

The Jersey... SIERRAN

Vol. 33, No. 4

More than 20,000 Members in New Jersey

October-December 2004

Pulling a Fast-Track One New Jersey's Democratic Governor takes tricks from Bush's book

by Glenn Scherer

In the run-up to the 2004 election, those who have high hopes that a change in administration will automatically mean the curbing of environmental abuses by government should look to recent events in New Jersey for a cautionary tale. In the Garden State, Democratic Gov. James McGreevey, who has historically been a friend to the environment, has perplexed and outraged environmentalists by taking several pages from the Bush administration playbook.

In July, McGreevey signed sweeping legislation giving developers fast-track access to 1.5 million acres of the state. The act radically streamlines the permitting process for new construction in urban and suburban areas, and even rural areas designated as town centers. Critics fear that such rapidly permitted development will come at the expense of the environment and public oversight.

The New Jersey fast-track legislation contains extraordinary provisions. It forces the state Departments of Environmental Protection (DEP), Transportation, and Community Affairs to either approve or disapprove a developer's permit application in just 45 days — after which time, unresolved requests

get automatic approval. The act also privatizes the permitting process, letting developers hire private consultants to write and review permits, largely extinguishing agency oversight. In another proviso, approved fast-track permits, when contested in court, become final with a single judge's ruling. No public or agency appeal is allowed.

Environmentalists say the fast-track law imperils the last remaining open space in New Jersey's designated "smart growth" zones, encompassing 20 percent of the state. It puts endangered species like the black-crowned night heron, peregrine falcon, and bald eagle at risk, denying them vital urban nesting grounds along the Atlantic Flyway. And, the critics say, it could adversely affect about 85 percent of the state's people, allowing fast-tracking not just of housing and commercial developments, but even new highway and port projects.

Playing Fast and Loose

McGreevey's process with fast-track emulated Bush administration tactics in a number of troubling ways. First, the bill was written behind closed doors, (Continued on page 2)

SIERRA CLUB BALLOT

TO BE DETACHED AND RETURNED, PLEASE to

Ballot, 139 W. Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618

2004 Election of Chapter & Group Officers:

Four members of the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) will be elected to two-year terms, joining the five members elected last year, and the 11 Group Chairs or their delegates. (The five members elected last year are Joan Denzer, Rich Isaac, Bob Johnson, Sunil Somalwar and Jane Tousman.)

(This 20-member ExCom elects, at each January reorganization meeting, the Chapter Chair, Vice-Chair, Conservation Chair, Legislative Chair, Political Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Delegates to National Council, Delegates to the Northeast Regional Conservation Committee (NERCC), Delegates to various Ecoregion bodies, and other officers included on the Leader List - back page of this Newsletter.)

On page two are statements from the six candidates for ExCom selected by a Nominating Committee (consisting of Sunil Somalwar, Rich Isaac and Joan Denzer). There was an opportunity, (announced in the July-September issue of this Newsletter), for nomination of petition candidates, but no petitions were received this year.

Please detach the entire ballot along the vertical dotted line in the middle of this page. It includes your mailing label, which will authenticate your ballot and will be removed before any ballots are counted.

Please mail the entire completed ballot in your own separate envelope to Ballot, Sierra Club, 139 West Hanover Street, Trenton NJ 08618 — to arrive by Nov 30; ballots are traditionally counted at our annual holiday party in December.

CHAPTER BALLOT

Candidates for Chapter Executive Committee: Vote for UP TO FOUR candidates. The second column of boxes is for the second member of a FAMILY membership. Randomized name-order:

- Ken Johanson Write in: _____
- Bonnie Tillery _____
- Dick Colby Write in: _____
- George Denzer _____
- Lee Snyder _____
- Tina Schvejda _____

GROUP BALLOTS

Vote only those ballots for Groups in which you participate. Club rules require the nomination of at least two more candidates than the number of positions open. When those additional candidates haven't been identified, write-in slots are provided instead. PAIRS of boxes are provided for FAMILY members, so that two people can vote.

Candidates for North Jersey Group Executive Committee:

Vote for four, maximum. The first column of boxes is for "individual" members. Family (joint) members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns. (To learn more about the candidates, contact Betsy Kohn at 201-461-4534 or by e-mail (BetsyKohn@aol.com), or contact other Group officers listed in the Group News section of this Newsletter.)

- Mike Herson Write in: _____
- Tom Thompson _____
- John Kashwick Write in: _____
- Nancy Wysocki _____

Candidates for Essex County Group Executive Committee:

Vote for four, maximum. The first column of boxes is for "individual" members. Family (joint) members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns. (To learn more about the candidates, contact Group officers listed in the Group News section of this Newsletter.)

- Sally Malanga Write-in: _____
- Maria Wakefield _____
- Janine Schaeffer Write-in: _____
- Billi Schloss _____
- Dave Ogens _____

Candidates for Loantaka Group Executive Committee:

Vote for four, maximum. The first column of boxes is for "individual" members. Family (joint) members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns. (To learn more about the candidates, contact Group officers listed in the Group News section of this Newsletter.)

- Chris Mills Write-in: _____
- Doug Williams _____
- Bob Campbell Write-in: _____
- Eric Hausker _____
- Joyce White _____

Candidates for Raritan Valley Group Executive Committee:

Vote for five, maximum. The first column of boxes is for "individual" members. Family (joint) members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns. (To learn more about the candidates, contact Sandi Lowich at 732-247-5760 or any of the other Group officers listed in the Group News section of this Newsletter.)

- Sandi Lowich Write in _____
- George Scrape _____
- Rosemary Grace Write in _____
- Dave O'Leary _____
- Dan Aronson _____

Candidates for West Jersey Group Executive Committee:

Vote for four, maximum. The first column of boxes is for "individual" members. Family (joint) members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns. (To learn more about the candidates, contact any of the Group officers listed in the Group News section of this Newsletter.)

- Wayne Zanni Write in _____
- Becky Payne _____
- Gina Carola Write in _____
- Trish Clements _____

Candidates for South Jersey Group Executive Committee:

Vote for two, maximum. The first column of boxes is for "individual" members. Family (joint) members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns. (To learn more about the candidates, contact any of the Group officers listed in the Group News section of this Newsletter.)

- Julie Akers Write in: _____
- Sally Nunn Write in: _____

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Ballot Statements from Chapter Candidates.....	2
Editorial: Stinky Politics in NJ.....	3
Vice-Chair's Message: Fast Track.....	3
Editorial Cartoon: Buildout in New Jersey.....	3
Population Issues Report.....	4
Book Review: Valuating the Environment.....	5
ATV Issues Report.....	5
LTE: Vote Bush out of Office.....	5
Resolutions adopted by Chapter ExCom.....	5
Hiking News.....	6
Helping in the November Election.....	6
Group News.....	7-10
Outings.....	10-12
Membership Form.....	12

Congressional Endorsements for November, 2004

The Chapter's Political Committee recommends your vote for the following candidates for US Congress, based on their voting and sponsorship records, and interview responses. The election will be held on Nov 2. Your Group's Political Chair will be happy to explain the basis for endorsements (or non-endorsements) in each of our 13 Congressional Districts. Of course the Sierra Club has also endorsed John Kerry and John Edwards for US President and Vice-President, respectively.

- CD-1: Robert Andrews (D, Incumbent)
- CD-2: Frank LoBiondo (R, Incumbent)
- CD-3: Jim Saxton (R, Incumbent)
- CD-4: No endorsement
- CD-5: Anne Wolfe (D, Challenger)
- CD-6: Frank Pallone (D, Incumbent)
- CD-7: Possible endorsement pending at press time
- CD-8: William Pascrell (D, Incumbent)
- CD-9: Steven Rothman (D, Incumbent)
- CD-10: Donald Payne (D, Incumbent)
- CD-11: No endorsement
- CD-12: Rush Holt (D, Incumbent)
- CD-13: Robert Menendez (D, Incumbent)

If you don't know your Congressional District, there's a map available at www.state.nj.us/transportation/gis/maps/congressional.pdf.

A Visit to Prudhoe Bay

By George Schindler

Like to see Prudhoe Bay? Well, let's go. I'm here (actually early June) at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, courtesy of the Elderhostel organization, having just arrived on a Northwest Airlines flight. At the University (weather sunny and warm) we hear presentations for and against drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, by Andy Keller, an activist who has traveled and studied



The pipeline: one short section between the Brooks Range and Fairbanks. All of the pipe's 800 miles were made in Japan.

(Continued on page 4)

Statements from Candidates for Chapter ExCom

KEN JOHANSON



I have been active with the Chapter for a number of years and currently serve as Vice-Chair of the Chapter, Chair of the Legislative Committee and Chair of the Litigation Oversight Committee. I also have been heavily involved in fundraising and personnel matters. The Chapter is fortunate to have an excellent staff and an outstanding group of knowledgeable and dedicated volunteer activists. I look forward to continuing to work with these fine people to help protect the environment of this State. We've accomplished a lot over the past few years, but much remains to be done.

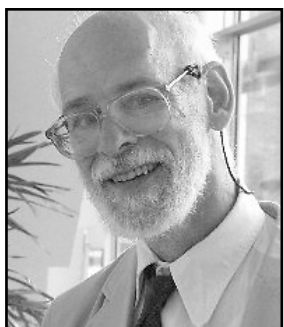
BONNIE TILLERY



Current member of the Executive Committee, serving as Secretary for the past four years, and as Population Issues

Coordinator for the past 4-1/2 years. I received national Sierra Club recognition as Population Activist of the Year for education outreach about population issues, and spoke to activists from around the country about NJ activities at Lobby Days in Washington, D.C. I was one of 13 chosen to participate in a study tour to Ecuador, seeing how integrated programs help families. The NJ General Assembly also recognized my work. I am committed to Sierra Club goals, and would appreciate your vote.

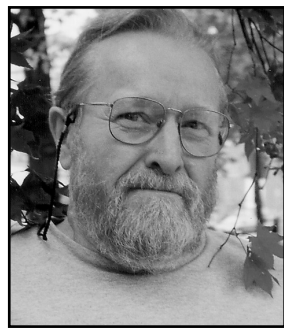
DICK COLBY



ExCom member since about 1988, including stints as Chapter Political Chair, Secretary, Chapter Chair, and (currently) Editor of

"The Jersey Sierran." Proudest accomplishment: Wild & Scenic status for the Great Egg Harbor River, a 15-year South Jersey Group effort. Strongest desire: to convince New Jerseyans to live in old-fashioned, neighborly towns, walking to work, school, shops and trailheads (as I partly do in Egg Harbor City, pop. 5000). My Sierra Club affiliation has facilitated my involvement in a planning board, a watershed association, a land trust, and a county advisory commission). I try to get into the woods every weekend.

GEORGE DENZER



As a lifelong resident of New Jersey, I have watched as sprawl and the resultant clogged roadways have taken over our State. As a Sierra Club member, I have worked for increasing mass transit and expanding commuter light rail to counteract this. As a Chapter, we have had some success on this issue, but we have more work to do! I have held positions at the Chapter, regional and national levels, and am currently Chapter Treasurer, where I have been successful in increasing funds to help our strong grassroots activists to protect New Jersey's environment. I would appreciate your vote.

LEE SNYDER



As a Life Member of the Club, I have served as Pinelands Coordinator for the West Jersey Group since 2002, and for the New Jersey Chapter since 2003. I actively work with the NJ Pinelands Commission, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, NJ Conservation Foundation and other organizations and individuals to protect New Jersey's natural treasures. As a part time volunteer, I participate in many Sierra Club and Pinelands related meetings, hearings and classes including attendance at the Sierra Club Training Academy. As a member of the ExCom, I will proudly represent the interests of the NJ Chapter.

TINA SCHVEJDA



Life member of Sierra Club and former Chapter Chair, I've guided and organized our Chapter's policies, management decisions and responded to environmental issues. I've interacted with environmental organizations, media, and governmental officials. My volunteer efforts however, go beyond that, and in the tradition of Club founder John Muir, I've made a point of visiting endangered places - Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Northern Rockies, Tongass and Chugach National Forests, Everglades, Utah Wilderness and Maine Forest. Professionally I'm executive director of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust. If reelected I pledge to continue my strong volunteer commitment to our NJ Chapter.

FAST-TRACK

(Continued from page 1)

with the exclusive help of business, and without the involvement of the environmental community — much like Vice President Dick Cheney's energy plan. The act was secretly drafted last spring by Michael DeCotiis, McGreevey's top lawyer, with input from the New Jersey Development Council. This quasi-governmental advisory board, established by the governor, includes 28 powerful builders who have contributed \$3.25 million to McGreevey and other Democrats.

Once written, fast-track was rammed through the legislature with unprecedented speed: The bill first became available for public comment on a Friday in June, was voted out of committee the following Monday, was passed by the Democrat-dominated legislature that Thursday, and was signed in seclusion by the governor — moves calculated to keep the unpopular law out of the media eye. These are tactics familiar to the Bush White House, which has regularly announced environmental bad news on Friday afternoons.

Attorney Tom Borden of the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic compares fast-track's rushed passage to that of the U.S. Patriot Act, noting that no state legislators "had likely read this bill before they approved it, to see the fundamental flaws."

Even McGreevey's appointed DEP Commissioner, Bradley Campbell, recognizes the harm done to the governor's eco-friendly reputation. "Because the legislation was rushed through, and the legislative process was a terrible one, it has been natural for environmental groups to assume the worst," he says. But, he adds, "As everyone sees how we implement this law, [environmentalists] will breathe a collective sigh of relief, because they will find that the governor's commitment to lead the nation in tough environmental land-use standards is intact and strong."

Environmentalists aren't buying it, and have come out en masse against the law. "There's a broad and deep fury at this," George Hawkins, chair of the New Jersey Council of Watershed Associations, told the New Jersey Star Ledger. "It's a backroom deal."

Just days before fast-track materialized, the public had celebrated the legislative passage of McGreevey's Highlands Protection Act, restricting development on 395,000 rural acres in northwest New Jersey. In retrospect, conservationists see fast-track as payback to the New Jersey Development Council and other big developers, many of whom are McGreevey campaign contributors, and who were upset by the governor's land-protection initiatives in the Highlands and elsewhere.

Caught in the Act

Borden calls the act unconstitutional, a violation of the separation of powers and due process. "The legislature is required to protect public health and safety," he says. "But what this act does is to establish a system that delegates that responsibility away to private consultants, allowing them to authorize their own permits. It establishes unreasonable application deadlines, automatic approvals, and a lack of judicial review that leave state agencies' hands tied. It is an abdication of governmental obligation to protect the people and the environment."

Borden says that fast-track mirrors Bush tactics intended to gut the National Environmental Policy Act. By streamlining NEPA, which calls for tough environmental assessments of proposed airports, roads, and other federal projects, Bush claims — as does McGreevey — to be cutting regulatory "red tape" and speeding economic growth. Instead, environmentalists say, fast-tracking rolls back environmental safeguards and public oversight.

Campbell calls the NEPA/fast-track analogy "a ridiculous assertion." Fast-track "is different because it is narrowed to those areas of the state where both

planning and environmental data suggest that development is appropriate," he says. "It is exactly the opposite of Bush administration proposals that streamline logging and other [harmful activities] in areas known to be environmentally sensitive."

Environmentalists call this hairsplitting. "The act is potentially disastrous" for the urban and suburban environment, Borden says. "How disastrous depends on implementation." The act's language is so broad, say critics, that unless its scope is constrained by as-yet-unwritten regulations, it could set back state conservation efforts by decades.

Campbell defends fast-track, claiming that it improves upon "one-size-fits-all" laws that are equally strict for pristine wildlands and urban areas. "The old approach undermines environmental protection by making it cheaper and easier to build in the [pristine] areas that we most want to protect, and setting artificial barriers to development — adding cost and delay — in cities and aging suburbs and other areas appropriate to development."

Environmentalists counter that urban green places are invaluable precisely because they are so rare, and thus deserve the same strict protection as pristine lands. Borden also contends that fast-track violates McGreevey's own executive order on environmental justice by setting a weaker protection standard for low-income, African-American, and Hispanic urban communities than for wealthier, mostly white areas. The law could unfairly target development for the communities already most burdened by pollution, adding new environmental problems while restricting public comment.

In a worst-case scenario, says Borden, a fast-track project could harm "groundwater, surface water, wetlands, public health, and lead to public exposure to [industrially] contaminated soils." As written, the law is so broad that it could even speed building atop the state's 15,000 toxic waste sites, according to a Newark Star Ledger editorial. Such sites, the paper adds, are enmeshed in complex issues and prone to harsh disagreements that could never be fairly resolved in 45 days.

Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!

McGreevey's fast-track legislation resembles the president's environmental policies in yet another way. Like so many Bush initiatives, on everything from snowmobiles in Yellowstone to logging in national forests, fast-track will likely be tied up in lawsuits for years.

Still, no one in New Jersey is asserting that Bush and McGreevey are cut from the same cloth. They aren't. But what remains troubling is the abrupt about-face of an environmentally friendly administration, and the speed with which it embraced Bush-like stratagems to pass pro-business, anti-democratic legislation.

In just three and a half years, the White House has legitimized a barrage of dirty tricks — unprecedented secrecy, arcane legal loopholes, executive edicts, and privatization of the regulatory process — that any clever official can now use to reward major campaign contributors and overthrow established environmental law. It remains for advocates to be vigilant with politicians of all parties until the genie of political corruption can be put back in the bottle. ☞

Glenn Scherer is an author and freelance journalist whose stories have recently appeared in Salon.com, TomPaine.com, and other publications. He is former editor of Blue Ridge Press, a syndicated environmental commentary service in the Southeast. This article is reprinted from the 11 Aug 04 issue of Grist Magazine (www.grist-magazine.com), with permission.

Editor's note: Opponents of "Fast-Track" now have a web site: www.savenj.net.

The Bush Record

Thought you would like to know about a political organization called Environment2004 started by folks like Bruce Babbitt and Carol Browner. The goal is to expose and publicize the environmental record of the Bush administration, which has not received a great deal of attention in the campaign so far. They have put together an almost 100 pg booklet called "Putting Polluters first" that covers the record on air pollution, water pollu-

tion, global warming, toxic waste, environmental enforcement, children's environmental health, food and drinking water, Bush-Cheney energy policy, environmental security, national parks, national forests, ANWR, endangered species, oceans, and other public lands. For each unit there is a section on "The Bush record," "how Bush misleads the public," and "there is a choice." Their website is www.environment2004.org

Communicated by Tina Schvejda

Please vote for Chapter and Group officers by clipping the ballot on the back side of this page.

Editorial Stinky Politics

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

Environmentalists in New Jersey took a big hit in July, with Governor McGreevey's presumed "deal" with the developers, also known as the Fast-Track Bill. It was passed by the Legislature without debate, without opportunity for comment from the DEP, and with much painful arm-twisting, fresh on the heels of what was an environmental victory: the Highlands Bill.

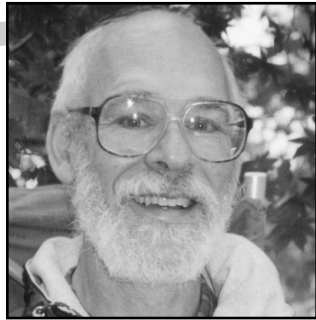
For a taste of what's so disastrous about the Fast Track Bill, see the article on p. 1 by Glenn Scherer.

What went wrong? How could an "environmental" Governor, a responsible DEP Commissioner, and a green-blooded Governor's environmental advisor (Curtis Fisher) commit such an act of betrayal? The effect on me and some other members of the Club's Executive Committee was devastating: instant depression and doubt about whether the fight is worth continuing. With friends like these, who needs enemies?

At least previous Governor Whitman was honest with us about her environmental policy: it had to take second place to economic development. When Governor McGreevey has met with us, his declared priorities were environment (and education) first.

In my times of personal political crisis, I have often taken refuge in the wisdom of a guru, the old muckraker Lincoln Steffens, whose 1931 Autobiography remains the best work of non-fiction I have ever read. Steffens devoted his life to a humane understanding of the motivations of politicians, many of whom would have accepted the adjective "corrupt."

Here's what Steffens wrote in 1904, in the Introduction to "The Shame of the Cities": "There is no essential difference between the pull that gets your wife into society or for your book a favorable review, and that which gets a heeler into office, a thief out of jail, and a rich man's son on[to] the board of directors of a corporation; none between the corrup-



tion of a labor union, a bank, and a political machine; none between a dummy director of a trust and the caucus-bound member of a legislature . . ."

So I think Steffens would explain McGreevey's corruption as follows: All politicians are beset by pressures (lobbying) from many directions. Being able to please is one of the defining desires of most politicians. Decent people enjoy giving favors. In contrast to lawyers, it's hard for politicians to say no. Lobbyists can be quite persuasive, offering temptations both fair and foul. Steffens' advice would probably be that all politics is NECESSARILY stinky (like making sausage! — And remember Lord Acton: "Power corrupts!"); the best a democratic society can do is keep up the scrutiny, expose the corruption, use elections to replace worse politicians with better politicians, and never give up the fight. Steffens' own reporting helped open up a phase of American history known as the Progressive Era (roughly 1903-1914). But in his later years he noted that each of the political reforms he had encouraged had eventually been reversed - and sometimes reversed again. It's like a seesaw.

So we shouldn't be depressed. We should expect setbacks from ALL politicians. We should file a lawsuit. And we shall!

Incidentally, my colleagues on the Chapter's ExCom urge me in this editorial to "spare" any blame of Commissioner Campbell and advisor Curtis Fisher. Loyal assistants, like marriage partners, are traditionally expected to accept some bad along with the good. Both men were known to have been excluded from the closed deliberations that resulted in the Fast-Track Bill. Did you know that a quarter of all campaign contributions to New Jersey legislators come from property developers and builders? ☹

Vice-Chair's Message Feelings

(with apologies to Morris Albert)

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



It seems like the New Jersey environmental community has been on a roller-coaster ride lately. Following our impressive legislative victories in reducing automobile emissions, strengthening the ability of municipalities to control development within their borders and protecting major portions of the Highlands region from overdevelopment, we experienced feelings of satisfaction for what we had accomplished and optimism for what we hoped to accomplish in the future. These feelings were dashed when we learned that the administration had agreed to support a horrendous bill, the so-called Fast-Track Permitting Bill, that threatens to weaken environmental protections and restrict public participation in environmental decisions throughout much of the State. The bill was pushed through the Legislature in just three days and has now been signed into law.

Feelings of elation that we experienced earlier in the year are now no more than memories. But these feelings have not been replaced by feelings of despair and hopelessness. Rather, they

have been replaced by feelings of determination and resolve. We know from our earlier successes that we are a force to be reckoned with in New Jersey and that we can bring about meaningful change. We have a knowledgeable and highly effective staff, a dedicated group of volunteer activists, a team of experienced attorneys and the backing of over 90 organizations and thousands of citizens throughout the State. Our goal is to minimize the impact of the fast-track bill through regulatory and legislative measures and eventually to overrule or repeal this misguided piece of legislation. This will not be an easy task but, with the continued support of our members and friends, I am confident that ultimately we will prevail. ☺

Ken also chairs our Legislative Committee and oversees our Litigation efforts. He is an attorney.



Editorial comment from our wry and future-seeing Chapter Conservation Chair.

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.

Drexel Ph.D. student Bryan Wallace (left), assisted by a local wildlife guide and a Park Service ranger, helps a stranded leatherback turtle back to the ocean in Costa Rica.

A hands-on approach to protecting the environment

Environmental Science Programs at Drexel University

For more than 40 years, Drexel has educated professionals who foster development of a better environment using science, engineering and policy.

Drexel's College of Arts and Sciences and College of Engineering offer programs to prepare you for an environmental career:

- Environmental Science (B.S., M.S., Ph.D.)
- Environmental Engineering (B.S., M.S., Ph.D.)
- Environmental Policy (M.S.)

For more information:
1-800-2-DREXEL
enroll@drexel.edu
www.drexel.edu/coas/envscience
www.cae.drexel.edu

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

ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Ecuador Study Tour: Water and Youth (Part 3)

By Bonnie Tillery, our Population Issues Coordinator

As I write this in August, it has been one year since my trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, but the memory of the warm, friendly and giving people stays with me still. The regions are ecological treasures, and the people are trying to preserve them despite population pressures that increase demands for jobs and natural resources.

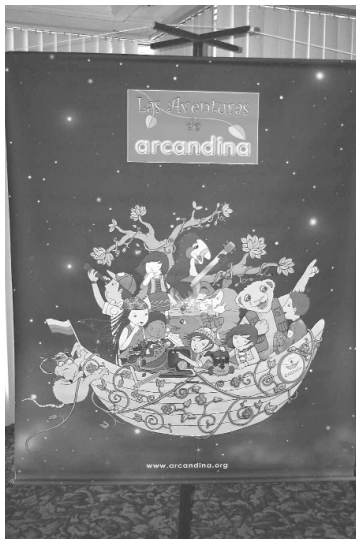
From the *Terra Fundacion* forested preserve near the hot springs of Papallacta, to the three rural communities we visited in the highlands of Ecuador, water is a crucial resource. All three communities wanted more water: one to increase crop production to better feed its families, with perhaps some produce left over to sell at market; another not only to increase crop production, but also help with their nascent trout farming; and the third to increase their already regionally-famous cheese production.

The forested preserve near Papallacta provides water to the ever-increasing population of Quito, the capital city. People from the rural areas, unable to support their families on their meager, depleted plots of land move to Quito in search of work. They can wait up to 10 years for water to be supplied to the

houses they build on steep slopes of active volcanoes. Near Papallacta, a pipeline was built to transport water to Quito. A delay was encountered when an Andean condor nest with a chick was discovered. The Andean condor, the largest flying bird in the world, with a wingspan of three meters, is considered a mystical, almost sacred, creature. So, the pipeline, while desperately needed, was delayed and diverted to allow one more condor to fly the Andean skies.

The Galapagos Islands, formed by volcanoes and 600 miles from the mainland, are very dry. While jobs pay twice as much as on the mainland and are eagerly sought, more people put a strain on the already scarce water supply. At the Interpretive Center on San Cristobal Island, the goals for preserving these ecological treasures were outlined; one is to "have a stable island population."

Danny Glover, a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations, is a frequent visitor to the Galapagos Islands, where he has worked with Maria Elena Ordonez, the creator of the children's program Arcandina (the Andean ark filled with puppets representing endangered species). Through Spanish-language television programs, music and films such as "The Enchanted Treasure of the



Arcandina -- the Andean Ark



View of Lake San Pablo near Otavalo

Galapagos Islands," children learn "to love and protect the Earth." You can learn more about Arcandina at www.arcandina.org.

On the last evening of our study tour, I asked Ron Burkard, the Executive Director of World Neighbors (see www.wn.org) how he stays so positive when he sees such desperate need, as we saw in Ecuador and in the many other countries where World Neighbors works. He cited the water project we toured, developed by a young, 23-year-old, Ecuadorian graduate student whose pilot program, of using aquatic plants to treat waste water, has been adopted on a larger scale by communities surrounding Lake San Pablo near Otavalo. Not only does the system provide a 90% purification rate, but, as long as no heavy metals are picked up, the plants can

be purified with salt, dried and then used for animal feed or fertilizer. This, Ron said, was what kept him going; the enthusiasm and vision of young people to make this planet a better place.

We need such enthusiasm and vision in our leaders, and that includes the vision to see that a stable world population is healthy for the planet and its people. Unfortunately, the Bush administration and the fringe it caters to are creating more problems than they are solving. On November 2, we need to vote for candidates who support family planning – not just through rhetoric, but through actions such as funding the United Nations Population Fund, and supporting contraceptive coverage, so that we can all enjoy the planet we as Sierra Club members work to preserve and protect. ☺

PRUDHOE BAY

(Continued from page 1)

widely through northern Alaska, and John Ringstad, formerly of the Alaska legislature and now employed by BP (British Petroleum). Both men speak effectively, 180 degrees out of phase. We also hear from Lucy Beach, a Native American living on the southern edge of the Refuge, impressive in her defense of the Gwich'in way of life, which will be degraded if drilling is allowed.

There's another presence here too, in spirit. Many people in Alaska revere Margaret and Olaus Murie, and their book *Two in the Far North*. The Muries are, of course, heroes of the wilderness preservation movement. If they were alive today we can imagine what they would think of drilling in ANWR.

We are turned over to the North



Aerial view of peaks of the Brooks Range, stretching east-west 600 miles, 100 miles wide.

Alaska Tour Company for the trip north. It's a fly up, bus back arrangement. We get into a small plane and are flown over the gorgeous snowy peaks of the Brooks Range, then over the North Slope as we near Prudhoe. It's all just like the photographs. We can't yet see the coast, though. It's covered by a fog that has



Prudhoe Bay "Hotel" on the shore of the Arctic Ocean: residence of pipeline workers and occasional carefully supervised visitors.

drifted in from the Arctic Ocean. The pilot drops below the fog and lands at the Deadhorse airport, adjacent to the epicenter of the current drilling and pumping operations. It's now 30 degrees F. We register at the Prudhoe Bay Hotel, courtesy of the Alyeska consortium of oil companies in charge here. A photograph of a field full of caribou against a backdrop of a pumping station hangs on an inside wall. This of course says nothing about whether caribou will calve here. (They don't.) We are ushered into a conference room and seated to watch a videotape of oil company propaganda.

Later an oil company bus takes us for a tour of the facilities. We are supposed to be impressed by the size of the oil rigs and supporting structures. They are huge and complex, with many roads, but we've seen oil facilities before. The oil people also hope we'll be impressed by the wildlife. There are a few caribou around, and birds, but scattered sparsely here and there, nothing like the photographs. Granted, the Alyeska people seem to keep a "neat house" here, and presumably would do so in ANWR, but a neat house isn't an ecosystem.

Finally we're driven to a very small spit of gravel, man-made, jutting off the coast. The bus driver gets off first to "look for polar bears." This seems a bit disingenuous, since a polar bear here would have caused an uproar all over the area. We ask why the tiny peninsula. The bus driver tells us it's because of a regulation requiring "public access." Some public access! It's real purpose, the driver says, is so people can say they've stood on the shore of the Arctic Ocean.

So, overnight at the Prudhoe Bay Hotel, then next day on the bus for the ride back to Fairbanks. Bottom line? The oil interests have bought the state of Alaska and too many members of Congress. They have big gobs of money. We'll have to work very hard to stop them. ☺

George Schindler is a founding member of the New Jersey Chapter (1971), and served long as our Forestry Issues Coordinator. He lists as chief contributions the leading of many backpack trips and day hikes, his 25-year battle to save Sunfish Pond (Warren County) and efforts to keep the Delaware River free-flowing by preventing a dam at Tocks Island.



North Slope, camera pointed northeast from the air. The white line on the ground is the pipeline.

BOOK REVIEW:

Priceless: On Knowing the Price of Everything and the Value of Nothing

(Frank Ackerman & Lisa Heinzerling, *The New Press*, 2004)

By Chris Mills, Conservation Chair of our Loantaka Group

What is your life worth? How about the lives of your children? Oh, and what is it worth to you not to catch bronchitis or bladder cancer? How much would you be willing to pay to save the whales? Quick, we need to know!

Welcome to the wonderful world of health and environmental protection cost-benefit analysis, where everything has a price, but there are no values. Here, with a little help from some industry lobbyists, sell-out "experts", and government lackeys who believe that science should always confirm the pro-market prejudices of their bosses, we can justify keeping arsenic in drinking water and mercury in the air, killing fish in power-plant water intakes, and pretty much anything else on our anti-environmental, anti-regulatory, agenda.

But let's start at the beginning. What could be more reasonable than asking whether the benefits of government regulation are sufficient to justify the costs? And the costs are large: we know because our friends in the energy industry told us. Do the benefits outweigh these large costs? Well, here is where the going gets tough, but we have experts to help us. They tell us that an American life is worth \$6.1 million (others are worth less). As for illness, they will calculate medical costs plus the earnings lost during sickness or, if in generous mood, ask people how much they would be willing to pay not to catch the disease (being careful to screen out figures that are unrealistically high, of course!). Finally, our experts will be very careful not to overstate the number of lives likely to be saved and ill-

nesses avoided - no need to be alarmist! Add it all up, and Q.E.D. — clean water and air are a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Ackerman and Heinzerling's excellent and highly readable book uncovers the anti-environmental agenda behind cost-benefit analysis, and demolishes claims that cost-benefit analysis as applied to health and environmental protection is scientific or objective. Just as important, the authors propose a realistic alternative based on four principles. 1) Compare costs and benefits, and make a reasoned judgment based on society's values — not a spuriously accurate accounting calculation. 2) Do not accept that there is a fixed pot of money available for environmental or health protection; instead base decisions on what needs to be done to meet society's needs and expectations for protecting health and the environment. 3) Be precautionary: do not accept cost-benefit analysts' demand for proof of harm (global warming is an obvious example). 4) Be fair. Who bears the costs and gets the benefits matters as much as their size.

The authors conclude their tour de force as follows. "There are fundamental values at stake and at risk in the debate of economic analysis of health and environmental protection. Cost - Benefit Analysis of health and environmental protection policies trivializes the very values that gave rise to those policies in the first place". ☞

Chris Mills is a financial economist and risk analyst. He lives in Madison, NJ, and can be contacted by email chrismills@sierraactivist.org.

ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Off-road Vehicles (ATVs) Causing Wilderness Destruction

A Report from Fred Akers, our ATV Issues Coordinator

The Natural Trails and Waters Coalition has been working at the National level for a number of years. The Coalition is coordinated and directed by a seven-member steering committee, with one representative from each of the following organizations—American Lands Alliance, Bluewater Network, Colorado Mountain Club, Sierra Club, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, The Wilderness Society, and Wildlands CPR.

For the latest news from this national group, visit the following website: <http://www.naturaltrails.org/index.html>

The Natural Trails and Waters Coalition works to protect and restore all public lands and waters from the damage caused by dirt bikes, jet skis and all other off-road vehicles. Our website is designed to be a resource for the media, activists, and others wanting to know more about the impacts of off-road vehicles on natural resources,

wildlife, and public health and safety.

The Coalition is currently focusing its efforts on strengthening rules restricting ATVs in National Forests. It is also concerned with the safety aspects of ATV use and misuse:

2002 was a record-breaking year for serious ATV injuries and deaths: A report released October 28, 2003 by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that ATVs caused 113,900 injuries requiring emergency room treatment in 2002. This increase continues a trend dating to 1993. The CPSC also estimates that ATV-related deaths were the highest ever, rising from 569 in 2000 to at least 634 in 2001. ☞



Preliminary County Maps Ready for Cross Acceptance Negotiations

Chris Mills, Conservation Chair of our Loantaka Group, sends this DEP website, on which color maps of proposed "environmental zoning" are available for each county in New Jersey - for viewing and downloading:

<http://www.nj.gov/dca/osg/resources/maps/prelimmaps.shtml>

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Vote Bush out of Office

This presidential election, on November 2, is by far the most important since I started voting in 1960. I feel that the United States is drifting out of control and a new President with a new cabinet is needed to attempt to get us back on course.

If you are not certain, please answer these questions. What do you think the President of the United States should be doing about the economy, health care, national debt, tax cuts, security, terrorism and Iraq? Is the President addressing these concerns to your satisfaction? Since President Bush has admitted no mistakes, you can be certain that he and his advisors will continue in the current direction.

Is the President to blame for the trillions in debt, the out of control war in Iraq, the stripping of the forests, the additional polluting of water, air and land, the alienation of the world against the United States, the sanctioned torture in Iraq and elsewhere? Admiral Hyman Rickover, the father of the Nuclear Navy, said it best, "If

responsibility is rightfully yours, no evasion, or ignorance or passing the blame can shift the burden to someone else."

Robert McNamara, Secretary of Defense during the Vietnam War, in a recent interview with Charlie Rose on PBS, said that what the Administration was lacking during Vietnam was ACE. A, have lots of allies, C, communicate with your citizens and your enemy, E, empathize with your enemy, that is understand what motivates them to their cause. What ACE score would you give the Bush Administration?

Please plan to vote and contact anyone you know in other states and plead your case for what you believe in. ☞

Dennis Anderson (dennisaza@aol.com)

Dennis is Chair of our Jersey Shore Group. He is a retired science teacher and memorable presenter of a slide show based on a recent trip to the wildlife reserves of South Africa!

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

(1) A "smart growth reform bill" [later known as "Fast-Track" or "E-Z Pass for Polluters"] is coming up for a hearing in both houses of the Legislature (S-1638/A-3008). This bill calls for an ombudsman to expedite permits, and to expedite permit reviews, i.e., DEP must review an application within 20 days, and act within 45 days or it is automatically approved. This applies to almost the entire State. "Pre-qualified" outside consultants may be certified to review applications. [The Bill was approved and signed into law. It is discussed in the article by Glenn Scherer on p. 1.]

The Sierra Club New Jersey Chapter vehemently opposes S1638/A3008, and will take necessary steps to fight this legislation, including any legal action that may be deemed appropriate by counsel. (June)

(2) Contraceptive Equity: The Chapter will continue to work with the Choice NJ coalition on contraceptive equity legislation and other reproductive health issues.

(3) Following challenges to National Club policy on Immigration and Animal Rights, we urged that qualifications for candidates in future elections for Board of Directors include membership of the Sierra Club for a period of at least three years, and service in a leadership position on a Chapter or Group Executive Committee, Regional Conservation Committee or National Committee for at least two years. (July)

(4) Additional Congressional Endorsement: Ann Wolfe was endorsed to run for Congress in the 5th District, opposing Scott Garrett. [Confirmation by the Club's National Political Committee still pending.] (August) ☞

Sierra Club's Latino Communities at Risk Report

Issued in early August, in both English and Spanish. It highlights the struggles of 12 Latino communities dealing with environmental degradation being worsened by the Bush administration. Available from ecocentro@sierraclub.org.

Also available:

- Individual factsheets for any of the 12 stories in the Report
- Bilingual postcards directed at the Bush Administration

- Tips for building partnerships with Latino communities
- Reprints of the diversity issue of Sierra Magazine
- Buttons in Spanish that say "protect workers and the environment" and "environmental justice now"

For Materials Please Contact:
Camilla Feibelman
Latino Media and Partnerships
ecocentro@sierraclub.org
202.675.6276

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My First ICO Hike

By Marty Cohen

On a sunny, warm May 15 I joined an ICO hike led by Anne Dyjak, along with two other volunteers: Anne Mandal and Joe Filo. The Hudson County Boys and Girls Club bus arrived from Hoboken and deposited 9 boys and girls ranging in age from eight to about thirteen, along with two chaperones, all ready for an adventure in the wilderness. The wilderness in this case was the Blue Mt. Lakes section of the Delaware National Recreation Area in northwestern NJ, quite a beautiful piece of property saved, in the 1970s, from the scourge of development by our federal government (and an upwelling of grass roots voices which forced the cancellation of the construction of a bad idea called the Tocks Island dam; but that's another story).

Despite the expected presence of little critters (bugs) and the expected absence of big critters (bears), the children had a delightful time and, if the kids are happy, so are the volunteers. Joe is naturalist by profession and so the children, without realizing it, were getting quite an education about the abundant flora and fauna that we encountered. Although I love books, it's one thing to read about a beaver's habits, but quite another to inspect his effects at close range: the downed and partially chewed trees around his lodge, and then to actually watch the engineer swim across the lake, showing off several surface dives along the way, and right into the lodge we were standing next to. Do you think the children will forget that lesson? Not likely.

Since it was a warm day, even though the water was on the cool side, the lake and nearby streams exerted their magnetic effect on the children (and adults) drawing them down to the water's edge and, of course, in (but only up to the ankles). Frogs were in abundance and

had to flee, as the children were determined to catch them despite their sliminess (none were caught but several were touched, much to the delight of the touchers). Also inspected at close range were a newt, skink, and a multitude of water bugs, on all of which Joe expounded in an interesting way. As Anne had brought several pair of binoculars which she distributed to the children, they were able to see many birds "close up." Joe and Anne were able to identify them.

What else did the kids learn that day? Well, to respect nature by not littering; each had to carry out his or her lunch remnants and, as a not insignificant touch of self-reliance, each had to pack his or her own water and lunch; and to respect nature by not harming the critters (except the ones that were biting). "Why are those bugs biting me?" one exclaimed. I answered "It wants to drink a drop of your blood", which elicited a pensive, if not somewhat concerned look on the face of the eight-year old whom I was addressing.

The kids thought it a great day off from school, while I considered it a great school day.

Preparation and execution of these educational (and fun) ICO outings requires a certain amount of dedication; if you would like to join the fun please contact North/Central NJ ICO at NJICOutings@aol.com. The more volunteers ICO has, the more children get into the woods. ☺

Marty Cohen is a new volunteer with ICO. He formerly chaired the Appalachian Mountain Club's youth outings program. He hopes to stimulate some interest in ICO as we need volunteers and leaders to expand the program in NJ.

Get On The Road To Somewhere

By Dan Sullivan, Chair of the Club's National Political Communications Committee

This fall all political eyes will be focused on the handful of battleground states where experts say the presidential election will be determined and many other races will be decided. It is in these same states that the Sierra Club will be focusing its efforts to educate and mobilize its members and sympathetic environmental voters. Sierra Club activists who live in those states will be at the center of the action and will have countless opportunities to participate - attending and organizing rallies, making phone calls, walking neighborhoods.

But what about the rest of us in the red and blue states — isn't there some way for us to be a part of what is arguably the most important election for the environment in our lifetimes?

Yes. The answer is to get on the Road to Somewhere - either literally or figuratively.

This fall, the Sierra Club will be trying to talk to more people, knock on more doors, make more phone calls and mobi-

lize more members and voters than in any previous election. And we need your help to do the job. Whether you want to help by making calls from the comfort of your home, or organize a mailing party at your local Group or Chapter, or take a working vacation this fall to help with on-the-ground efforts in a nearby state, there is something to meet your needs in the Road to Somewhere program.

We have already scheduled the first of our fall volunteer-to-volunteer weekends for September 18-19, during which there will be an opportunity to travel to a nearby state to talk one-to-one with fellow (but infrequent voting) Sierra Club members.

Go to <http://www.sierraclubvotes.org/> for more information. And send us your name today, and we will make sure to get back to you with the full menu of Road to Somewhere options to choose from. Send your name, address, phone number and email address to road.somewhere@sierraclub.org. ☺

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)

The Origin of Singles Hikes in New Jersey

by Bruce Freeman

At 9am on July 7, 1984, eleven people met in the parking lot of the A&P supermarket in Highlands, NJ, for a Sierra Club hike. Despite the rain, only one fellow opted out. The rest of us hiked about three miles in Hartshorne Woods until soaked to the skin by the warm rain. Thus went the first "singles" hike in the New Jersey Chapter.

For some days preceding the hike, I had been receiving telephone inquiries about it — two dozen to be exact. Of these callers, six showed up despite the rain, and five hiked. The other five showed up without first phoning. A couple more folks phoned after the hike, asking about a "rain date." This was an encouraging beginning.

I had led hikes before this one. I would plan the hike four to six months in advance to get it published in the Jersey Sierran, only to have a mere handful of people show up. Quite discouraging.

I decided to lead singles hikes in hopes of attracting a larger group of hikers. It is my opinion that the best way to get people to protect the land is to get them out in it. People who hike know what's there to lose, and will work, or vote, to protect it. It's a numbers game, and my role was to get a large number of people hiking. From this small start — a hike — I know that a number of these folks (I recognized their names in the Jersey Sierran) have gone on to greater activity. This is a strategy that John Muir used, and it's the one I consider best.

Sierra Club singles hikes were no novel concept, by any means. The [Los] Angeles Chapter Bylaws had a specific provision for singles groups, and boasted two such groups. The nearby Orange County Chapter also had an active singles group. The San Francisco Bay Chapter also had a bylaws provision for "special" groups, and had not only a singles group, but also a "gay" group. I later heard that even in the Ohio Chapter there were singles hikes. I was soon to learn that New Jersey was not so advanced in its thinking.

The May 7, 1984, meeting of the Shore Group ExCom (in which I held various offices from time to time) was at my home. It was well-attended, probably because State Senator Frank Pallone was in attendance. (I don't recall why — probably due to the ocean dumping issue, or maybe just to enlist our support.) At that meeting, I resigned as the Sierra Club contact person to the Manasquan Reservoir Task Forces (because I could no longer attend the daytime meetings), and I announced that my July 7 hike would be a singles hike. After the meeting, two ExCom members expressed "mortification" that I would say such a thing in front of Senator Pallone. It was a mindset I wasn't prepared for. To their credit, however, the Shore Group generally supported my singles hikes — especially when the attendance figures started getting attention.

National Sierra Club Planning for 2005 Underway

Dennis Schvejda, our Chapter Conservation Director, has circulated this proposal that will be discussed at our National Board of Directors meeting in November. Of course much will depend on the outcome of the (US) Presidential election. To offer your opinions, contact Dennis at Dennis.Schvejda@sierraclub.org.

Throughout 2005 the Conservation Governance Committee and its strategy teams and subentities — especially the Integrated National Conservation Action Committee — will regularly monitor the dynamic political landscape and organize and fund the necessary committees, task forces, or working groups to undo the damage, make environmental progress, and stop new

I led two singles hikes in October, 1984, maybe a few before that as well. Then a period of unemployment interfered, but I had resumed leading by May, 1985. For the next year or so, I led about three singles hikes or cross-country ski outings every two months, alternating between Monmouth County and Jockey Hollow (where there was a larger attendance). In addition, I encouraged others to lead singles hike. Steve Ember started leading during this period. Leslie Torresson (now Mrs. Segal) led one hike in Jockey Hollow (before moving out of state, precluding her leading more) and fifty hikers showed up. She was rather taken aback, but I was backing her up, as were one or two other experienced hikers, and the outing went well.

Yet there were problems. One would-be hike leader scouted a hike in August, 1985, and submitted an announcement for a November singles hike to her group outings chairman. I'll never forget her plaintive phone call to me when she learned that her hike announcement did not get published in the Jersey Sierran (which was, at the time, the only official way to publish an outings announcement). She was so discouraged that, as far as I know, she never again tried to lead a Sierra Club hike. When I quizzed her group outings chairman, he claimed to have "lost" her announcement. I found it quite suspicious that he happened to be a vocal opponent of singles hikes.

At first there was a considerable opposition to singles hikes. The logic was convoluted, to say the least. Whenever I'd lead an "ordinary" hike, I'd get maybe five attendees. When I led a singles hike, 25 attendees were common. Yet the "opposition" claimed that singles hikes were "excluding" (!) people. I suspect that the "opposition" equated singles hikes with singles bars, and didn't want the Sierra Club name so "besmirched." They could not have been more wrong. Singles hikes have always been a low-key way of meeting other singles, with none of the tackiness of bars.

I continued to lead singles hikes and cross-country ski outings at least through the spring of 1986. However, the flak I'd been receiving had taken its toll. Some time in 1986, I quit leading hikes and moved on to other interests. Fortunately, there was a few other folks leading singles hikes by that time. Later, the Singles Group of the New Jersey Chapter was organized, formalizing the Chapter's commitment to singles activities. But that's someone else's story to tell.

Now, many years later, my affairs have rearranged themselves once again and I am resuming the leading of singles hikes. One of the first of these was a commemoration of the first singles hike in the New Jersey Chapter — held Saturday, July 10, 2004, in Hartshorne Woods — almost 20 years to the day after that first hike, and in the same park. Were you there? ☺

damage from being imposed and enacted.

The 2004 long term national priority programs (Population, Energy and Global Warming, Trade and Human Rights) will continue in 2005, sized according to available restricted revenue.

The Environmental Justice and Environmental Partnerships programs will be added to the list of national priority programs. They will be sized according to available restricted revenue.

The 2004 long-term national priority campaigns (Sprawl, Wildlands, Forest Protection, Clean Water) will be converted to the status of "national priority programs" for 2005, and will be sized according to available restricted revenue. ☺



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
- Active Person:** Pat Mangino 862-432-7552 pmangino@aol.com
- 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: Please contact Dennis Miranda for information regarding future meetings, and a discussion of plans for preserving the NJ Highlands from over-development. For directions or more information, please call Dennis, at 973-209-1814.

Hunterdon County Group

OFFICERS:

- Chair:** Ruth Prince 908-284-9103 ruthp2@patmedia.net
- Political Chair and Treasurer:** Arnold Kushnick arnkush@aol.com

For meeting times and locations, please contact Ruth Prince.

ACTIVITIES:

Planning: We are involved with the development of the Hunterdon County Growth Management Plan, an effort that has been funded by the state DCA, and continue to attend county meetings and workshops. We are coordinating with the Hunterdon Coalition on the State Plan cross-acceptance process, regarding fast-track permitting impacts.

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. We are also providing municipal land use advice to groups opposing unwise developments in and around Hunterdon.

A "Group" can be two people! - if you ask the right questions - let us know if we can help!

North Jersey Group

(Passaic and Bergen Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:

- Group Chair:** Betsy Kohn 201-461-4534 BetsyKohn@aol.com
- 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 Nycmommyusa@aol.com
- Secretary:** Open position!
- Treasurer:** Mary Ellen Shaw 201-489-1588 Mary-Ellen.Shaw@pseg.com
- Wildlife:** Mary Ellen Shaw 201-489-1588 Mary-Ellen.Shaw@pseg.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/CONSERVATION MEETINGS: Held at least four times a year (once every quarter). For the date and location, please contact Betsy (see above).

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held once a month, except July, August and December at 7:30pm on the dates and locations indicated below. For more information, contact Betsy (see above).

Oct 14 (Thursday): at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood, NJ: Bears, Black and Brown! A slide-illustrated appreciation of New Jersey's black bears and Alaska's grizzlies and other wildlife by Lynda Smith of the Bear Education and Resource (BEAR) Group. Discussion includes bear habits, diet, ecology, how to coexist peacefully with black bears, and the status of the proposed December hunt.

Nov 8 (Monday): at Clifton Public Library 292 Piaget Avenue, Clifton, NJ 973-772-5500: Slide presentation by Ken Ronkowitz of NJ's Endangered and Nongame Species Program about efforts to protect, maintain and enhance the state's wildlife populations within healthy and functioning ecosystems. ENSP oversees 500 species, including 70 listed as endangered, and assists communities and land stewards in long-term wildlife management.

MONITOR YOUR PLANNING BOARD: Find out what your planning board is doing and what the master plan envisions for your town. If you hear of proposed developments that threaten environmentally sensitive lands, please let us know (Mike or Betsy, see above).

STERLING FOREST: Plans are still in place to develop 571 acres in the middle of Sterling Forest State Park. The region is especially rich in herpetological species, providing essential habitat for the threatened Timber rattlesnake. Because of the high density of dens, the NYS DEC has ruled out the golf course that was proposed on the site. The developer is now pressing for more luxury homes. To find out more, contact Tom or Betsy (see above).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Help with conservation issues, legislation, public education, publicity, tabling, petition drives, and campaigns to elect pro-environment candidates to public office. Or take on an issue such as air quality, brownfields, energy, environmental justice, global warming, overpopulation, recycling, superfund sites, transportation, or another that interests you. To find out more, contact Betsy (see above).

TO RECEIVE E-MAIL NOTICES OF ISSUES, EVENTS AND MEETINGS: Send a message with your e-mail address (to be kept confidential) to BetsyKohn@aol.com

**RECYCLE USED PRINTER CARTRIDGES
- AND SUPPORT THE NORTH JERSEY GROUP!**

We have set up a recycling/fundraising program to recycle used / empty printer and FAX cartridges. Whole Foods Market in Edgewater has offered to be the collection site.

To find out which laser and inkjet cartridges are eligible to be recycled, visit www.InkBank.com and click on "acceptable cartridges." (Because cartridges can be recycled only once, recycled/rebuilt cartridges of any make are ineligible.)

Drop off your cartridge at Whole Foods Market, 905 River Road in Edgewater, NJ, open from 8am to 10pm, seven days a week. No need to bring the cartridge's original packaging. Just wrap it in a plastic bag or newspaper and leave it in the box in the front window to the right of the exit door. For more information, call 201-461-4534.

THANKS FOR RECYCLING! AND THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Hudson-Meadowlands Group

(Hudson County and southern Bergen County: Lyndhurst, Rutherford, East Rutherford, Carlstadt, Ridgedfield, 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:** Melissa McCarthy 201-324-3964 mc.mel@verizon.net
- Membership:** Louise Taylor 201-224-3754 l.g.taylor@erols.com
- ExCom Members:** Tina Munson, Gil Hawkins, Donald Kopczynski

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.

ISSUE PRIORITIES FOR 2004:

- 1) Closing of Indian Point/Oyster Creek (held informational meeting Sept, 2003— Kyle Rabin)
- 2) Regional transportation issues (held informational meeting July 15, 2004—James Souder from Senator Corzine's Office)
- 3) Preserving urban parkland (held informational meeting June, 2004 which resulted in the formation of a committee which has had one meeting: Point persons on 4 potential parks designated as our 2004-5 priorities:
 - a) Hoboken Park: Leah Healey, former head of Hudson River Walkway Conservancy
 - b) Guttenberg Park: Renee Pollani
 - c) North Bergen Park: Gil Hawkins (New Jersey Fisherman's Association, our ExCom, et al) with Connie Ftera (our ExCom) currently doing research
 - d) Edgewater Park—Grand Cove Marina
- 4) Edgewater Master Plan Revision
- 5) Replacing the "Superfund Site" sign on toxic land in Edgewater: Tina Munson (our ExCom)

(Continued on page 8)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

Essex County Group

web site: NJSierra.org/NJS_Groups/Essex. We are also accessible from the NJ Chapter web site.

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Michel Cuillerier	973-736-0913	schatzidog@earthlink.net
Vice-Chair:	Open Position!		
Conservation:	Jon-Eric Dentz	201-819-9308	j_dentz@yahoo.com
Political:	Chris Weis	973-224-0474	CWeis11@cs.com
Media:	Open Position!		
Outings/Parks:	Dave Ogens	973-226-0748	bandit29@aol.com
Open Space:	Michel Cuillerier	973-736-0913	schatzidog@earthlink.net
Treasurer:	Lori Tanner	973-857-0519	LJensen@montclairlaw.com
Secretary:	Janine Schaeffer		janinesch@prodigy.net
Fundraising:	Open Position!		
Events:	Maria K. de Wakefield	973-736-0913	schatzidog@earthlink.net
Membership:	Camille Gutmore	973-667-2203	cgutmore@hotmail.com
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

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.

Watershed Management Area #4 Public Advisory Committee meetings will take place at 6:30 pm at the Verona Boathouse, Verona Park, Verona - on Sept 9, Oct 14, and Nov 11. Michel Cuillerier may have more information.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Please contact Michel at 736-0913 for dates and locations.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Please call Maria de Wakefield at 973-736-0913 for dates and locations.

Loantaka Group

(Morris and Union Counties, approximately)

WEBSITE: <http://Loantaka.NJSierra.org>

OFFICERS:

Group Co-Chairs:	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
	And Chris Mills	973-377-1742	ChrisMills@sierraactivist.org
Treasurer:	Joyce White	908-272-4478	joyce00201@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Lisa Melanie		lisamelanie@comcast.net
Conservation Chairs:			
Morris County:	Chris Mills	973-377-1742	ChrisMills@sierraactivist.org
Union County:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	hauskerr@aol.com
Legislative Chair:	Ken Johanson	908-464-0442	kjohan@comcast.net
Political Chair:	Meiling Chin	908-490-1054	(8-10pm) chinmeiling@yahoo.com
Programs:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Outings Chair:	Joyce White	908-272-4478	joyce00201@yahoo.com
Outreach, Events:	Bob Johnson	908-598-0656	robert.johnson@njsierra.org
Publicity Chair:	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
Membership:	Doug Williams	973-263-8404	doog@optonline.net
Air Quality:	Bob Campbell	908-273-5720	wrobc@intac.com
Webmaster:	Melissa Goss		
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. We have open positions on our Executive Committee. If you are interested 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:

Sept 30 (Thurs): 7.30pm. Smokestacks, Impacts and Talkbacks. An interactive gathering for people who are concerned about what the Bush administration is doing to the environment, and how we can do something about it here locally. 37 Green Avenue, Madison. RSVP to Chris Mills: chrismills@sierraactivist.org or (973) 377-1742.

Oct 13: A program on **Energy Policy and Sustainable Energy** will be presented by Jeff Huppert.

Nov 10: A program on **Storm Water Management and the Environment** will be presented.

Dec 8: Fletcher Harper, an Episcopal priest, is Executive Director of Partners for Environmental Quality, an interfaith environmental coalition based in New Jersey. An award-winning spiritual writer, Harper preaches, teaches and speaks weekly at houses

of worship from a wide range of denominations in New Jersey and beyond about the **moral and spiritual basis for environmental stewardship and justice**. He offers classes and forums for adults, teenagers and children and has spoken in churches, synagogues and mosques. He also leads PEQ's Sustainable Life Program, in which PEQ helps congregations "green" their sanctuaries and their operations by saving energy and water, reducing solid waste production and eliminating the use of toxic substances on the congregation's property. He has initiated PEQ's Environmental Health and Justice Program, in which PEQ connects houses of worship with ongoing environmental justice campaigns in poor neighborhoods, focusing particularly on addressing the impact of environmental health threats on children. PEQ's newest program, Lighting the Way, enables New Jersey houses of worship to receive a solar energy system at no up-front cost.

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 in State-wide initiatives involving air quality, transportation, and environmental legislation. Volunteers are always welcome. Call Paul (908-233-2414), Chris (973-377-1742) 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	Laura@Sierraactivist.org
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 and Lisa Ridge	609-443-9138	kjmayberg@aol.com
	Janet Black	609-371-1357	lisaridge@comcast.net
Publicity Coordinator:	Janet Black		jblack8084@aol.com
Political Committee:	Tom Zolandz	908-874-4194	earthsounds@yahoo.com
Outings Chair:	Ken Mayberg	609-443-9138	kjmayberg@aol.com
Outreach Coordinator:	Harold Rapp	609-671-0435	HalRapp@aol.com
Forest Issues			
Coordinator:	Nancy Carringer	732-438-8688	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 Lawrence Branch of the Mercer County Library, 2751 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville 08648. Check our website for a map. From Trenton: Exit Rte. 1 North at "Business Rte. 1 and Rte. 206" ramp (on left). At traffic circle, bear right onto Bus. Rte. 1 North. Exit on the right in about 2 miles to Darrah Lane. (Dodge dealership precedes exit.) Cross highway onto Darrah Lane. The library is on right. From the North: Take Rte. 1 South. After I-295 overpass there is a traffic light at Franklin Corner Road. Stay to the right onto Bus. Rte. 1 South. Turn right at next traffic light onto Darrah Lane. The library is on the right. Meeting rooms are on the far right side of library.

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 levels.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

Oct 13: Political issues will be discussed this month. We've invited Club staff and endorsed candidates to attend to outline their views, plans and commitment to environmental protection, and to answer questions from our members.

Nov 10: This month's program is still open. Want to discuss the election, see a film, show slides from your summer trip? Contact an ExCom member with your suggestion. Check our website for further details.

Dec 8: Please join us for our annual **Holiday Party** at the library. Bring your favorite holiday treat to share as we celebrate our 2004 successes and wash down our disappointments together! Group ExCom election will also be held. Remember, your vote counts! 2005 Sierra Club calendars on your shopping list? Buy them from our Group at the party and provide direct support to our local work! Enjoy a Happy and Safe Holiday Season. See you next year!

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:	Sandi Lowich	732-247-5760	Abstract46@aol.com
		44 Chestnut St, Milltown NJ 08850-1140	
Vice-Chair & Membership:	George Scrape		gescrape@aol.com
Conservation Chair, Outings:	Dave O'Leary	732-572-2059	DaveOL@earthlink.net
Political Chair:	Rosemary Grace		rosemary.grace@verizon.net
Programs:	Sandi Lowich		abstract46@aol.com

Contact one of our Issue Coordinators (see the list on p. 12) if there's an issue that interests you!

Publicity: Pat Affrunti PAffr79085@aol.com
Secretary: Open position!
Treasurer & Webmaster: Don McBride 732-560-0369 dtmcbride@yahoo.com
ExCom at large: Dan Aronson 908-526-1200x8238 daronson@raritanval.edu

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.

Calling All Volunteers: The Raritan Valley Group welcomes you to our activities. Currently, the position of secretary is open. If you are interested in filling the open position, please contact Sandi Lowich, the Group Chair.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held at 7:30 pm on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of the month except for July and August. Meetings are held at the Unitarian Society of New Brunswick, 176 Tices Lane, East Brunswick. Take the Ryders Lane exit off Route 1 towards East Brunswick. Make a left turn at the first four-way intersection onto Tices Lane, and the church is the second driveway on the right. The public is invited and refreshments are served. For further directions and information, visit our website.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

Oct 20: Duke Gardens. Paul Smith, superintendent and resident of the historic Duke Farms in Hillsborough shares with us his perspective on the Doris Duke estate today—2,700 acres with 11 lakes, that have become a natural wild wildlife habitat—where coyotes, deer, enormous turtles, eagles, and great-horned owls thrive. As per Doris Duke's request in her will, the land will be open to the public for environmental programs, hiking, biking and birding walks. The poignant slide presentation will mesmerize you.

Nov 17: Native Americans in New Jersey. A representative of the N.J. Indian Office will help educate us about Native American culture and how the "original people" are struggling for a voice in this most diverse of states. You will leave with a greater sense of New Jersey's Native Americans' past and future place in history.

Dec 15: Great Waterfall Hikes in NJ/Holiday gathering. Join us as Gary Letcher, author of the book, "Waterfalls of the Mid-Atlantic States" presents slides and tales of the magnificent and diverse waterfalls in our area. Following the 40-minute presentation, there will be a holiday social. Please bring a dish to share.

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 Bound Brook Presbyterian Church, 409 Mountain Ave. in Bound Brook. 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, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Dennis Anderson 732-888-3158 dennisaza@aol.com
 612 Second St., Union Beach, NJ 07735
Vice-Chair: *Open position!*
Secretary: Joe DeLuca 732-389-1835 joe-deluca@att.net
Conservation:
Monmouth Co: Steve Knowlton 732-747-7011 knowlton@worldnet.att.net
Ocean County: *Open position!*
Ocean County Section Chair: *Open position!*
Webmaster: George Newsome 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: 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.

Friday, October 1 — SPECIAL EVENT: Coffee House, 8 - 11pm, St James Memorial Episcopal Church, 69 Broad Street (Rte. 71), Eatontown. Good music and lots of goodies to eat! This is our annual group fundraising event, so bring all your friends. Suggested Donation - \$10/person. For further information, or to volunteer to help, contact Marinell, at Baykoof944@aol.com, or 732-780-8678.

Oct 25: The Pinelands of New Jersey. Join us as Rich Bizub of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance presents the film, "Pine Barrens: Up Close and Natural", highlighting the ecology of this special region, one of the last remaining wild areas in the state. He may even have some interesting folklore about the region, including, appropriately for this time so near Halloween, the elusive Jersey Devil

Nov 22: Green Night. Here is your chance to do something positive for the environment. We present current environmental issues — you write letters to elected officials and others. We supply the pens, paper, and stamps!

Dec 12: Holiday Party. No meeting this month, but join us for a party to toast the holiday season. The fun starts at 3pm, at Joellen Lundy's home in Red Bank (25 Peters Place). For more information and directions, please call Joellen at 732-741-4756.

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 patri321@comcast.net
Publicity Chair: Bud Kaliss 856-428-8071 budkaliss@earthlink.net
Political Chair: Marie Hageman 856-589-0606 mbirds@email.com
Pinelands Rep: Lee Snyder pinelands1@hotmail.com
Greenways Coordinators: Frank and Ellen Zinni
Conservation Chair: Stacey Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Membership Chair: Mike Brown 856-547-9221 eyebrown@snip.net
Fundraising Chair: Reiss Tiffany 856-829-6405 rctiffany@comcast.net
Programs Chair: *Open Position!*
Outings Chair: *Open Position!*
Inner City Outings: Jennifer Grenier 856-582-5512
 and Maxine Vogt 856-779-9156

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

Oct 12: Celeste Tracy, Trail coordinator for Delaware River Greenway Partnership will present the Heritage Trail.

Nov 9: To be announced. Please check the website and local newspapers for topic.

Dec 14: Year-end wrap and holiday celebration. Join us as we review our accomplishments for the year and make plans for protecting the environment in the coming New Year. Bring a favorite munchie to share.

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

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.

Current Issues: Club officers and staff have been following closely the several studies seeking to determine sustainable water supply levels for southeastern New Jersey, with the hope that findings will be used by planners (such as those employed by the Pinelands commission) to limit population growth. Another hot issue is a proposal to develop a large tract of environmentally sensitive land in Millville.

Sept 28 (Tues): 7pm: Opportunity to catch up on **conservation planning for the Great Egg Harbor Wild and Scenic River**, at a public (membership) session of the Watershed Association (an organization that once got its start as our Group Executive Committee!). Clay Sutton will describe his study of **birds on the Great Egg Harbor River**. For information or to confirm, call the Akers. Warren Fox Nature Center.

Oct 16 (Sat): 3pm **Afternoon walk in the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge**, with prospect of seeing the two juveniles that were born this summer, and that feed at dusk. Contact Fred Akers if interested.

Nov 23 (Tues): Nov 7pm: Another **bi-monthly meeting of the Watershed Association**. Topic TBA. Information from Fred or Julie Akers.

Dec 20 (Mon): 7pm at a place TBA: Share some pot-luck holiday food, read a classic environmental essay (to be provided), and join in a **"Great Books-type" discussion** of it. Contact Dick Colby for more information.

Seniors Section

(A new chapter-wide special interest section offering hikes/cleanups, social gatherings, movies, meetings, etc.)

The Sierran Seniors held their 2nd meeting on Sat, May 8 at East Windsor Public Library. Discussion involved upcoming plans for outings and topics for future meetings. The group hopes to awaken interest in Senior participation in letter writing campaigns, in social outings, and in increasing membership in a dynamic group component of NJ Sierra Club. For further information, contact Nancy Carringer (ncarringer@yahoo.com) or Richard Isaac (risaacx@aol.com).

OUTINGS:

Sept 19 (Sunday): The Sierran Seniors will visit Princeton Battlefield State Park for an

(Continued on page 10)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

easy hike. Meet in the parking lot at 1pm for a 2-mile ramble on easy terrain. Sighting of the nesting pair of bald eagles—possible, but not guaranteed! Leader: Ken Mayberg.

Oct 17 (Sunday): A visit to the NJ Audubon Society's Plainsboro Preserve for an easy hike around Lake McCormack to enjoy beautiful fall foliage. This will be followed by an organizational meeting, and a pot-luck supper. Leader: Nancy Carringer. Contact Nancy by e-mail for the exact meeting time and place: ncarringer@yahoo.com.

Singles Section

(A chapter-wide special interest section offering hikes/cleanups, social gatherings, movies, meetings, etc.)

Please join us! The NJ Singles Section was specifically created to offer a variety of singles-oriented activities to NJ 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 - if 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@njsierra.org
Outings Chair:	Joyce Haddad	jkhaddad@juno.com
Conservation Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>	Contact us! We need you!
Treasurer:	Joyce White	joycemwhite@att.net
Webpage designer:	David Szalay	dszalay@comcast.net.
Social Chair:	Kathy Holusha	Kathleen.Holusha@sierraactivist.org
Programs:	Diana Eichholz	MistyAngel2003@yahoo.com
Publicity:	Lynn Forrest	lvf77@msn.com
Membership:	Dave Ogens	Bandit29@aol.com

Volunteer Opportunities: We need volunteers in all areas of the state to run events. Volunteers needed for the positions of: hike leaders, Conservation Chair, Fundraising Chair/Co-Chairs, and members of all committees, including social event planners for Plaza Grille. Please attend an executive committee meeting or email any of the officers if you are interested. You may co-chair any position with a friend, if desired. We're happy to help you learn the ropes.

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Casual pizza gathering, introduction to club issues and activities, and letter writing. SECOND MONDAY of each month starting at 7pm with optional pizza, at the Chatham Library (214 Main St). Guest speakers at each meeting at 7:30pm. \$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.

Our meetings will be on the following dates: Oct 11, Nov 8, and Dec 13. Please join our listserv or call our phone line to find out the guest speakers, as they have not yet been confirmed.

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 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 I-78 West to 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:

Upcoming Fundraiser: Watch for upcoming details regarding our Sierra Singles fundraising event this October. Join our listserv to be notified.

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.

Nov 16: our "Dinner in Montclair" social will feature a speaker from Energy House who will talk to us about sustainable energy for the developing world.

SINGLES DINNER-AND-A-MOVIE: Saturday, Nov 27: RSVP required - Please join us at 6pm at The Plaza Grille, 3 Headquarters Plaza, in Morristown, NJ. 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 Nov 26th to: MistyAngel2003@yahoo.com, or 973-364-7573, ext. 8.

The **FINAL FRIDAY FILM FEST** on the last Friday of each month is taking a break till next year. Join our listserv, call our phone line, or check the next Sierran for our next movie.

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 Paul Serdiuk's South Jersey hikes/events are also oriented toward singles.

Sierra Student Coalition

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

Website: www.ssc.org/nj

Contact Dan Rosen (danrosen85@hotmail.com or 201-873-7023) for information.

Inner City Outings Section

(another Chapter-wide special interest activity)

OFFICERS:

Chair

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

Volunteer Coordinator: Patti Lynch Njicoutings@aol.com

Co-Chairs

(South Jersey): Joy Booth 856-486-1574 joeboo@hotmail.com

and Jennifer Grenier 856-582-5512 Jennig1@yahoo.com

and Maxine Vogt 856-779-9156 Mvogt1@juno.com

Inner City Outings is a community outreach program which provides wilderness adventures for inner city youth of NJ. Volunteer certified outings leaders conduct outings on weekends, generally day trips on Saturdays.

NJ is currently served by two ICO groups, one in the northern/central region and one in the southern region/Camden area. If you would like to experience the rewards of introducing NJ inner city youth to the wonders of nature, your involvement is encouraged and you are requested to contact us at the above email addresses. To learn more, visit our webpage at <http://www.sierraclub.org/ico/newjersey/>

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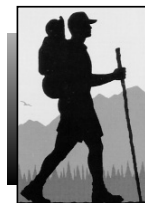
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Outings

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

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

Central Jersey: Ken Mayberg
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Essex County: David Ogens 973-226-0748 (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

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North Jersey: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417

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Northwest Jersey: Vacant

Raritan Valley: Steve Ember, sehiker@yahoo.com

South Jersey: Tom Boghosian 609-272-9005 (H)

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West Jersey: Dan Procida 609-767-2149 (H)

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River Touring: Fred Tocce 908-453-2205 (H)

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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

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Outing Leaders: Please send January-March 2005 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before October 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 Oct.-December trip write-ups by August 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 safe-

