

The Jersey..... SIERRAN

Vol. 33, No. 1

Roughly 20,000 Members in New Jersey

January-March 2004

State Elections Wrapup

by Rich Isaac, Chapter Political Chair

The Democrats historic winning of additional seats in the State Legislature, after taking the governorship two years earlier — the first time in almost 50 years this has been done — means that one party now has full responsibility for governing, and for dealing with the State's many environmental problems.

And it is certainly time to deal with environmental issues. New Jersey, the most densely populated state in the nation, needs to improve its air quality, stop uncontrolled sprawl, protect its watersheds, steep slopes, and fragile coastal areas; clean up its brownfields, and require medical coverage to include contraceptives. Almost all of the legislation the Club supports has been stalled for the last two years, and the Governor has yet to fulfill many of the commitments that he made to the Club when he ran for Governor in 2001.

The Governor, his staff, and the Democrats should know that the Club wants—as it has for years—the following:

- California Level-2 auto emissions standards
- Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) linked with the State Plan
- Legacy legislation to preserve the New Jersey Highlands
- Closing the loophole which still allows 24-Unit developments in fragile coastal areas
- Stronger watershed protection
- Steep slope protection
- Property Tax Reform to deal with one of the major reasons for uncontrolled sprawl
- Medical health plans to include contraceptive coverage
- Public opposition to the proposed Delaware Deepening Brownfield Redevelopment

Regarding the actual outcome of the elections, the Club did fairly well. In the State Assembly races, 25 of the 32 candidates we endorsed won; in the State Senate races, 9 of the 12 candidates we endorsed were victorious.

Below is the list of candidates who we endorsed in 2003 and who won with our support. Club members are encouraged to get to know them. ☺

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

| | |
|---|-------|
| Integrated Program in Ecuador a Success Story | 2 |
| New Website for Highland Protection | 2 |
| Resolutions Adopted by ExCom in Sept-Nov 2003 | 2 |
| Chair's Message: W(h)ither Membership?..... | 3 |
| Vice-Chair's Message: Unanswered Questions..... | 3 |
| Report From The Chapter Legislative Committee..... | 3 |
| Conservation Director's Report..... | 4 |
| National Sierra Club Opposes The Bush Administration | 4 |
| Letter to Editor: Response: Cats Indoors..... | 5 |
| Your Chance To Lobby | 5-6 |
| Horseshoe Crab Hearing | 5 |
| Issue Coordinator's Report: A Bright Future Indeed..... | 5 |
| Group News..... | 6-10 |
| Outings | 10-12 |
| Membership Form..... | 12 |

SIERRA CLUB ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR STATE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE

Sierra Club members volunteered for many of these campaigns, and our Political Committee Chair, Rich Isaac deserves praise for his work in overseeing the endorsement process. To quickly sum up, 9 of the 12 our endorsed Senate candidates won (75%), and 25 of our 32 endorsed State Assembly candidates won (78%). Our toughest loss was probably with Geist in the 4th.

| Senate/ Dist. | 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 | S | R* | Diane Allen + |
| 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 | S | D | Thomas Zelante |
| 26 | S | R* | Robert Martin + |
| 26 | A | D | Laurie Fierro |
| 27 | A | D* | John McKeon + |
| 31 | A | D | Louis Manzo + |
| 31 | A | D | Anthony Chiappone + |
| 34 | A | D* | Peter Eagler + |
| 35 | A | D* | Nellie Pou + |
| 37 | A | D* | Loretta Weinberg + |
| 38 | A | G* | Matt Ahearn |
| 38 | A | R | Lou Tedesco |
| 39 | A | R* | John Rooney + |
| 39 | A | R* | Charlotte Vandervalk + |
| 40 | A | R* | David Russo + |

* Incumbent
+ = Win

BEARS VS. HUMANS, A DIALOG:

In early November, 2003, DEP Commissioner Brad Campbell justified a bear-hunting season in New Jersey in an op-ed article published widely: "The bear population is just too large, their range is expanding too quickly, and history shows that the public risk is too great. . . We are partnering with the Humane Society of the United States quickly to develop a contraceptive approach to controlling the population."

Response from our Bonnie Tillery: "Substitute human for bear."

MEETING WITH THE GOVERNOR



On October 17, our Chapter's Executive Committee (including Group Chairs) and staff enjoyed a hearty breakfast with Governor McGreevey, DEP Commissioner Campbell and the Governor's Environmental Policy Advisor, Curtis Fisher, at Drumthwacket, the Governor's mansion, in Princeton. (Left to right: Dennis Anderson, Gina Carola, Dick Colby, Laura Lynch, George and Joan Denzer, Jeff Tittel, Paul Sanderson, Ed Pfeiffer, Governor McGreevey, Bob Johnson, Michel Cuillerier, Sunil Somalwar, Ken Johanson, Mary Penney, Ruth Prince, Steve Knowlton, Kelly McNicholas and Dennis Schvejda.)

LOCAL OPEN SPACE QUESTIONS

In addition to Public Question #1, which passed with 65% of the vote, 37 local questions were posted - 7 failed: Clifton, Hopewell Township, Millstone, Milltown Borough, Monmouth Beach, West Cape May, West Milford - 30 passed - an over 80% success rate.

Two counties, Hudson & Bergen, had

open space questions, both passed. Now every NJ County has an open space fund!

For details on all these open space question, visit the Trust for Public Land's website:

http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cdl.cfm?content_item_id=12786&folder_id=2406#NewJersey ☺



WINNING PUBLIC QUESTION #1

This photo was taken Wednesday, November 5 at a press event and celebration of the passage of Public Question #1 in Fort Lee. From Left to right: Hugh Carola (Hackensack Riverkeeper), Mayor Jack Alter of Fort Lee Borough, Jeff Tittel (Sierra Club Chapter Director), Dave Pringle (NJ Environmental Federation), Alison Mitchell (NJ Conservation Foundation), Gil Hawkins (Hudson River Fishermen's Association), Bill Sheehan (Hackensack Riverkeeper), Governor McGreevey, DEP Commissioner Campbell, Michael Catania (Conservation Resources Inc.), Bill Foelsch (Exec. Director of the NJ Recreation & Park Association), David Epstein (Morris Land Conservancy), Charlie Kuperus (NJ Secretary of Agriculture), Gary Rice (Green Acres Program), Dennis Schvejda (Sierra Club Chapter Conservation Director). Passage of Public Question #1 was a Chapter priority and allows the state to spend an additional \$150 million on open space acquisition.

INTEGRATED PROGRAM IN ECUADOR A SUCCESS STORY (Part I)

by Bonnie Tillery, our Population Issues Coordinator

In mid-August, 13 people met in a Miami hotel room. They came from across the United States: from Georgia, Minnesota, Texas, Wisconsin, Oregon, Missouri, Florida, New Jersey, California and Washington, D.C. Their mission: to see how family planning programs are helping protect the environment in Ecuador. This is the first in a series of articles that will talk about that experience.

Some of us knew others in the group, but for the most part we were strangers to each other. As we introduced ourselves and told a little bit about why we were involved in the issue of population, it became increasingly clear that most saw a growing human population as the key issue to sprawl and reduction of the open space we all hold so dear. Funded by a grant, we were headed for Quito, the capital of Ecuador, and a life-changing experience.

As we tried to acclimate ourselves to Quito's almost 10,000 foot altitude (second highest capital in the world), we attended meetings with leaders from the integrated programs we would be seeing in the field. Teresa de Vargas is Executive Director and one of the founders of CEMOPLAF (Centro Medico de Orientacion y Planificacion Familiar - Medical Center for Family Planning and Orientation), a non-governmental organization (NGO) that has been providing family planning and basic healthcare for 30 years. The program started in the cities, but need for expansion to the indigenous, or native communities in the rural areas was seen. Rural outreach was unsuccessful until a unique partnership was formed with World Neighbors, another NGO based in Oklahoma City, which works with poor rural communities around the world. Like CEMOPLAF, World Neighbors trains people with the tools they want and need in order to build responsible, healthy, self-reliant communities.

When I asked Teresa de Vargas why she got involved in family planning pro-

grams, she said it was because of the tremendous poverty she saw in families with 11 and more children, where the parents were unable to provide sufficient food, shelter and basic healthcare. "Pro-familia"-for the family-was the response from Carmen Acosta de Pozo from CEMOPLAF who traveled with us.

World Neighbors and CEMOPLAF do not go into the rural communities and say, "this is what you need." They listen to communities concerns and work with them through one health volunteer and one agricultural volunteer chosen by each community.

These workers come from the rural areas to learn and bring back techniques in such programs as how to fertilize the soil, the importance of crop rotation, home gardens to improve diet, green manure, windbreaks to stop erosion and other techniques. And, just as taking care of the soil and spacing plants in order to grow healthy crops is important, so it is important to take care of the family and space the children so that they will grow healthy and strong.

In each urban clinic we visited, in each rural community we traveled to, we saw charts that tracked the progress of the programs and what was working to better the health of the community. One of the people traveling with us said that she reviews statistical information like this all the time, but that the results presented at the CEMOPLAF clinics were indeed impressive, with the number of children in families decreasing to five or less, and the survival rates and health of those children increasing.



Participants in the study tour to Ecuador included population issue volunteers from various states along with Sierra Club staff and our Ecuadorian guides. Pictured from left to right, front row: Bonnie Tillery, New Jersey; Annette Souder, staff, Sierra Club Global Population and Environment Program; Sarah Fairchild, staff, Sierra Club Global Population and Environment Program; Julio Beingolea, World Neighbors Ecuador Director; 2nd row: Todd Daniel, Georgia; Ramona Rex, Oregon; Kathleen Sullivan, Florida; Gayle Loeffler, Texas; Carmen Acosta de Pozo, CEMOPLAF; 3rd row: Steve Mills, staff, Sierra Club; Jennifer Swan, Missouri; Marilyn Snell, editor/writer, Sierra Magazine; Larry Fahn, President, Sierra Club; Ned Grossnickle, Wisconsin; Laura Kelnhofer, Minnesota.

The integrated program in Ecuador is working to help families have a healthier life. To see that this success story continues, write to your representatives in Washington and tell them you want funding for USAID programs that include family planning; tell them you want us to keep our funding commitment to UNFPA - the United Nations Family Planning Program - so that women and their families around the world can have better lives; tell them that if we want to export democracy, we have to repeal the Global Gag Rule that restricts free speech. The individual agricultural and healthcare workers in the communities have made a difference and you can make a difference too. Write today. ☞

(In forthcoming articles, we will get out of the meeting room and into the communities, find out the importance of water, and learn about programs for youth. For more impressions about the Ecuador study trip, also see the article by Marilyn Snell in the January issue of Sierra Magazine, as well as going to <http://www.sierraclub.org/population/reports/summer03/>.)

(Bonnie Tillery was honored recently by a Resolution of the State Assembly, proposed by Assemblyman Gary Guear and Assemblywoman Linda Greenstein (both of District 14 - Mercer and Middlesex Counties), which paid "tribute to her meritorious record of service, leadership, and dedication in benefit of our environment...")

New Website for Highlands Protection

by Dennis Schvejda

Visit <http://www.state.nj.us/highlands/>. Here you will find the following and more!

- Find the Public Hearing Nearest You
- Give Your Comments to the Task Force
- Take the Highlands Survey
- Task Force Members
- Public Hearing and Task Force Work Session Dates
- Task Force Goals
- Task Force Committees
- Highlands Task Force Executive Order

The most important page is <http://www.state.nj.us/highlands/tfcomments.htm>, where you can submit comments to the Highlands Task Force. ☞

Sierra Club Members:

10% off everyday

BLUE RIDGE
mountain sports • brms.com

Princeton Shopping Center
Princeton • 921-6078

23 Main Street
Downtown Madison • 377-3301

Regular priced, in-stock items, excludes boats.
Cannot be combined with other discounts or offers.

Resolutions adopted by ExCom in Sept - Nov 2003

Additional political endorsements: Legislative candidates for the November general election:

Diane Allen (Senate, District 7), Anthony Chiappone (Assembly, District 31), Nelly Pou (Assembly, District 35), Lou Tedesco (Assembly, District 38). (September)

Joining a Coalition concerned with Black Bears: We took steps to join the "Coalition to Protect Black Bears in NJ", under conditions that allow us to satisfy National Sierra Club guidelines. (September)

Restricting development in Bloomfield: The Chapter opposed any development in the Scientific Glass/Liongate and Desimone/Petriella sites, and supported full remediation of the brownfields on these tracts and the purchase of this land for open space to include a park for the citizens of Bloomfield to enjoy. (September)

Light rail in Essex County: The Chapter supported the appointment of a commission by Essex County government to review light rail projects that have been built within the last decade in this country, and explore possible sources of funding for increasing light rail transit within the County. We suggested that this commission consist of

representatives of the County Administration, the Board of Freeholders, the Essex County Improvement Authority, the New Jersey Association of Railroad Passengers, and the Sierra Club. (September)

Opposing Development on and near Hamburg Mountain: The Chapter authorized attorney Edward Lloyd to settle litigation involving proposed development in Sussex County, consistent with the General Development Plan approved by the Vernon Township Planning Board. (October)

Opposing Designations of Vernon and Sparta as Growth "Centers": The Chapter retained the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic to represent it, pro bono, in appealing an action taken by the New Jersey State Planning Commission. (October)

Challenging a Stream Encroachment Permit: We authorized the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic, on a pro bono basis, to challenge a permit for development of Castle Ridge in White Township, Warren County. (October)

Promoting "Green" (Cluster) Development in Hunterdon County: The Chapter supports preservation of open space by encouraging provisions for cluster development in the Hunterdon

GAS TAX TOO EXPENSIVE?

• Ownership of sports utility vehicles, typically the most expensive vehicles to drive, more than doubled in New Jersey between 1992 and 1997, the most recent years measured. New Jersey has one SUV for every 16 people.

• The average driver of a Ford Explorer SUV pays \$1,540 annually for gas, based on today's average gas price. In contrast, the owner of a Honda Accord pays roughly half that amount, or \$888 annually. The owner of Honda's gas-electric Civic Hybrid pays less still, about \$491 annually.

Credit to New Jersey Future (www.njfuture.org)

Walk Britain's Most Beautiful Landscapes.

\$50 Discount for Sierra Club Members

Join English Lakeland Ramblers, specialists since 1985 in guided tours of England's spectacular Lake District. Walk with us along the hills and dales of England's largest national park.

TOURS ALSO IN SCOTLAND & THE COTSWOLDS

ENGLISH LAKELAND RAMBLERS

For a free brochure:

18 Stuyvesant Oval #1A, New York, NY 10009

(800) 724-8801 • www.ramblers.com



County Growth Management Plan and in municipal master plans and development ordinances. Also state-of-the-art green building methods (Energy Star, solar, green storm and wastewater treatment, etc.) as a demonstration project

for the county. (November)

Requesting the DEP to Update Maps of Environmentally Sensitive Areas: Specifically in the Shore areas north of Old Bridge in Middlesex County. (November) ☞

Editorial W(h)ither Membership?

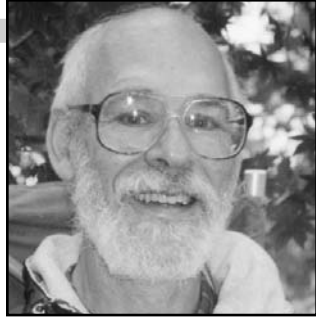
WHY IS THE SIERRA CLUB LOSING MEMBERS?

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

In past times of environmental crisis, Club membership has soared. The battle to preserve Hetch-Hetchy Valley, just north of Yosemite and today the reservoir for San Francisco, was one of the Club's founding struggles in the 1900s. The loss of Glen Canyon, on the Colorado River upstream from the Grand Canyon, brought in tens of thousands of new members in the 1960s. James Watt's atrocities as Secretary of the Interior under President Ronald Reagan (1980-88) tripled our national membership, getting us close to our first half million. In New Jersey, the battle in the 1970s opposing the damming of the Delaware River at Tocks Island (above the Water Gap) provided us with a start-up membership boost as our Chapter separated from what had been a single Northeastern States' Chapter.

So an interesting question is why the current US President, who is doing more damage to the environment than all previous presidents combined, isn't causing our membership to skyrocket! (If you haven't noticed, Bush's Energy Policy is to drill for more oil (and mine more coal) without environmental scruples; his Clean Air Policy is to dramatically increase air pollution in contravention of the Clean Air Act; his Forestry Policy is to log them; his global warming policy (rejection of the Kyoto protocol) threatens world climate change; his Toxics Policy is to abandon Superfund and exempt the military from cleanup responsibility, and other polluters from liability.)

Yet Chapter membership has fallen slightly in the past year. An editor's prerogative is to propose hypotheses for historical events, and to challenge the reader to offer evidence for or against



them, so here goes: (1) National security concerns surrounding 9/11/01 and Iraq have blinded Americans to the Administration's anti-environmental policies. (2) All politics being local, New Jerseyans just aren't seeing (and feeling) the damage Bush is doing. (3) Relatedly, the McGreevey (and previous New Jersey) Administrations have protected our State so well, environmentally, that we're not ready to take up arms (and checkbooks). (4) There's a subliminal cleverness to Bush's marketing strategies such that the environmental message is coming over whitewashed. E.g. perhaps his selection of Christine Whitman as EPA Administrator produced a wool-over-the-eyes effect. (5) Perhaps our membership loss is an artifact of the reduced presence, in the last year, of New Jersey "canvassers": college students hired by the Club to knock on suburban doors to solicit membership. (6) Or perhaps unemployment and income loss have reduced the "disposable" income that enables people to become (and remain) members. What do you think?

Whatever the explanation, I can report that heads are being scratched both at the Club's National office in San Francisco and at Chapter ExCom meetings in New Brunswick and Trenton, to understand the trend and to improve our marketing. Our effectiveness in public education and in legislative influence depends largely on our ability to hire professionals, and for that we need to maintain our membership dues base. Our new Chapter Membership Chair, Mike Herson, is on the job, as you can see from some of the modifications he has suggested for this Newsletter.

Special thanks are due to Steve Ember, Chapter Outings Chair for the past three years, who has turned the meticulous job of organizing our Outings Section over to Ellen Blumenkrantz. Go Ellen! ☺

Vice-Chair's Message UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

by Ken Johanson, Chapter Vice-chair
(KJohan@comcast.net)



As the Bush administration's unprecedented assault on the environment continues unchecked, I find that many of the same questions continue to run through my mind. Why are Bush and his advisors doing this? Perhaps they are merely trying to gain acceptance from their peers in the extractive industries. Perhaps they derive the same sort of satisfaction that a disturbed adolescent derives from vandalizing a neighborhood park (albeit on a somewhat larger scale). Or perhaps they are simply trying to maximize their short-term gain, without regard to the consequences of their actions on those around them and on future generations. But these men and women have children and grandchildren. Do they really believe that their wealth and power will somehow insulate their heirs from respiratory conditions, heart disease and countless other medical ailments that inexorably flow from reductions in the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink or the food we eat? Do they really believe that their children and grandchildren will not be affected by the massive shortages and civil disorder that are likely to occur as the world's population continues to explode and the world's resources continue to be consumed? Do they really believe that their children and grandchildren will be able to experience the same quality of life that they are able to experience once the effects of global warming have become more apparent and the biological diversity of the planet has been lost?

And why has the Bush administration been so successful in pursuing its anti-environmental agenda? Where is the questioning on the part of the public? Where is the sense of outrage? Where are the marches on the White House? Are we so consumed with economic issues, with the war in Iraq, with the threat of terrorism, with making sure that the words "under God" remain in the pledge of allegiance, that we do not have time to worry about the environment? Or is the word simply not getting through to the public? While it is true that The New York Times and a handful of other major newspapers continue to run articles and publish editorials on happenings within the Bush administration and Bill Moyers continues to pre-

sent well-documented and insightful programs on a broad range of environmental issues, these same issues are being largely ignored by most newspapers throughout the country, by network news programs (probably the most important source of news for most Americans), by elected officials from both parties who know or should know better and by a majority of our religious leaders. Why have so many of those who we rely upon to keep us informed and to provide us with direction abrogated their responsibilities?

I do not pretend to have the answers to any of the questions I have posed. But I do have some ideas on what to do about this sad state of affairs. I believe that our highest and most immediate priority must be to do all that we can to prevent Bush from being returned to the White House in 2005. In order to accomplish this goal we need to reach out to the public, to talk to friends, neighbors and family members, to write letters to the editor and to let our elected officials know how we feel. We need to let people know that the natural environment is under attack by the Bush administration and that the stakes are far higher than most of us realize. We need to return the environment to the nation's collective radar screen. But in doing so we also need to recognize that Bush may be vulnerable on a number of other fronts, not just the environment. While we are all dismayed by the Bush administration's environmental record, many of us are also concerned with what we view as fiscally irresponsible economic policies, a misguided war in Iraq, an erosion of our civil liberties, a go-it-alone international policy and a failure to address social issues. Each of us needs to identify those issues that are most important to us and to run with them. There have been signs in recent months that the Bush luster may be beginning to fade. We all need to dedicate ourselves to ensuring that this trend continues and that a new administration assumes the reigns of power in 2005. ☺

THANKS

from Gina Carola, our Delaware Deepening Issue Coordinator, on receiving a National Sierra Club "Special Achievement" Award at the Club's annual Dinner - on 27 Sept, in San Francisco:

Thanks to everyone for support these last few years as I battled the evil Corps of Alleged Engineers and the Delaware River Port Authority while they attempted to ruin my neighborhood. Especially to Jane Tausman and Steve Ember for nominating me and to Steve for documenting the campaign. In San Francisco it was nice to meet some of the movers and shakers that we see mentioned in the Sierra Magazine. Tina Schvejda took some photographs and, with Dennis Schvejda and Jane were great cheerleaders during my moment in the sun. I was pleased to be able to represent the NJ Chapter.

Also attending the banquet was Jim Stephens, Chair of the Delaware Chapter when the fight first started, and one of the original leaders.

REPORT FROM THE CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

by Ken Johanson, its Chair

The New Jersey Chapter's Legislative Committee is looking for help. The Committee examines bills that have been introduced in the New Jersey legislature and adopts positions on those that are likely to have an impact on the environment. The Committee also initiates legislation by developing legislative proposals and presenting them to sympathetic legislators. In order to maximize its effectiveness, the Committee maintains a bill table containing a brief description of each of the bills on which it has taken a position, and the current status of each bill. The bill table is sent to each legislator and posted on the

Chapter's Activist web site. The committee also assists the Chapter Director and Conservation Director in lobbying key legislators.

If you have an interest in legislation, this might be a great opportunity for you to get involved. The Committee generally meets one evening a month at the Chapter office in Trenton. Between meetings, Committee members review bills and transact other business via e-mail. If you think you might be interested, please contact the Committee's acting chair, Ken Johanson, for further information. Ken can be reached at kjo-han@comcast.net or 908-464-0442. ☺

Join the Sierra Club



Don't Get
Left Out
In the Cold...

Join Us!

Mail in the membership form on the back page.

Is there an environmental issue that we're MISSING? If so, please call or write to Club officers.

CONSERVATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Dennis Schvejda

Stopping the Bush Administration is the Sierra Club's number one priority for 2004. To carry out this effort we are seeking to align Club activities around three unifying strategic drivers: building one-on-one relationships, promoting visionary solutions, and hitting the Bush Administration hard where it hurts them most.

Building One-on-One Relationships. In the past we have encouraged all campaigns to reach out to key targeted audiences and engage the community in an environmental dialog. Under our new Building One-on-One Relationships approach we are adopting new tactics with two important long-term goals: 1) To create a much stronger neighborhood presence for the Club with a more personal "face," and 2) To build our volunteer and activist base in ways that also build strong social bonds between volunteers that help sustain activism.

Promoting Visionary Solutions. This is nothing new for our campaigns and programs, but sometimes we fail to lead with our solutions and communicate messages that are solutions-oriented. For example, while a campaign might have had a central goal of influencing some key decision-maker in Congress, a federal agency, or a corporation, we would like every campaign and program to strive to identify and highlight a solution that contrasts with a Bush Administration failure.

Hitting the Bush Administration Hard Where it is Weak. Most of our campaigns and programs do this instinctively, but in 2004 we need to be much more deliberate, much more visible, and much more effective. The Bush Administration and the Republican Congress have the votes to prevail on most issues in Congress, so participating in their forums—where they are strong—only gives them victories and makes us appear weak. So in our plans we do not want to devote major resources or energy to a losing legislative effort. What we want to do is to hit them hard in the press and in very public forums on the key issues where they are most vulnerable with the public.

Above is a VERY brief outline summarized from a memo sent to Club leaders by National Sierra Club. You'll be hearing much more and will be asked to contribute your ideas and efforts.

STAY INFORMED AND GET ACTIVE IN 2004!

The NJ Chapter makes it easy for you to stay informed and make a difference by responding to Action Alerts. Here are a few of our Internet tools...

SierraActivist.org Headline News - (<http://SierraActivist.org/news/>)

One of the best ways to stay up-to-date with environmental news is to subscribe to SierraActivist.org Headline News. Published M-F, this e-zine provides a daily guide to environmental news, with each item summarized and linked to the original article. Over 300 articles are posted each week!

Join Our Sierra Club New Jersey Chapter Action Network! — <http://ActionNetwork.org/SierraClubNJ/>

Almost 9,000 members of the NJ Sierra Action Network have sent over 315,000 letters (e-mails & faxes) to legislators. With just a click of the mouse, activists can make their voices heard. We mobilize our activists by e-mail, inviting you to weigh in when it counts by sending a personalized message to key policymakers—locally, nationally or around the world. Simply reply to that e-mail or click on the web site, personalizing a sample letter that is included. Action Network does the rest, sending handcrafted fax or e-mail messages to elected officials, corporate leaders and other important decision-makers.

A New Tool To Help You Contact Legislators

We've made it easy for you to find the contact information for your state and federal legislators. Simply visit <http://SierraActivist.org/contactofficials.php> and enter your zip code. Your legislator's contact info will appear, and you can send a message right from this page! We hope you'll use this tool often to contact your legislators about a host of issues.

ISSUE UPDATES

The Chapter works on a vast number of issues. Here's a handful of updates:

Public Questions: The Chapter, in partnership with other NJ environmental organizations, waged a campaign to encourage voters to support November Ballot Questions #1 and #2, and to vote NO on Public Question #3. To promote the first ballot question, the Chapter created a website, <http://VoteGreen.sierraactivist.org>. We were successful, since Public Question #1 was approved by a wide margin. New Jersey can now add an additional \$150 million towards protecting open space. The majority of these funds will go towards farmland preservation in the Highlands, and the creation and maintenance of urban parks. NJ voters also approved Public Question #2, which will help fund the cleanup of former industrial sites. Redeveloping these sites helps to revitalize existing urban areas, taking some of the pressure off sprawl development elsewhere in New Jersey. The Sierra Club opposed Public Question #3, thinking that these funds would promote

sprawl and aid developers and wealthy individuals at the expense of the environment. The measure passed, so we will keep a sharp eye on how these funds are spent—to help ensure the greatest good for the public.

New Jersey Members of Congress Act to Protect Clean Water: Twelve of our 13 New Jersey Congressmen, Robert Andrews, Mike Ferguson, Rodney Frelinghuysen, Rush Holt, Frank LoBiondo, Robert Menendez, Frank Pallone, Bill Pascrell, Donald Payne, Steve Rothman, Jim Saxton and Christopher Smith, joined 206 of their colleagues in asking President Bush not to change 30-year-old Clean Water Act rules to eliminate protection for small streams and wetlands. The letter challenges the Bush administration's initiative to limit the scope of the Clean Water Act. We are particularly grateful to Representative Jim Saxton, who helped initiate this letter, for sending the Bush administration a wake-up call: "Don't weaken the Clean Water Act" We are disappointed with Rep. Scott Garrett. He was the ONLY NJ Rep. not to sign the letter to Bush.

House Passes Flawed Energy Bill: The House of Representatives passed the Energy Bill, HR 6, by an overwhelming vote of 246-180. 10 New Jersey Representatives voted FOR the environment and against the bill: Andrews, Holt, LoBiondo, Menendez, Pallone, Pascrell, Payne, Rothman, Saxton and Smith. 3 voted AGAINST the environment and in favor of the bill: Ferguson, Frelinghuysen and Garrett.

NJ Delegation Says "NO" to Offshore Oil Drilling: One of the awful measures of that energy bill, in its original form, was offshore oil drilling. Fortunately, the House of Representatives rejected attempts to open America's coastal waters to oil drilling. The 229-182 vote, a "motion to instruct," directed House leaders to remove a provision to conduct an oil and gas "inventory" in protected areas of the Outer Continental Shelf. Every NJ Representative, (except Jim Saxton, who was on six-nation tour in the Middle East, and Scott Garrett) voted to protect New Jersey's coast.

Energy Bill Stopped in Senate: After failing to secure two votes necessary to overcome a filibuster, the Senate leadership has conceded defeat and will resume work on HR 6, "The Energy Policy Act of 2003," in January. The Sierra Club applauds New Jersey Senators Jon Corzine and Frank Lautenberg for remaining steadfast in their opposition!

NJ Reps. Vote to Protect America's Forests: The House of Representatives passed the so-called "Healthy Forests

and Restoration Act of 2003," HR 1904, by a vote of 286-140, and the Senate followed suit on a voice vote. Actually, the Bush Administration's "Healthy Forests Initiative" is a disguised plan to increase logging in National Forests. Congress has let politics and scare tactics drive a wild-fire policy that only serves the needs of the oil, gas and timber industry while ignoring the needs of communities. The NJ Chapter is proud to say that our NJ delegation wasn't fooled, every Rep. (except Frelinghuysen and Garrett) voted against HR 1904. Nationwide, only nine Republicans voted against the bill; four of them - Ferguson, LoBiondo, Saxton and Smith - are from NJ.

Bush Administration Declares Open Hunting Season on Endangered Species! Just when you think it can't get more surreal, it does. Under the guise of "sustainable use," the Bush administration has proposed gutting the Endangered Species Act to allow circuses, zoos, trophy hunters, leather importers and the pet industry to be able to traffic in endangered species—dead or alive—from foreign countries. On short notice (of only a day and a half), over 1,000 NJ Sierra Action Network members took action and sent comments to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, where the rule remains under review.

President Bush Urged To Conserve Wild Salmon! Representatives Blumenauer, Petri and Shays, circulated a Dear Colleague letter, asking President Bush to use the full power of his office to restore endangered wild salmon runs on the Snake River. Even though we only had a day to work this one - we reached our goal of over 100 signatures! We finished with 113 signatures, including Andrews, Ferguson, Holt, Menendez, Pallone, Pascrell, Payne, Rothman, and Smith from NJ.

This is a small sample of the issues Chapter staff and volunteers have worked on. By subscribing to SierraActivist.org Headline news, joining our Action Network, and attending Group meetings, you will be well informed and will have PLENTY of opportunities to make a difference!

Join me at High Mountain. I'm beginning a series of "Director's Hikes." We will visit an endangered area, see the sights and talk about what needs to be done to protect it. The first will be at High Mountain in Passaic County. See the Hike Schedule (March 14) for details. ☺

ALVIN AILEY DANCE COMPANY

SIERRA CLUB THEATRE OUTING FUNDRAISER

Saturday Evening, May 8, 2004

We've reserved a limited number of prime orchestra tickets to see the Alvin Ailey Dance Company at the NJ Performing Art Center in Newark, NJ. America's premier modern dance company fuses modern, African and jazz techniques with an unparalleled grace, passion and artistry.

Dinner at a great Portuguese restaurant in the nearby Ironbound district is included.

Cost is \$115 per person, including dinner, performance and donation to the Sierra Club.

Mail check, payable to The Sierra Club, to Ellen Blumenkrantz, 43 Carlson Court, Closter, NJ 07624.

For more information contact Ellen at eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com or home: 201-784-8417.

National Sierra Club Opposes the Bush Administration

On 3 November, the Club's San Francisco main office began electronic publication of "RAW: The Uncooked Facts of the Bush Assault on the Environment." RAW is a twice-weekly e-mail update to help you stay sane as the Bush Administration dismantles decades of environmental progress. Sign up for RAW and every Monday and Wednesday, for the next year, you'll be provided with facts, figures, quotes and humor that show how and why this Administration has the worst environmental record in history. If you're tired of trying to explain what's not healthy about "Healthy Forests," and what's not clear about "Clear Skies," RAW is here to help. Sign up today for regular RAW updates at <http://www.sierraclub.org/raw> and pass this information along to friends who believe there's a better way!

Here's just a quick taste of the kinds of information RAW is presenting: In late October Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) said that "the environmental extremists and their liberal friends in the press would have you believe that [President Bush] does not have a good record—environmental record, and he has the best record than any president in history." RAW thinks the Senator might be a little confused—and not just about grammar. To give him some perspective, our crack research team dug up just a few facts about some prominent Republican presidents and their environmental records as compared with President Bush's:

FORESTS: * Theodore Roosevelt - created approximately 151,000,000 acres of National Forest (<http://www.theodoreroosevelt.org>). * George W. Bush - weakened protections for millions acres of roadless areas

in National Forests (<http://www.sierraclub.org/forests/roadless>).

CLEAN AIR AND WATER: * Richard Nixon—signed into law both the Clean Air (1970) and Clean Water Acts (1972). * George W. Bush—already significantly weakened the Clean Air Act and has announced plans for weakening the Clean Water Act (<http://www.sierraclub.org/cleanair>) and (<http://www.sierraclub.org/cleanwater>).

TOXIC WASTE: * Ronald Reagan - reauthorized the Superfund program, requiring polluting industries to pay for the cleanup of toxic waste sites in 1986. * George W. Bush - Opposes re-authorizing the Superfund program, which ran out of money last month—thus leaving taxpayers with the bill for cleaning up polluters' toxic waste. (<http://www.sierraclub.org/toxics/superfund>).

To get future issues of RAW, visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/raw> ☺

THANK YOU if you responded to our annual Chapter Appeal for Funds.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Response to

"CATS INDOORS"

(An article in our last issue, supplied by the New Jersey Audubon Society, advocating that wildlife would benefit from keeping cats indoors):

I write on behalf of homeless cats who would be adversely affected by the "Cats Indoors!" campaign. These cats, who are the result of both the failure to spay/neuter and cat abandonment, have been erroneously blamed for the decline of birds and other wildlife.

It has been proven that declining wildlife populations result from habitat loss and fragmentation caused by development and other human activities, not cats. Wildlife biologist Roger Tabor is quoted as saying, "The clear leading animal that's really putting wildlife at risk is the human population. We just don't like to acknowledge that it is our fault. It's not a case of the cat being the worst offender. It isn't even remotely the worst offender. It's us." Moreover, conservation groups and government biologists estimate that communica-

tions towers kill up to 50 million birds a year.

Even where cats might be observed hunting, killing the cats fails to address this issue. Traditional trap and kill schemes have historically resulted in greater numbers of stray animals than have well-planned systems to trap, alter, and return cats. The latter method stabilizes numbers and facilitates the eventual elimination of colonies of homeless cats.

Shell Sullivan, The Animal Spirit,
PO Box 237, Manalapan NJ 07726
www.theanimalspirit.com

(The Animal Spirit, established by Mr. Sullivan in 1999, is a grassroots, not-for-profit, volunteer-based project dedicated to furthering Animal Rights and Animal Rescue through education.)

YOUR CHANCE TO LOBBY!

Here's your opportunity to send a letter on an environmental issue to a State official.

This material was circulated by Steve Knowlton to members of our Jersey Shore Group.

The Shore Group conducts a monthly letter-writing session, known as "Green Night."

GREEN NIGHT - NOVEMBER 2003

Items for your consideration:

1. Support Clean Car Bill
2. Support Traffic Circulation Bill
3. Support Gas Tax - But Only for Mass Transit and Road Repair
4. Support Bill to Fund Water Projects - Senate Bill 169, Assembly Bill 3091

1. Clean Car Bill

There is a good chance for the bill to pass early in 2004, if it hasn't already done so in the December lame duck session.

These bills would adopt phase II of the low emission program being implemented in California. They would require the most stringent auto emissions standards available for new cars sold in New Jersey, estimated to help reduce toxic air pollution, particulates, and ozone precursor emissions by 25 to 40% over the next twelve years. Because car and truck emissions are the single largest source of air pollution in the state, any long-term solution to our air quality woes will depend on a switch to inherently cleaner cars such as those promoted by this legislation.

In the Senate, the bill has 26 sponsors and cosponsors. The identical bill in the Assembly has 54 sponsors and cosponsors. (There are 40 Senators and 80 Assembly members.) It should pass if it ever reaches the floor.

In January 2002, both bills (Senate Bill 121, Assembly Bill 409) were referred to committee, in the Assembly, to the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee (chairman, Assemblyman Reed Gusciora (D)), and in the Senate to Senate Environment Committee (chairman, Joseph Suliga (D), Robert McNamara (R).

According to Trenton Times (5/16/03), after no action in the Senate Environment Committee, Senators Bennett and Adler introduced a nearly identical bill and got the Transportation Committee to hear it. This is Senate Bill 2351.

Versions of the bill are now in the Senate and Assembly appropriations committees. The chair of the Assembly Committee is Bonnie Wilson Coleman (D), the chairs of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee are Senators Robert Littel (R) and Wayne Bryant (D).

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write to:

a. Your Assemblymen and Assemblywomen,

b. The Assembly Committee Chairwoman, Bonnie Watson Coleman, 226 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608, AswWatsonColeman@njleg.org.

c. The Senate committee chairmen - Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, Senator Robert Littel (R), P.O. Box 328, Franklin, NJ 07416-0328, SenLittel@njleg.org, and Wayne Bryant, Esq., (D), 501 Cooper Street, Camden, NJ 08102-1240, SenBryant@njleg.org.

d. The Governor, by Internet, <http://www.state.nj.us/governor/gov-mail.html>.

e. Senator Richard Codey, Democratic President of the Senate, 449 Mount Pleasant Ave., West Orange, NJ 07079, SenCodey@njleg.org.

f. Speaker Albio Sires, Speaker of the Assembly, 303 58th St., West New York, NJ 07093.

Ask them to see that the Clean Car bill moves forward and is posted for a vote, and to vote for the bill. Use the term Clean Car to identify the bill.

Jeff Tittel, our Chapter Director, recommends that you write to Senator Ronald Rice, 1044 South Orange Avenue, Newark, NJ 07106,

2. Support Traffic Circulation Bill, Assembly Bill 3028, Senate Bill 2093

These bills would empower a municipality to control the traffic impact of new developments. They require that new projects comply with the town's circulation plan. Municipalities would not have to have a circulation plan, but if they adopted one, then they could insist that new projects comply with it. If the development did not comply, the municipality could deny approval for the project. Presently, developers' only obligation is to get the new residents safely out at the entrance to the project.

On May 8, 2003, the bill was reported out of a Senate committee. In the Assembly, the bill is still in committee.

(continued on page 6)

ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Meadowlands Update:

A BRIGHT FUTURE, INDEED

By Captain Bill Sheehan and Hugh Carola, Meadowlands Issues Coordinators

It is fitting that this update be printed in this, the last issue of the Jersey Sierran for 2003 because this year has certainly proven to be a true "watershed year" for this unique urban wilderness. An incredible number of these have happened, are happening and will continue into 2004 but everything can all be distilled into two words: We Won.

Right now, the state of New Jersey is actively engaged in protecting every single acre of wetlands within the Meadowlands District — some 7,000 acres in all — along with the waterways that run through them. As you read this article, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission is in negotiations to purchase all remaining privately owned wetlands tracts within the District that encompasses all or part of 14 municipalities in Bergen and Hudson Counties. Once that's done, the Meadowlands Estuary Preserve will be dedicated — 8,400 acres of wildlife habitat and accessible open space for the people of New Jersey and the region.

If this sounds almost too good to be true, we understand how you feel. After all, a great deal of effort and energy was spent over the years by many of us in fighting in the Meadowlands — against the proposed Special Area Management Plan, against the Mills Corporation and against the agency formerly known as the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission. After all, it was just a few years ago that the then-HMDC was telling the environmental community, "You can never save it all" or "We're going to have to pave some wetlands in order to save some wetlands." Today, instead of facilitating development of wetlands, by the end of this year, the NJMC will have purchased nearly 1,000 acres for conservation, leaving only about 900 left to be acquired.

What caused the change? In a word, you did. You followed the lead of organizations like Hackensack Riverkeeper and NY/NJ Baykeeper and the leadership of the Sierra Club and made your voices heard. At hearings and in letters, faxes and e-mails, the voices of thousands of Sierra Club members joined with those of thousands of others across New Jersey and beyond. And our elected official listened. Together we've taught out leaders to value the Meadowlands the way we value the Pinelands, Highlands, Skylands or the Shore: as one of New Jersey's very special places.

Beginning with Acting Governor Donald DiFrancesco who signed the legislation changing the name of the Meadowlands Commission and continuing under the leadership of Governor McGreevey, New Jersey has come

around. Rep. Steve Rothman (D-9th & Sierra Club-endorsed) in whose district the Meadowlands lies is one of the most vocal supporters of its preservation and has made the establishment of the Preserve a priority of his tenure in the House of Representatives. State legislators and local leaders from both parties are beginning to embrace the idea of having America's greatest urban wildlife refuge right here in northeastern New Jersey. It's truly a new day in the Meadowlands.

Before we conclude, here are a few additional updates on Meadowlands issues:

Xanadu. The developer's Agreement between the Mills Corporation and the NJ Sports and Exposition Authority on this alternative to "Meadowlands Mills" was approved on December 3, 2003. Barring any last-minute challenges, construction is expected begin on already-developed lands surrounding the Continental Airlines Arena this spring.

The Empire Tract. This 600-acre wetland will be transferred to the state for conservation and inclusion in the Meadowlands Estuary Preserve when the construction of "Xanadu" begins.

EnCap Golf. Beginning next year, this company from Florida will begin closing and capping five "orphan landfills" in Rutherford, Lyndhurst and North Arlington totaling over 1,300 acres of former garbage dumps. Of that acreage, 1,200 will eventually be given over to four golf courses (2 public & 2 private). Residential and light commercial development will be built on the remaining acreage and approximately fifty acres of wetlands will be restored in that area. The company has also pledged to use integrated pest management, treated wastewater and captured stormwater in their Best Management Practices.

The Meadowlands Conservation Trust. This is the state-chartered entity whose mission is to acquire, hold and manage lands for conservation in the Meadowlands and throughout the Hackensack River Watershed. The Trust will hold the development rights to all 1,200 acres of EnCap's golf courses and a conservation easement on the Empire Tract. Finally, On December 1, 2003, our good friend and colleague Tina Schvejda took the reins as the Trust's first Executive Director. Please join with us in wishing her well.

One final note: we would not be surprised if at this time next year we were writing to invite you to the dedication of the Preserve sometime in the spring of 2005. Thank you for all that you've done to bring about this new day in the Meadowlands and stay tuned! ☺

Horseshoe Crab Hearing

By Dennis Schvejda

On 30 Oct the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) hosted a public hearing in Absecon, near Atlantic City. These hearings are always worth the time.

This particular hearing was not contentious or even overly long. I believe 12 folks testified, 7 enviros and 5 watermen.

Fred Akers testified on behalf of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association. I always appreciate Fred coming out to these hearings, and he has attended every one. Others speaking out were Tim Dillingham on behalf of the American Littoral Society & Delaware Riverkeeper, Eric Stiles for NJ Audubon, myself, and a few "unaffiliated" folks.

The focus of the hearing concerned enacting a horseshoe crab harvest level threshold for New Jersey and Delaware of

150,000 and closing the season from May 1 to June 7. New Jersey has enacted these as permanent regulations, so these ASMFC regs are an added level of protection.

There's more to the story on these regs... See our alert for much more information on the addendum to the rules and our recommendations.

Last year I reached out to Rep. Saxton to see if he would be interested in crafting legislation that is essentially a conservation buyout to retire NJ's horseshoe crab permits. He's interested. At the latest hearing I said as much during my testimony and invited watermen to work with me and our conservation colleagues towards that goal.

I must say this was well received and I spoke to a number of watermen. I'll keep everyone posted on our progress. ☺

CHANCE TO LOBBY

(Continued from page 5)

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write to your State Assembly Representatives and your Senator and ask for them to cosponsor the bill and vote for the bill.

3. Support Gas Tax - But Only for Mass Transit and Road Repair

In November a State commission recommended a 12.5 cent increase in the gasoline tax to fund repairs and improvements to New Jersey's roads. The danger is that the revenue will be used to finance new roads, taking sprawl to new places in New Jersey.

The current tax is 14.5 cents. The increase is needed because the current funding expires in June.

According to the Asbury Park Press (11/11/03), "In 1984, the state created the Transportation Trust Fund to finance long-term road and rail improvements. The method of raising the money expires in June 2004, and lame-duck lawmakers are to consider reauthorizing the fund before January. The trust fund's problem, said [Transportation Commissioner] Lettiere, is that starting in 2005, the whole \$805 million mix of gasoline, petroleum and sales taxes now constitutionally dedicated as transportation spending will be needed to make yearly payments on more than \$5.9 billion in road and rail debt. Construction and repairs would require more cash. Lettiere said an increase of 15 cents a gallon would let the state continue at its current pace. To address more of the state's transportation needs, a 32-cent increase would be required—an increase Lettiere isn't recommending. New Jersey has one of the nation's lowest gasoline taxes at 14.5 cents per gallon, including a 10.5-cent motor fuels tax and a 4-cent tax on petroleum refiners or distributors that is essentially passed to consumers. The state constitution dedicates most of that tax money to transportation, though not the trust fund itself. Nine times in 14 years, including this year, the state has diverted money from the trust fund to the yearly state budget. Lettiere said voters should be asked to amend the constitution again in November 2004 to ensure the money is deposited in the Transportation Trust Fund."

The tax in Pennsylvania is 25.9 cents, in New York, 29.7 cents. Press of Atlantic City (11/07/03).

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write to the Governor and your legislators, asking that the new taxes be used only for highway improvements and for mass transit, not for new highways.

4. Support Bill to Fund Water Projects - Senate Bill 169, Assembly Bill 3091

Here we have another repeat issue. In January 2002 Senator Bob Smith introduced Senate Bill 169, a bill that will provide needed funding for water supply protection in NJ by adding a tax on water sold by water purveyors. On November 18, 2002, a substitute bill was introduced. According to the substitute bill, the moneys in the Fund may be used for the following water resources and water quality projects: "(1) The costs of transferring water between public water systems during a state of water emergency or to avert a drought emergency in all or any part of the State; (2) The protection of existing water supplies through the acquisition of watershed and wetlands areas; (3) The maintenance of existing public open space in a manner which would be protective of water supplies; (4) The restoration of lakes, reservoirs, rivers and streams, and the establishment of new water impoundments; (5) The interconnection of existing water supplies, and the extension of water supplies to areas with contaminated ground water supplies; (6) The preparation by the DEP of a safe or dependable yield analysis of the State's surface and ground water sources; (7) The prevention of salt water intrusion into the State's surface and ground water sources; and (8) The preparation and adoption by the DEP of a water infrastructure protection plan to ensure the safety and security of all sources of potable water supply in this State."

It is expected that the new tax would provide \$11 million per year. The tax would be three cents per thousand gallons.

On November 18, 2002, the substitute bill left the Senate Environment and went to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. There has been no movement in the Assembly.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write to your State Senator and ask him to cosponsor this bill. Write to the chairman of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, Senator Robert Littel (R), P.O. Box 328, Franklin, NJ 07416-0328, SenLittel@njleg., or and Wayne Bryant, Esq., (D), 501 Cooper Street, Camden, NJ 08102-1240, SenBryant@njleg., and ask them to see that the bill is posted for a vote. Write to your Assembly representatives and ask them to sponsor the amended bill in the Assembly. ☺



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.

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 sehiker@yahoo.com or 732-926-8964.

LOCAL ISSUES:

The Chapter is appealing the State Planning Commission's recent center designations for Sparta, Vernon, Sandyston and Montague in Sussex County. These center approvals violate the State planning criteria, and occurred despite many procedural errors on the part of the Commission. More importantly, the designations will simply fuel sprawl in the Highlands, destroy rural hamlets, and degrade aquifer quality, C1 surface water quality, and threatened and endangered species habitat. For information contact Ruth Prince of the Hunterdon County Group (see below).

Another issue we have been involved with is the proposal 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 third 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.

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

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

Planning

We are involved with the development of the Hunterdon County Growth Management Plan, an effort that has been funded by the state DCA. The first draft of the plan will be available the first quarter of 2004. Since municipal representatives have been involved throughout this process, this plan may have some effect. We continue to attend the meetings and workshops, working on growth management goals and strategies language. The current draft plan is environmentally sound and ambitious. The plan emphasizes the need for carrying capacity analysis; innovative software that can look at many different scenarios will be available to the municipalities. We have also joined the 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.

Development

We have opposed several proposed DEP permits for groundwater allocation and stream encroachment throughout the county, based on technical and regulatory arguments. We continue to help in the Friends of Holland Highlands opposition to the proposed Shire Rd (Musconetcong Mountain) development, and have commented on the permit applications regarding wetlands and stream encroachment for the C1 Spring Mills Brook on the property. Our Hunterdon Coalition friends keep us informed on the status of the Milligan Farms NJDPES permit revocation, and other county situations.

Please let us know of any other county situations that need some attention!!

Education

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 201-968-0808 HCarola@optonline.net |

Conservation

Co-Chairs: Mike Herson 201-262-9472
mikeherson@hotmail.com
Tom Thompson 201-848-1080
Etrans743@aol.com

Membership Chair: Ellen Friedman
efric2003@yahoo.com

Outings Chair: Ellen Blumenkrantz
eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Political Chair: Open position

Publications Chair: Emily Stoecker 201-265-5889
MommieEmily2000@aol.com

Secretary: Open position

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

Highlands Committee: Open position!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/CONSERVATION MEETINGS: Held at least four times a year (once every quarter). For next date and location, contact Betsy Kohn, Mike Herson or Tom Thompson (see above).

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held at 7:30pm once a month on the days indicated below. For information or directions, contact Betsy Kohn (see above).

Jan 14: at the Clifton Public Library, 292 Piaget Avenue, Clifton, NJ 973-772-5500: We are the Sierra Club - an introduction (including video and handouts) to the Club's activities, conservation issues and hiking opportunities in northern New Jersey, with Group Chair Betsy Kohn.

Feb 12: location TBA: Making Local Government Responsive to the Environment - Conservation Co-Chair Mike Herson, drawing upon his planning board experience, will discuss the structures and functions of local government (mayor and council, planning and zoning boards, environmental and shade tree commissions, etc.), how citizens can participate in local decision-making, their rights ("right to know" and "right to be heard"), and how local government procedures affect the environment. (To find out meeting location, contact Betsy Kohn, see above.)

Mar 11: at the Pequannock Public Library, 477 Newark-Pompton Tpke, Pequannock Twp (Pompton Plains), NJ 973-835-7460: The Highlands: Treasures at Risk - a slide presentation by Wilma Frey, Project Coordinator of the Highlands Coalition, about the wilderness, wildlife, historic and recreational resources of the NJ Highlands, including a host of little known treasures such as the internationally significant migratory songbird habitat. With reports on the status of the Highlands Stewardship Bill, and state, interstate, local and private initiatives to protect the region.

HIGHLANDS COMMITTEE: Congratulations to Bill O'Hearn for his election to the Ringwood Town Council! Ringwood's gain, however, is this Committee's loss, as Bill is stepping down as Committee Chair. So we're looking for a volunteer (or volunteers) to pay attention to Highlands conservation issues. If you have some free time and would like get involved to protect this region and its water resources, or simply find out more about the Committee, please contact Betsy Kohn or Hugh Carola (see above).

LOCAL ISSUES: Protecting Sterling Forest from the proposed development of 103 luxury homes and a 575-acre golf course in the middle of this State Park ("the hole in the donut") remains a top priority. We're also watching the issues in West Milford and continue to confront suburban pressures to use woodlands for ballfields or school expansion. Some good news: the development threats to Mahrappo Horse Farm and 35 acres of Green Acres woodlands in Mahwah have subsided for the time being. To find out more or bring your community's issues to our attention, please contact Betsy Kohn, Mike Herson or Tom Thompson (see above).

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: There are lots of ways to help us protect North Jersey's environment. You can help identify, interview, endorse and work for environmental candidates for public office. Or you can work on conservation issues in the watersheds of the Hackensack and Ramapo Rivers. Or you can focus on an issue such as air or water quality, environmental justice, global warming, nuclear energy, population, recycling, urban renewal or one of your own choosing. Or you can work on public education programs, publicity, tabling at events, or petition drives. To find out about these opportunities and more, please contact Betsy Kohn or Hugh Carola (see above).

E-MAIL NOTICES: For 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, Ridgefield, 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: Michel Cuillierier 973-736-0913
schatzidog@earthlink.net
Conservation: Jon-Eric Dentz 201-819-9308
j_dentz@yahoo.com
Political: Janice Desir 973-678-4580
jtd03@lycos.com
Media: Camille Gutmore 973-667-2203
cgutmore@hotmail.com
Outings/Parks: 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: Janine Schaeffer 973-736-0898
janinesch@prodigy.net
Fundraising: Kim McGuire 973-275-1030
mackim@aol.com
Programs: Maria K. de Wakefield 973-736-0913
schatzidog@earthlink.net
Membership: Open position!
Energy Conservation: Mike Minaides 973-470-0793
msminaides@hotmail.com
West Orange: Sally Malanga 973-736-7397
sally@eccobella.com
GIS/Maps: Billi Schloss 973-467-8154
billi_s@yahoo.com
Rahway River: Kirk Barrett 973-313-1218
kbarrett@cimic.rutgers.edu

ACTIVITIES: Working to preserve wetlands in the Hatfield Swamp 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. Working to bring an energy audit to Essex County through the D.O.E.'s ReBuild America Program and to establish a commission to study the feasibility of expanding the current light-rail project in Newark.

****OPENINGS**** The Group has openings in our group for those interested in our Environmental Justice Campaign and our Wetlands Campaign. For details, please feel free to contact Michel at mcuillierier@njpac.org. Thanks!!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Held at 7pm the FIRST TUESDAY of every month. Please contact Michel at 736-0913 for the location.

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 Maria at 973-736-0913.

Jan-Mar: For meeting information, please call our officers and/or check the Group's web site.

Future Events: In June, we will be participating with the Newark Museum in a Bio-Blitz. In the So. Mountain Reservatuion where several biologists and scientists will be inventoryinh ther natural resources the areas contain for a day and a half. We need volunteers to work with us.

ESSEX GROUP BALLOT

The Sierra Club requires that each of its local Groups conduct annual elections for Group Officers. Below are 5 candidates running for 5 open positions on the Group's Executive Committee (ExCom). You are welcome to write in alternate candidates. Family (joint) Club members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns of boxes. Essex County Group members: please cut and return the ballot by end February to: Essex Group Ballot, Sierra Club, 139 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618.

The 5 candidates are as follows:

- Michel Cuillierier
- Jon-Eric Dentz
- Camille Gutmore
- Kim McGuire
- Lori Tanner
- Write-in: _____
- Write-in: _____

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
lisamelanie@comcast.net
Conservation Chair:
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
Open Position!
Programs:
Outreach & Events Chair: Bob Johnson 908-771-9676
robert.johnson@comcast.net
Publicity Chair: Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442
johansons@comcast.net
Open Position!
Membership:
Air Quality Coordinator: Bob Campbell 908-273-5720
wrobcc@intac.com
Highlands Coordinator: Phil L'Hommedieu 973-425-2808
plhommedie@aol.com
Invasive Plants Coordinator: Franz Leinweber 973-328-4625
fjleinweber@aol.com
Greenbrook: Bob Muska 908-665-2296
rmuska@erols.com

To join our emailing list, send a blank email to: <http://lists.njsierra.org/listinfo.cgi/loantaka-group-announcements-njsierra.org>.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: **NOTE:** Meetings are usually held at the Library of the Chathams, but due to construction, the meeting location may be changed. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm at either: Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St., Chatham - or 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:** Meetings are usually held at the Library of the Chathams, but due to construction, the meeting location may be changed. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm at either: Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St., Chatham - or 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://Loantaka.NJSierra.org>.

MEETING SCHEDULE:
Jan 14, 2004: Join Jennifer Mattice, coordinator for New Jersey Audubon's "Important Bird and Birding Areas"

(continued on page 8)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

program, for a slide show presentation on this new program identifying sites essential for birds and great for birding in New Jersey. Highlights will include slides showcasing Globally Important Bird Areas in New Jersey, details about the New Jersey program and information on how you can get involved with this exciting conservation initiative.

Feb 11: Becky Free of The Nature Conservancy will present a slide show and discussion on the Pine Barrens.

Mar 10: Rev. Fletcher Harper of Partners for Environmental Quality will discuss the links between religious beliefs and environmentalism.

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County, parts of Somerset and Middlesex)

2003 OFFICERS:

(New officers and appointments underway as issue goes to press.)

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Co-Chairs: | Harold Rapp | 609-671-0435 |
| | HalRapp@aol.com | |
| | and Ed Pfeiffer | 609-581-1660 |
| | ECPfeiffer@aol.com | |
| Treasurer: | Bill Wowk | 609-587-0502 |
| | bwowk@aol.com | |
| Conservation Chair: | Laura Lynch | 609-882-4642 |
| | llynch@mail.med.upenn.edu | |
| Membership Chair: | Corinne Egner | |
| | conskayakr@aol.com | |
| Programs Committee: | Ken Mayberg | 609-443-9138 |
| | kjmayberg@aol.com | |
| | and Lisa Ridge | 609-371-1357 |
| | lisa.ridge@att.net | |
| Publicity Coordinator: | Janet Black | |
| | jblack8084@aol.com | |
| Political Committee: | Tom Zolandz | 908-874-4194 |
| | earthsounds@yahoo.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 | |

WEBSITES: To get the most up-to-date information and news on our issues and activities, visit www.sierraactivist.org/getbusy.

You can find the most comprehensive website for local, state and national environmental news at www.sierraactivist.org.

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:

We meet on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month at 7:30 pm at 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. 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:

Jan 14: We will go to Greece this evening as Central Jersey Group's Outings Chair Ken Mayberg shares slides of this past summer's bike trip. Ken is a fifth grade teacher at the Washington School in Trenton and has bicycled extensively around the world and will share tips for other aspiring travelers.

Feb 11: 72.4 miles of the Appalachian Trail wind through the Kittatiny Ridge of northwest New Jersey, with elevation ranges from 350-1685 feet. We have invited a speaker who has hiked the AT to share their incredible experiences along the way. For more info on the AT in New Jersey, visit www.appalachiantrail.org/hike/trail/nj.html.

Mar 10: It's that time of year again! Could you identify an Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) if you saw one on a maple tree? Well, you should learn because the bug has landed in New Jersey and an infestation could lead to the loss of many of our street trees! We've invited a representative from the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection to provide educational assistance in identifying the ALB, its preferred tree-hosts, extent of the infestation so far, and how you can help. For more info on the ALB, visit www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/forest/community/alb.html.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION? Have you been saying for years that you're going to get more involved in your Sierra Club group? This is a great time to fulfill that New Year's resolution! 2004 will be a critical year for the future of air/water quality, land preservation, species protection, and public health issues, and we invite everyone who can give a few hours a month to help ensure these issues stay at the forefront of the local, state and national conversation. We especially need help with our Conservation and Political committees. Contact any officer listed above if you want to get busy!

E-MAIL NOTICES: If you'd like to receive those last minute 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 (acting): | Don McBride | |
| | dtmcbride@yahoo.com | |
| Political Chair: | Rosemary Grace | |
| | rosemary.grace@verizon.net | |
| Programs Chair: | Sandi Lowich | |
| | abstract46@aol.com | |
| 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 have been active in Monroe Township concerning the plans to build a new high school. While a new school is desperately needed, we are opposed to the township's proposed approach of diverting Green Acres park land. Help us work with the public officials and residents to find a mutually beneficial and acceptable solution.

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 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 - Rte 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 usually held at the Somerset County Library on 1 Vogt Drive in Bridgewater. All Sierra Club members are invited to attend. Please contact us first in case there is a change of plans.

Jan 13, 2004: At press time, our programs have not been finalized. Potential topics include:

- "Tibetan Odyssey - Jewel in the Ice"
- "Bird Watching in Taiwan and China"
- "The Hidden Face of Wildlife Management in NJ"

"Meet Your State Legislators"
"Our Local History — For Bound Brook and the Surrounding Area"
Refreshments and a time to socialize follow. Please visit our web page for details.

Feb 10: see January 13 above.

Mar 9: see January 13 above.

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 | |
| | Open position! | |
| Ocean County: | | |
| Ocean County Section Chair: | Open position! | |
| Webmaster: | George Newsome (see above) | |
| Treasurer: | Judy Maxcy (see above) | |
| Political Chair: | Laura Bagwell | 732-741-8678 |
| | l.bagwell3@verizon.net | |
| Outings Chair: | Mike Verange | 908-902-0718 |
| | mjverange@aol.com | |
| Membership Co-Chairs: | Steve Treson | 732-933-1487 |
| | xstre@comcast.net | |
| | and Alan Roseman | 732-780-1308 |
| | aroseman@monmouth.com | |
| Program Chair: | Regina Maurer | 732-335-1183 |
| | rmaurer@sprintmail.com | |

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

Jan 26, 2004: Healthy Food, Healthy Planet. We all know (or should!) that eating locally grown produce, organic foods, and less meat is healthy for us. But did you also know it is healthy for the earth? Join us as Andre Cholmondeley of Second Nature in Red Bank explains how less intensive methods of agriculture can benefit the planet.

Feb 23: These Parks Are Your Parks. Come out and hear all about the Monmouth County Park System and its efforts to preserve open space and provide recreation for area residents. A representative of the MCPS will present an informative video, entitled "A Day in the Life of Monmouth County Parks" and answer your questions about your parks.

Mar 22: The Bayshore - Fishing, Clamming and So Much More! The Raritan and Sandy Hook Bays provide a livelihood for many local residents, as well as recreation opportunities for locals and visitors alike. Join us as Joe Reynolds of the Bayshore Subwatershed Regional Council informs us about this group's efforts to preserve and protect the watersheds of the Bayshore Region, and some of the issues confronting the Council in reaching its goals.

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.

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: | Wayne Zanni | 856-728-4507 |
| | wzanni@earthlink.net | |
| Secretary: | Becky Payne | 856-488-5510 |
| | beckyp@snip.net | |
| Treasurer: | Trish Clements | 856-768-5639 |
| | psclem@aol.com | |
| Publicity Chair: | Bud Kaliss | 856-428-8071 |
| | budmilmilbud@yahoo.com | |
| Political Chair: | Marie Hageman | 856-589-0606 |
| | mdhageman@mail.com | |

Pinelands Rep: Lee Snyder
LSnyder@csc.com

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.

Jan 13: Kristoffer Whitney and Lindsay Smith will present An Introduction to the Bayshores Discovery Project.

Feb 10: To be announced. Check the web-site and local newspapers.

Mar 9: To be announced. Check the web-site and local newspapers.

South Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:

Group and Outings Chair: Tom Boghosian 609-272-9005
Boghosian@comcast.net

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.

Jan 27, 2004 (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.

Feb 21 (Sat): 10am: If it’s dry enough, another attempt to visit and enjoy the Goose Ponds, a two-mile habitat for birds and other wildlife in Hamilton Twp, near Egg Harbor City, Atlantic County. Perhaps lunch at the Egg Harbor City Diner afterwards. We may need wading boots. If interested, contact Dick Colby for details.

Mar 8 (Mon): Bert Hixon will be showing slides of his wildlife adventures in Costa Rica to the Environmental Club at Atlantic Cape Community College. Sierra Club members would be welcome. For details contact Tom Boghosian.

Also in March: Fred Akers has offered to lead a field trip to investigate the human impacts on Babcock Swamp and Adams Branch (Atlantic County; Great Egg Harbor River Watershed) from illegal ditching and excessive stormwater discharges from development. With any luck, he will get a DEP grant and will be working on this project by then, plus he has discovered some more interesting features there. Sundays are the best days for him to be available. Contact him if interested.

South Jersey Group Ballot:

The Sierra Club requires that each of its local Groups conduct annual elections for Group Officers. Below are 3 candidates running for 3 open positions on the Group’s Executive Committee (ExCom). You are welcome to write in alternate candidates. Family (joint) Club members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns of boxes. South Jersey Group members: please cut and return the ballot by end February to: South Jersey Group Ballot, Sierra Club, 139 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618.

- Fred Akers
 Tom Boghosian
 Dick Colby
 Write-in _____
 Write-in _____

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!

(New) Webpage address: <http://singles.njsierra.org>
email: singles@njsierra.org

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 visiting <http://lists.njsierra.org/listinfo.cgi/nj-sierra-singles-announcements-njsierra.org> (long, isn’t it). All events, including those planned after publication, will be sent to your email mailbox. If you prefer not to receive email, you may view all messages which have been sent to the listserv by going to <http://lists.njsierra.org/pipermail/nj-sierra-singles-announcements-njsierra.org/>.

OFFICERS:

Chair: Bob Johnson
robert.johnson@comcast.net

Outings Chair: Joyce Haddad
jkhaddad@juno.com

Conservation Chair: Open Position!
Contact us! We need you!

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

Membership: Open Position!

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers needed for the positions of: hike leaders, Membership Chair, Conservation Chair, 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.

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Casual pizza gathering and introduction to club issues and activities. SECOND MONDAY of each month starting at 6:30pm with optional pizza. January’s meeting will be held at the Morris County Library; the location for February and March will be the Denville Library. Guest speakers at each meeting at 7pm. \$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 leave name and specify plain or veggie pizza.) Free (and no RSVP required) if you’re not having pizza.

Jan 12, 2004: Lynda Smith, director of the Bear Education and Resource Group will give a slide presentation

on Living Peacefully with Black Bears in New Jersey. She will dispel some common misconceptions about these magnificent animals. Bear-proofing techniques for use in residential neighborhoods will be reviewed, as well as tips for encountering bears in the wild. At the Morris County Library, 30 E Hanover Ave., Whippany.

Feb 9: Rich Bizub of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance will give a slideshow on the NJ Pinelands, which cover 1.1 million acres in our state. Because of the uniqueness of the area, Congress designated the Pinelands the nation’s first National Reserve in 1978. The presentation will focus on why the Pinelands are important, how protection came about, and discuss current and future threats. Location: Denville Library, 121 Diamond Spring Rd.

Mar 8: Sierra Club member David Heller, back from a three-week adventure Down Under, will share with us numerous images of exotic Australian wildlife, landforms, and Aboriginal rock art. Some highlights include The Great Barrier Reef, Kakadu National Park, and Ayers Rock, the world’s largest monolith. The trip culminates in climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge, one of the world’s longest arch bridges (next to Jersey’s own Bayonne Bridge). Come and be enlightened about this fascinating country that is nearly the same size as the contiguous United States, but has less than ten percent of its population. Location: Denville Library, 121 Diamond Spring Rd.

Apr 12: Are you concerned about the effects our global population of 6.35 billion is having on the environment? Bonnie Tillery, the NJ Chapter Population Issues Coordinator, will discuss her recent trip to Ecuador where she saw first-hand how family planning programs help protect the environment. Location: To Be Announced.

Please call to confirm above speakers at 973-364-7573, ext. 3.

Directions to the Morris County Library (January’s meeting) at: <http://www.gti.net/mocolib1/compass.html>, or call 973-285-6930.

Directions to the Denville Library (Feb & Mar meetings): Take 80W to the Denville exit (39). Exit sign reads “46 East to 53”. Take 46E a very short distance to 53North (2nd Rte 53 exit). Turn right at the stop sign onto West Main St. (this is Rte 53) and go to the second light. Turn right (NOT the sharp right onto Broadway) onto Diamond Spring Rd. Library is on left, just past traffic light at Pocono Rd. For more directions call 973-627-6555.

PLANNING/EXCOM MEETINGS each month at various locations. All welcome. Contact any officer for date and location.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS:

SOCIAL DINNER: 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.

SOCIAL DINNER: THIRD TUESDAY of each month at 7pm. Join us for dinner 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.

SINGLES DINNER-AND-A-MOVIE: Dec 27, 2003: We turn around our usual routine and view the movie (the final “Lord of the Rings”) first, and then have dinner. Details are being worked out. Join our listserv to be notified. See write-up below for dinner info.

January 24, 2004 and March 27, 2004: RSVP required - Please join us at 6pm at The Plaza Grille, Speedwell Avenue, Headquarters Plaza, in Morristown, NJ. Approximate cost is \$26, (plus \$3 extra fee for non-members, please bring membership card), for a full buffet dinner including soft drinks, coffee, dessert, tax, tip, and a movie ticket valid for one year at all Clearview Cinemas. Please include full name in e-mail and include the subject “Sierra Dinner and a Movie”. If you must cancel, please do so by e-mail as soon as possible. We will decide at dinner which movie to attend based on interest, and may split up to attend different movies. RSVP required by Jan 22nd and Mar 25 to: MistyAngel2003@yahoo.com.

FINAL FRIDAY FILM FEST! LAST FRIDAY of the month — come see a great movie on the big (well, pretty big) screen. Donation: \$5. All films begin 7:45pm at the Verona Park Boathouse. Call at 973-364-7573, ext. 1 or email abc77@msn.com for more info.

Dec 26, 2003: THE GODS MUST BE CRAZY A Bushman in the Kalahari encounters technology for the first time - in the shape of a Coke bottle. This 1980 surprise international success has some of the best laugh-out-loud

(continued on page 10)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

slapstick comedy moments ever, despite a low budget. Grab a Coke and a smile!

Jan 30, 2004: DIABOLIQUE This 1955 classic chiller is the best Hitchcock movie that Hitchcock never made.

Feb 27: THE TRIALS OF HENRY KISSINGER Focusing on his role in events in Vietnam, Indonesia, and Chile, this film examines charges that the former Secretary of State and Nobel Peace Prize winner is also a war criminal.

Mar 26: ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN Incredible but true—the story of how two young Washington Post reporters followed the trail of a third-rate burglary at Watergate until it led them to the highest level of the government. Robert Redford, Dustin Hoffman.

The Boathouse is in Verona Park, corner of Lakeside & Bloomfield Avenues, Verona. From the Parkway, take Exit 145 (Rte 280 West), towards The Oranges/Newark. Take Exit #7 (Pleasant Valley Way) towards Millburn/Verona. Merge onto Pleasant Valley Way, which becomes Lakeside Ave. Stay on Lakeside about 3 miles until it dead ends at Bloomfield Avenue. Turn right onto Bloomfield, then first right into Verona Park. The Boathouse is ¼ mile up the road, on your right. For more directions, email abc77@msn.com.

Other special social events may be scheduled throughout each month. 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

In 2003 we 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 2004 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.

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/>

MOVIE SCREENING: "The Trials of Henry Kissinger"

The Sierra Club NJ Singles Section shows a movie on the last Friday of each month. Please join us on February 27, 2004 as we present "The Trials of Henry Kissinger."

Featuring previously unseen footage, declassified documents, and revealing interviews with Kissinger supporters as well as detractors, the film explores how a young boy who fled Nazi Germany grew up to become one of the most powerful and controversial figures in U.S. history, and a Nobel Peace Prize Winner, to boot.

"Part contemporary investigation and part historical inquiry, the documentary follows the quest of one journalist in search of justice. The film focuses on Christopher Hitchens' charges against Henry Kissinger as a war criminal - allegations documented in Hitchens' book of the same title - based on his role in countries such as Cambodia, Chile, and Indonesia. Kissinger's story raises profound questions about American foreign policy and highlights a new era of human rights. Increasing evidence about one man's role in a long history of human rights abuses leads to a critical examination of American diplomacy through the lens of international standards of justice." - Sujit R. Varma

You can draw your own conclusions.
 The movie will be shown at 7:45pm on February 27 at the Verona Park Boathouse. For questions, you can call our recorded announcements line at 973-364-7573, ext. 1, or email abc77@msn.com. You can also check our website at <http://singles.njsierra.org>, and join our listserv. Everyone is welcome! Admission donation is \$5. For extensive directions, see http://njsierra.org/njs_groups/essex/directions.htm. Hope to see you there!

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.

Extra copies of this newsletter (for you to offer prospective members such as neighbors, friends and family) are available from your Group Chair, from the Membership Chair, and from the Trenton office.



Outings

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

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

Central Jersey: Ken Mayberg
 kjmayberg@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
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: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417
 eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Outing Leaders: Please send April-June write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before January 31. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our 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 April-June trip write-ups by February 5.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The wind came down from mountains cold, and like a tide it roared and rolled; the branches groaned, the forest moaned, and leaves were laid upon the mould." (JRR Tolkien)

JANUARY

JAN 1 (Thu) Clayton Park, Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County (Special Interest: Land Conservation, Water Shed Protection). Ring in the New Year with a moderate 6-mile hike in one of the area's quietest parks. Bring a drink a snack. Hiking shoes are suggested. We will meet at 9am at the Wawa Convenience store on County Rte 537 just south of I-195. From the NJ Turnpike and GSP, follow the directions for Great Adventure. They will lead you to the Wawa. We will carpool for there. Bad weather or snow cover cancels. Confirmation/questions please call. Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

JAN 4 (Sun) Social Hike at Eagle Rock Reservation. Celebrate the New Year with a 4-5-mile hike at a moderate pace. Bring water and snacks and wear hiking boots. Rain cancels. Meet before 10:30am at the Highlawn Pavilion Parking lot off Eagle Rock Avenue in West Orange. Take Rte 280 to Prospect Avenue (exit 8B) head north, right turn onto Eagle Rock Ave, left turn into reservation. A \$3 fee will be charged to nonmembers. Well behaved kids and dogs are welcome. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Rain cancels. Leaders: Ron Pate and Joyce Haddad 973-364-7573 option #7 (E)

JAN ? (Date to be announced) Big Chill Weekend. Planned in January Upstate New York (one hour from NYC). \$75 per person which includes rustic lodging, all meals, organized hikes and cross country skiing. Limit 20 guests. Email jkhaddad@juno.com or call 973-364-7573 option # 7 for further information. Leaders: Ron Pate, Dave Ogens and Joyce Haddad (E)

JAN 4 (Sun) Social Hike Apple Pie Hill. 7-8 miles. Moderate pace. Hike the highest point in South Jersey for a great panoramic view of the pines. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. No pets/No children. Meet by 9:30am at Carranza Memorial parking lot, 6.7 miles SE of Tabernacle, Burl. Co, on Carranza Road. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

JAN 10 (Sat) Southern Harriman State Park. Moderate paced hike through Southern Harriman. Exact loop will be determined by trail conditions. If snowy/icy we'll do a loop along forest roads. If the trails are dry, we'll hike along streams and up the hill to lake views. Heavy rain or snow cancels. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 12 people. Bring hiking boots, lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Joint with AMC. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 (N)

JAN 10 (Sat) Recycle a House - Volunteer Activity. We will help Habitat for Humanity rebuild a row home. This is a way to give back to the community and create a positive image for the club. Bring lunch, water and boots. Meet 8am at the rear parking lot at the Hilton Hotel, Rte 70, Cherry Hill. Call in advance if possible so we know how many to expect. Leader: Tom J. 856-234-9369 (W)

JAN 10 (Sat) Social Moonlight Hike, Campfire & Campout. 6 miles, moderate pace. Hike sand roads around the lake under the full Wolf moon and return to a warm campfire. Overnight camping is available, call leader to reserve space. No pets/No children. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet by 7:30pm at Goshen Pond group campsite, Atson Lake, Burl. Co, from Rte 206 turn west onto Atson Rd go 1.5 miles to Goshen Pond sign, follow road to campsite. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

JAN 11 (Sun) Patriots Path/Black River Trail. 8-9 mile hike along the historic Patriots Path near Chester, NJ. Portion along the Black River is especially beautiful. Directions will be provided. Start about 10am Heavy rain or snow cancels. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 12 people. Bring hiking boots, lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 (N)

JAN 16 to 19 (Fri-Mon) Ski Lake Placid Weekend. By popular request, we will return to the Olympic mountain for three days of great x/try and alpine skiing! Or you can skate the Olympic Oval, ride the luge, dog sled rides, tobogganing, bobsledding, etc. Or just stroll thru the quaint town of Lake Placid. Trip includes transportation by motorcoach from NJ [Chatham] and NY [Penn Sta.], three nights d/o lodging at a five star full service Hotel in downtown Lake Placid, three breakfasts and three dinners. Please register early as this trip will fill up fast!! Trip cost: \$465. Optional trip insurance (recommended) \$48. \$250.00 deposit and large SASE by Dec 1. Balance by Jan 1. Leader: Norman Adis, 163 Hillside Ave, Livingston, NJ 07039, adis.norman@worldnet.att.net, 973-994-2933 (no calls after 10 please), fax 973-716-0987. Co-Leaders: Rob Greenberg, 33 Haddonfield Rd, Parsippany, NJ 07054, 973-334-0125, helainerob@aol.com and Dan Parietti, 212-781-2038, dparietti@worldnet.att.net (E)

JAN 17 (Sat) Patriots Piermont/Tallman State Park/Nyack Beach Trail. We'll start with a 3-mile loop through Tallman State Park, followed by a walk out on the Piermont Pier (if not too cold & windy). Then lunch in Piermont or Nyack, followed by a 12-minute drive up to Upper Nyack to walk the Nyack Beach trail. Easy trail along the Hudson River from Nyack to Haverstraw, NY. River views the whole way. Wear hiking boots, bring snacks and water. Optional stop in Nyack for coffee/hot cider after hike. Heavy rain or snow cancels. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 14 people. Bring hiking boots, lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 (N)

JAN 20 (Tue) Winter Bicycling on the Delaware & Raritan Canal. This is the first of 6 Tuesday rides from New Brunswick to Frenchtown. Meet 10:30 in Colonial Park, Rte 514, East Millstone NJ, Lot "F". All rides 20-25 miles, casual pace, lunch stop. Helmets required. Temps below 35F or precipitation cancels. Leader: Pete Beck, cell 201-274-4471 http://petebeck.freecycle.com (L)

JAN 25 (Sun) Ice Skating at Mercer County Skating Rink, West Windsor. Located off Old Trenton Road. Please call rink at 371-1766 for directions. Meet at 1pm. Approximately \$5 admission fee (skate rental available). Possible dinner afterwards. Meet in front of rink. Leader: Ken Mayberg, kjmayberg@aol.com or 609-443-9138 for questions (C)

JAN 25 (Sun) Social Tundra Swan Hike. 6 miles. Moderate pace. Hike the wintry beauty among ponds filled with Tundra Swans. Bring binoculars. Dress for the cold weather. No pets/No children. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet by 10am at Whitesbog Village parking lot. Take Rte 70 east to Rte 530 north (Browns Mills/Ft Dix) go 1 mile turn right on Whitesbog Road to parking lot. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

JAN 27 (Tue) Winter Bicycling on the Delaware & Raritan Canal. This is the second of 6 Tuesday rides from New Brunswick to Frenchtown. Meet 10:30 in Colonial Park, Rt 514, East Millstone, NJ, Lot "F". All rides 20-25 miles, casual pace, lunch stop. Helmets required. Temps below 35F or precipitation cancels. Leader: Pete Beck, cell 201-274-4471 http://petebeck.freecycle.com (L)

JAN 31 (Sat) Tallman Mountain State Park. 7 miles. We will hike through Tallman Mountain State Park and view the berms and salt marsh. We will then walk the mile-long Piermont pier halfway across the Hudson! Trails include the Long Path. Bring lunch and water. You can take the 9:15 Rockland Coaches 9A bus from the Port Authority terminal to meet Leader in Piermont by 10:15. Drivers meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave (building with mural) at 10am. Leader: John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

FEBRUARY

FEB 1 (Sun) Social Hike in South Mountain Reservation. We will hike seven miles over easy terrain. Highlights include a 25-foot waterfall and some very inviting woodlands in the heart of Suburbia. What a great way to celebrate Super Bowl Sunday! Please bring warm clothing, water and lunch. Hiking boots are required and participants should be in good condition. Meet BEFORE 10am at the South Mountain Arena parking lot in West Orange. Take Exit 10 on Rte 280 West. Turn left onto Northfield Avenue. After a steep hill, the South Mountain Arena will be on your left. Rain/snow or expected rain/snow cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

FEB 1 (Sun) Social Orangina Hike. 7 miles moderate pace. Annual classic hike to old clay pits used to make pottery. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. No pets/No children. Meet by 9:30am at mile marker #12 on Rte 72 E., on dirt road opposite Auto Wreckers allow for extra driving time. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

FEB 3 (Tue) Winter Bicycling on the Delaware & Raritan Canal. This is the third of 6 Tuesday rides from New Brunswick to Frenchtown. Meet 10:30 in J Flemer Preserve, Kingston, NJ. This is across the street from the lock & florist shop, Rte 27 & the Canal. All rides 20-25 miles, casual pace, lunch stop. Helmets required. Temps below 35F or precipitation cancels. Leader: Pete Beck, cell 201-274-4471 http://petebeck.freecycle.com (L)

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

FEB 7 (Sat) Social Moonlight Hike: Campfire & Campout. 6 miles moderate pace. Hike under the Sap moon as we walk on moonlit sand roads and return to a roaring fire. Camping is available call to reserve space. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. No pets/No children. Meet by 7pm at Lebanon State Forest group campsite. Entrance to forest is on Rte 72, 1/2 mile from Jct. of Rtes 70 & 72. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

FEB 7 to 14 (Sat-Sat) Ski Summit County, Colorado. Repeat of last year's great trip! World class alpine & x/try skiing. Four star hotel lodging centrally located to Keystone, Breckenridge, Copper, Aspen, and Arapaho Mtns. All areas linked by groomed x/try trails plus two x/try ski areas. \$1150 includes airfare from Newark, ground transportation, d/o lodging, all breakfasts, and four dinners. Lift tickets not included. Early \$500 deposit needed by Nov 9 to guarantee these low rates. There is \$100 surcharge by airline past this date, so please get your deposit in early! Cut-off date is Dec 10. Call leader for availability past this date. Leader: Norman Adis, 163 Hillside Ave, Livingston, NJ 07039, adis.norman@worldnet.att.net, 973-994-2933 (no calls after 10pm please), fax 973-716-0987. Co-Leaders: Rob Greenberg, 33 Haddonfield Rd, Parsippany, NJ 07054, 973-334-0125, helainerob@aol.com and Dan Parietti, 212-781-2038, dparietti@worldnet.att.net (E)

FEB 8 (Sun) Harteshorne Woods Hike, Monmouth County (Special Interest: Recent History). Moderate 6 mile hike has elevation gains and lots of scenery. Please bring a drink and a snack. Hiking shoes are suggested. Meet at 9am at the Rocky Point parking area. Take GSP to exit 117 for Rte 36 toward Sandy Hook. Proceed on Rte 36 approx. 10 miles to Miller Street. At top of hill make a left. Then make the first right. The Parking Area is straight ahead. Bad weather or snow cover cancels. Confirmation/questions please call. Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

FEB 10 (Tue) Winter Bicycling on the Delaware & Raritan Canal. This is the fourth of 6 Tuesday rides from New Brunswick to Frenchtown. Meet 10:30 in Washington Crossing, NJ. Parking is just before the bridge on Rte 546 just off Rte 29. All rides 20-25 miles, casual pace, lunch stop. Helmets required. Temps below 35F or precipitation cancels. Leader: Pete Beck, cell 201-274-4471 http://petebeck.freecycle.com (L)

FEB 14 (Sat) Recycle a House - Volunteer Activity. We will help Habitat for Humanity rebuild a row home. This is a way to give back to the community and create a positive image for the club. Bring lunch, water and boots. Meet 8am at the rear parking lot at the Hilton Hotel, Rte 70, Cherry Hill. Call in advance if possible so we know how many to expect. Leader: Tom J. 856-234-9369 (W)

FEB 17 (Tue) Winter Bicycling on the Delaware & Raritan Canal. This is the fifth of 6 Tuesday rides from New Brunswick to Frenchtown. Meet 10:30 at Prailles Mills parking lot on Rte 29 just north of Stockton. All rides 20-25 miles, casual pace, lunch stop. Helmets required. Temps below 35F or precipitation cancels. Leader: Pete Beck, cell 201-274-4471 http://petebeck.freecycle.com (L)

FEB 22 (Sun) Washington Crossing State Park, Hopewell, NJ. Hike on wooded trails and through fields. Visit nature center. Moderately paced about 5 miles. Meet at parking lot next to Delaware River (by bridge) at 1:30pm. Snow will make hike a cross-country ski. Precipitation cancels. Leader: Ken Mayberg, kjmayberg@aol.com or 609-443-9138 for questions (C)

FEB 24 (Tue) Winter Bicycling on the Delaware & Raritan Canal. This is the sixth of 6 Tuesday rides from New Brunswick to Frenchtown. Meet 10:30 at Prailles Mills parking lot on Rte 29 just north of Stockton. All rides 20-25 miles, casual pace, lunch stop. Helmets required. Temps below 35F or precipitation cancels. Leader: Pete Beck, cell 201-274-4471 http://petebeck.freecycle.com (L)

FEB 28 (Sat) Clausland Mountain. 6 Miles. We will climb up Clausland Mountain (700' climb) through historic Rockland Cemetery to an old Nike missile base. Bring hiking boots, lunch, 2 quarts of water. You can take the 9:15 Rockland Coaches 9A bus from the Port Authority terminal to meet Leader in Piermont by 10:15. Drivers meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural) at 10am. Leader: John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

FEB 29 (Sun) Singles Hike/ X-Country ski at Hatfield Swamp in West Essex Park. We will hike or X-country ski (weather permitting) 5 miles at a moderate pace through forested trails along the Passaic River. Meet at 10am at the Environmental Center, 621 Eagle Rock Avenue in Roseland. Take Rte 280, exit 4A (Eisenhower Parkway South), go right at 1st light onto Eagle Rock Avenue, 1/2 mile on left. Sign reads: "Essex County Environmental Center". Bring water, snacks and hiking boots. Lunch to follow at local restaurant to be announced at the hike. Well behaved dogs welcome. Rain cancels. A \$3 fee will be charged to nonmembers. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Please confirm the time and meeting place of this hike the day before by calling the number below. Leaders: Joyce Haddad and Ron Pate 973-364-7573 option # 2 (E)

FEB 29 (Sun) Social Hike Ridley Creek SP Pa. 6 miles moderate pace. Hike trails along creek and hills. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. No pets/No children. Meet by 8:30am at rear parking lot Hilton Hotel Rte 70 Cherry Hill to carpool/caravan or meet at Park Office at 9:30. In Pa. From Rte 1 take Rte 352 N for 3 miles to Grayville Rd. go N 1.5 miles to park entrance. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

MARCH

MAR 5-7 (Fri-Sun) Social Getaway Weekend. AMC's Mohican Center, Blairstown, NJ. Enjoy an all inclusive weekend in a rustic lodge situated in the mountains of Northern Jersey. We will do a 7-mile hike along the AT, Coppermine and Rattlesnake trails in the morning. Then do a short moonlight hike around the lake in the evening. Cost is about \$65 per person, covers food and lodging. Limited openings, contact leader now! Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

MAR 6 (Sat) Southern Harriman State Park. Moderate paced hike through Southern Harriman. Exact loop will be determined by trail conditions. If snowy/icy we'll do a loop along forest roads. If the trails are dry, we'll hike along streams and up the hill to views of Sebago and Pine Meadow Lakes. Heavy rain or snow cancels. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 12 people. Bring hiking boots, lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 (N)

MAR 6 (Sat) Social Hike In the Great Swamp. We will hike about 5 miles on mostly level terrain at a moderate pace. Waterproof boots are required since the trails are often underwater and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & 2 quarts of water. Meet before 10:30am at the parking lot at the end of White Bridge Road. Take Rte 287 to Exit 30A (North Maple Ave. & Basking Ridge). Follow Maple Ave. about 2 1/2 miles, then turn left onto Lord Sterling Road. Go about 4 miles on Lord Sterling Road (which becomes White Bridge Road) and then see the parking lot at end. Rain or snow cancels. Leader: Joyce White at 908-272-4478 or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (L)

MAR 6 to 13 (Sat-Sat) Ski Red Mountain, British Columbia. Ski the Canadian Rockies! Red Mountain is the oldest ski area in Canada and one of its' best kept secrets; renown for consistently good snow conditions. 2800 foot vertical & runs up to 4.5 miles! Experts will enjoy deep powder and unparalleled tree-skiing while the intermediate or novice skiers & snowboarders can choose from a wide array of groomed runs and moderate glades. X/try skiers delight with over 30 miles of machine groomed track. \$1230 cost includes airfare from Newark, 4-star hotel d/o lodging, ground transportation (rental vehicles), all breakfasts and five dinners. Trip insurance is optional but recommended. Lift tickets not included. PLEASE REGISTER EARLY! Early \$500 deposit needed by Nov 30 to guarantee these low rates. Past Dec 30, call leader for availability. Leader: Norman Adis, 163 Hillside Ave, Livingston, NJ 07039, adis.norman@worldnet.att.net, 973-994-2933 (no calls after 10pm please), fax 973-716-0987. Co-Leaders: Dick Wolff, 125 Gates Ave #14, Montclair, NJ 07042, 973-746-7415 (between 9 and 11pm) rwolffnj@aol.com and Dan Parietti, 212-781-2038, dparietti@worldnet.att.net (E)

MAR 7 (Sun) Southern Harriman State Park. Moderate paced hike through Southern Harriman. Exact loop will be determined by trail conditions but we'll head to viewpoint over Claudius Smith's Den. Heavy rain or snow cancels. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 12 people. Bring hiking boots, lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 (N)

MAR 7 (Sun) Social Hike in South Mountain Reservation. We will hike 6-7 miles at a moderate pace and see some of the many highlights this 2000-acre tract has to offer including a 25-foot waterfall and a spectacular view of New York City and South Jersey. Bring water, snacks and wear hiking boots. Meet before 10am in the Tulip Springs parking lot just off Cherry Lane that runs between Northfield Avenue and South Orange Avenue in South Orange. Rain Cancels. A \$3 fee will be charged to adult nonmembers. Well-behaved children and dogs welcome. Leader: Dave Ogens 973-364-7573 option#2 (E)

MAR 13 (Sat) 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. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 (N)

MAR 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. Call in advance if possible so we know how many to expect. Leader: Tom J. 856-234-9369 (W)

MAR 14 (Sun) Director's Hike: High Mountain. Join Chapter Conservation Director Dennis Schvejda and former Chapter Chair Tina Schvejda for a 5-mile hike in High Mountain Preserve. The Preserve and surrounding area is the largest remaining tract of forested land east of the Highlands in northeastern New Jersey, and supports a remarkable diversity of plants and wildlife. While much has been protected, critical lands remain under threat of development. We will discuss and identify these threats during our hike. Learn about High Mountain and become an advocate for preservation! We will meet at the top of Parking Lot #6, William Paterson University in Wayne NJ, at 9am. Leader contact info: 973-427-6863 or via e-mail: Dennis.Schvejda@SierraClub.org.

MAR 14 (Sun) Social Hike at Schooley's Mountain County Park. We will hike about six easy miles in a scenic area of western Morris County. Please bring warm clothing, water, lunch and a small backpack. Hiking boots are required and participants should be in good condition. Meet BEFORE 10am at the upper parking area beyond the main entrance. Take Rte 24 or 206 to Chester. Drive 5 miles on Rte 24 West to Long Valley. At the traffic light, turn right to continue on Rte 24 West. After 0.7 miles, turn right onto Camp Washington Road. Go .7 miles on Camp Washington Road and bear right onto East Springtown Road. After .3 miles, turn right on East Springtown Road and turn right into the park. Continue straight to the upper parking lot. Rain/snow or expected rain/snow cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

MAR 20 (Sat) 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 Rd. 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 (e.g. snow cover) cancels. Confirmation/questions please call. Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

MAR 20 (Sat) Hook Mountain Hike. 7 miles. Excellent views of the Hudson River and Croton Point. You can take the 9:15 Rockland Coaches 9A bus from the GWB terminal to meet Leader in Upper Nyack at the junction with Old Mountain Road and Rte 9W at 10:30am. Leader: John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

MAR 21(Sun) Social Spring Hike. 7-10 miles moderate pace. Hike flat forest roads with great views of the Pygmy Pines, a Pine Barrens phenomenon. Bring lunch and water with you plus a snack to share at the tailgate social after the hike. Meet by 10am at Lake Oswego parking lot off Lake Oswego road, off Rte 563, 10 miles S. of Chatsworth, Burl. Co. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

(continued on page 12)



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

Vice-Chair
 * Ken Johanson (908) 464-0442
 kjohan@comcast.net
 72 Laurel Drive, New Providence NJ 07974-2421

Conservation Chair
 Laura Lynch (609) 882-4642
 llynch@mail.med.upenn.edu

Conservation Vice-Chair
 Ruth Prince (908) 284-9103
 ruthp2@earthlink.net

Political Chair
 * Rich Isaac (973) 716-0297
 risaacx@aol.com
 47 Fellsworth Dr., Livingston NJ 07039-2235

Political Vice-Chair
 Laura Bagwell (732) 741-8678
 lbagwell@rcn.com

Legislative Chair
 Ken Johanson (see above)

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

Treasurer
 * George Denzer (609) 799-5839
 GDenzer@mymailstation.com
 127 Dey Road, Cranbury NJ 08512-5418

Outings Chair
 Ellen Blumenkrantz (201) 784-8417
 eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
 43 Carlson Court, Closter NJ 07624

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

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

Membership Chair
 Mike Herson
 mikeherson@hotmail.com
 451 Hasbrouck Blvd, Oradell NJ 07649

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

Other ExCom members at large
 * Steve Ember (732) 926-8964
 sehiker@yahoo.com
 511 Grandview St, Middlesex NJ 08846
 * Bob Johnson (908) 771-9676
 Robert.Johnson@comcast.net
 65 Holly Glen Lane South, Berkeley Hts NJ 07922-2615
 * Tina Schvejda (973) 427-6863
 tschvejda@mindspring.com
 40 Marilyn St., North Haledon NJ 07508-2441

NERCC Representatives
 Joan Denzer (see George Denzer above)
 and Bob Johnson (see below)
 Alternate: George Denzer - (see above)

Atlantic Coast Ecoregion Delegate
 Joan Denzer (see above)
 Alternate: Fred Akers (see below)

Legal Chair
 Bill Singer, Esq. (908) 359-7873

Financial Committee
 Tina Schvejda**, Sunil Somalwar,
 Ken Johanson, George and Joan
 Denzer, Dick Colby

Events & Fundraising
 Joan Denzer**, Tina Schvejda**,
 Steve Ember, Sunil Somalwar,
 Carolyn Freeman

Personnel Committee
 Ken Johanson**, Sunil Somalwar,
 Mary Penney, Tina Schvejda, George &
 Joan Denzer, Dick Colby

Legislative Committee
 Ken Johanson**,
 Dennis Anderson, Dave Mattek,
 Kelly McNicholas, Carolyn Freeman,
 Jeff Tittel, Dennis Schvejda

Litigation Oversight Committee
 Ken Johanson** Tina Schvejda,
 Sunil Somalwar, Dick Colby

Inner City Outings Coordinator
 Anne Dyjak (North/Central NJ)
 Jennifer Grenier &
 Maxine Vogt (South NJ)
 (see Group News pages)

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

**NEW JERSEY CHAPTER
 LEADERSHIP**

Issue Coordinators

ATV Issues
 Fred Akers (856) 697-3479
 akers@gowebway.com
 PO Box 395, Newtonville, NJ 08346-0395

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

Bill Green (908) 276-2357
 WGreen@spcorp.com
 2 Roger Av, Cranford NJ 07016-2715

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

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

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

Hackensack Meadowlands
 Hugh Carola (201) 457-1582
 hcarola@optonline.net
 30 Maple Av, Hackensack NJ 07601-4502

Bill Sheehan (201) 692-8440
 captain@keeper.org
 1000 River Rd #T090c, Teaneck NJ 07666

Highlands Committee
 Bill O'Hearn (732) 962-0562
 william_ohearn@juno.com

Marine Issues
 Tina Schvejda (see main leader list)

Passaic River Basin
 Rich Isaac (see main leader list)

Pinelands
 Lee Snyder (856) 596-0621
 pinelands1@hotmail.com

PPA Liaison: Mike Galloway
 M.Galloway@comcast.net

Population
 Bonnie Tillery (see main leader list)

Sierra Student Coalition
 Dan Rosen (201) 670-1980
 danrosen85@hotmail.com

Sprawl
 Jane Tousman (see main leader list)

Tiger Conservation
 Sunil Somalwar (see main leader list)

Transportation (see main leader list)
 Bob Johnson

Utah Wilderness
 Barbara Hayes (609) 275-0787
 Barbara.Hayes@NJWild.org
 45 Perrine Rd, Plainsboro NJ 08536

Chapter Office 609-656-7612
 139 West Hanover Street, Trenton 08618
 fax: 609-656-7618

Chapter Director: Jeff Tittel
 jefft1@voicenet.com

Conservation Director:
 Dennis Schvejda 973-427-6863
 Dennis.Schvejda@SierraClub.org

Chapter Administrator
 Kelly McNicholas 609-656-7612
 kellymncn@sierraactivist.org

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

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

All members are welcome to attend these monthly statewide policy deliberations, held on SECOND SATURDAYS. Details, including agendas, and driving instructions, are available in advance from Sunil Somalwar, the Chapter Chair.

Jan 10 • Feb 14 • Mar 13

Meeting location will be the Hamilton Twp Library, Mercer County. (Meeting rooms on lower level.)

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

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

MAR 28 (Sun) Highlands Hike at Pyramid Mountain (Special Interest: Conservation). We will hike about five miles in the New Jersey Highlands. Tripod Rock, a famous archeological site, is the primary feature. Come see a pretty area, close to Suburbia, which was saved thanks to the efforts of many good people. Please bring warm clothing, water and lunch. Hiking boots are required and participants should be in good condition. Meet BEFORE 10am at the Mars Court/Rte 511 intersection north of Boonton. Take Rte 287 North to the Wootton Avenue exit. Turn left onto Wootton Avenue and go through the traffic light. Turn right at a blinking light onto Rte 511 North. Mars Court is about three miles to the north. Park on Mars Court - not at the Pyramid Mountain Park office. Rain or expected rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

MAR 28 (Sun) Institute Woods hike, Princeton, NJ. Easy pace, flat, about 4 miles. Meet at parking lot next to woods at 1pm. Take Rte 295 to Princeton Pike (towards Princeton). Soon after Battlefield Park, make right onto Olden Avenue at light. Continue until end and park next to grounds of Institute for Advanced Study. Possible dinner afterwards. Precipitation cancels. Leader: Ken Mayberg, kjmayberg@aol.com or 609-443-9138 for questions (C)

MAR 28 (Sun) Social Hike Tyler SP in PA. 6-9 miles at moderate pace. We will hike gravel and paved trails that are hilly for the most part and reveal much of what Bucks Co. is known for rolling hills, open fields and stone farm houses. We hike through a restored covered bridge. Optional visit to New Hope Village or winery. Meet by 10am at park office. From Phila, take Rte 95 north to Newtown-Yardley exit 30, then drive west on the four lane bypass around Newtown. The park entrance is at the intersection of Swamp Road and the four-lane bypass. Or call leader for carpool/caravan info. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 pis1@cccnj.net (W)

FUTURE OUTINGS – ADVANCE NOTICE

APR 4 (Sun) Social Hike in Stokes State Forest. We will hike eight miles primarily along the Kittatinny Ridge on the Appalachian Trail. Highlights include panoramic views from Sunrise Mountain and the Culver Fire Tower. Hiking boots are required and participants should be in very good condition. Meet BEFORE 10am at the park office off Rte 206. Proceed north on Rte 206 past Branchville and Culvers Lake. Turn right into Stokes State Forest into the park office parking area. Rain or expected rain cancels. Leader: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com (RV)

APR 18 (Sun) Brookdale Community College/Thompson Park. Moderate 6.5-mile hike that follows the perimeter of the Swimming River Reservoir. Hiking shoes preferred. Bring a drink and a snack. GSP Exit 109. Head west on Monmouth County Rte 520 approx. 2 miles to Brookdale Community College. Make first right proceed to Parking Lot #2 Meet in back right corner at 9am. Bad weather cancels. Confirmation/questions call. Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

AUG 18-29 (Wed-Sun) Wells Gray Provincial Park, British Columbia. If you're into beautiful scenery, great hiking and some canoeing, this is the trip for you. Wells Gray is one of Canada's largest parks (1.4 million acres) with beautiful flower filled meadows, pristine lakes, and mountain peaks. We fly out Wednesday, Aug 18, our first day to Kamloops, Canada, and spend the night at a lovely bed & breakfast. The next day we head out on a 2 night/3 day canoe camping trip to the lake district of the park. No canoe experience is necessary. All camping gear is provided except your sleeping bag - which could be rented for an extra \$25 charge. After 3 days of canoeing (there are also some hikes on these days), we return to our bed & breakfast for a hot shower, and a nice dinner out. The following day (Sunday, Aug 22) we start a 6 night/7 day hiking trek. We hike in the alpine area from private chalet to private chalet, where beds and meals are provided for us, allowing us to carry just a large day pack (lunch, water, and change of clothes). We spend two nights at each of three private chalets, which our group will have to ourselves. Following this 6 night/7 day trek we return to a nice bed & breakfast again for one last night before our flights home. More detailed descriptions and photos of the huts, hikes, scenery, can be found at www.skiihike.com - the website for the company who owns and operate the huts and will provide our local guides. Maximum group size 8. Cost for 11 nights, including all meals and lodging about \$1250 (depending on exchange rate). Airfare to Kamloops not included. Leader/Contact: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 (N)

THE JERSEY SIERRAN

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

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

The opinions expressed in The Jersey Sierran are not necessarily those of the New Jersey Chapter, the Sierra Club or the editor. Nor does publication of an advertisement imply Club endorsement of the advertised product(s) or service(s). Copyright 2003. All rights reserved. The contents of The Jersey Sierran may be used without permission in publications of other entities of the Sierra Club. Acknowledgement of the source would be appreciated.

Some display advertising may be accepted. Please contact the Advertising Manager before submitting an ad. Placement of any ad is contingent upon availability of space and must meet Sierra Club guidelines.

The Jersey Sierran is published quarterly by the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club, 139 W. Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618.

Members, send changes of address to address.changes@sierraclub.org or to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80328 and to the Chapter Office, 139 West Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08618 or call 415-977-5653.

Editorial Board: Tina Schvejda, Jeff Tittel, Rich Isaac, George and Joan Denzer, Mary Penney, Sunil Somalwar, Dick Colby, Paul Sanderson, Ed Pfeiffer.

Editor: Dick Colby, 609-965-4453, dick.colby@stockton.edu

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

Advertising Manager: Sunil Somalwar, 732-572-7721 svsomalwar@sierraactivist.org (Instructions available at http://NJSierra.org/NJS_SierraNJS_advertise.html)

Contributors to this issue: ue: Rich Isaac, Dennis Schvejda, Bonnie Tillery, Gina Carola, Ken Johanson, Ellen Blumenkrantz, Steve Knowlton, Bill Sheehan, and Hugh Carola.

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



Make the Sierra Club part of your New Year's Resolution—Give a Sierra Club Membership to protect the wild now and for the next generation.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Member's Weekender Bag



Celebrate the New Year!

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

- Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
- Mastercard Visa American Express

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

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

Enclose check and mail to:
 Sierra Club,
 P.O. Box 52968,
 Boulder,
 CO 80322-2968

F94Q -1



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet