

The Jersey..... SIERRAN

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Roughly 20,000 Members in New Jersey

April-June 2004

VICTORY ON THE MILLSTONE RIVER

by Laura Lynch, Chapter Conservation Chair

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

Until three years ago, it looked all but certain. The 2.5-mile long Millstone Bypass would start at the Princeton Junction railroad bridge in West Windsor and snake its way along the Millstone River, across Route 1, and pass by one of the busiest stretches of the Delaware and Raritan Canal on Princeton's border. Then it would veer to the east, taking out 15 of the 60 grand elm trees on Washington Road's historic Elm Allee.

The Township of West Windsor wanted the bypass. The Township and Borough of Princeton didn't. Many residents of West Windsor wanted it; many didn't. But the NJ Department of Transportation (DOT) had made up its mind, dismissing alternative roadway alignments and the concerns of residents, businesses, and environmentalists.

Enter a group of concerned citizens: the Sensible Transportation Options Partnership (STOP), which started in 1996 as five people opposed to the destruction of Elm Allee and damage to the Delaware and Raritan Canal. In 1999, STOP joined forces with a growing list of local groups, including the Washington Road Elms Preservation Trust, the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, the Sierra Club's Central Jersey Group, West Windsor Citizens for Transportation Alternatives, and others. The newly-formed coalition, Millstone Bypass Alert! (MBA), got to work.

In 2000, the DOT released its Environmental Assessment (EA), determining that the minimal environmental impacts the road would create could be easily mitigated. The MBA members read the EA and tore it apart, section by section, flagging error after error, and prepared to do battle at the upcoming public hearing.

But the hearing never happened. Then-Governor Christie Whitman decided that the EA was so poorly executed that the DOT would have to move on to the next step, one that would have had to occur only if the DOT had found significant potential for environmental damage: an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Because the highway was so controversial, the DOT created a citizen-oriented oversight group, guided by the DOT, the Rutgers University Transportation Policy Institute, and several conflict mediators. This was to be the Penns Neck Area EIS Partners Roundtable.

For over two years, at 35 meetings taking three hours each, the Roundtable toiled. Members included mayors from the Princetons, West Windsor, and Plainsboro, residents of several West Windsor neighborhoods, the Harrison Street Neighborhood Association, the Sierra Club, the Stony Brook-Millstone

Watershed Association, Mercer County representatives, Princeton University, DOT and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) employees, the Federal Highway Administration, and the MBA. Also present was the Sarnoff Corporation, which owned the land in question along the Millstone River, and which disfavored any roadway alignment that wasn't along the northern edge of its property.

Amid fruit salad, lunchmeat, and squabbles aplenty, the Roundtable listed its goals, considered 18 alternative roadway alignments, and discussed the potential impacts of each of them to the

Association, the DEP determined that the eagle was "just passing through," and therefore was of no consequence to the proposed bypass. When the three groups demanded a wildlife survey of the area, the DOT responded that, according to federal regulations, if no documentation existed of rare, threatened, or endangered species, no survey to find such species was warranted. When the Trenton Times phoned the Sierra Club about the eagle, in preparation for yet another article, the Club relayed the DOT's circular logic.

That's when a local birder contacted the Sierra Club. Distressed over the

DOT's apparent lack of concern, the birder reported that she had found a long-eared owl, listed as a NJ Threatened bird, on Sarnoff's property. The Sierra Club accompanied the birder into the field to document the owl, and the birder sent the information to the DEP. At the Roundtable, the Sierra Club distributed copies of the owl documenta-

tion. Now that a threatened animal had been found, the Sierra Club insisted that DOT conduct a wildlife survey. Months passed, and despite repeated questioning from the MBA, the DOT was not forthcoming about its intent to conduct a wildlife survey.

Finally, the DOT released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Tucked in the back of hundreds of pages was a memo from the DEP to the DOT: The long-eared owl was nesting in such a position that any new roadway through Sarnoff connecting to Washington Road would destroy the owl's habitat. There would be no way to mitigate, and, by the way, a thorough wildlife survey would be necessary.

The MBA settled on its preferred alignment, "D2": frontage roads on either side of Route 1 would replace the need for an ESC. Route 1 itself would be submerged, and a walkable plaza would be created above it. A new road would connect Washington and Alexander Roads at the bustling Princeton Junction train station. This alignment would leave the Elm Allee, the canal, the Millstone River, its banks, and the owl's habitat, untouched. STOP circulated petitions in favor of D2. Through the Sierra Club's on-line Action Alert Network, over 1000 people faxed the DOT and Rutgers

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ALTERNATIVE D2A SINGLE POINT INTERCHANGE (credit NJ DOT)

environment and community. The DOT brought forth traffic models and demographic projections. The Sierra Club, the Watershed Association, and STOP questioned the thoroughness of the environmental consultant's work and sent him back for more data. At the urging of STOP, the DOT produced lists of historic and archaeological sites, most of which lay along the Millstone.

The center of contention quickly became the stretch of road through Sarnoff: the East-Side Connector (ESC). Although it would remove most of the traffic that now clogs Washington Road, and although many of the West Windsor residents favored it, no alignment could satisfy everyone. Curving it north, along the Millstone River, would damage or destroy archaeological sites and open space. Building it through the center of Sarnoff would split the campus in two. Dipping it to the south would put a highway in people's back yards. Auto-centric considerations appeared to be winning out over the importance of preserving the remaining pristine open space in Penns Neck.

Then a photograph of a bald eagle emerged. It had been seen above Lake Carnegie, alongside the Delaware and Raritan Canal. Articles about the eagle appeared in the Princeton Packet and in US1. Despite protest from MBA, the Sierra Club, and the Watershed

Public Funding for a Private Road?

Any road built through Sarnoff's campus would be subject to permits from the DEP for wetlands, endangered species, and other environmental impacts. A federally funded road, such as the Millstone Bypass, must also avoid, minimize, or mitigate any impacts to historic or archaeological sites. Because the Millstone riverbank is rich in archaeological artifacts, the DOT determined that the ESC would impact too many environmental, historic, and archaeological resources.

West Windsor instructed Sarnoff that, unless the Millstone Bypass or its functional equivalent (an ESC) were built, Sarnoff could not achieve its desired General Development Plan. To develop its campus fully, adding several hundred more cars and paving over close to a quarter of its property, the Sarnoff Corporation would have to build its own version of the East-Side Connector. While Sarnoff would still be required to assess environmental impact, protection of the archaeological sites would no longer be required because funding for the road would be private, rather than federal. Many Roundtable participants argued that a federally funded ESC would do more to protect the artifacts than the privately funded road would. But the Sierra Club and MBA realized that the damage to the Millstone riverbank would be permanent, and that such an expensive section of road would not likely be built by the cash-strapped Sarnoff Corporation any time soon.

Further suggesting that an ESC will not be built is the DOT's realignment of the Harrison Street interchange on the west end of Sarnoff's property. The new alignment moves the interchange far south of where it is now. To create an ESC resembling the one Sarnoff preferred would require arching a road far north and then east, which would cost much more than enhancing the existing road through the center of campus, to which Alternative D2-A now links.

Should Sarnoff propose a road, the Sierra Club will oppose it. But as long as the long-eared owl nests on Sarnoff's property, an ESC is unlikely. ☞

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Volunteer Opportunity

Want to help the environment? Maybe you are retired or in between jobs or your children have grown up and left you with a few hours per week at hand? Or perhaps you're a student interested in some service learning or internship credit. We could use reliable administrative help in our Trenton office. Tasks include answering the phone, mailings, trips to the print shop, writing, taking notes at legislative committee meetings nearby, surfing the internet, investigating issues, etc. Please contact Kelly McNicholas (609-656-7612 or Kelly.McNicholas@SierraClub.org)

Integrated Program in Ecuador, a Success Story

Part II - Out of the meeting room and into the rural Ecuadorian communities

by Bonnie Tillery, our Population Issues Coordinator

There were times when I thought that a crash course in mountain climbing would be good training for the Sierra Club's Population and Environment Program study tour to Ecuador, in August, 2003.

As the country's name suggests, it sits on the equator - in northwestern South America. Although it borders on the Pacific Ocean, it lies almost directly south of North America's east coast and in the same time zone as New Jersey. The country contains three geographic zones: the coastal area to the west which supplies many of the bananas and shrimp we eat; the Sierra, with volcanic mountain ranges running roughly north-south down the middle of the country; and the jungle area to the east in the Amazon River basin where oil has been found and is now one of the country's leading exports. About the size of Nevada, Ecuador shares something else with New Jersey: It is the most densely populated country in South America. Its population of 12.6 million is expected to double in 30-40 years.

As we toured the capital city of Quito, as far as our eyes could see there were houses climbing the once tree-covered mountainsides. As it becomes harder and harder to eke a living out of the ever-smaller plots of land that are inherited by large families, the poor rural indigenous people move to large cities like Quito or the coastal town of Guayaquil looking for work. Poor squatters have even built on an active volcano - an area which is also subject to mud slides during heavy rains. New homes can wait up to 10 years for electricity and sometimes longer for water. Where, I wondered, would they put even more people, let alone double the current number?

Our small, 20-passenger, blue bus took us both north and south of Quito to clinics and the rural villages they serve.

But even our bus was too large to reach some of those areas, and we had to transfer to jeeps and pickup trucks to traverse the single-lane, rock-strewn, deeply-rutted, dirt roads. How would a woman in life-threatening labor reach a clinic or hospital to save herself and her child? This is where the training of health workers by CEMOPLAF (Medical Center for Family Planning), and the acceptance of these workers through integrating the program with the agricultural instruction from World Neighbors, helps these communities.



Women spinning yarn in the fields near Pasquazo Zambrano with child in foreground. These and several other women and their children followed us everywhere in the village. Without TVs, we were their entertainment.

From the time we landed, even into the outer reaches of the rural communities many hours outside of Quito, the stench of diesel fumes filled our nostrils and burned our eyes. So it was not surprising to learn that respiratory problems, including tuberculosis, are major health issues in the communities, along with malnutrition, and, for the children, diarrhea. The first small rural community of Monjas Tungurahua was proud of the work residents were doing to improve the quality of their soil so that they could grow more and varied crops to improve nutrition. In fact, they asked us to help them plant potatoes. This is where that crash course in mountain climbing would have come in handy! We walked at about a 45-degree angle (it seemed more like 90!) to reach the fields above the village where the loose volcanic soil had been terraced to prevent erosion - a technique taught by World Neighbors. Into this, several of us (including Larry Fahn, President of the Sierra Club) planted small pieces of potato, after which others added rich compost that had been gathered from the cuy (guinea pig) pens and improved with the help of worms. Roasted cuy, by the way, is served for festivals - much like we eat turkey at Thanksgiving - and it is an important source of protein.

At the clinics where indigenous people come for care, and from which doctors visit the rural communities once or twice a year, we saw laboratory equipment with USAID [the US State Department's Agency for International Development] stickers. As one of our

(Continued on page 4)



Mountainous area around the village of Pasquazo Zambrano.

Friends of the Essex County Parks

by Joyce Haddad and Ron Pate, of our Singles Section and Essex Co. Group

The Friends of the Essex County Parks (FOEP) was established by three Sierra Club volunteers: Dave Ogens, Joyce Haddad and Ron Pate. It is a nonprofit organization whose mission is the preservation and restoration of Essex County parks and open spaces in the South Mountain and Eagle Rock Reservations and in West Essex Park, and the reopening of the Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland. Our mission is accomplished by volunteers, partnering with county government and members of other non profit groups.

The three founders of FOEP are Sierra Club hike leaders who also organized park clean-ups, new trail creation and trail restoration. Then, two years ago with the support of the Sierra Club and other volunteer groups, they began refurbishing the boardwalk and canoe launch area at the Environmental Center in Roseland, and built an interpretive trail. This Center had been shut down in 1988 due to county budget cutbacks. To reopen the Center the group solicited the support of Joe DiVincenzo, president of the Essex County Freeholder Board, a friend of the Sierra Club and strong supporter of the county parks. Mr. DiVincenzo was running for Essex County Executive on a promise to reopen the Center and revitalize the county parks. He received the Sierra Club's endorsement and, with the help of others in our Essex County Group and our Singles Section, he won the election. Today, a sign hangs outside the Center stating that it is the home of the future "Essex County Environmental Center." All the funding and plans are in place for this project.

FOEP is currently partnering with the South Mountain Conservancy and the Essex County Parks Department in an



An old sign which reads "Center for Environmental Studies" was found during a Fall clean-up and restoration project at the Center. Volunteers from left to right are Joyce Haddad, Dave Ogens, Kristen Kosciuszko, Nanette Guida, and Marlene Tedeschi (Deputy Mayor of West Orange).

application for a sizable Green Acres Grant. The money will be used to rehabilitate South Mountain Reservation, the crown jewel of the Essex County Park System - which was originally designed by Frederick Law Olmstead's firm (famous for New York City's Central Park and many others). This Spring, FOEP will be sponsoring a "Bioblitz": one hundred scientists will survey South Mountain Reservation and assess the most pressing environmental concerns: reforestation, erosion control, and identifying non-native invasive plant species. FOEP has also scheduled two events at Eagle Rock Reservation in West Orange and at the Environmental Center in Roseland - to include trail maintenance and bridge-building.

Long range plans include constructing a network of bridges and trails in Hatfield Swamp, part of the West Essex Park, to facilitate access for outdoor enthusiasts, and a river bank trail along the Passaic River to connect the disparate parts of the Park. They are hoping to continue the "Bioblitz" process at other local parks.

If this all sounds like a lot of work, they also make it a lot of fun, by running canoe trips, barbecues, hikes and social events. If these types of activities interest you please contact us: Dave Ogens (bandit29@aol.com) or Ron Pate (973-669-8030).

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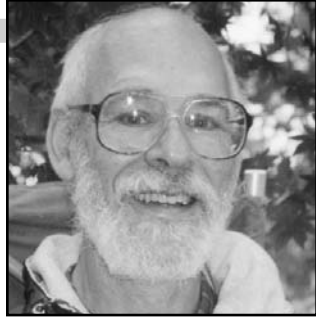
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Editorial

Immigration Policy and Animal Policy Rankle the Club

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



The Sierra Club's internal election of Directors, currently underway (ballots are due by mid-April), has made headlines in newspapers throughout the country. At issue is a coalition of individuals who have petitioned to run for office, with the intention of changing the Club's current policies on immigration and animals. Our Board of Directors (BoD) has faced these challenges before; what's new is the **alliance** between the two groups of challengers to support each other's positions.

The Sierra Club's present policy on immigration is to be **neutral**: to neither favor nor oppose restrictions on immigration into the United States, based on environmental impact. On one side are the arguments that national carrying capacity for humans is approaching its natural limit, if the environment is to be protected, and that each new American uses far more resources on average than that same person would, say, at home in Mexico or Africa.

On the other side is the argument that a fundamental American freedom would be destroyed - a freedom exercised by nearly every Club member's ancestors. Another argument is quite practical: Many members would be so offended by a restrictive policy that they would quit, compromising the Club's effectiveness in all its many other campaigns.

I think it interesting that the rate of population growth is higher in the US than in Japan or any Western European country. Half that rate is said to be due to immigration, and the other half to natural increase. Even without immigration we would be growing more rapidly than any other "developed" country. So why is that? Some population strategists hypothesize that, despite this country's enormous wealth, we include many poor people unable to afford contraceptives, - so improved health care benefits would significantly reduce our population growth.

That brings us to policy on animals. The Club currently reaches out to organizations of hunters and fisherpersons as coalition partners in efforts to restrict logging and other loss of wilderness. BoD candidates who wish the Club to promote vegetarianism and oppose hunting and fishing also have environmental arguments: Far more cultivated land and energy resources are needed to produce dietary **animal** protein than to produce the equivalent nutritional content of **vegetable** protein. Also, animal wastes are serious pollutants in many parts of the country. But their agenda is also driven by "speciesism": the attitude that certain mammal, bird and fish species have natural rights.

An additional twist to an animal rights policy is that it might solve the immigration problem! The additional beans and corn that could be grown for human consumption would raise our country's carrying capacity for humans, perhaps by as much as 50%! And a nation of vege-

tarians might do interesting things to the fast food industry!

The opposing arguments can be considered biological: our species certainly evolved with adaptations to an omnivorous diet. And, again, there's the practical consideration of what a shift in policy would do to the Club's membership strength. (A former member of the New Jersey Chapter's ExCom once offered a resolution that all ExCom members switch to vegetarian diets. The resolution died for lack of a second!)

Anyone wishing more information on the BoD election should feel encouraged to speak with Club officers at Group or Chapter level. I'm besieged with statements and LTE's from members on all sides of the BoD election, but since most members will have voted by the time this Newsletter is distributed, it would be moot (and space-intensive) to print them. I'll be happy to forward copies of articles that appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Last issue I invited suggestions for why the Club has been losing membership. Thank you - to the half-dozen responders, who add the following possible explanations: (1) "Younger generations are becoming a nation of sedentary followers of television, movies, pop music, celebrity idolatry, spectator sports, and electronic pursuits such as computers and video gaming, and even reading of popular grist churned out by the publishing industry. Their followers have no time for much other interest in the outside world. The media, industry, and commerce avidly promote these marketable diversionary interests. Federal bureaucracies support this trend in allowing media monopolies by which it is all promoted. All levels of government tend to look the other way, since it all serves to deflect the public spotlight off the advancement of their own self-serving agendas." (2) Our marketing strategy is faulty: "we have made a mistake by not appealing to voters'/members' self interest.-e.g. we need to market the Highlands as a cheaper alternative to drinking water, likewise for biodiversity, open space, clean air . . ." (3) Support for environmental causes has been trumped by more essential causes: "the bit of nonexistent disposable income that I can spare has been funneled to the ACLU and like-minded groups to fight the even more egregious impairment of basic civil rights and privacy protections . . ." (4) Newer generations of Americans aren't being schooled to enjoy and treasure the environment: "Unless we can motivate teachers to get involved in environmental issues we won't drag either children or their parents away from their screens."

Regarding the election of BoD members: statements of all 17 candidates are available on the web at www.sierraclub.org/bod/2004elections/

Please Help Determine the Future of this Newsletter

The Chapter's Executive Committee members were reminded on Feb 14th that this Newsletter, *The Jersey Sierran*, costs about \$28,000 per year to print and distribute, a cost that has nearly quadrupled in the last five years, largely due to increases in postage. It is the largest Chapter expense after the salaries of its three staff members. An alternate use for the money could be a fourth staff member to work on land use issues in New Jersey communities!

A committee was formed to survey the membership, asking the following questions: **Please mail your response to Survey, Sierra Club, 139 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618, or fax to 609-656-7618.**

- RANK the components of The Jersey Sierran that interest you most:
 - Outings Section
 - Group (and Section) News
 - New Jersey Environmental Politics (Reports from Trenton)
 - Reports on Federal issues, especially those involving NJ's Senators and Representatives
 - Reports from our Issues Coordinators: ATVs, Highlands, Meadowlands, Population, Pinelands, etc.
 - News about our Lawsuits
 - News regarding elections and candidate endorsements
 - Stories and photographs regarding the natural environment
 - Book Reviews
 - Letters from Members
 - Resolutions approved at Club meetings
 - Other (write in, please: _____).
- Format: Might you have preferences for:
 - the current TABLOID newspaper style
 - standard MAGAZINE size, on whiter (and thicker) paper
 - prefer ELECTRONIC distribution (by e-mail).
- Compact Format: If we switched to a format with abbreviated content (articles, outings information and group news) that is supplemented by web links and/or telephone hotline for further details, would you access the supplementary material?
 - Yes
 - Only if the material interests me greatly
 - Would do so for outings information only
 - No because of the extra effort involved
 - No because I have only slow internet access
- Internet access: Please check all that apply:
 - I have broadband (fast) internet access
 - I have only phone modem (slow) internet access
 - I don't use the internet much
 - If I were notified by e-mail that the new Jersey Sierran is available online in pdf format, I would definitely check it out
 - The print edition may be environmentally not so good, but I don't think the electronic edition is ready to replace print yet.
- Frequency: We formerly sent SIX issues per year. Now we are a QUARTERLY.
 - Quarterly works well
 - Prefer more frequently
 - Less frequently acceptable.
- Please use this space to tell us what you LIKE about *The Jersey Sierran*, what you DON'T LIKE, and how we could better serve your needs.

Bleating Behind the Bush!



President Bush paid a visit to New Jersey on December 1 to raise money for his reelection campaign. The \$2000 per plate dinner was held at the Marriot in Hanover. While there was very little advance notice of the event, a number of groups, including the Sierra Club, got wind of it and organized a protest. Bob Johnson of the Loantaka Group sent out an alert to the group's e-mail list and, despite the late notice, a number of Sierra Club members showed up to let the President know what we think of

his destructive environmental policies. While protesters had been promised space on the front lawn, we were instead relegated to a penned-in area behind the hotel in the most distant parking area. This way the President and his well-heeled guests would not have to see or hear us and the public would have no idea that a protest was in progress. Nevertheless, the press knew we were there and the protest was featured that night on NJ12 and on CBS. While a number of groups participated in the protest, the Sierra Club's effort was organized by Kelly McNicholas, Chapter Administrator (first row, far right in the above photo). Kelly, Ken Johanson (second row, far right) and Wynn Johanson (Ken's wife), got together the night before to prepare signs for the event. It was a cold and snowy day, but those of us who were able to attend felt that we were able to make our voices heard.

ALVIN AILEY DANCE COMPANY

SIERRA CLUB THEATRE OUTING FUNDRAISER

Saturday Evening, May 8, 2004

There are still a few prime orchestra tickets for the Alvin Ailey Dance Company at the NJ Performing Art Center in Newark, NJ. Featuring 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. Total cost is \$115 per person. Contact Ellen Blumenkrantz at eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com or home: 201-784-8417.

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

New Jersey Passes Clean Car Law

by Brendan Bell, Associate Washington Representative, Sierra Club Global Warming Program and Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director

On January 12th, the Sierra Club celebrated the successful end of a bitter ten-year fight for clean air. Our New Jersey Chapter, along with a coalition of other environmental groups, has been urging the state Legislature to adopt the California LEV II auto emissions standards. These standards, which passed with a 31-5 vote in the NJ Senate and a 53-15 vote in the Assembly, are stricter than the Federal Tier 2 standards and will require that New Jersey sell a greater proportion of gas/electric hybrid and ultra-clean conventional vehicles as of the January 1, 2009 implementation date. The program also requires that Zero Emissions Vehicles, probably in the form of fuel-cell or battery powered cars, be offered in 2012.

Under the federal Clean Air Act, California is allowed to set stronger air quality standards than the federal government in order to clean up the state's notoriously dirty air. Other states are given the option of either adopting the federal standards or the stronger California standards. Following the victory in New Jersey, there are now five states where cars must meet the stronger California standards - New York, New Jersey, Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont. Thus over 25 percent of all cars sold in the United States will now have to meet the stronger standards.

This is great news for New Jersey because not a single county in the entire state currently meets federal ozone standards, with one out of every three summer days designated an 'ozone alert day'. The LEV II standards will offer a significant improvement in air quality in New Jersey including a 19% reduction in smog-forming chemicals and a 23% reduction in air toxics. This is the equivalent of taking nearly two million cars off of New Jersey's roads. Air pollution triggers respiratory diseases such as asthma, and is the third leading cause of premature death in New Jersey, after smoking and obesity. The Club regards the new legislation as the biggest advance in clean air in New Jersey in more than a decade.

Unlike other states which adopted the program through regulation, New Jersey was forced by a specific 1993 law to

adopt the program through legislation. Though final passage of the bill came with healthy majorities in both houses, the legislation was repeatedly stalled in committees since its reintroduction in January 2002.

The lame duck session which ended in January saw several new amendments adopted to make the bill more palatable to car dealers and industry associates who had lobbied heavily against adoption of any form of the program. Industry lobbyists from the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, the Petroleum Council, Chamber of Commerce, the Business and Industry Association, and the National Automobile Dealers Association descended upon Trenton in the final weeks of the session to oppose passage. They thought if they could stop it here, they could stop it everywhere, but the public wants clean air.

The implementation date, originally to be set in accordance with the release of model year 2007 vehicles, was pushed back to the beginning of 2009. In response to concerns that New Jersey will be required to adopt changes that the California Air Resource Board may make to the program, the law also establishes a Commission of industry, public interest and government officials to review the standards and offer input to both the Department of Environmental Protection's Commissioner and the Legislature about the viability of the program in New Jersey, with each having the option to roll it back - and revert to the less-stringent federal standards.

This victory will also help boost clean cars nationwide. Many other states are exploring the idea of following New Jersey's lead and adopting the California standards. Manufacturers now have a powerful incentive to sell clean cars nationally. This responsible action in the states stands in stark contrast to the failure of the Bush Administration to set stronger pollution standards for vehicles and promote clean car technology.

Visit www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming to learn more about this exciting victory. ♪

(Brendan Bell is in the Club's Washington DC office at 202-547-1141. Jeff Tittel's e-mail address is jefft1@voicenet.com.)

PROGRAM IN ECUDOR

(Continued from page 2)

group pointed out, this is where the dollar ends — in helping these warm and friendly people to have healthier lives. Healthy families know about spacing their children, so that each child can be fully nurtured. Healthy families are smaller families because the chances of each child reaching adulthood are improved. Healthy families are educated families that create less demand on the environment through such methods as rotating crops to improve soil, and planting trees to protect watersheds.

Seeing the good these programs do, one can only wonder why the Bush Administration is not increasing the funding of USAID population-related programs. In fact, the Administration insists on penalizing these programs with the Global Gag Rule, and it has cut all funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which helps communities around the world to stabilize population.

For more information about these issues, go to the new Sierra Club population web page at www.sierraclub.org/population/. In future articles we will learn about crucial water resources and programs for youth. If your Group would like to see a presentation about this trip, please contact me (Bonnie Tillery) at 609-259-6438 or at blt44blt@aol.com. ♪

Additional Note: The Sierra Club's national Global Population and Environment Program Committee voted to have the Sierra Club become a sponsoring partner with the "March for Women's Lives." The March will take place in Washington DC on April 25. More information is available (<http://www.marchforwomen.org/>), with links to New Jersey sites and buses going to Washington from around the state.

ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

The Governor Talks About ATV Damage

by Fred Akers, our ATV (All-Terrain Vehicle) Issues Coordinator, and Conservation Chair of the South Jersey Group

On Feb 2nd, Governor McGreevey held a press-free environmental meeting in Galloway Twp. (Atlantic County) with about 30 regional environmentalists. He brought some staff people with him, including his environmental advisor, Curtis Fisher, and several people from the DEP.

The Governor wanted to inform the environmental community about his new regulatory initiatives in the areas of mercury and diesel soot air pollution reductions, reducing the level of arsenic in drinking water, and making polluters pay for the environmental damages they cause. He also spoke about C-1 stream protection, 300ft stream-buffers, Transfer of Development Rights, impact fee legislation, and concerns about nuclear power plants. He distributed a 4-page handout with page-headings as follows:

- * Protecting Children By Reducing Toxic Mercury Emissions
- * Ensuring that Polluters Pay for the Environmental Damage They Cause
- * Helping to Make the Air Safer to Breathe by Reducing the Soot in the Air
- * Protecting New Jersey's Drinking Water by Reducing the Level of Arsenic

He was very congenial, and took lots of questions, and really wanted to know what we thought on these and other issues. He stressed that he wanted to get things accomplished, which was easier to do using his regulatory powers than by new legislation. He told us that he needed to target specific goals; those things that he felt could be successful.

During the discussion on making polluters pay for environmental damage, the question came up of whether this included damage caused by ATV operators. McGreevey was interested in this. He agreed that more needed to be done with enforcement, and said that he had talked with DEP Commissioner Brad Campbell. I suggested that the only real

solution was new legislation, and he replied that expecting new legislation was unrealistic, and that regulatory measures would be more successful. I told him that some of us would keep working at a legislative solution, and left it at that. I understand that this is not a key issue for him, and he is evidently not aware of the legislative limits of his regulations on ATV enforcement. However, I was delighted to have the dialog and have the issue get some quality air-time.

Governor McGreevey is a wonderful advocate for environmental protection here in New Jersey, and his rigorous outreach to work with citizens in all corners of the state is very refreshing. He is also a great communicator, and I left the meeting with a sense of partnership for protecting the environmental resources of the state.

Concerning ATV legislation versus regulation, I believe that the scale of real-time illegal ATV activities is already out of regulatory control at the state and local levels. The general public is stuck with subsidizing the costs of enforcement - and the reality of apprehending violators and making them pay to repair the damage that they cause is a long shot in most cases.

A prime example of a legislative limitation is that the maximum fine for ATV violations in state Wildlife Management Areas is \$200. Compared to the cost of regular admission to the NJ-ORV Park in Chatsworth, \$200 is little deterrent, especially when the chances of actually getting caught on the perfect get-a-way vehicle are very low.

The long-term solution will be a comprehensive registration, insurance, licensing and tagging program, funded by those who purchase these vehicles, combined with more legal riding facilities managed, operated, and funded by the riding community, just like the NJ-ORV Park. Getting to this solution will require more than regulation and enforcement: it will require well-crafted legislation from Trenton. ♪

VICTORY ON THE MILLSTONE

(Continued from page 1)

University, stressing their environmental concerns, the need for a wildlife survey, and their preference for D2.

Five months later, on January 28, 2004, at 6 pm, the Roundtable reconvened for the DOT's unveiling of its preferred, and final, alignment.

A slightly altered alignment, called "D2-A," was chosen. The plaza above the submerged Route 1 described in D2 proved to be too expensive, so it was eliminated. Frontage roads, as described in D2, would line both sides of Route 1 from Harrison Street to Alexander Road, with modified interchanges. The entrance from Route 1 into Sarnoff had been shifted to the south, to align with a road already passing through the campus.

Through Sarnoff's land, between Washington Road and the railroad bridge in Princeton Junction, was nothing. A wildlife surveyor hired by the DOT had found two long-eared owl's nests. The DOT's traffic modelers had attempted iteration after iteration of the ESC but could not align the road in any way that would avoid the owls, the arrowheads, or the historic buildings. The East-Side

Connector, as a publicly funded road, was dead.

Through the actions of a small group of determined people who refused to give up, the Millstone River, the Delaware and Raritan Canal, the Washington Road Elm Allee, and several long-eared owls have been saved.

The following is a far from all-inclusive list of the activists who made this happen:

The Birder: Pam Newitt

The NJ Sierra Club: Laura Lynch, Mary Penney, Ed Pfeiffer, Dennis Schvejda and Jeff Tittel

The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association: Chris Altomari, George Hawkins and Noelle MacKay

STOP: Richard Barrett, Alan Goodheart, Lincoln and Sarah Hollister, Peggy Killmer, Pat Lyons, Jean Mahoney, Bobbie Parmet and Candace Preston

West Windsor Citizens for Transportation Alternatives: Paula McGuire and Sandy Shapiro

The Sierra Club also appreciates the co-ordinating efforts of the Rutgers University Voorhees Transportation Policy Institute, Helen Neuhaus, Lonnie Weiss and Amy Steffen. ♪

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.

Resolutions passed by the Chapter's Executive Committee in January and February, 2004

(Editor's note: Not all the lawsuits we authorize actually come to fruition. Sometimes even the threat of them is enough to deter a developer or government entity. All of them must first be approved by Sierra Club officials in our main offices in San Francisco. Many of them don't require member funding, as there are many lawyers and agencies that take cases "pro bono" or use funds from other sources. I think members are entitled to know these "ways" in which the Chapter accomplishes some of its objectives, and they provide a sense of what ExCom members "do" at our monthly meetings!)

Lawsuit opposing diversion of Green Acres open space for a high school in Monroe Twp, Middlesex County: We retained the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic to represent the Club in an appeal in the Superior Court of New Jersey contesting actions taken by the DEP and the State House Commission. (January)

We supported construction of a cross-harbor freight tunnel to move freight by rail from New Jersey to Brooklyn, NY, to save energy and reduce noise and pollutant emissions. (January)

Lawsuit to defend the DEP's Phase II Stormwater Regulations: We retained the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic/Eastern Environmental Law Clinic to oppose an anticipated challenge by the New Jersey Builders Association, or any other person or organization, to the DEP's proposed stormwater regulations requiring municipalities and institutions to identify and maintain stormwater outfalls.

Opposing a federal settlement on the Heritage Minerals tract: We retained the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic/Eastern Environmental Law Clinic to oppose the proposed settlement of a federal lawsuit

that could result in the construction of 2450 homes on part of the 7500-acre Heritage Minerals tract. (January)

Opposing development of about 21 homes on the Sharma property on Woodland Avenue in Edison. The area was once a part of the J. P. Stevens tract and is located adjacent to the Edith Stevens Environmental Preserve. Serious questions are raised over the drainage onto the preserve, tree removal and also historical value. (February)

A mother's promise resolution: to commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development by reaffirming our commitment to mothers and children, and the promise of love, security, shelter, food, good health, a clean environment, and education embodied in the 1994 Cairo Programme of Action. (February)

Calling for the decommissioning of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant (Ocean County) as soon as practically possible and the denial of any request to extend current operational permits. Oyster Creek is the oldest operating nuclear plant in the country and is located in NJ's second fastest growing county. The operating permit is set to expire in April of 2009 and the current owners, Exelon Corporation, will likely apply to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a twenty-year license extension. (February)

We approved standing rules for the operation of the Club's Political Committee, which is about to consider endorsement of candidates running for US Congress in the November, 2004, General Election. (February)

We opposed extension of Helen Street in South Plainfield that would disrupt Dismal Swamp. (February) ☞

Sierra Club Picks Worst Bush Administration Environmental Exploits Of 2003

submitted by Eric Antebi in the Club's San Francisco office

Tripling allowable levels of mercury pollution, shifting the burden of toxic clean up from polluters to taxpayers, and undoing rules for cleaning up America's dirtiest power plants topped a laundry list of the Bush administration's exploits to weaken decades of environmental progress in 2003.

"The Bush administration is systematically turning back 30 years of environmental progress," said Carl Pope, Sierra Club executive director. "You really have to go back to the McKinley administration in the late 19th century to find so many gratuitous giveaways to special interests looking to exploit our air, water, and natural areas. Americans want a 21st century administration that can deliver forward-thinking environmental solutions."

The Sierra Club surveyed subscribers of RAW, the organization's twice-weekly electronic newsletter tracking the Bush

(Continued on page 6)

Plantations in the Pines?

by Michael Gallaway, our Liaison to the Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Our country's insatiable desire for wood and paper products has led to a 15 fold increase in pine plantations over the past 50 years. Upwards of 30 million acres of native pine forests (roughly six to seven times the size of our state) have been converted to tree farms, predominantly in the southern states. Plantation forestry involves heavy herbicide use to discourage understory growth and competition, and heavy pesticide use to try to control the inevitable upswing in pests like the pine beetle. The result is acre after acre of neat rows of same aged, single

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(Continued on page 6)

Litigation Status Report

from Ken Johanson, Chair of our Litigation Oversight Committee

Alexan At Riverdale. The DEP granted a stream encroachment permit to TCR Northeast Properties, Inc. for a series of dry detention basins and swales to manage stormwater for a 518-unit residential development in Riverdale, NJ. All discharges would flow to a small C-1 tributary of the Pequannock River and eventually to the Pequannock. No adequate antidegradation analysis was conducted, nor were flow calculations verified by the DEP. The Pequannock is already impaired for temperature and it was feared that the discharges would exacerbate this problem. The Pequannock River Coalition filed an appeal of the DEP action with the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey. Thereafter the developer and the appellant entered into settlement discussions. The Sierra Club delayed seeking leave to intervene in the appeal pending the outcome of those talks. Those talks have now resulted in a favorable settlement of the dispute and the Pequannock River Coalition has dropped its appeal.

Butterworth. The DEP issued a wastewater permit to the Butterworth Wastewater Treatment Plant that would allow unacceptably high levels of phosphorus and other substances in treated effluent. The Sierra Club challenged the issuance of the permit by filing an adjudicatory hearing request with the DEP. Once the matter has been transferred from the DEP to the Office of Administrative Law, the Sierra Club's request for an adjudicatory hearing will be scheduled before an administrative law judge.

Cape May County Community College.

The Sierra Club joined with several other organizations in challenging decisions of the DEP and the State House Commission granting permission to Cape May County to build a community college on protected parkland. An appeal of the decision of the State House Commission was filed with the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey. The Appellate Division granted a temporary stay of the decision but the stay was subsequently lifted. The matter was argued on September 17, 2003. On October 6, 2003 the Appellate Decision issued a written opinion upholding the actions taken by the DEP and the State House Commission. While the Court appeared to be disturbed by several facets of the case, it nevertheless deferred to the administrative agencies. Fortunately, the opinion is unpublished, which means that it has limited precedential effect. After consulting with counsel it was decided not to seek leave to appeal the decision to the New Jersey Supreme Court.

C-1 Stream Designations. The New Jersey Builders Association filed an appeal with the Appellate Division of the Superior Court challenging the adoption of regulations by the DEP upgrading the classification of 15 high quality streams and reservoirs to Category One protection. The Sierra Club supports the action taken by the DEP and, on August 26, 2003, the Club and several other organizations moved to intervene or, in the alternative, file an amici curiae brief. The motion was opposed by the Builders Association, but

not by the DEP. On October 1, 2003, the Court denied the request to intervene but granted amicus status. Briefs have not yet been submitted and no date has been set for oral argument.

Cranberry Bog General Permit. The Appellate Division of the New Jersey Superior Court issued a decision upholding a DEP regulation authorizing the expansion of cranberry bogs in the Pinelands region of the State through the creation of a statewide general permit. The Sierra Club, together with several other organizations, filed a petition for certification with the New Jersey Supreme Court, arguing that the Appellate Division erred in holding that the Freshwater Wetlands Act does not apply in the Pinelands. The Supreme Court granted the petition for certification and allowed the parties to further brief the matter. The Court heard oral arguments on September 8, 2003 but has not yet issued a decision.

Hamburg Mountain. The DEP announced on January 29, 2003 that the Department and Intrawest Corporation had entered into an agreement to preserve more than 1800 acres atop Hamburg Mountain. Under the terms of the agreement the State of New Jersey has purchased 451 acres from Mountain Creek, a subsidiary of Intrawest, and Mountain Creek has donated an additional 1398 acres to the State. Mountain Creek retains the right to pursue development in the valley and to use a portion of the mountain for its existing ski operation. The settlement negotiated by the DEP and

Intrawest, together with an earlier court decision, effectively resolve all of the substantive issues involved in this dispute. The Sierra Club has now reached agreement with the developer and other parties to an action filed in the Law Division of the Superior Court calling for the dismissal of that suit and has provided the developer with a comfort letter stating that the Club does not intend to finance litigation or object to the issuance of permits that are consistent with the developer's General Development Plan for development in the valley.

Plainfield. The Sierra Club and a neighborhood group filed an appeal from a decision of the DEP allowing the City of Plainfield to remove its central town green from its Green Acres Recreation and Open Space Inventory, thereby permitting development of the site. The Appellate Division of the Superior Court ruled in favor of the Sierra Club. The opposing parties in the suit then filed petitions for certification with the New Jersey Supreme Court. However, before the Supreme Court could act on the applications, the legislature passed and the Governor signed a bill designed to overrule the decision of the Appellate Division. The State, the City and the Union County Improvement Authority thereafter moved to withdraw their petitions for certification. Several months later the City sold the property to the Union County Improvement Authority. The Sierra Club, having concluded that the legislation does not apply to the

(Continued on page 6)

PLANTATIONS

(Continued from page 5)

communities that previously flourished in the diverse natural forest. And human communities suffer also, both by bombardment with chemicals and from the psychological effect of watching native landscapes disappear. (See NRDC's *On Earth*, December 2003, The Tennessee Tree Massacre)

People have seen relatively little of this in the New Jersey Pinelands because the predominant Pitch Pines have had minimal economic value. Private landowners are allowed to cut trees for firewood, but historically these activities have not been of ecological concern due to their small scale and the forests' ability to regenerate. Cedars are highly prized, of course, but their wetlands growth patterns do not lend themselves to this type of aggressive forestry. But the economics are changing. The market for pulp is growing, making pitch pines more attractive. More ominously, several large landowners in the Pine Barrens are proposing large scale cutting and replanting with plantations of hybrid Loblolly Pines that would be more valuable as timber. Several small cuts have already taken place, but there is a current proposal for 10,000 acres. This would include clearcutting existing trees, root raking and drum chopping with heavy machinery to remove all roots and competing plants, and intensive herbicide and fertilizer applications. This plantation style of forestry threatens to do

what past activities have not — permanently remove what makes the Pinelands unique.

The Pinelands Commission has authority to require "native Pinelands forest types," and to protect threatened and endangered species. But the Commission has not looked closely at several recent small cuts which appear to have disturbed habitat. The Commission is starting to look more closely, however, as the threats intensify. After lobbying from the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, the Commission recently issued a letter to the landowner who proposed the 10,000-acre cut, stating that replanting must be done with native species. The landowner must also show how the intensive site preparation is consistent with maintaining a native forest type. The landowner has not responded, but it is hard to see how hybrid pine plantations can be reconciled with current Commission rules. But there is also intense pressure from landowners, and the Commission shares jurisdiction on this issue with the State Forestry Service, who may be more sympathetic to economic arguments.

So hopefully, the next generation of Pinelands forests will not look like Farmer Johnson's corn field. But the folks in charge need to know that we're watching. Let the Pinelands Commission know you approve of their recent letter, and tell them you don't want to see plantations in the pines. (609-894-7300, <http://www.state.nj.us/pinelands>). You are welcome to contact me (Michael Gallaway) at 856-797-7922, (m.gallaway@comcast.net) for more information. ☺

LITIGATION

(Continued from page 5)

Plainfield site, filed a request for a declaratory judgment with the DEP. The request was denied. On June 20, 2003 the Sierra Club filed a notice of appeal with the Appellate Division of the Superior Court appealing the action of the DEP and requesting a declaratory ruling. Briefs were submitted in December of 2003 but no oral argument has been scheduled. In the meantime, site preparation continues.

Sandyston and Montague Center Designations. The New Jersey State Planning Commission has designated Sandyston Township and Montague Township as centers under the State Development and Redevelopment Plan, thereby entitling these municipalities to various growth incentives under State law. The areas are largely undeveloped and have been targeted for preservation by governmental agencies and NGOs. The Sierra Club filed a notice of appeal with the Appellate Division of

the Superior Court. The Court thereafter requested clarification as to whether the appeal had been filed in a timely fashion. Counsel responded by letter dated August 11, 2003. While the Court has yet to rule on this question, it has issued a scheduling order directing that briefing go forward. The Sierra Club brief will be filed sometime in February.

Vernon and Sparta Center Designations. The New Jersey State Planning Commission has designated Vernon Township and Sparta Township as centers under the State Development and Redevelopment Plan, thereby entitling these municipalities to various growth incentives under State law. Like Sandyston and Montague, these areas are largely undeveloped and have been targeted for preservation by governmental agencies and NGOs. On November 10, 2003 the Sierra Club filed a notice of appeal with the Appellate Division of the Superior Court. Briefs have not yet been submitted and no date has been set for oral argument. ☺

SENIORS SECTION BEING ORGANIZED

The Sierra Club is organizing a Seniors Section to help foster the purposes of the Sierra Club by encouraging the participation of seniors in Sierra Club activities. Members of a Sierra Club "Section" can live anywhere in the State Chapter, and can participate in regional Group activities as well as Section activities. (We already host a Singles Section.)

Our first meeting of the Seniors Section will be on, Saturday, April 10, 10-11am, at the Hamilton Public Library, Mercer County. Everyone who would like to participate is invited!!

For directions and/or more information, please call Richard Isaac, at 973-716-0297. ☺

BUSH ADMINISTRATION

(Continued from page 5)

administration's environmental record, to determine the worst-of-the-worst decisions affecting public health and the environment. Mercury pollution, toxic cleanup, and soot and smog registered as the greatest concerns, from a list that also included oil drilling on sensitive lands, a secret amnesty deal for giant factory farms, and lax environmental enforcement, among others.

The survey also found that the public is largely unaware of the broad scope of the Bush administration's assaults on the nation's air, water and lands, Pope said. Many respondents expressed surprise that they haven't heard more about the administration's environmental record from mainstream media.

"Trying to limit my vote to three big ones is beyond difficult," wrote one RAW reader in a typical response. "This administration is doing more damage than the Reagan & Bush Sr. ones did. And I didn't think that was even possible! Thank you for making the effort to educate Americans about what this administration is really doing to this country!"

The full list of 2003 Bush administration actions, ranked according to the survey response, appears below. To subscribe to RAW, visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/raw>.

1. MERCURY RISING - Issued public health warnings to pregnant women and children about mercury after announcing policy changes to triple amount of mercury pollution allowed from power plants.

2. SUPER DUPED - Became first administration to support shifting burden of Superfund toxic waste cleanups from polluters to taxpayers.

3. SOOTY SANTA - Dismantled provision of Clean Air Act that requires oldest, dirtiest power plants and refineries to curb soot and smog pollution.

4. BACK IN BLACKOUT - Proposed a national Energy Bill that did nothing to reduce dependence on foreign oil, repair or address the antiquated electricity grid, or protect special places from oil and gas drilling.

5. DRILLING WILDERNESS - Opened nearly 9 million

pristine acres in Northwest Alaska to the oil and gas industry for exploration and drilling.

6. STONEWALLING, BIG TIME (tied) - Continued to withhold documents from secret meetings between Bush/Cheney Energy Task Force and energy industry lobbyists.

6. DON'T AX, DON'T TELL (tied) - Promoted a wildfire policy that expanded commercial logging in the backcountry but did little to protect people where they live.

7. NEXT STOP, SHINOLA - Allowed untreated sewage to be blended with treated sewage, cut funding for local sewage treatment, and didn't require health officials to warn public about sewage in water.

8. CRITICAL CONDITION - Obliterated the process of critical habitat designation for imperiled wildlife under the Endangered Species Act.

9. COP OFF - Continued pattern of willful negligence for enforcement of even basic clean water and clean air laws.

10. POST 9/11 LIES - Discovered by EPA Inspector General to have lied about post 9/11 environmental health hazards near Ground Zero.

11. ROAD WARRIOR - Expanded the legal loophole that allows unreasonable road claims through federally protected wilderness, national parks, and public lands.

12. HOG WASH - Secretly negotiated backroom deal to exempt giant animal factories from laws governing air and toxic pollution.

13. POLLUTED LOGIC - Refused to classify industrial carbon emissions, linked to global warming, as an official pollutant under the Clean Air Act.

14. HOT AIR - Proposed fantasy hydrogen power initiative to improve auto fuel efficiency rather than promoting more proven technologies like gas-electric hybrids.

15. ESTATE TOX - Ended a 25-year ban on the sale of PCB-laden real estate.

Eric Antebi's phone number, in the Club's San Francisco office, is 415-977-5747.



Group News FROM AROUND THE STATE

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

Northwest Jersey Group

(Sussex and Warren Counties, approximately)

Web site: We are accessible from the NJ Chapter Web site.

OFFICERS:

Chair: Dennis Miranda 973-209-1814
dmmg@earthlink.net

Vice Chair: Open position!

Treasurer: Open position!

Secretary: Open position!

Political Chair: Open position!

Publicity Chair: Open position!

Outings Chair: Open position!

ACTIVITIES: Working to preserve open space and clean water in the NJ Highlands within Sussex and Warren Counties.

****OPENINGS**** The Group has an opening for Treasurer, Secretary, Conservation, and a number of other positions as it renews its efforts to preserve open space and clean water within the NJ Highlands. Free training provided. For those interested in helping please contact Dennis at 973-209-1814, or at: dmmg@earthlink.net for details. Thanks!

GENERAL MEETINGS: The next General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 23, 7pm, at the Blairstown Public Library, off of Rte 94, where Dennis Miranda will discuss **current plans for preserving the NJ Highlands from over-development**. For directions or more information, please call Dennis, at 973-564-9589.

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

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. We continue to attend county meetings and workshops. Draft environmental ordinances will be available for Hunterdon municipalities to adopt this year.

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 other county situations.

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

Education

We will be doing some general meetings in the county for Spring '04 to get out the Stop Bush message, including a county Earth Day event.

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
efrie2003@yahoo.com

Outings Chair:

Ellen Blumenkrantz
eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Political Chair: John Kashwick 201-660-8820
jkashwick@optonline.net

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, please contact Betsy or Hugh (see above).

GENERAL MEETINGS:

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

Apr 22: at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood, NJ: **Saving the Selva Maya** - lecture and slide show by nature photographers Jerry Barrack and Doug Goodell and nature writer Jim Wright about the largest contiguous tropical rainforest north of the Amazon, now threatened by deforestation, fires and human encroachment. Spanning about 9 million acres in Mexico, Belize and Guatemala, the Selva Maya boasts an extraordinary wealth of diversity of flora and fauna species (many unique to the region), pre-Columbian archeological sites and centuries-old old-growth forests.

May 13: at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood, NJ: Program TBA - contact Betsy (see above).

Jun 17: at Paramus Public Library, E-116 Century Road, Paramus, NJ, 201-599-1300: **Environmental Effects of Pesticides** - lecture by Prof. Howard Horowitz of Ramapo College on the overuse of pesticides and the impact of their accumulation, "drift" and synergistic interactions on ecosystems, aquifers, wildlife, and humans. The program will include pathways and evidence of contamination, USGS and US EPA findings, and the inadequacies of risk assessments and pest management practices.

HIGHLANDS COMMITTEE: Open to everyone who is interested in conservation of the Highlands. Meetings will be held on an ad hoc basis at a location TBA. To find out more or the date of the next meeting, please contact Mike, Tom or Betsy (see above).

STERLING FOREST THREAT: To protect our water resources, Sterling Forest was preserved at the cost of nearly \$80 million - right? Well, not all of it. Sterling Forest LLC still owns 571 acres in the middle of Sterling Forest State Park on which it plans to build an 18-hole golf course and 93 luxury homes. This development will dramatically alter the wilderness landscape, destroy wildlife habitat and degrade the wetlands and water resources of the Ramapo River watershed, extending as far as the Wanaque and Oradell reservoir systems. To find out how to help stop this project or join the letter-writing campaign, please contact Tom or Betsy (see above).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: There are many ways to get involved. You can help protect wetlands, woodlands and forested buffers and slopes in the Ramapo or Hackensack River watersheds by joining the Highlands Committee or the campaign to save Sterling Forest (see above). Help monitor or propose pro-environment legislation. Take part in our political endorsement process and help identify, interview or work for environmental candidates for public office. Follow one environmental issue, such as air or water quality, environmental justice, global warming, nuclear energy, population, recycling, urban renewal or another of your own choosing. Or lend a hand to help with our public education programs, publicity, tabling at events, or petition drives. To find out more, please contact Betsy, Hugh, Mike or Tom (see above).

TO RECEIVE E-MAIL NOTICES OF MEETINGS, ISSUE ALERTS OR HIKES: Please send your e-mail address (which will be kept confidential) to BetsyKohn@aol.com

Hudson-Meadowlands Group

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

OFFICERS:

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

Treasurer: *Open position!*

Secretary: Connie Ftera 201-869-7950

Programs Chair: *Open position!*

Publicity: *Open position!*

Political Chair: *Open position!*

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

NEWS: As you can guess, the Hudson-Meadowlands Group is suffering "growth pains." It takes active volunteers to operate the Sierra Club, people interested both in local issues (environmentally responsible development of the Hoboken waterfront area, oversight of Liberty State Park, motivations for using public transport, local parks, Meadowlands issues, etc.), and people interested in the larger regional and statewide issues discussed at monthly Chapter ExCom meetings and pursued by our Issue Coordinators. Hudson (and southern Bergen) County always presents interesting political election endorsement issues. Please call Rich Isaac, Chapter Political Chair (973-716-0297) for more information or to take part.

Essex County Group

(Essex County)

OFFICERS:

Chair: Michel Cuillierier 973-736-0913
schatzidog@earthlink.net

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j_dentz@yahoo.com

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Open Space: Michel Cuillierier 973-736-0913
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Treasurer: Lori Tanner 973-857-0519
LJensen@montclairlaw.com

Secretary: Janine Schaeffer 973-736-0898
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Fundraising: Kim McGuire 973-275-1030
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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.

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

In June, we will be participating with the Newark Museum in a Bio-Blitz in the South Mountain Reservation where several biologists and scientists will be inventorying natural resources for a day and a half. We need volunteers to work with us.

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

Programs: *Open Position!*

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

Publicity Chair: Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442
johansons@comcast.net

Membership: Doug Williams
doog@optonline.net

Air Quality Coordinator: Bob Campbell 908-273-5720
wrobcc@intac.com

Highlands Coordinator: Phil L'Hommedieu 973-425-2808
plhommedie@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:

Meetings are held on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St., Chatham, NJ

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:

Meetings are held on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at the Library of the Chathams, 214 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:

April 14: Jim Burchell is the director of PeaceWorks, a small nonprofit organization that has had a long-term relationship with communities in Nicaragua. His talk will provide an **overview of his work in Nicaragua** using a slide presentation. He will put an emphasis on the environmental implications of his work, such as promoting fair trade coffee, supporting Nicaraguan organizations fighting for control of the nation's water resources, and the impact of poverty on the environment. He will also provide a glimpse of some of the wonderful ecological projects he has encountered. One example is a night spent on top of the Mombacho cloud forest preserve. Incredible, with photos!

May 12: Ross Kushner, Director of the Pequannock River Coalition, will give a presentation about the **Highlands of NJ**, concentrating on the extraordinary efforts to protect it. He will provide a historical perspective and discuss some on the on-going battles that are currently being waged in the fight to preserve crucial watershed tracts. This presentation is a "MUST" for those who strongly support preserving the Highlands.

June 9: To be announced.

ACTIVITIES:

The Loantaka Group is working with concerned citizens and local environmental organizations to protect open space and wildlife habitat in Morris and Union Counties, and to safeguard the water resources on which we all depend. We are also organizing volunteers to help maintain and improve trails in the Morris and Union County Park Systems. In addition, the Group is actively involved

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GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

in State-wide initiatives involving air quality, transportation, and environmental legislation. Volunteers are always welcome. Call Paul (908-233-2414) or Bob Johnson (908-771-9676) for more information.

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County, parts of Somerset and Middlesex)

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Laura Lynch	609-882-4642 llynch@mail.med.upenn.edu
Vice Chair:	Lisa Ridge	609-371-1357 lisaridge@comcast.net
Treasurer:	Bill Wowk	609-587-0502 bwowk@aol.com
Conservation Chair:	Ed Pfeiffer	609-581-1660 ECPfeiffer@aol.com
Membership Chair:	Corinne Egner	conskayakr@aol.com
Programs Committee:	Ken Mayberg	609-443-9138 kjmayerg@aol.com and Lisa Ridge
Publicity Coordinator:	Janet Black	609-371-1357 jblack8084@aol.com
Political Committee:	Tom Zolandz	908-874-4194 earthsounds@yahoo.com
Outings Chair:	Ken Mayberg	609-443-9138 kjmayerg@aol.com
Outreach Coordinator:	Harold Rapp	609-671-0435 HalRapp@aol.com
Forest Issues Coordinator:	Nancy Carringer	ncarringer@yahoo.com
Parks & Biodiversity Issues:	Pat Sayles	plsayles@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 Laura Lynch (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.

The Central Jersey Group will be changing its meeting location in May! We will be moving to the Lawrence Branch Library (Mercer County headquarters, Darrah Lane and Rte 1) starting in May. The move is needed because of lighting issues at the West Windsor branch.

Directions:

From Trenton: Exit Rte 1 north at "bus. Rte1 and Rte 206" ramp (on left). At traffic circle, bear right onto bus. Rte 1 north. Exit in about 2 miles to Darrah Lane. (Dodge dealership proceeds exit.) Cross highway and library is on right. Meeting rooms are on far right side of library.

From the North: Take Rte 1 south past Rte 295/95. In about a mile the highway splits. Bear right onto bus. Rte 1 south towards North Trenton. Turn right at next light onto Darrah Lane. The library is on the right. Meeting rooms are on the far right side of library.

Using Mapquest? The address is 2751 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville 08648.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

Apr 14: Visit the Ecuadorian Andes and learn about the integrated programs that help rural indigenous families. Bonnie Tillery, the New Jersey Chapter population issues coordinator, will discuss her trip with a Sierra Club sponsored study tour. You will also learn what New Jersey and Ecuador have in common, as well as see some beautifully exotic sights.

May 12: The curator of the Walnford Gristmill near Allentown, NJ will share the history of gristmilling and stories of rural life in Central NJ during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Jun 9: The Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory is at the cutting edge of developing alternative fuel systems for the future and is most known for experiments dealing with nuclear fusion. Our speaker will discuss the work that is going on at PPPL and answer questions about energy systems of the future.

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)

Website: www.njsierra.org/~njrar/

OFFICERS AND CONTACTS:

Chair:	Steve Ember	732-926-8964 sehiker@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>	
Conservation Co-Chairs:	<i>Open position!</i>	
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:	<i>Open position!</i>	
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 I Vogt Drive in Bridgewater. All Sierra Club members are invited to attend. Please contact us first in case there is a change of plans.

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth and Ocean Counties)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Dennis Anderson	732-888-3158 dennisaza@aol.com 612 Second St., Union Beach, NJ 07735
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Vice-Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>	
Secretary:	Joe DeLuca	732-389-1835 joe-deluca@att.net
Conservation:		
Monmouth Co:	Steve Knowlton	732-747-7011 knowlton@worldnet.att.net
Ocean County:	<i>Open position!</i>	
Ocean County Section Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>	
Webmaster:	George Newsome	732-308-1518 newsome1@pobox.com
Treasurer:	Judy Maxcy	732-458-5074
Political Chair:	Laura Bagwell	732-741-8678 l.bagwell3@verizon.net
Outings Chair:	Mike Verange	908-902-0718 mjverange@aol.com
Membership Chair:	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.

April 26: Blowing in the Wind. Renewable energy, including wind energy, is a growing source of energy for many in the world. Join us as Robert Link, Permit Compliance Officer of Winery, shares with us his company's plans for a "wind farm" off the coast of New Jersey.

May 24: Green Night. Here is your chance to do something positive for the environment. We will present current environmental issues—you will write letters to elected officials and others. We supply the pens, paper, and stamps!

June 28: Empty Seas? Are we depleting the oceans' resources by our methods of commercial fishing? Will enough fish survive to produce the next generation? Hear Tom Fote, one of New Jersey's representatives on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, answer these and other questions about the status of our marine fisheries.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

The Group's Executive Committee meets 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 psclm@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	pinelands1@hotmail.com
Greenways Coordinators:	Frank and Ellen Zinni	
Conservation Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Membership Chair:	Mike Brown	856-547-9221 eyebrown@snip.net
Fundraising Chair:	Reiss Tiffany	856-829-6405 r-stiffany@home.com
Programs Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Outings Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Inner City Outings:	Jennifer Grenier	856-582-5512 and Maxine Vogt
		856-779-9156

GENERAL MEETINGS: are held at 7:30 pm on the SECOND TUESDAY of each month, at the Unitarian Church, 401 N. Kings Highway (Rte. 41), Cherry Hill (located between Rte. 70 and the convergence of Rtes. 38 and 73, just north of a traffic light at Chapel Avenue). Handicap accessible parking and entrance in rear of building.

Apr 13: Tom Polinski, Rutgers Master Gardener will present **Organic Gardening**.

Apr 24: Join us at **Earth Day 2004**, Washington Lake Park, Greentree Rd and Hurffille-Cross Keys Rds in Turnersville, NJ from 10 AM to 4 PM.

May 11: John Hasse will discuss **Smart Growth**.

Jun 8: Tim Fostik will present **Solar Power**.

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:	Sally Nunn	609-704-1790
	nunsal@comcast.net	
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.

Apr 17 (Sat): 10am: A morning **exploring trails near Lake Nescochague**, near Batsto and Pleasant Mills in Mullica Township. Call Dick Colby for more information.

May 25 (Tues): 7pm: Opportunity to catch up on **conservation planning for the Great Egg Harbor Wild and Scenic River**, at a public session of the Watershed Association (an organization that once got its start as our Group Executive Committee!). Clay Sutton will be the speaker; he will present the first results of his monitoring of bird species in the Watershed. For information or to confirm, call the Akers. Warren Fox Nature Center.

June: Fred Akers has offered to lead an **evening field trip to identify frogs**, somewhere along the Great Egg Harbor River. Contact him if interested.

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. Everyone is welcome 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— you have the slightest urge to get involved, please give in to it!

Webpage address: <http://singles.njsierra.org>
email: singles@njsierra.org (mention “Sierra Club” in your subject line)

Phone announcements: (973) 364-7573

- Press 1 for:** Final Friday Film Fest (last Friday of each month)
- Press 2 for:** Ron Pate’s upcoming hike
- Press 3 for:** 2nd Monday monthly meeting
- Press 4 for:** 3rd Tuesday of the month dinner in Montclair
- Press 7 for:** Joyce Haddad’s outings
- Press 8 for:** Singles Dance-and-a-Movie or Volleyball

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 planner 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, introduction to club issues and activities, and letter writing. **SECOND MONDAY** of each month starting at 6:30pm with optional pizza. The location for the meetings should be the Chatham Library — please call 973-364-7573, ext. 3 or join our listserv to confirm. Guest speakers at each meeting at 7pm. \$5 donation at door and RSVP (required for pizza only) to joycemwhite@att.net or 973-364-7573, ext. 3, by noon the day before. (Please leave name and specify plain or veggie-topping pizza.) Free (and no RSVP required) if you’re not having pizza.

April 12: Are you concerned about the **effects our global population of 6.35 billion is having on the environment?** Visit the Ecuadorian Andes and learn about the integrated programs that help rural indigenous families. Bonnie Tillery, the NJ Chapter Population Issues Coordinator, will discuss her trip with a Sierra Club-sponsored study tour. You will also learn what New Jersey and Ecuador have in common, as well as see some beautifully exotic sights.

May 10: 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 US, but has less than ten percent of its population.

June 14: Joe Smith from the Center for Civic Responsibility will give a presentation on “**Civic Empowerment**,” discussing how to empower ourselves as citizens to become civic leaders by building up our own political knowledge and involvement.

Please call to confirm above speakers at 973-364-7573, ext. 3, as the date approaches.

Directions to the Chatham Library: From I-287 take Rte 24 East to Exit 8 (Summit Ave). Turn left at the top of the ramp and then left again so you go back onto Rte 24 headed West. Take exit 7A for Chatham and bear right onto Rte 124 (Main St). Follow Main St. through the traffic lights at University and Hillside Avenues. The Library is to your right about 1/2 block past the Hillside Ave traffic light. From Parkway take Rte 78 West to Rte 24 West. Take exit 7A for Chatham and follow above directions. For further directions, call the library at 973-635-0603.

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 6:30 pm. 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.

SOCIAL DINNER: LAST THURSDAY of each month at 6:30 pm. Join us for dinner in a Hunterdon County restaurant. Location will be announced 2 weeks before the social. RSVP is required to soupys@att.net or (908) 797-6725.

SINGLES DINNER-AND-A-MOVIE:

Saturday, May 1 : RSVP required - Please join us at 6pm at The Plaza Grille, 3 Headquarters Plaza, in Morristown. Approximate cost is \$27, (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 ASAP. We will decide at dinner which movie to attend based on interest, and may split up to attend different movies. RSVP required by April 29th to: MistyAngel2003@yahoo.com.

VOLLEYBALL: On the 1st and 3rd WEDNESDAYS of the month, (April 21st, May 5th & 19th, June 2nd & 16th) join us for Wednesday Night Outdoor Volleyball from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Lake Hiawatha’s Volunteer Park (meet by the volleyball nets). Optional pizza/soda at Valentino’s Pizzeria afterwards. Inclement weather automatically cancels. Contact Diana at MistyAngel2003@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

“SUSTAINABLE TUESDAY” DINNER: Tuesday, June 22, 6:30 pm. Oriental vegetarian dinner at Veggie-Heaven Restaurant in Parsippany, NJ (located in Par-Troy Hills Shopping Center). In commemoration of “Sustainable” Tuesday. Cost is what you order. RSVP required by noon June 22 to Diana at 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. NOTE we are back at our old location: The Shillelagh Club, 648 Prospect Ave., in West Orange. Plus, we have an additional screening in Manasquan, for all you shore-dwellers. Call at 973-364-7573, ext. 1 or email abc77@msn.com for more info.

April 30: “MAPS AMERICA.” This documentary portrays a year in the life of Mai, a Vietnamese teenager, who travels to America for her senior year of high school. Mai’s visions of western-style success are transformed by her year in rural Mississippi. Starts 7:45 pm. For a review of the film, go to <http://www.newenglandfilm.com/news/archives/02june/maisamerica.htm>.

May 28: “CONTESTED TERRITORY” - a documentary by West Windsor resident Carolyn McGrath. When a new, large development was built in West Windsor, which was already struggling to manage the effects of sprawl, local filmmaker Carolyn McGrath began a video diary, which developed into an hour-long exploration of differing perspectives on suburban development. **FILMMAKER WILL BE ON HAND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS!!!** Starts 7:45 pm.

June 25: “WAR OF THE WORLDS” This 1953 adaptation of H.G. Wells’ classic won an Oscar for its special effects. From the deadly Martian machines to fleeting glimpses of the grotesque invaders, The War of the Worlds set the sci-fi standard for years to come. **OUT-DOOR MOVIE!** Bring a lawn chair — starts 8:45 pm (or when dark) in the Shillelagh Club side-yard. Rain or shine (we’ll go indoors if it rains).

To get to the Shillelagh Club, take I-280 to Exit 8A (Prospect Ave South). Go through 3 lights. Look for the Club on the left about ¾ mile after the 3rd light. Beverages and pizza are available in the Club.

April 28: Special Wednesday night screening of “Mai’s America” in MANASQUAN: We try out the Manasquan Elks Hall at 17 Stockton Lake Blvd, Manasquan, NJ, just north of Main St. and the Manasquan train station. Get directions from our website: <http://singles.njsierra.org/special.html>. Begins 7pm; \$5.

Please CONFIRM these film times/locations by joining our listserv or calling 973-364-7573, ext. 1 as the date nears.

CALIFORNIA TRIP: May 27 to June 2 (Wed-Wed) California Sierra Nevada 7-night Adventure. Join biologists, geologists and naturalists for a series of hikes at the Clair Tappaan Lodge in historic Donner Pass 26 miles from Lake Tahoe. The Lodge was built by Sierra Club volunteers in the 1930s and the Pacific Crest Trail is only a mile away and can be reached right out the back door. Price: \$287 members, \$322 for non-members includes food and lodging. Participants should be physically fit. Limited openings, so register early! Leader: Susan Schirmer 908-797-6725 or soupys@att.net.

OTHER 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.

(continued on page 10)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

Sierra Student Coalition

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

Website: www.ssc.org/nj

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

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

For more information please e-mail danrosen85@hotmail.com.

Inner City Outings Section

(another Chapter-wide special interest activity)

OFFICERS:

Chair

(North/Central Jersey): Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953
Njicoutings@aol.com

Volunteer Coordinator: Patti Lynch
Njicoutings@aol.com

Chair

(South Jersey) Joy Booth 856-486-1574
joeboo@hotmail.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/>

RAW: The Uncooked Facts Of The Bush Assault On The Environment

President Bush failed to mention his administration's assaults on the environment during this year's State of the Union address.

Why didn't he mention his efforts to dismantle the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and Superfund?

Why didn't he tell us that his energy program is mostly a taxpayer subsidy to the oil and coal industries that will worsen air pollution, putting people with asthma and other lung diseases at greater risk? Why didn't he say that his idea of a forestry plan is to allow timber companies to have unfettered access to old-growth forests and the biggest, most valuable timber? And why didn't he mention the millions of acres of public lands, including fragile natural wilderness areas, that his administration has opened for logging, mining, or oil and gas drilling?

Since the Bush Administration seems preoccupied, we offer a few possible excuses on its behalf:

Excuse A: Allowing more mercury and other pollutants that cause asthma, smog and global warming into the air isn't as popular as we'd thought it would be. <http://www.sierraclub.org/wwatch/cleanair/index.asp>

Excuse B: Nearly \$3 million from the mining, logging and oil/gas industries in the 2000 campaign - <http://www.opensecrets.org/industries/recips.asp?Ind=E&Cycle=2000&recipdetail=A&Mem=&sortorder=U>

Excuse C: Had a section on the environment, but Cheney used it to start a campfire on his previous week's hunting trip with Scalia. ☹

RAW is the Sierra Club's twice weekly email update to educate and inform members and the public of the devastating breadth and ferocity of the Bush administration's assault on our environment. Please help get this message out to the rest of America- encourage your friends, family members, and coworkers to subscribe: go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/raw>

MOVIE SCREENING

The Suburbanization of West Windsor

Carolyn McGrath has written, directed, and edited a timely and thought-provoking documentary concerning her own divided opinions on the effects of suburban development. It will be shown on May 28th in West Orange. Details are below. When a large development was planned for a former farm near her home, she began taking pictures of the fields as the seasons changed, interviewing neighbors, and keeping a journal, all of which eventually turned into an hour-long film. "It's a kind of video diary," Al Nigrin of the Rutgers Film Co-op said. "It's not a standard documentary. It's more personal." McGrath interviewed local residents, urban development experts, and politicians for their views. She explores the

history of the town, the environmental impacts of building, and the relationship between sprawl and the need for affordable housing. Carolyn McGrath will be on hand on May 28 to introduce her film and to answer questions! Sponsored by the Sierra Club NJ Singles Section, screening will start at 7:45 pm at The Shillelagh Club, 648 Prospect Ave., in West Orange. Admission donation is \$5. For directions see "FINAL FRIDAY FILM FEST" in this Newsletter's Singles Section. Check our website movie page at: <http://singles.njsierra.org/special.html>, or email abc77@msn.com. You can also leave a message at 973-364-7573, ext. 1. Everyone is welcome! Hope to see you there!



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: Susan Schirmer 908-996-7722 (H)
 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 July-September write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before April 30. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our 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 July-September trip write-ups by May 5.

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

Sierra Club outings are arranged by volunteer leaders who are in charge of the trip and responsible for the safety, welfare and enjoyment of all participants. Leaders determine qualifications to participate, adequacy of equipment, routes to be followed, and special pre-

cautions to be taken. Please arrive adequately prepared and equipped. If you have any allergies, please remember to bring your medication. The leader has the final word in the conduct of the trip. Your cooperation will help assure a safe and pleasant outing.

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

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

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

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

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

APRIL

APR 3 (Sat) Singles Hike, Campout and Campfire. 6-7 miles at a moderate pace. Hike over roads and trails with a campfire at end. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Overnight camping Friday & Saturday is available, call to reserve space. No pets/no children. Meet at 7:30 pm at parking area opposite Group campsite area, Byrne State Forest, enter forest off Rte 72, 1 mile east of junction of Rtes 70 & 72. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 evenings. pis1@cccnj.net (W)

APR 4 (Sun) Tulip Springs Hike. 6 miles at a moderate pace. Hike the South Mountain Reservation and see some of the many highlights this 2000-acre track has to offer including a 25-foot waterfall and a spectacular view of New York City and South Jersey. Children 9 years or older and dogs are welcome. Bring water and snacks. Meet 10am in the Tulip Springs parking lot just off Cherry lane that run between Northfield Avenue and South Orange Avenue in South Orange. Rain Cancels. Leader: David Ogens. Bandit29@aol.com (E)

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 4 (Sun) Singles Hike Assunpink WMA. 6 miles at a moderate pace. Hike on horse and game trails through gently rolling hills, field and lake area. Contact leader for carpool/caravan info. Meet at 10am at the Conservation Center in the WMA area. Take Rte 295 North to Rte 95 East to Exit 8, Cox's Corner. At exit ramp, turn left onto Rte 539, go through 1st stop sign, go 1 mile to next stop sign, turn right, go past horse farm. At split in road bear right into parking area. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social. Joint hike w/OCSJ. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 evenings. pis1@cccnj.net (W)

APR 10 (Sat) Singles Sunset Hike and Star Gazing. 6 miles at a moderate pace. Hike between two rivers as we watch the sun set over the pines. We return to our social and meet with the Willingboro Astronomical Society to view the night stars. No pets/no children. Bring picnic type food to share, blanket or chair to sit on. Meet at 5pm at the northern parking lot in Batsto Village, Rte 542, 12 miles east of Hammonton, Burlington County. Joint hike w/OCSJ. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 856-697-3870 evenings. pis1@cccnj.net (W)

APR 17 (Sat) Social Hike in Palisades Interstate Park. Join us for a strenuous 4-5-mile hike at a moderate pace as you enjoy the majestic views of the Palisades. Highlights include Peanut Leap Falls & the Giant Steps. Hiking boots over the ankles are required and participants must be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & 2 quarts of water. Meet before 10:30 am at the State Line parking lot off Palisades Parkway. Take the NJ Turnpike

