative activities. Gina's is in the "Special Achievement" category.

According to Steve Ember, who nominated Gina, her contribution "is a classic example of how one activist with a clear vision can successfully organize and win a grassroots campaign. Before Gina

became involved with the Delaware River Deepening Project, there was very little opposition to it. She quickly assessed the lack of economic justification and health threats. Then, she communicated the facts to a great many citizens, members, and Members of Congress. Through her dedication and persistence, positive results were achieved against great odds.

"Gina's exemplary leadership was demonstrated by how well she worked with many types of people and consistently conveyed a winning attitude. She took on many roles as various needs arose. These included, but were not limited to, researching, speaking, writing,



BOOK REVIEW:

TALK IS COSTLY

by Mark Oshinskie, an attorney and writer on environmental issues

Made, Not Born, (Sierra Club Books, 2000) is an anthology of a dozen cerebral—although sometimes overwritten—essays about the prospects for human and agricultural genetic engineering. While each essay could supply the basis for a separate column, there are some common themes.

First, several essayists note that our society reveres science and rushes to "practical applications" thereof. They observe that the market promotes this haste to deliver new products. In the complex realm of biology, harm can occur that is unanticipated by lab scale studies. Some such threats have already materialized from agricultural and aquacultural applications of genetic technologies ("GE"), as pollen has drifted from genetically-altered plants to non-altered plants, genetically altered salmon have interbred with wild salmon, and beneficial insects have been accidentally exterminated on a mass scale. In reprotech, IVF causes twice as many birth defects.

Andrew Kimbrell raises several other interesting points about market effects. First, he observes that markets focus on efficiency. Yet, he asks, how many people have an "efficiency" orientation toward those or that which they love? If efficiency is usually defined as what turns a dollar profit for a business, isn't it problematic to leave the market to govern life issues? He draws an interesting comparison between the Christian Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and the Post Modern Trinity: science, technology and the market, to explain how science—despite its intrinsic mysteries and limitations, particularly in dealing with human and social problems—has become a new religion/juggernaut. He also points out that, when the world is commodified, humans themselves become just another commodity. See <http://humanfuture.tripod.com>.

The farmer/poet Wendell Berry raises the same point in his elegantly homespun way. He observes that as human life and nature are increasingly described with metaphors of the machine (the heart is a pump, one "boots up" in the morning, and lives in an eco-"system," etc.) we see ourselves and our world differently. Genetic and reproductive technologies extend these metaphors to their illogical extremes. If life can be made or modified in a test tube, is it really worth getting excited about or protecting? Further, he observes, as agricultural technology causes soil erosion and water contamination, by controlling life we cause unintended effects that lessen our control.

Most of the essayists expressly consider whether GE is "playing God" or violating nature. GE advocates typically deny that God is being played, insisting that GE is just another form of plant breeding or human therapy. Some of the essayists in this book are deists, not theists, and/or accept or assume that gene alterations is playing God. They essentially ask, "So what?"

Take, for example, the essay of David Loy, who offers a Buddhist perspective on GE. He starts with a quote of Gandhi: "Humans' greatness lies not so much in being able to remake the world as in being able to remake ourselves." Loy notes that Buddhism does not forbid manipulation of nature and that those who originally lived closely with nature

had to manipulate nature in order to survive. This practice has intensified to the point that manipulating nature makes people less secure, e.g., The Greenhouse Effect.

He says that the chief goal of Buddhism is to help people avert dukkha, the inability to enjoy life. He suggests that GE may be able to help some, including those with inherited diseases, overcome dukkha. (But he declines to mention that genetics is already used to prenatally purge those with genetic flaws and that this trend will intensify if genetic knowledge and diagnostics advance). He argues that, as long as people's motivation is positive, GE applications will be positive. Yet, he acknowledges that the personal motivations that reinforce dukkha: greed, ill will and delusion, are abundant in the individuals and institutions (the universities and corporations) that do GE research. Thus, he urges a GE moratorium until we can collectively advance generosity, kindness and wisdom. Given the appeal of such TV shows as *The Sopranos*, *Survivor* and *The Bachelor*, Loy's motivational-reform prerequisite would seem a long way from fulfillment.

Several other writers echo and emphasize that they're not against GE or any other technology *per se*. Today—and particularly in the academic realm where most of the essayists dwell—few criticize technology. Several essayists suggest GE will be properly used if we merely commit to discuss it more.

But will more debate really ensure benevolent uses of GE? How often does talk deliver satisfactory resolutions, or even consensus? Consider social issues, which are comparatively simple. Talk is especially costly in our diverse world where there's little consensus regarding right and wrong. What most often ends up being "right" is that which fulfills the wishes of the monied; those with market interests will fund studies and public relations campaigns that sway the debate.

Many assert that GE is like every other technology: we will size it up, use it for good purposes and decline to use it for bad. But do humans have such powers of discernment? People have misused plenty of technology. Just as with cars, we can't prevent GE from being used for ill. Allowing only "enlightened" government/university researchers to use GE doesn't seem such a great solution, either. Might not we all be better off if even governments didn't have guns?

Thus, why not bar—or decline to publicly fund—GE? Limiting inquiry may seem ignorant, but if there's a rattlesnake under a rock, are some stones better left unturned?

Creating and designing life crosses lines of controllability/retrievability. It also raises questions of utility. If, e.g., we already have more than enough food while millions starve and we have a world of haves who live long and have nots who don't, maybe more technology isn't the answer. If, from a collective standpoint, the risks outweigh the benefits, why are many pushing GE when there are other paths, not taken, with more benefits and fewer liabilities, to improving more lives?

How about greed, ill will and delusion? ☞

managing, planning and making decisions. Among the many qualities that I have noticed and heard about her are being friendly, patient (important for working with volunteers), flexible, assertive yet warm, focused and factual. For example, Gina is just as adept dealing with people one-on-one as she is performing technical duties such as being a webmaster."

Gina is also Chair of the West Jersey Group. Hers is the fourth national award to New Jerseyans in the last decade: Mary Penney of our Central Jersey Group won one for her successful campaign opposing an incinerator in Mercer County, Dennis Schvejda was recognized for his Sierraactivist website, and Dick Colby was rewarded for persistence (to the best of his ability to remember).



Group News

FROM AROUND THE STATE

Northwest Jersey Group

(Sussex and Warren Counties, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Chair: Ellen Pepin (in absentia!)
 epepin@worldnet.att.net

Vice Chair: Open position!

Treasurer: Donna Rubin 973-726-9278

Secretary: Debbie Hambright 973-729-8015

Political Chair: Open position!

Publicity Chair: Claire Cifelli 973-726-8606

Outings Chair: Open position!

NEWS: As you can guess, the Northwest Group is suffering "growth pains." Ellen and Joe Pepin are leaving New Jersey for a better economic climate! It takes active volunteers to operate the Sierra Club, people interested both in local issues (see below), and in the regional and statewide issues discussed at monthly Chapter ExCom meetings and pursued by our Issue Coordinators. Please read the editorial in this issue of the JS, and call Ruth Prince or Rich Isaac or any other officer if you want more information or would like to take part.

Here's an additional attempt at motivation from Betsy Kohn (North Jersey Group Chair):

Attention residents of Sussex and Warren Counties: Are you concerned that your watersheds, wetlands, forests, slopes, rivers and streams be protected from inappropriate development? The Northwest Group is working to save the region's open space and natural resources — but can only succeed with your assistance. If you have a little time to give (or a lot), please become involved. You can make a big difference for your region and New Jersey. To find out how you can help, contact Steve Ember at schiker@yahoo.com or 732-926-8964.

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 MTBE. We provided support in appealing to local authorities and DEP for immediate help. They have gotten some assistance, but it is an ongoing issue.

Even though it is not really the Northwest's territory, the Pepins were 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 Alamatong 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

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

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

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

the goals of the Big Map. We would like to hear from 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.

Hunterdon County Group

OFFICERS:

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

Political Chair: Arnold Kushnick
 apkushn@eclipse.net

Treasurer: Arnold Kushnick
 apkushn@eclipse.net

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 continues to be the only environmental advocacy group present. We continue to attend the meetings and workshops, which are used to define the overall growth management goals and strategies. We have also joined the County Planning Board's Environmental Toolbox Subcommittee spearheaded by one of our freeholders. We will review draft ordinances designed to be environmentally protective and legally defensible, which our municipalities can then use as needed.

We have opposed several proposed DEP permits for ground-water allocation and stream encroachment throughout the county, based on technical and regulatory arguments.

We have done childrens' environmental education at community and kids day events in the county, and would be happy to do more of the same at other events. Please contact Ruth Prince for information.

North Jersey Group

(Passaic and Bergen Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Betsy Kohn 201-461-4534
 BetsyKohn@aol.com

Vice Chair: Hugh Carola 201-692-8440
 HCarola@aol.com

Conservation Co-Chairs: Tom Thompson 201-848-1080
 ttrans743@aol.com
 Anne Sumers 201-825-8395
 annesumers@aol.com

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

Outings Chair: Ellen Blumenkrantz
 eblumenkrantz@hotmail.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: Open position!

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

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held at 7:30pm on the SECOND THURSDAY as indicated below. For directions or other information, contact Betsy Kohn (see above)

Oct 9: at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood, NJ: "The Vanishing Night Sky" - slide presentation by Kevin Conod, Astronomer, Dreyfuss Planetarium. A recent study found that 2/3 of all Americans can no longer see the Milky Way: a sickly orange miasma caused by poor lighting has stolen the night. This introduction to light pollution, its effects on the night sky and impact on flora and fauna will also include examples of good and bad lighting, solutions for reducing energy waste, and tips for protecting the nighttime environment.

Nov 13: at Paramus Public Library, E-116 Century Road, Paramus, NJ 201-599-1302: "A Dagger in the Heart of Sterling Forest!" - If you think Sterling Forest was protected when \$83 million of public and private monies were spent to acquire it — think again! A private developer now plans to build a 575-acre golf course and 103 luxury homes in the middle of this State Park. This presentation by members of the Sterling Forest Partnership, a citizen conservation group, will focus on how this development will irrevocably harm water resources, area geology, biodiversity and wilderness qualities. Find out what you can do to help stop this!

No meeting in December.

HIGHLANDS COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Held at 7:30pm on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month (usually) at the Pompton Lakes Public Library, 333 Wanaque Avenue, Pompton Lakes, NJ. Everyone interested in Highlands conservation is invited to attend. For more information, contact Betsy Kohn (see above).

LOCAL ISSUES: One of our highest priorities is to protect the 73 mountaintop acres of the former Camp Todd property in Oakland from a proposed development of 24 luxury homes. We are also trying to save 30 acres of Green Acres woodlands from being used for a truck weigh station in Mahwah. Rather than build on the Ramapo River aquifer at the eastern edge of the Highlands, the NJ Department of Transportation should seek a more suitable location on brownfields or an already developed site. Also of concern to us are the pressures to use woodlands and watershed land for ball-fields or new college facilities. To find out more or offer to help, please contact Betsy Kohn or Tom Thompson (see above).

BECOME A SIERRA CLUB VOLUNTEER! You can help in our fall campaign to ensure passage of the November referendum asking voters to renew the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund, which is an important tool for saving open space in the Hackensack and Ramapo River watersheds and the county's municipalities. Or you can follow an issue, such as air quality, environmental justice, nuclear energy, population, transportation, urban renewal, water quality or another of your own choosing. Or help with membership, programs, publicity, tabling at events, or petition drives. See local issues, officer openings (above). To find out more, please contact Betsy Kohn 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. (It will not be shared with anyone else.)

Hudson-Meadowlands Group

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

OFFICERS:

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

Treasurer: Open position!

Secretary: Connie Ftera 201-869-7950

Programs Chair: Open position!

Publicity: Open position!

Political Chair: Open position!

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

NEWS: As you can guess, the Hudson-Meadowlands Group is suffering "growth pains." It takes active volunteers to operate the Sierra Club, people interested both in local issues (environmentally responsible development of the Hoboken waterfront area, oversight of Liberty State Park, motivations for using public transport, local parks, Meadowlands issues, etc.), and people interested in the larger regional and statewide issues discussed at monthly Chapter ExCom meetings and pursued by our Issue Coordinators. Hudson (and southern Bergen) County always presents interesting political election endorsement issues. Please read the editorial in this issue of the JS, and call Rich Isaac or any other officer if you want more information or would like to take part.

Essex County Group

(Essex County)

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Richard Isaac	973-716-0297
	risaacx@aol.com	
Vice-Chair:	Michel Cuillierier	973-736-0913
	schatzidog@earthlink.net	
Conservation:	Michel Cuillierier	973-736-0913
	schatzidog@earthlink.net	
Political:	Janice Desir	973-678-4580
	jtdesir@eden.rutgers.edu	
	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 Cuillierier	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	
Fundraising:	Kim McGuire	973-275-1030
	mackim@aol.com	
Programs:	Sue Slotnick	973-564-9589
	PSue82@juno.com	
Membership:	Janine Schaeffer	973-736-0898
	jschaeffer@sealtechcompany.com	
Consumption:	Mike Minaides	973-470-0793
	msminaides@hotmail.com	
Rahway River:	Kirk Barrett	973-313-1218
	kbarrett@cimic.rutgers.edu	

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

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

Oct 9: What do the New Jersey Highlands and Brita have in common? They're both water filtration systems, but mother nature's method is now at risk due to humanity's insatiable thirst for sprawl. Bill O'Hearn, NJ Sierra Club Highlands Committee member, will share his knowledge of this pristine parcel of land and explain its importance for our water management. Join us at the Newark Museum's the new science wing "Dynamic Earth" for an informative lecture and simulated Highlands exhibition.

Nov and Dec: No Meetings scheduled - Happy Holidays!

Loantaka Group

(Morris and Union Counties)

WEBSITE: http://njsierra.enviroweb.org/njs_groups/loa.htm

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:	Open Position!	
Outreach & Events Chair:	Bob Johnson	908-771-9676
	robert.johnson@comcast.net	
Publicity Chair:	Open Position!	
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
fleinweber@aol.com

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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

NOTE: Due to construction, the meeting location has changed until further notice. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm at Chatham United Methodist Church, 460 Main St., Chatham.

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

GENERAL MEETINGS:

NOTE: Due to construction, the meeting location has changed until further notice. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm at Chatham United Methodist Church, 460 Main St., Chatham.

Come to a general meeting and learn something new and make some new friends. We'd welcome the chance to meet you and to introduce ourselves at a general meeting. Please see the meeting schedule which follows and join us!

DIRECTIONS: Directions are posted on our website http://njsierra.enviroweb.org/njs_groups/loa.htm

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Oct 8: We are planning a **Candidates Evening**. We will be inviting candidates who have been endorsed by the Loantaka Group to speak, and you will have the opportunity to talk to them and ask questions. When the details are finalized, the information will be available on our website.

Nov 12: Lynda Smith, director of the Bear Education and Resource Group, will give a talk entitled "**Black Bears: Peaceful Coexistence in Our Modern World.**" Her presentation will review bear behavior and body language to further our understanding of black bears and dispel some of the myths surrounding these magnificent animals. Basic bear-proofing techniques and other methods to minimize conflicts will be demonstrated and discussed.

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County, parts of Somerset and Middlesex)

WEBSITES: www.sierraactivist.org
www.sierraactivist.org/getbusy

OFFICERS:

Co-Chairs:	Harold Rapp	609-671-0435
	HalRapp@aol.com	
	and Ed Pfeiffer	609-581-1660
	ECPfeiffer@aol.com	
Treasurer:	Bill Wowk	609-587-0502
	bwowk@aol.com	
Conservation Chair:	Laura Lynch	609-882-4642
	llynch@mail.med.upenn.edu	
Membership Chair:	Corinne Egner	
	conskayakr@aol.com	
Programs Committee:	Ken Mayberg	609-443-9138
	kjmayberg@aol.com	
	and Lisa Ridge	609-371-1357
	lisa.ridge@att.net	
Publicity Coordinator:	Janet Black	
	jblack8084@aol.com	
Political Committee:	Tom Zolandz	908-874-4194
	earthsounds@yahoo.com	
	and Kelly McNicholas	
	kellymcnicholas@hotmail.com	
Outings Chair:	Ken Mayberg	609-443-9138
	kjmayberg@aol.com	
Wildlands Coordinator:	Dave Mattek	609-737-1342
	MattekDC@aol.com	
Parks & Biodiversity:	George Schindler	
	GESchindlerJr@worldnet.att.net	
	and Pat Sayles	
	Plsayles@aol.com	
Advisor:	Mary Penney	
	Penney4Thoughts@aol.com	

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Meetings are generally held on the FIRST THURSDAY of the month at 7:30 pm. Please contact Ed Pfeiffer (above) for the location, which may vary. These meetings are open to all Sierra Club members.

GENERAL MEETINGS:

THE CENTRAL JERSEY GROUP HAS MOVED! We are still meeting on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month at 7:30 pm in a new location: the West Windsor branch of the Mercer County Library. The library is at 333 North Post Road, at the intersection of North Post and Clarksville Roads, in Princeton Junction. Check our website for a map. This is closer to where most of our members live. 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.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

Oct 8: Political issues will be discussed this month. With state and local elections only a month away, we've invited Club-endorsed candidates from the 14th and 15th legislative districts to attend to outline their views, plans and commitment to environmental protection, and to answer questions from our members. If the candidates can't attend, we'll share what we know about them.

Nov 12: Learning to Live with Black Bears in New Jersey. Less than a month before the State's planned black bear hunt, Steve Ember, the Raritan Valley Group Chair, will present slides from the Bear Education and Resource (BEAR) Group about the current bear situation, do's and don'ts when encountering bears, and how we can peacefully coexist with bears. This summer, Steve spent four days with Dr. Lynn Rogers assisting with his field research. Dr. Lynn Rogers is the most acclaimed expert on black bears in the world.

Dec 10: Please join us for our **annual Holiday Party** at the library. Bring your favorite holiday treat to share as we celebrate our 2003 successes and wash down our disappointments together! RSVP to Lisa Ridge at 609-371-1357 or lisa.ridge@att.net. Enjoy a Happy and Safe Holiday Season. See you next year!

E-MAIL NOTICES: If you'd like to receive reminders of meetings or outings, please send your e-mail address to Corinne Egner (above). If you'd like to receive issue alerts, please send your e-mail address to Laura Lynch (above).

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS AND CONTACTS:

Chair:	Steve Ember	732-926-8964
	sehiker@yahoo.com	
Vice-Chair:	Open position!	
Conservation Co-Chairs:	Open position!	
Membership Chair:	Lorraine Bal	
	lorrainebal@yahoo.com	
Political Chair:	Rosemary Grace	
	rosemary.grace@verizon.net	
Programs Chair:	Open position!	
Publicity Chair:	Sandi Lowich	
	abstract46@aol.com	
Secretary:	Open position!	
Treasurer:	Don McBride	
	dtmcbride@yahoo.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 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. The Black Bear issue has been prominent, but we are open to discuss and become involved with other wildlife issues. 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 although there are several interested people. 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

(continued on page 12)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 11)

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.

Oct 14: Explore the Meadowlands. Learn about the hidden Meadowlands in Secaucus with Hugh Carola of the Hackensack Riverkeeper Inc., a nonprofit environmental group. Discover the vast ecological treasures hidden from those who only zoom past on the New Jersey Turnpike. We will explore the history, beauty, ecology and politics of the Meadowlands. A Powerpoint presentation will feature mesmerizing images of the marshes, grasses, wetlands, birds and wildlife of this rich and thriving natural wilderness habitat that has defied human spoilage. Hugh will also discuss programs such as eco-cruises and walking tours offered to the public by the Hackensack Riverkeeper. Refreshments and a time to socialize follow.

Nov 11: Living with Black Bears in New Jersey. Learn how to live with Black Bears in New Jersey. Steve Ember, our Group Chair, will present slides from the Bear Education and Resource (BEAR) Group about the current bear situation, dos and don'ts when encountering bears, and how we can peacefully coexist with bears. This summer, Steve spent four days with Dr. Lynn Rogers assisting with his field research. Dr. Lynn Rogers is the most acclaimed expert on Black Bears in the world.

Dec 9: Annual Holiday Party. We'll enjoy PIZZA and desserts to celebrate the holiday season. Be sure to arrive promptly to claim your fair share of the food! Please join us at this fun and informal gathering to share ideas and socialize with fellow Sierra Club members! Also, we are planning to include a short, informative and entertaining video based upon member preference.

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	
Ocean County:	Open position!	
Ocean County Section Chair:	Open position!	
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.

Oct 27: The Cost of War. Do you really know what environmental, and human, damage is being done in Iraq? Have you read about the use of depleted uranium in the weapons deployed? Join us as Gavielle Gemma, a key organizer of the Central NJ Coalition for Peace & Justice, explains how these weapons leave a legacy of radiation. Gavielle has also worked with former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark, and was a member of the first Commission of Inquiry team to visit Iraq after the first Gulf War in 1991.

Nov 24: Autumn Green Night. Here is your chance to do something positive for the environment. We will pre-

sent current environmental issues—you will write letters to elected officials and others. We supply the pens, paper, and stamps!

Dec 14: Holiday Party. No regular meeting in December, so help celebrate the season by joining the Jersey Shore Group at our annual holiday party. Starts at 3pm, at Dennis Anderson's home in Union Beach (address above). For more information and directions, please call Dennis at 732-888-3158.

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 Dennis Anderson at 732-888-3158, or Steve Knowlton at 732-747-7011.

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Gina Carola	856-848-8831
	ginacee@snip.net	
Vice-Chair:	Open Position!	
Secretary:	Open Position!	
Treasurer:	Trish Clements	856-768-5639
	psclcm@aol.com	
Publicity Chair:	Bud Kaliss	856-428-8071
	budmilmilbud@yahoo.com	
Political Chair:	Marie Hageman	856-589-0606
	mbirds2@email.com	
Pinelands Rep:	Lee Snyder	856-596-0621

Greenways

Coordinators:	Frank and Ellen Zinni	
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.

Oct 14: Clara Ruvolo will present an **overview of Palmyra Cove**, a reclaimed brownfield site that has been converted to nature trails and site of the new Environmental Discovery Center.

Nov 11: Olga Pomar of South Jersey Legal Services will speak about the **history of the Environmental Justice movement**, some landmark victories, and some of the environmental disasters in Camden.

Dec 9: Holiday party and year end wrap-up. Bring a favorite munchie to share as we review the successes that we had this past year and what is in store for next year as we wage battle against environmental evil.

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. 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.

Oct 18 (Sat): 10am: Another attempt to visit and enjoy the **Dorothy Preserve**, a two-mile habitat for birds and other wildlife in Weymouth Twp, near Mays Landing, Atlantic County. Perhaps lunch at the Mays Landing Diner afterwards. If interested, contact Dick Colby for details.

Nov 25 (Tues): 7pm: Opportunity to catch up on **conservation planning for the Great Egg Harbor Wild and Scenic River**, at a public session of the Watershed Association (an organization that once got its start as our Group Executive Committee!). For information or to confirm, call the Akers. Warren Fox Nature Center.

Dec 22 (Mon): 6pm: Our tradition has been for a **sharing of food and of adventure slides**. Dick Colby has some new views of the Anapurna Sanctuary in Nepal. Call him if you'd like to engage!

Singles Section

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

Please join us! The NJ Singles Section was specifically created to offer a variety of singles-oriented activities to New Jersey Sierra Club members and those who would like to know more about us. We are not a local group; we are a statewide additional "layer" of Club involvement. 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
- Press 4 for: 3rd Tuesday of the month dinner in Montclair
- Press 7 for: Joyce Haddad's upcoming hike
- Press 8 for: our Dinner-and-a-Movie event

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

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

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@sierraactivist.org
Programs:	Diana Eichholz
	MistyAngel2003@yahoo.com
Publicity:	Lynn Forrest
	abc77@msn.com
Secretary:	Open Position!
Membership:	Open Position!

Volunteers needed for the positions of: hike leaders, Secretary, Membership, fundraising chair/co-chairs, and members of all committees, including social event planners for Plaza Grille. Please attend an 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.

NEW JERSEY FUTURE FACTS

- Colonial New Jerseyans celebrated their independence in a state with double the amount of wetlands that remain today.
- New Jerseyans as recently as 1950 celebrated July Fourth in a Garden State with double today's amount of farmland.

“TONG TANA: A JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF BORNEO”

The Sierra Club NJ Singles Section shows a movie on the last Friday of each month. Please join us on November 28 as we present “Tong Tana.” This documentary follows Bruno Manser, a 34-year old Swiss, who has rejected civilization to live with the nomadic Penan Indians, deep within Borneo’s lush rainforest, and help them confront the loggers threatening their existence. Mr. Manser and the four Swedish filmmakers who made “Tong Tana” (the title means “forest”) share a passionate interest in protecting the ancient towering trees of this 160 million-year-old rainforest from Malaysian logging interests seeking to turn them into disposable chopsticks and other products popular in Japan. Mr. Manser acquired an \$85,000 bounty on his head for leading the Penans in acts of sabotage against the loggers.

The film argues on behalf of the beauty he seeks to protect by presenting it languidly and lovingly on the screen. The film offers quietly rhapsodic glimpses of life in the jungle, some of them no more dramatic or fast-paced than the sight of fern fronds in silhouette. The film, like the jungle, has a lulling, unhurried rhythm all its own.

“The beauty of the people under their tall trees is caught in the rain and shine by stunning cinematography, sound that captures even the breathing of the monkeys and rustling of the leaves, and editing paced to perfection. A strong environmentalist message of high artistic order.” - Variety

The movie will be shown at 7:45pm on November 28 at the Boathouse in Verona Park, at the corner of Lakeside and Bloomfield Avenues, in Verona. Everyone is welcome! Admission donation is \$5; any proceeds benefit the Sierra Club. No reservations are required, but please call our recorded announcements line to confirm the location: 973-364-7573, ext. 1, or email abc77@msn.com. The Singles Section sponsors other events as well, which can be viewed on our website: <http://njsierra.enviroweb.org/~singles/>. Directions to the Boathouse: Garden State Parkway, Exit 145, to Route 280 West. Take Exit 7 (Pleasant Valley Way) towards Millburn/Verona. Merge onto Pleasant Valley Way, which becomes Lakeside Avenue. Stay on Lakeside approximately 3 miles until it dead ends at Bloomfield Avenue. Go right onto Bloomfield, then take your first right into Verona Park. The Boathouse is about ¼ down the road on the right. We will meet in a room on the far side of the Boathouse.

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Casual pizza gathering and introduction to club issues and activities. **SECOND MONDAY** of each month at 6:30pm, latecomers welcome. We meet at the Morris County Library, 30 E. Hanover Ave., Whippany. Guest speakers at most meetings at 7:30pm — please join the listserv 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.

Oct 8: Are you concerned about the effects our global population of 6.35 billion is having on the environment? Find out why the Sierra Club has a **Global Population and Environment Program**, in this presentation given by Bonnie Tillery, the NJ Chapter Population Issues Coordinator. As the latest recipient of the yearly Sierra Club national Population Activist Award, Ms. Tillery will discuss her recent trip to Ecuador where she saw first-hand how family planning programs help protect the environment. She will also discuss actions we can take locally. (Note that the October date is NOT the second Monday due to the Columbus Day holiday.)
Nov 10: Glinda Garbahj presents her heartfelt talk - “My Love Affair With the Dung Beetle,” not to mention a few words of wisdom from Penny Jones, Recycling Education Specialist.

Dec 8: Hannah Zarinski, the NJ Outreach Coordinator for the Alaska Coalition, will speak with us about protecting the “**Last Great Wilderness**” of Alaska and the Arctic Refuge from oil drilling. Please call to confirm above speakers at 973-364-7573, ext. 3.

Directions to the Morris County Library: From Route 10 East: Go through Parsippany. Just before the 287 overpass, turn south at the Hanover Marriott onto Ridgedale Avenue. Go about 2 miles, past Morris County Mall on the left. As you reach the Mall and approach the intersection, move into left turning lane. Turn left onto Hanover Ave. Library is ½ mile down on your left. From Route 10 West: Pass under 287. Take the jughandle turn for Ridgedale Avenue and follow directions above. For further directions, see <http://www.gti.net/mocolib1/compass.html> or call the library at 973-285-6930.

PLANNING/EXCOM MEETINGS each month at Morris County Library. All welcome. Contact any officer for date.

SOCIALS:

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

THIRD TUESDAY of each month at 7pm. Join us for dinner and a guest speaker in a Montclair restaurant. Location will be announced 2 weeks before the social. RSVP is required to jkhaddad@juno.com or (973) 364-7573 option # 4.

LAST FRIDAY of the month - join us for the FINAL FRIDAY FILM FEST! Come see a great movie on the big (well, pretty big) screen. Donation: \$5. Begins 7:45pm, at Verona Park Boathouse.

No movie in October.

November 28, -“Tong Tana” - a documentary about Bruno Manser, a 34-year old Swiss, who has rejected civilization to live with the nomadic Penan Indians deep within Borneo’s lush rainforest and help them confront the loggers threatening their existence. See shaded box at left!

December 26 - Movie to be announced. Check the webpage, join the listserv, or call 973-364-7573, ext. 1. Both movies to be held at the Verona Park Boathouse, corner of Lakeside & Bloomfield Avenues., Verona. Driving instructions are in the shaded box at left.

Please ALWAYS CONFIRM these movie locations by checking our announcement at 973-364-7573, ext. 1, or join our listserv. You can also email abc77@msn.com with questions.

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 listserv email announcements for specific details regarding each event. All events are posted via listserv, 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.

Sierra Student Coalition

(a semi-autonomous organization of college and high school students)

Website: www.ssc.org/nj

This year took a long time to build a committed dedicated base. We finally have this with the State Coordinating Committee of the New Jersey Sierra Student Coalition (SSC). **The Committee members are:**

- Outings Chair:** Aaron Debrah
- Legislative Chair:** Cathy Kunkel
- Membership Chair:** Tejal Kuray
- Co-Sustainable Schools Campaign Coordinator:** Pamela Salud
- Co-Sustainable Schools Campaign Coordinator:** Dan Rosen
- Grassroots Field Organizer:** Mike Hrinewski

In the Fall there will be organizers training (which started last year, but due to naive idealism, fell apart), a regional leadership gathering, and possibly Fair Trade Training to inform people about the Free Trade Area of the Americas Agreement (FTAA). The FTAA is an expanded version of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which privatizes natural resources, and allows corporations to sue governments.

FTAA declares that regulations are barriers to trade. So corporations can sue governments for interfering with trade. A Canadian oil company sued the State of California because California passed a law banning a hazardous chemical in gasoline. To read more about the FTAA and NAFTA go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/trade/>. These trade rules not only affect developing nations but also seriously ruins job bases in NJ. The AFL-CIO is working to stop the FTAA - go to <http://www.aflcio.org/issuespolitics/global-economy/ftaamain.cfm>. NAFTA has cost our country 750,000 actual and potential jobs. The FTAA—covering 34 nations with a population of 800 million—would trade away even more U.S. jobs.

This year, we hope to get involved with the Chapter more frequently (e.g. on conference calls, attending Conservation Committee meetings, and participating in campaigns. Because National Sierra Club is focusing primarily on Bush-outa-office, we will also obviously be organizing against him.

Students could be a great resource to the Sierra Club, as the Club is a great resource to the SSC. I am quite excited to plan and develop working relationships between members of the SSC and the Chapter. Speakers are always needed, and if the NJSSC is going to be working on local and national legislation, we are going to need all the help we can get. Looking forward to working with everyone on Bringing the Garden Back into the State.

From Sustainable Schools to Outings Chair to Environmental Justice Campaign Coordinator some people need to step up and commit their time to becoming the leaders of the NJSSC. Students interested in joining us should please email danrosen85@hotmail.com with the following information:

Name: _____
 Year: _____
 County: _____
 School: _____
 Thoughts on where this boat is headed?: _____
 Time you Can Commit: _____

Inner City Outings Section

(another Chapter-wide special interest activity)

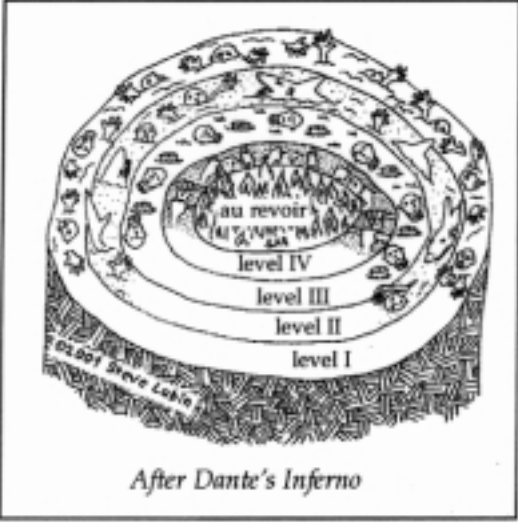
OFFICERS:

- Chair**
(North/Center Jersey): Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953
Njicoutings@aol.com
- Volunteer Coordinator:** Patti Lynch
Njicoutings@aol.com
- Co-Chairs**
(South Jersey) Jennifer Grenier 856-582-5512
Jennig1@yahoo.com
and Maxine Vogt 856-779-9156
Mvogt1@juno.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.

NJ is currently served by two ICO groups, one in the northern/central region and one in the southern region/Camden area. 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 addresses. To learn more, visit our webpage at <http://www.sierraclub.org/ico/newjersey/>

From the book
Twig-Lits®
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Purgatree. [purgatRi]

n. (environmental) A public notice whereby names are posted of exploitative, short-sighted, greedy, self-serving, or confused individuals, corporations, politicians and lawmakers who have perpetrated acts against nature. Those selected are held accountable for their actions and given a chance to atone for them.

These acts may include the pursuit and/or creation of reckless logging policies, general despoilment of land and water, polluting, overfishing, whaling, and other misdeeds detrimental to any and all Earthly domains. Amen.

Twig-Lits are available from:
 Steve Lubin at: ministree.of.twig@yahoo.com



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

GOODBYE TO THE GARDEN STATE

by Brian DiNuzzo

It isn't until one takes a minute to look back at life that one notices how much things have changed.

I was born and have lived in New Jersey for nearly thirty years, encompassing parts of four decades. I live in the same house, in the same town (Edison). Though the changes are very slow, they are noticeable. There was a drive-in movie theater that has since become a shopping center, and the

two-lane road leading to it was expanded to a five-lane highway of sorts. This State, the so-called Garden State, is not the same; there are more people, more cars, and less open land.

Walking through a newly-paved parking lot, searching for my compact car, a bumper sticker caught my attention. It was displayed prominently on a sport utility vehicle (SUV)—one of the many off-road vehicles in the lot. "Agriculture Keeps NJ Clean" it proclaimed. Quite simply, this statement is no longer true; a farce and a fallacy in every measure.

The Garden State is no more. Once known for farms and fresh fruit and vegetable stands, New Jersey has taken on other characteristics. We are the model for suburban sprawl. Suburban areas (neighborhoods, townhouse communities, etc.) are expanding, spreading like a rash. Such homes devour land and forest alike. They replace farms with condominiums.

The state's population has exploded over the last two decades, so one might argue living accommodations are necessary. Indeed, controlled growth is the key. Instead of building more in new places, why not rebuild areas that have been rundown and neglected?

New Jersey is better known today for brownfields, toxic waste sites, and garbage dumps. Anyone skeptical of this claim should take a ride on the Turnpike. Lining parts of it are miles of oil refineries. They spill various colors of smoke into the atmosphere. There is also the stinging bite of sulfur in the air, an odor of rotten eggs. As well, the State of New York has been gracing us with their refuse for years. The Garbage State seems more apropos.

Because of poor environmental planning, poor developmental planning, the effects touch people, nature and animals. State parks have all but disappeared from central Jersey, having been pushed to the outskirts in the northwest and south. This certainly is endangering the collective eco-system. Clean water seems to be best found in a bottle imported from Maine. And more noticeable is the clash of man and animal. There are daily complaints of the exploding deer population, especially in the northwest counties. True, deer carry disease such as the deer tick, and may present a health risk to humans. Yet, is the deer population growing? Actually, the human population is booming and systematically driving hard into the habitat of the deer. We replace their homes with our own. Once the species roamed wooded areas, now they must cross highways to find small parcels of land. Often times they are hit by cars and trucks.

The SUV which displayed the bumper sticker, a late model Toyota 4-Runner, lends to the farce of the sticker's message. SUV's are in vogue. The unenlightened usually purchase them to be in style, to fit in. In reality, the vehicles are unnecessary, hulking machines, not meant for the city roads of central Jersey. They are designed for off-road, rough, mountainous terrain in places like

Colorado. But they are in style, and that seems to be the only criteria of concern for prospective buyers or owners. These towering behemoths are gas-guzzling polluters. Their miles per gallon are typically in the low twenties, whereas more economical vehicles are in the low thirties. Emission standards for such automobiles

are based on those of light trucks, which means the carbon monoxide spewing form the tailpipe can legally be worse than the average car. But, I suppose, residents need to look good on their drive to the mall.

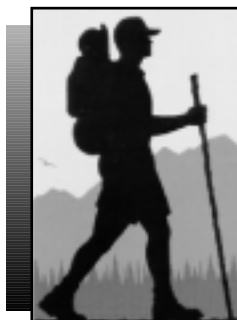
So the New Jersey farm is sold to developers. Agriculture declines and fruit stands disappear. Open space has become a farce. Over the last few years, New Jerseyans have become aware of the diminishing open space and have urged their politicians to preserve it. But in order to save the open areas, such as old farms, the government officials have had to spend our taxpayer dollars. The state buys the land (at a premium price) from a developer to keep the land from becoming acres of clone-like townhouses or apartment complexes. This is poor management of funds. The State must be more aggressive in acquiring farmland from the farmer instead of waiting for the developer to get hold of it and raise the price.

If agriculture keeps New Jersey clean, then the absence of it must make the state unclean. It is almost laughable to think of New Jersey and clean in the same sentence. It must be a joke, right? New Jersey is simply a state of location; that is our commodity now, not farms, not agriculture. We are just in the right place: a stone's throw from two major North American cities. On one side Philadelphia, the other is New York City. Most of the state's major avenues of transportation lead to one of the two and many residents commute to either of those destinations daily. We have the suburbs that growing families enjoy—the perception of less crime and friendly neighbors—plus the close proximity to higher paying jobs in the city. To consider New Jersey an agricultural state would be incorrect.

The message the bumper sticker aims to send is positive. More precisely, the message is simply and sadly outdated. New Jersey is no longer a place powered by the farming industry. In actuality, she is becoming a city herself. The changes have been happening for some time now and the examples are plenty. The farm across from my elementary school and the field I played soccer on as a child have been given over to scores of townhouses. Homes encroach on the neighborhood park so much so that it is no longer safe to play baseball for fear of breaking a resident's window. The environmentally protected "Dismal Swamp" lands of Edison have a highway built right over them and townhouses bordering them on nearly all sides. Agriculture once kept New Jersey clean; this is an antiquated notion today. The population increase brings with it more homes, need for more land to build on, more pollution, a disturbance in the ecological balance, and more unnecessary sport utility vehicles with old bumper stickers noting the present sad state of affairs. ☹

Brian DiNuzzo has been a member since 1998. His hometown is Edison, New Jersey. He currently lives in Lindenwold, New Jersey and attends the Graduate School at Rowan University.

"Over the last few years, New Jerseyans have become aware of the diminishing open space and have urged their politicians to preserve it"



Outings

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

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

Central Jersey: Ken Mayberg
kjmberg@aol.com

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 201-784-8417
eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Northwest Jersey: Vacant

Raritan Valley: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com
see phone and address below

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

West Jersey: Dan Procida 609-767-2149 (H)
813 Old White Horse Pike, Waterford Works, NJ 08089

River Touring: Fred Tocce 908-453-2205 (H)
Rd 1 Box 277, Washington, NJ 07882

Inner City Outings: Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H)
NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd. Warren, NJ 07059

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

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

Note: If possible, leaders should send their trip descriptions to the Group Outings Coordinator instead of directly to the Chapter Outings Coordinator. This is particularly important for occasional leaders.

Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your January-March trip write-ups by November 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.

OCTOBER

OCT 5 (Sun) Social Hike in Harriman State Park. We will hike eight miles at a moderate pace partially on the Appalachian Trail. Highlights include excellent views and interesting rock formations. Hiking boots are required. Meet BY 10am 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 or threat of rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

OCT 5 (Sun) Southern Allaire State Park Hike (Special Interest: Geology). Moderate 4.75 mile hike in the Northern fringes of the Pine Barrens. Hiking shoes preferred. Please bring a drink and a snack. Meet at 9am at large parking lot on the right off Hospital Road in Wall Township. Take GSP to Exit 98 for Rte. 34 south. Turn right onto Allenwood Road. At "T" intersection (Ramhorn Road), turn right. Make next left onto Hospital Road. The parking area is approximately 1 mile on the right. Bad weather cancels. Confirmation/questions call. Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

OCT 5 (Sun) Social Kayak Trip. Next to last trip one of season, only if there is water. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after trip. Call leader to reserve space. Meet by 9:30 am at Bel-Haven canoe rentals, on Rte. 542, Green Bank, Burl. Co., 8 miles E. of Hammonton. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pisl@eccnj.net (W)

OCT 11 (Sat) Recycle a House - Volunteer Activity. We will help Habitat for Humanity rebuild a row home. This is a way to give back to the community and create a positive image for the club. Bring lunch, water and boots. Meet 8am 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)

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OCT 11 (Sat) Social Bike Ride. Class D ride 20+ miles with frequent stops. Ride flat roads through pine barrens with rest/lunch stop in Chatsworth. Meet by 9:30 am in parking area near Group camp site Byrne State Forest, enter forest off Rte. 72, 1 mile E. of jct of Rtes. 70&72. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

OCT 11 (Sat) Social Moonlight Hike, Campout and Campfire. 6-7 miles. Moderate pace. Hike over roads lit by moonlight with a campfire at end. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Overnight camping is available Friday & Sat nights, call to reserve space. No pets or children. Meet by 7:30 pm at parking area opposite Group campsite area, Byrne State Forest, enter forest off Rte. 72, 1 mile E. of jct. Rtes. 70&72. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

OCT 12 (Sun) Social Hike Hartshorne Woods Park. 6 miles moderate pace. We will hike a trail with hills and great view of Navesink River. Good physical condition and proper footwear recommended. Bring lunch and water with you. No pets or children. Contact leader for carpool/ caravan info meet at 10am at Buttermilk Valley Trailhead, Navesink Ave. off Rte. 36, Middletown NJ, Mon. Co. Leaders: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pis1@cccnj.net or Michelle & Ray Bradford 732-780-5661 (W)

OCT 18 (Sat) Ramapo Valley Country Reservation/Ringwood State Park. 12 mile loop from Scarlet Oak Pond to Mount Defiance. We'll go at a moderate but steady pace past several ponds through these two adjacent parks. Some slight ups and downs. Fall foliage colors should be beautiful this weekend. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 10 people. Bring hiking boots, lunch, snacks and plenty of water. 9:15 am start. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 (N)

OCT 18 (Sat) Width of New Jersey Bike Ride. About 90 miles from Trenton to Manasquan and back with an average speed of 15 mph. Includes a stop at Allaire State Park. Meet at 7:45 AM in the parking lot next to the William Trent House in Trenton. William Trent Place is off Market Street and across from the Hugh Justice Complex - please use Williamtrenthouse.org to obtain directions. Joint ride with the Princeton Freewheelers. Precipitation cancels. Leader: Ken Mayberg, kjmayberg@aol.com or (609) 443-9138 for questions (C)

OCT 18 (Sat) Social Kayak Trip. Last one of season, only if there is water. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after trip. Call leader to reserve space. Meet by 9:30 am at Bel-Haven canoe rentals, on Rte. 542, Green Bank, Burl. Co., 8 miles E. of Hammonton. Great fall color trip. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

OCT 19 (Sun) Southern Harriman State Park. 10-12 mile loop past several lakes with some good view points. Some slight ups and downs. Fall foliage colors should be beautiful this weekend. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 10 people. Bring hiking boots, lunch, snacks and plenty of water. 9:15 am start. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 (N)

OCT 19 (Sun) Autumn Colors Hike at Blue Mountain Lakes. Come and see the AUTUMN COLORS along the Kittatinny Ridge. We will hike about eight miles at a moderate pace on the Kittatinny Ridge. Highlights include pretty lakes and several excellent viewpoints. Hiking boots are required. Please bring a windbreaker and your camera. Meet BEFORE 10am at the Blue Mountain Lakes parking area. Take Exit 12 on Rte. 80. Drive into Blairstown on Rte. 521 North. Turn left at the Rte. 94 junction. Then, turn right at the traffic light (leave Rte.s 94 and 521). Take County Road 602 for about seven miles to Millbrook (not Stillwater). Turn right at Millbrook Village and go about 1.5 miles to the Crater Lake sign. Turn right and watch for the Blue Mountain Lakes parking area. Rain or threat of rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

OCT 19 (Sun) Social Hike Washington's Crossing State Park, PA. 6 miles moderate pace. Hike historic trails through rolling wooded hills. No pets or children. Bring picnic type food for tailgate social after the hike. Meet by 9am at rear parking lot of Hilton Hotel, Rte. 70 Cherry Hill to carpool/caravan or meet at 10am at Park HQ on Rte. 32, on the PA side. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

OCT 25 (Sat) Social Hike in Jenny Jump State Forest. Enjoy the fall colors as we 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). At the end of ramp, proceed left on Rte. 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, joyce00201@yahoo.com (L)

OCT 26 (Sun) Autumn Colors Hike In Harriman State Park. Come and see the AUTUMN COLORS in Harriman State Park. We will hike ten miles at a moderate pace near West Mountain. Highlights include excellent views and the famous Timp Torne. Hiking boots are required. Please bring extra water, a windbreaker and your camera! This trip is for experienced hikers or very physically fit beginners only. Meet BEFORE 10am at the Silvermine Ski Area on Seven Lakes Drive. Drive north on the Garden State Parkway (or Rte. 287 North) and take the Rte. 17 exit from the left lane. Proceed north on Rte. 17 into New York. Immediately after the town of Sloatsburg, turn right on Seven Lakes Drive. The Silvermine Ski Area is about thirteen miles up Seven Lakes Drive. Rain or threat of rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

OCT 26 (Sun) Social Hike Hawk Mountain. 7 miles moderate pace with hills. Hike Hawk Mt. Bird Sanctuary, Hamburg, PA. Observe a variety of hawks and other migratory birds in natural 7:30 am setting. Spectacular views of the valley and ridge. Bring binoculars. No pets or children. Optional family style dinner at a local eatery after hike. Meet by 7:30 am in rear parking lot of Hilton Hotel, Rte. 70 Cherry Hill to carpool/caravan. Or meet at Hawk Mt visitors center at 9:30. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

OCT 31-NOV 2 (Fri-Sun) Catskill Mountain Fall Hiking Weekend, Alpine Inn. Hikers can explore and photograph the scenic mountain beauty of the miles of spectacular state-maintained trail system covering this mountain range. Several hiking trips offered are rated from the easiest to more difficult. In the evening, by fireside, we plan a great mountaineering color slide program and/or magic show. Excellent accommodations and gourmet food! Total cost for 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner and one trail lunch with all taxes & gratuities is \$195. This is a joint trip of the AMC, Sierra Club and UCHC. Leader: Al Tatyrek (973) 763-2303 (no calls after 10). Send SASE with \$100 deposit to co-leader and registrar. Balance of payment is due upon arrival at the Alpine Inn. Registrar & Co-leader: Peter Beck, H (973) 625-4191, PO Box 267, Wharton, New Jersey 07885, www.petebeck.freelyellow.com/catskills (E)

NOVEMBER

NOV 1 (Sat) Social Hike/Clean-up in Harriman State Park. We will hike 3 to 4 miles of somewhat rocky terrain in and around Lake Skannatati at a leisurely pace. Have fun and do a good deed as we make this scenic lake more scenic by getting rid of litter. Highlights include the rugged beauty of Harriman & Lake Skannatati. Work gloves will be provided. 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 parking lot for Lake Skannatati and Lake Askoti on Seven Lakes Drive. Drive north on the Garden State Parkway to exit 163 (or I-287 North) and take the Rte. 17 exit. Proceed north on Rte. 17 into New York. Immediately after the town of Sloatsburg, turn right onto Seven Lakes Drive. The parking area is about 8 miles up Seven Lakes Drive, just after on Kanawaukee Circle. Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce White at (908) 272-4478, joyce00201@yahoo.com (L)

NOV 2 (Sun) Social Hike Tyler SP in PA. 6-9 miles at moderate pace. We will hike gravel and paved trails that are often hilly and reveal much of what Bucks Co. is known for: rolling hills, open fields and stone farmhouses. We hike through a restored covered bridge Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social. Meet by 10am at boat pavilion. From Phila, take Rte. 95 north to Newtown-Yardley exit 49, then drive west on the four-lane bypass around Newtown. The park entrance is at the intersection of Swamp Road and Rte 413 bypass. No pets or children. Call leader for carpool/caravan info. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

NOV 8 (Sat) Recycle a House - Volunteer Activity. We will help Habitat for Humanity rebuild a row home. This is a way to give back to the community and create a positive image for the club. Bring lunch, water and boots. Meet 8am 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)

NOV 8 (Sat) Social Bike Ride. Moderate pace 10-15 miles on firm and sandy roads with frequent stops. Good for beginners/intermediate riders. Mountain or hybrid bikes only. Meet by 10am 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 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

NOV 8 (Sat) Social Moonlight Hike, Campfire & Campout. 6 miles moderate pace. Enjoy fall hiking and camping as we hike firm roads lit by moonlight. Camping available both Friday and Sat. nights. Call leader to reserve space. No pets or children. Please bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet by 7:30 pm at Group Campsite C, Bass River SF off Stage Rd., 6 miles W. of Tuckerton or 3 miles N. of New Gretna, Burl. Co. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

NOV 9 (Sun) Highlands Hike in Norvin Green State Forest. We will hike about seven miles at a moderate pace in the Wyonokie Highlands. Scenery includes Wyonokie High Point and views of Wanaque Reservoir. Participants are encouraged to protect the threatened Wyonokies from development. Hiking boots are required. Meet BEFORE 10am 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 or threat of rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

NOV 15 (Sat) Wurtsboro Ridge. 10-12 miles on the Long Path at the southern end of the Shawagunks. This ridge trail provides great views of the Catskill Mountains, Minnewaska and Storm King. We may take a side excursion to the oldest mines in NY State. Due to the drive and length of the hike, this is a full day outing with an optional dinner stop after the hike. Carpools will be arranged if possible. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 10 people. Bring hiking boots, lunch, snacks and plenty of water. 10am start. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 (N)

NOV 16 (Sun) Southern Harriman State Park. Two half-day hikes can be combined for a full day. 6 mile easy loop starting at 9:30 follows beautiful streams, climbs to views of Lake Sebago, and down to Pine Meadow Lake for lunch and then hike back to Reeves Meadow Visitor Center. Afternoon 6 mile hike leaves Johnstown Circle by 1:30 and loops up to Claudius Smith's Den and back. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 10 people. Bring hiking boots, lunch, snacks and plenty of water. 9:15 am start. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 (N)

NOV 16 (Sun) Social Hike in Harriman State Park. We will hike eight miles at a moderate pace. Highlights include several viewpoints and beautiful Pine Meadow Lake. Hiking boots are required. Meet BEFORE 10am 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 from the left lane. 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 or threat of rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

NOV 16 (Sun) Social Bulls Island Hike. 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 the opposite side of the river. No pets or children. Call leader for carpool/caravan availability or meet at 10am at the second parking lot at the foot bridge over the river, Bulls Island SP on Rte. 29, 6 miles N. of Rte 202 bridge. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

NOV 16 (Sun) Assunpink Wildlife Refuge Slow Hike. About 6 to 7 miles at a slow pace. Take the Allentown-Hightstown Exit (Rte 539) on Rte 195 (towards Hightstown). Take Rte 539 North a few miles, just past the village of New Sharon, and turn right onto Herbert Road. Follow Herbert Road into Assunpink. Meet at the Conservation Building at 10am. Precipitation cancels. Leader: Ken Mayberg, kjmayberg@aol.com or (609) 443-9138 for questions (C)

NOV 22 (Sat) Minnewaska State Park. The leaves may be gone but the great views will still be there. 12 mile loop on combination of carriage roads and hiking trails, at a steady, moderate pace. Optional dinner stop in New Paltz. Carpools will be arranged if possible or we'll meet in New Paltz at 9:30 am and car pool from there. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 10 people. Bring hiking boots, lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 (N)

NOV 23 (Sun) Manasquan River Reservoir, Monmouth County (Special Interest: Birds). Enjoy an easy 5-mile circular hike on one of the largest reservoirs in the area. We may observe waterfowl. Bring drinks, snacks, bird books and binoculars. Hiking shoes are not required. Great hike for families. Meet at 9am at the main entrance to the reservoir on Windeller Road. Take GSP to exit 98. Head west on I-195 to exit 28 (Rte. 9). Go north on Rte. 9, take the first right onto Windeller Road. Continue to the main entrance which is 1.5 miles on your left. Meet in the parking area at the far left toward the back. Bad weather cancels. Confirmation/questions please call. Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

NOV 23 (Sun) Social Hike Wissahickon Gorge. 8 miles moderate pace over hills. Hike the Gorge in late fall with its' spectacular views. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. No pets or children. Meet by 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 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

DECEMBER

DEC 6 (Sat) Singles Moonlight Hike and Campfire. 6 miles moderate pace. Hike the Pines under the Cold Moon and return to a campfire. 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 1 miles, go to Goshen Pond Group site sign turn left go to camping area, look for OCSJ. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

DEC 7 (Sun) Highlands Hike at Mahlon Dickerson Reservation. We will hike about four miles in a scenic area of northern Morris County. Another short hike is available afterwards. Hiking boots are required. Please bring warm clothing, water, lunch and a small backpack. Meet BEFORE 10am at the picnic area parking lot. Take Rte. 80 West to Exit 34B for Rte. 15 North. Drive about four miles on Rte. 15 North to the Weldon Road exit. Then, follow Weldon Road about four miles to the picnic area, which will be a left turn past the trailer and tent camping areas. Rain or threat of rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

DEC 13 (Sat) Patriots Path/Black River Trail. 7 mile hike along the historic Patriots Path in Chester. The portion along the Black River is especially beautiful. We'll meet at 10am at the Kay Environmental Center. Directions will be provided. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 10 people. Bring hiking boots, lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Heavy rain or snow cancels. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 (N)

DEC 13 (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 8am 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)

DEC 14 (Sun) Ramapo Valley Country Reservation/Ringwood State Park. 10 mile loop from Scarlet Oak Pond to Pierson Ridge. We'll go at a moderate but steady pace past several ponds through these two adjacent parks. Some slight ups and downs. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 10 people. Bring hiking boots, lunch, snacks and plenty of water. 9:15 am start. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 (N)

(continued on page 16)

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