**Pressing the McGreevey Years**

By Richard Isaac, Chapter Political Chair

Although the environment wasn’t a major issue in the 2004 presidential campaign, the Sierra Club is committed to making it part of the State’s 2005 gubernatorial and legislative election campaigns.

By this time the newsletter reaches you, our Chapter will have sent out questionnaires to gubernatorial candidates on the issues below, which constitute a legislative “wish-list.” We will follow up in the Spring with similar questionnaires to candidates for the State Senate and Assembly. The Chapter’s Political Committee will do everything it can to stay on message. And here is that message:

1. **REPEAL FAST-TRACK: A3008/S1368**

   On July 2, 2004, with little or no press, ex-Gov. McGreevey signed the Fast-Track Act into law. It established a “Smart Growth” Ombudsman whose role is to lobby on behalf of developers in so-called “smart growth” areas. The ombudsman can over-ride rules and regulations from all state agencies, and expedite the state agency (DEP, DCA, DOT) permit approval process for new development in areas designated for growth in the State Plan.

   As the worst environmental bill in decades, the act was opposed by all the state’s environmental organizations, and is currently being challenged in court. So the Chapter will be asking candidates if they support repeal of this Law.

2. **RESTORATION OF THE PUBLIC LANDS ACT**

   Although the law was killed in the Senate, Candidates should be asked if they support its reintroduction and passage in the next legislative session.

3. **CLEAN AIR: A3182/S17759**

   The harmful exhaust from motorized trucks, buses and cars requires more than 40 known and probable carcinogens, plus particulate matter commonly known as soot. These substances are believed to cause as many as 50,000 deaths every year as motor vehicle accidents, and shootings. The DEP recently recommended that reducing diesel emissions by 80% or more will stop the Millstone Island disaster and prevent 16,000 additional deaths every year.

   The diesel emissions bill would also mandate the retrofitting of diesel vehicles with cleaner filters and exhaust controls, which would also mandate the sale of renewable diesel fuel.

   The Clean Air Act also directs DEP to develop a New Jersey Diesel Emission Trading Program.

4. **FAMILY PLANNING/POPS**

   New Jersey is the most developed of all states, with a large percentage of the state’s population living on the water. New Jersey, together with New York and Pennsylvania, is a major source of air pollution and acid rain.

   In 2005, the Sierra Club plans to hold a meeting in New York City to discuss the impact of New Jersey’s air pollution on the tri-state area. The meeting will be open to the public and will focus on the need to reduce pollution from New Jersey’s industrial and transportation sectors.

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**Going Into 2005, Politics**

The Siemens reports that the Energy Star labeling program has been very successful, with over 400,000 copies of the program sold. However, the Sierra Club is concerned that the program has been limited to major appliance manufacturers, and that smaller producers may be left out.

The Sierra Club is also concerned about the lack of enforcement of environmental laws, particularly those related to air quality. The Club has called for increased funding for environmental protection agencies, and for stronger penalties for companies that violate environmental laws.

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**Petty’s Island be Saved?**

Olivia, our Delaware River Issues Coordinator (and much more!)

Petty’s Island. So, despite of a grass-roots effort to get the DEP to accept CITCO’s generous offer, Pennsauken Township has initiated condemnation proceedings in an effort to force CITCO to sell the island and go away. The developers are not happy being allowed to develop just the riverfront. They want the island too.

CITCO is promising a fight to follow through on plans to clean up the island and turn it into a wildlife refuge.

As this issue of the Sierran goes to press, here is what has happened so far:

- In the spring of 2004, CITCO announced plans to establish a wildlife refuge on Petty’s Island. This prompted various environmental and citizens groups to send letters, emails and faxes, including a Sierra Club Action Alert, to the DEP encouraging acceptance of the CITCO offer.

- On September 30, 2004, a hearing was held in Camden at which CITCO presented a proposal to The Natural Lands Trust, an arm of the DEP. Citizens’ comments were all in favor of accepting the CITCO offer.

- Of the eight members on the Board of Directors for the Trust, five voted to accept, and three voted against. However, the Board is made up of five citizen members and three state officials, and at least one of the state officials must vote yes. So, despite the majority vote in favor of preserving the island, the motion failed because none of the votes in favor of the plan were carried by the state officials.

- On October 30, volunteers fanned out in Pennsauken Township armed with 11,000 copies of a fact sheet put together by Delaware Riverkeeper. Their goal was to deliver one to every residence in the township.

- Attempts are now underway to convince the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to accept the CITCO offer. FWS’s New Jersey field office has supported the idea of establishing a wildlife refuge on Petty’s Island and go away. The developers are not happy being allowed to develop just the riverfront. They want the island too.

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The Pinelands Preservation Alliance, New Jersey Audubon Society and Natural Resources Defense Council have been fighting the Pinelands Commission and developer over the destruction of threatened and endangered species habitat at the Sanctuary for the past six years and expect to mount a legal challenge again if the Commission approves the proposed pine snake settlement. Contact the Pinelands Commission at 609-894-7300 or www.state.nj.us/pinelands/ if you’d like to urge them to follow their own regulations and protect the snakes.

From Sunil Somalwar, Chapter Chair:
What now? We can count on the Cheney/Bush team to strive for the worst, but ideological blindness is the biggest chink in their armor. I expect better payoffs for our efforts now because there won’t be another September 11th for Bush/Cheney to cash in. Who knows how the next four years will be, but I am optimistic that they won’t be as tough as the last four years.

From Laura Lynch, Chapter Conservation Chair:
“Soo take that look out of here
It doesn’t fit you
Just ‘cause it’s happened
doesn’t mean you’ve been discarded
Pull up your head off the floor
Come up screaming
Cry out for everything you ever might have wanted”
—Big Country, ©EMI Music Ltd, with permission

We are not going to give up.
We are going to focus on what is important to us and work to make things happen. We are going to follow the track bills in Congress, and urge our representatives to do what they can to help. We are committed to weathering the storm.

We will not lose hope. We will not give up. We will not allow hatred and anger to consume us. We will not allow our anger to be used against us. We will learn from the past, and when we win, the victory will be ours. We will fight for what is right, and we will not stop until we have achieved our goals.

From Dick Colby, Newsletter Editor:
I take this to mean that we need to be more aggressive in our efforts. We cannot afford to be complacent, especially when we have so much at stake. We must be proactive and take action to ensure that our voices are heard.

We cannot afford to let our opponents get the upper hand. We must be prepared to fight back and to fight hard. We must be ready to take on the challenge that faces us. We must be ready to take on the fight that we are fighting.

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We cannot afford to let our opponents get the upper hand. We must be prepared to fight back and to fight hard. We must be ready to take on the challenge that faces us. We must be ready to take on the fight that we are fighting.
So what are we going to do about it? One option is to roll over and admit defeat. I reject this option. We need to keep fighting for the things in which we believe. But we also need to learn how to become more effective in getting our message across. To do this we need to figure out what it is about Bush and his administration that so many people find attractive. I think part of the answer lies in the fact that Americans today are feeling anxious and overwhelmed. Bush tells them that he will take care of them and that everything will be all right. They desperately want to believe this, so they do. Then we come along and tell them the sky is falling and that we are headed for defeat. I reject this option. We need to defeat. And we need to let the country and the world know that we are in fact capable of achieving our goals. Yes, it may be few and far between. But we need to celebrate our victories and to let the country and the world know that positive change is possible. We are not about to roll over and accept defeat. And we need to resolve and renew our commitment to the environmental cause because we ourselves, yes, in spite of everything, are making a difference.

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**Editorial**

**Wal-Mart Zoning**

By (dick.colby@stockton.edu)

It is such a sociological and environmental issue in New Jersey, but say we lose quality of life. Further, the destruction that Wal-Mart (and other similar communities) is wreaking on our older (American) communities. Wearing other hats, as a Planning Board member in Egg Harbor City, Atlantic County, I have watched in dismay as many communities have fought in disarray, and I’m sure the same is occurring in many other older communities.

I think that the threat to the way of life is quite analogous to the experience during the Gilded Age (roughly 1860s-1900s), when robber barons like John D. Rockefeller did in the oil, steel, railroad and other industries gained monopolistic control of resources that had to be subdued by the antitrust laws and the Progressive Era (roughly)

This is a modern robber baron, rooting the free market system. D. Rockefeller did it in the 19th century and this is what to do about it. The two approaches, depending on the Environmental Commission, Board and the citizenry are comparable to the development that come in a “big box.”

What is needed is to stop Wal-Mart from depleting our natural resources and defacing the landscape. The need is for use in communities that WANT development at the expense of the environment. We need to use the environmental protections afforded to wetlands, farmlands, threatened species, habitat corridors, stormwater discharge pathways, and other environmental criteria. There need to be hotline and response teams, empowered to issue cease and desist orders.

I have specific information about a proposed Wal-Mart on Old Tilton and Fire Roads in Egg Harbor Township, Atlantic County. The site is a former executive complex of Atlantic Electric, which took care to retain groves of large 100-year-old trees when originally developing the site. The land is currently owned by a developer; Wal-Mart has not yet purchased it, but they have preliminary approval from the local planning board. We have fought in disarray, and I’m sure the same is occurring in many other older communities. I have specific information about a proposed Wal-Mart on Old Tilton and Fire Roads in Egg Harbor Township, Atlantic County. The site is a former executive complex of Atlantic Electric, which took care to retain groves of large 100-year-old trees when originally developing the site. The land is currently owned by a developer; Wal-Mart has not yet purchased it, but they have preliminary approval from the local planning board. We have fought in disarray, and I’m sure the same is occurring in many other older communities. Yet another Wal-Mart battle is being fought in Salem County: over a proposed Wal-Mart on Grand Street in Egg Harbor City, Atlantic County. The site is a former executive complex of Atlantic Electric, which took care to retain groves of large 100-year-old trees when originally developing the site. The land is currently owned by a developer; Wal-Mart has not yet purchased it, but they have preliminary approval from the local planning board.
It is well known that if antibiotics are overused the organisms that are controlled by the antibiotics can become antibiotic-resistant. A strain of Salmonella bacteria has evolved resistance as a result of the use of antibiotics to speed the growth of farm animals. Regulatory authorities are loathe to restrict this undesirable farm practice because the manufacturers of the antibiotics exert great pressure on our lawmakers.

A combination of large numbers of mice and deer are favorable in the eastern deer in close proximity. When there is abundant rainfall, mouse numbers increase. This being bitten by a Lyme disease tick are greatly magnified.

Hantavirus is another major disease agent that becomes prevalent under these conditions. The southwest have been receiving a rainfall than normal. It is this increased rainfall may be the consequences of global warming that hav not been seen. Many Africans consume quantities of bushmeat, the meat of monkeys and other forest species, some of which are endangered. Sanitary conditions for handling these meats leave much to be desired. Thus it is likely that HIV/AIDS passed from members of the animal kingdom to humans. It is well known that if antibiotics are overused the organisms that are controlled by the antibiotics can become antibiotic-resistant. A strain of Salmonella bacteria has evolved resistance as a result of the use of antibiotics to speed the growth of farm animals. Regulatory authorities are loathe to restrict this undesirable farm practice because the manufacturers of the antibiotics exert great pressure on our lawmakers.

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In the face of the 400,000-acre "next generation" of the Highlands, much of which is now being called the Fast Track. (The Highlands preserves a core Preservation Area, the Highlands contains the most productive areas, such as the Delaware Water Gap.) The map was created to benefit large developers, such as Milligan, owned by Ted and Windy Acres, owned by the developer. The problem of development in the Highlands, 54 miles southwest of the Wallkill and Ramapo valleys, is still a controversial issue. Also, the rules to implement the C-1 program — regulating water infrastructure, stream health and other concerns — remain formulated. McGreevey's administration cut money for repairs and operated our state parks to level. If these projects are not cleaned up, the strategy now is uncleaned and develops into the Highlands. The DEP's Site Remediation Program has been weak. It is unclear that, instead of cleaning uncleaned sites, the strategy now is to clean up the Highlands. The State Plan has become a rubber stamp for developers to map make public, and Center designations in resource-sensitive areas — justifying small-scale developments such as the Highlands Minerals tract. Key state appointments were given to developers and operators: the head of the Planning Commission is a member of the Clean Air and Center designations for the Highlands. This administration also convened a Developers Task Force to regulate small-scale developments in resource-sensitive areas, such as adoption of the threat of endangered species rule. And, despite overwhelming evidence, the administration authorizes the Highlands to bear hunt thirty years.

There are many issues and related to the Highlands. I will limit myself to six in which I came down on the wrong side of the Bush administration!

The Highlands, a four-hundred-acre property in the Delaware River near an area with a nesting bald eagle, is a nesting site for another endangered species, is located in the Highlands. This goes to waste the Natural Lands Trust as a site to be boiled. The Natural Lands Trust is a non-profit organization that focuses on the preservation and protection of natural areas and biodiversity. The Highlands is a site for endangered species such as the bald eagle, which is a protected species under the Endangered Species Act. The Highlands is also home to other endangered species, such as the black bear and the bobcat.

The Highlands is also home to several endangered plants, such as the Highlands sedge and the Highlands goldenrod. The Highlands is also home to several endangered animals, such as the Highlands wolf and the Highlands salamander. The Highlands is also home to several endangered insects, such as the Highlands beetle and the Highlands butterfly. The Highlands is also home to several endangered birds, such as the Highlands warbler and the Highlands vireo. The Highlands is also home to several endangered fish, such as the Highlands trout and the Highlands bass. The Highlands is also home to several endangered reptiles, such as the Highlands turtle and the Highlands snake. The Highlands is also home to several endangered amphibians, such as the Highlands frog and the Highlands toad. The Highlands is also home to several endangered mammals, such as the Highlands cat and the Highlands dog. The Highlands is also home to several endangered plants, such as the Highlands fern and the Highlands cactus. The Highlands is also home to several endangered birds, such as the Highlands albatross and the Highlands pelican. The Highlands is also home to several endangered fish, such as the Highlands salmon and the Highlands trout. The Highlands is also home to several endangered reptiles, such as the Highlands crocodile and the Highlands turtle. The Highlands is also home to several endangered amphibians, such as the Highlands frog and the Highlands toad. The Highlands is also home to several endangered mammals, such as the Highlands lion and the Highlands tiger.
The experience in organizing or working on fundraising campaigns is not something you can do alone. We want YOU! Now that the Bush administration is poised to move into phase two of its assault on the environment, it is more important than ever that the Sierra Club be out in front educating the public, our elected officials and keeping the pressure on those who seek to destroy all that prior administrations, both Democrat and Republican, have accomplished over the past thirty years. It is also important that we continue to work at the state and federal level to preserve the environment and our way of life right here in New Jersey. But effective activism costs money. So if you have the time and expertise to help us in reaching out to our members and to the public, please volunteer to help out.

**U HAVE MORE TO GIVE THAN YOU KNOW**

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 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.

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Volunteer Chapter activist Rocky Swingle: began his career as an environmentalist only a few years ago. In that time he has managed to stop development in a forested neighborhood that the Mercer County Planning Board hearings moved to a high school. Rocky has since founded Safer Open Space, an organization that is preserving and stewarding our nation’s public lands and wildlife.

State Senator Tom Kean Jr.: one of only a few male legislators to vote and resist likewise, and for work on government reform.

Curtis Fisher, environmental advisor to Gov. McGreevey: for leadership and tenacious efforts instrumental to the passage of the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act, which will protect and preserve the Highlands region for future generations.

Chapter Chair Sunil Somalwar: Completing three years as our leader, Sunil “managed” the expansion of our activities, for tenaciously fighting battles such as the Millstone Bypass, Princeton Mercer Airport, for scrutinizing Impact Statements and lifestyle that we all strive for.

Congressman Frank Pallone (D, 6th District): for tireless efforts to fight to protect New Jersey and the nation’s environment and especially for his work on the Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee in defending our national heritage.

Congressman Frank LoBiondo (R, 2nd District): In appreciation of his spirit in the tradition of Republican President Theodore Roosevelt and his efforts as a guardian and steward of our nation’s public lands and wildlife.

State Senators Ellen Karcher, Barbara Buono, Nia Gill, and Shirley Turner: the four female legislators who voted against the Fast Track Bill, described elsewhere in this Newsletter, resisting all the pressure from Governor McGreevey’s office to vote otherwise.

State Senator Tom Kean Jr.: one of only a few male legislators to vote and resist likewise, and for work on government reform.

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West Jersey Group: Sussex & Warren

Monmouth County Group: Hunterdon

Meadowlands Group: Hudson & SE Bergen

All are accessible from the NJ Chapter Web site.

North Jersey Group: Hunterdon

GENERAL MEETINGS: Please contact Dennis Miranda for information regarding future

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/CONSERVATION MEETINGS:

Active Person: Pat Mangino 862-432-7552   pmangino@aol.com

OFFICERS:

Treasurer: Arnold Kushnick 201-324-3964 mc.mel@verizon.net

Secretary: Melissa McCarthy 201-886-9362 l.g.taylor@ero.gov

Political Chair: Melissa McCarthy 201-324-3964 mc.mel@verizon.net

Vice Chair: Dave Ogens 973-226-0748 bandit29@aol.com

Chair: Louise Taylor 201-886-9620 l.g.taylor@ero.gov

Programs Chair: Open position!

Publicity: Open position!

Membership: Open position!

ExCom Members: Tina Munson, Gil Hawkins, Donald Kopczynski

Open position!

Working to preserve open space and clean water in the NJ Highlands and Warren Counties.

The Group has an opening for Treasurer, Secretary, Conservation, and other positions as it renews its efforts to preserve open space and clean water in 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!

MEETINGS: Please contact Dennis Miranda for information regarding future meetings and a discussion of plans for preserving the NJ Highlands from over-developments or more information, please call Dennis, at 973-564-9589.

Hudson-Meadowlands Group

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

OFFICERS:

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Treasurer: Open position!

Secretary: Open position!

Programs Chair: Open position!

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NEWS: As you can guess, the Hudson-Meadowlands Group is suffering “green fatigue”! It takes active volunteers to operate the Sierra Club, people interested in issues (environmentally responsible development of the Hoboken waterfront, oversight of Liberty State Park, motivations for using public transport, Meadowlands issues, etc.), and people interested in the larger regional and national issues discussed at monthly Chapter ExCom meetings and pursued by Coordinators. Hudson (and southern Bergen) County always presents interesting and controversial election endorsement issues.

GROUP BALLOT: Candidates for Hudson Meadowlands Group Executive Committee

Vote for nine, 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 News section of this Newsletter.) Please cut on the dotted line, and complete the ballot by February 1, 2005, to H-M Group Ballot, Sierra Club, 139 St, Trenton NJ 08618.

☐ Louise Taylor, 201-886-9620   ☐ Gil Hawkins, 201-444-5777
☐ Connie Ftera, 201-869-7950  ☐ Melissa McCarthy, 201-324-3964
☐ Donald Kopczynski, 201-224-2641 ☐ Dr. Rosemary Arena, 201-332-7560
☐ Betty Leung, 201-224-3542   ☐ David Case, 201-332-7560
☐ Mike Selender, 201-451-5411   ☐ Write-in
☐ Write-in

Please include your membership number (from the mailing label on p. 1)

TO RECEIVE E-MAIL NOTICES OF ISSUES, EVENTS AND MEETINGS: Send an email to BetsyKohn@aol.com. Your email address will be kept confidential.

Hudson-Meadowlands Group

West Jersey Group

(Trenton NJ 08618.) Please cut on the dotted line, and complete the ballot by February 1, 2005, to H-M Group Ballot, Sierra Club, 139 St, Trenton NJ 08618.

ELECTIONS: Please contact Dennis Miranda at 973-209-1814, or at: dmmg@earthlink.net for details. Thanks!

We are the Sierra Club


WAYS TO VOLUNTEER: You can take on an issue, such as air quality, energy, environmental justice, global warming, hazardous waste, recycling, transportation. You can help organize programs or tabling. You can join the Committe, which monitors or proposes bills or the political committee for candidates for public office. You can keep an eye on your planning board, on local conservation issues or help stop McMansions in Sterling Forest. In more, please contact Betsy or Mike (see above).

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☐ Louise Taylor, 201-886-9620   ☐ Gil Hawkins, 201-444-5777
☐ Connie Ftera, 201-869-7950  ☐ Melissa McCarthy, 201-324-3964
☐ Donald Kopczynski, 201-224-2641 ☐ Dr. Rosemary Arena, 201-332-7560
☐ Betty Leung, 201-224-3542   ☐ David Case, 201-332-7560
☐ Mike Selender, 201-451-5411   ☐ Write-in
☐ Write-in

Please include your membership number (from the mailing label on p. 1)

TO RECEIVE E-MAIL NOTICES OF ISSUES, EVENTS AND MEETINGS: Send an email to BetsyKohn@aol.com. Your e-mail address will be kept confidential.

Hudson-Meadowlands Group

West Jersey Group

(Trenton NJ 08618.) Please cut on the dotted line, and complete the ballot by February 1, 2005, to H-M Group Ballot, Sierra Club, 139 St, Trenton NJ 08618.

ELECTIONS: Please contact Dennis Miranda at 973-209-1814, or at: dmmg@earthlink.net for details. Thanks!

We are the Sierra Club


WAYS TO VOLUNTEER: You can take on an issue, such as air quality, energy, environmental justice, global warming, hazardous waste, recycling, transportation. You can help organize programs or tabling. You can join the Committe, which monitors or proposes bills or the political committee for candidates for public office. You can keep an eye on your planning board, on local conservation issues or help stop McMansions in Sterling Forest. In more, please contact Betsy or Mike (see above).

TO RECEIVE E-MAIL NOTICES OF ISSUES, EVENTS AND MEETINGS: Send an email to BetsyKohn@aol.com. Your e-mail address will be kept confidential.
Feb 9: Urrchell of PeaceWorks will show a short video about local resistance by aa
Conservation Chair:
Treasurer:
Vice Chair:
Chair:
OFFICERS:
Group Co Chair: Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com
OFFICERS:
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
Secretary: Lisa Melanie lisamelanie@comcast.net
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
Treasurer: Joyce White 908-272-4478 joyce0201@yahoo.com
Vice Chair: Steve Yafet yafet@erols.com
Chair: Ken Johanson 908-464-0442 kjohnan@comcast.net
Conservation Chair: Meling Chin chimeling@yahoo.com
Webmaster: Melissa Goss
AirQuality Coordinator: Bob Campbell 908-273-5720 wrobc_sc@earthlink.net
Outreach, Events: Bob Johnson 908-771-9676 robert.johnson@comcast.net
Legislative Chair: Ken Johanson 908-464-0442 kjohan@comcast.net
Outings Chair: Joyce White 908-272-4478 joyce0201@yahoo.com
Programs: Steve Yafet yafet@erols.com
Greenbrook: Bob Muska 908-665-2296 rmuska@erols.com
Union County: Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 hauskerr@aol.com
Morris and Union Counties, approximately
St, Trenton NJ 08618.
Check our website for a map. Our meetings are free and open to all Sierra Club members.

ACTIVITIES:
Our activities, go to: http://loantaka.njsierra.org.

Jan 12: Mas Denholm of the NJ Department of Agriculture will speak on the possi-
utes, environmental and shade tree commissions, and other governing bodies.
possible defenses.

Chris Mills 973-377-1742 ChrisMills@sierraactivist.org
Joyce White 908-272-4478 joyce0201@yahoo.com
Lisa Melanie 908-272-4478 lismamelie@comcast.net
Steve Yafet yafet@erols.com
Joyce White 908-272-4478 joyce0201@yahoo.com
Joyce White 908-272-4478 joyce0201@yahoo.com
Lisa Melanie lisamelanie@comcast.net

We are fighting development along streams, wetlands, flood plains and s
and improve trails in the Morris and Union County Park

Feb 9: Celeste Tracy, Trail Coordinator for the Delaware River Greenway
will bring us up-to-date on the latest efforts to make the proposed Del-
Heritage Trail a reality.

Mar 9: Note: The location of our March meeting has yet to be determined.
check http://sierraactivist.org/getbusy/html for the location. In the mean-
time, backpacking and bicycling leaders will offer best-practice tips and secrets for making
your next outdoor experience even better. If you have questions about how to use and how to use it, where to get the best deals, places you
yet, and other do's and don'ts, this meeting is a great time to get some answers.

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

GROUP BALLOT: Candidates for Central Jersey Group Executive Commit-
Vote for five, maximum. The first column of boxes is for "individuals;"
Family (joint) members are entitled to express two opinions by using both
option. (To learn more about the candidates, contact Group officers listed in
News section of this Newsletter.) Please cut out the dotted line, and mail
plated ballot by February 1, 2005, to C J Group Ballot, Sierra Club, 139
St, Trenton NJ 08618.

 Galen Denholm of the NJ Department of Agriculture will speak on the possi-
impact of the Asian Longhorned Beetle on the forests and agriculture of the state and the northeast region. This invasive insect has the potential to destroy entire forests of the region with many irreversible plant and animal extinc-
tory citizens can play a role in controlling its spread while our biologists develop possible defenses.

Calling All Volunteers:

Calling Local Government Responsive To The Environment. A presentation by Group Conservation Chair Mike Herson on how Citizens can help protect the environment by monitoring or participating in local decision-making. Mr. Herson will discuss the benefits of involvement and how to help fight damaging projects.

Please include your membership number (from the mailing label on p. 1).
Sheds, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association Acting Director Tom Boghosian will speak on water quality, why water is important, what the watershed and current water issues in New Jersey. The watershed is the oldest in New Jersey, one of the largest in the country.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Held at 7pm on the FIRST THURSDAY on alternate months for July and August. Currently, meetings are usually held at the Bound Brook UMC, 404 Mountain Ave. in Bound Brook. All Sierra Club members in the Shore Group (Camden, Gloucester AND Burlington Counties) are welcome to attend. Please contact us first in case there is a change of plans.

Shore Group
(And Ocean Counties, approximately)
http://njsierra.org/~njsireshore/

OFFICERS:
Outings Chair: Tom Boghosian 609-272-9005 boghosia@atlanticbb.com
Vice-Chair: Sally Nunn 609-704-1790 anna@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
Section Chair:
Ocean County:
Monmouth Co: Steve Knowlton 732-747-7011 knoak@worldnet.att.net
Cumberland Co:
Fred Akers 856-697-3479 akers@gowebway.com
Cape May Co:
Mike Verance 908-902-0718 mjverance@aol.com

Current Issues: Club officers and staff have been following closely the status of the project to determine sustainable water supply levels for southeastern New Jersey. This is 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 the development of the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River. The central conservation issue, for which the Group was founded in the 1970s, is to be protection of the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continue to do so with the energies of those few officers who remain active — both within the Club and in two other organizations that have “spun off” from the South Jersey Sierra Club. Very few of our local members seem interested in the meetings we’ve scheduled for the past few years, and many of them have been cancelled for lack of interest. We will continue to list the Newsletter and offer a point of contact for members in South Jersey who want help with local issues. If you have a place for meetings, please let the officers know about them. Please consider the following activities in advance of each meeting, if you wish to attend; otherwise, you may watch the proceedings on our meeting recording. We encourage you to attend general comments from Club members in South Jersey.

Jan 12 (Wed): 6:30pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Great Egg Harbor River and its Tributaries. Meeting place: Millville Public Library, 210 Broad St. Cumberland County development issues are usually discussed, including whether to develop the Holly Farm and the Airport Race Track. Call Fred Akers 856-697-6714.

Jan 25 (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’s Committee!). For information or to confirm, call Fred Akers 856-697-6714 at the Fox Nature Center.


March 9 (Wed): 6:30pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Great Egg Harbor River and its Tributaries. Meeting place: Millville Public Library, 210 Broad St. Cumberland County development issues are usually discussed, including whether to develop the Holly Farm and the Airport Race Track. Call Fred Akers 856-697-6714.

March 22 (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’s Committee!). For information or to confirm, call Fred Akers 856-697-6714 at the Fox Nature Center.

Seniors Section
(A new chapter-wide special interest section offering hikes/cleanups, gatherings, movies, etc.)
The Section hopes to promote Senior participation in letter writing campaigns, social outings, and in increasing membership in a dynamic group composed of NJ Sierra Club. For further information, contact Nancy Carringer (ncarringer@yahoo.com) or Richard Isaac (risaaxc@aol.com).

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

Please join us! The NJ Singles Section was specifically created to offer a variety of focused activities to NJ Sierra Club members. We are a not a large group; we are a statewide additional “layer” of Club activities and events. Everyone is welcome to attend our events. Come out and meet fellow Club members and others who care about the environment. We can offer as many activities as can be supported by volunteers to run them — if you have the slightest urge to get involved, please give us a call.

Group and Section Officers:
Group Chair:
Outings Chair: Tom Boghosian 609-272-9005 boghosia@atlanticbb.com
Vice-Chair: Sally Nunn 609-704-1790 anna@comcast.net
Secretary/Treasurer: Julie 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

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The Section hopes to promote Senior participation in letter writing campaigns, social outings, and in increasing membership in a dynamic group composed of NJ Sierra Club. For further information, contact Nancy Carringer (ncarringer@yahoo.com) or Richard Isaac (risaaxc@aol.com).
MEMBERSHIP: 
Open position
Volunteer Opportunities: We need volunteers in all areas of the state to run events. Please attend an executive committee meeting or email any of the officers interested. You may co-chair any position with a friend, if desired. We’re hopin’ you learn the ropes.

MEETINGS:
EXCOM MEETINGS each month at various locations. All welcome. Contact us for date and location.

OUTINGS:
Sierra Club outings are arranged by volunteer leaders. Please send April-June 2005 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before January 30. If you are a Sierra Club member interested in an Outing Coordinator Chair for assistance and further information on how to get started, contact your Group Outings Chair or the Group Outings Coordinator.

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS
Central Jersey: Ken Mayberg
Kjmangina@aol.com
Essex County: David Ogens 973-226-7107 (H)
29 Hatfield Street, Caldwell, NJ 07003
Hudson-Meadowlands: Vacant
Huntersdon: Susan Schirmer 908-987-6172 (H)
Mike Verange 908-732-8364 (H)
1497 W Front St, Lincroft, NJ 07738
Loantaka: Joyce White 908-772-4278 (H)
Joyce00201@yahoo.com
North Jersey: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417
Ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Northwest Jersey: Pat Mangino, pmangino@aol.com
Raritan Valley: Steve Ember, seihker@yahoo.com
South Jersey: Tom Boghosian 609-272-9005 (H)
3722 Lehigh Ct., Mays Landing, NJ 08330
West Jersey: Vacant
River Outings: Fred Toce 908-453-2205 (H)
River Road 1 Box 277, Washington, NJ 07882
Inner City Outings: Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H)
NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Hope Rd, Warren, NJ 07059
Chapter Outings: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417
Ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Outing Leaders: Please send April-June 2005 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before January 30. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of your quarterly publications, please submit it for the previous Sierra, due to the occasional lag in mailing. Also, please send outing posters or sign-up sheets to the Chapter Office as soon as possible after each outing.

For our families and our future,
Tina Schvejda, Former NJ Chapter Chair
Jan 29 Feb 5: Ski Mt. Tremblant. Seven days on-slope lodging, d/o; including hot & cold breakfasts.

Jan 14–17 (Fri. Mon.): MMLK & SSki LLake PPlacid WWeekend. We will return on the weekend with all the latest outdoor recreation.

Jan 28–30 (Fri. – Sun.): Catskill MMt. WWinter WWeekend AAlpine IInn. Enjoy all of winter's white magic in the Catskills. Bring snowshoes and snowmobiles to the slopes and ski trails.

Feb 12 (Sat): Beginner Alpine Skiing or Boarding Instruction at Mt. Peter.

Jan 9 (Sun): Alpine Skiing or Boarding Instruction at Sterling Forest. Bring lunch and water. Total cost for 3 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts, 2 dinners, 2 trail lunches and all taxes & gratuities $202. This is a joint trip of the AMC, Sierra Club and UCHC. Our several cross-country ski trails. Hikers and snowshoers can explore and photograph the scenic mountain beauty of the Catskills. In the evening by fireside we plan a great mountaineering color slide program and/or magic show. Excellent afternoon hikes on the spectacular state maintained trail system covering this mountain range. In the evening by fireside we plan a great mountaineering color slide program and/or magic show. Excellent afternoon hikes on the spectacular state maintained trail system covering this mountain range.

Mar 6–4–6 (Fri–Sun): Catskill Mountain Weekend Alpine Inn. Enjoy all of winter's white magic in the Catskills. Bring snowshoes and snowmobiles to the slopes and ski trails.


Feb 227 (Sun): Singles Hike and Addenfield Tour. 5 miles, easy pace. We will hike along the lake shore and to the den with some great views. All hikes to forest is on RTE 72, 1/2 mile from Jct of RTE 70 & 72. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-5457.

Mar 6 (Sun): Catskill Mountain Weekend Alpine Inn. Enjoy all of winter's white magic in the Catskills. Bring snowshoes and snowmobiles to the slopes and ski trails.

Mar 13 (Sun): Social Hike in Farley Hills/Spittock Reservoir. About 6 miles. The terrain is up & downs. Bring lunch so that we can take our time and enjoy the outdoors. Arrive before Farley Hills – Fisherman’s Park area at Spittock Reservoir. Directions: From the corner of Wittenberg Ave. and RTE 280, take RTE 280 toward Spittock Reservoir. Turn left onto RTE 440 and follow to Spittock Reservoir. Group cocktail party is available. Call leaders for information and to register. Leader: Norma Blumenkrantz 973-364-7553. Co-leader: Rob Greenberg 973-334-0125 heli@northern.com. Group cocktail party is available. Call leaders for information and to register.

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Mar 20 (Sun): Mountains Queen River Reservoir, Monmouth County (Special Interest: birds). Bring binoculars, bird books or binoculars. Hiking shoes are not required. This is a joint trip of the AMC, Sierra Club and UCHC. Our several cross-country ski trails. Hikers and snowshoers can explore and photograph the scenic mountain beauty of the Catskills. In the evening by fireside we plan a great mountaineering color slide program and/or magic show. Excellent afternoon hikes on the spectacular state maintained trail system covering this mountain range. In the evening by fireside we plan a great mountaineering color slide program and/or magic show.

Mar 27 (Sun): Ski Red Mountain, Burlington, Vermont. Ski the Canadian Rockies! Red Mtn. is the perfect ski trip for families and groups with a wide range of skill levels. Bring ski equipment and be prepared for vertical & runs up to 4.5 miles. Experts will enjoy deep powder and un-groomed tree-skiing, while novices can choose from a wide variety of groomed runs and easy trails.

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COSTA RICA THANKSGIVING 2005 TRIP November 18-28 $1500. The rainforests, volcanoes of the Pacific Northwest. This will be an active trip, visiting several different parks in this region. Great birding, wildlife (monkeys) and beautiful beaches. See the world’s largest sea turtles boat trip through one of the greatest bird wetlands in all of Central America, hike to waterfalls, snorkel at an offshore island, enjoy great food, accommodations, and the company of Sierra Club members. $1500 trip price, based on double occupancy, includes all local transfers, lodging, meals and activities, and a donation to the Sierra Club. Leader will help make flight arrangements which should cost about $500-$600 roundtrip from Newark or JFK. Contact Ellen Blumenkrantz at 8417 or email: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com for more information.

THE JERSEY SIERRAN

The Jersey Sierran is the newsletter of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club. Readers are encouraged to submit articles, photographs, artwork, cartoons on environmental subjects, letters to the editor, poetry, press releases and expressions of opinion. Articles and letters should be submitted typed and double spaced (or preferably by e-mail or on disk: call for format information). Send submissions to: Dick Colby. The deadline is the 10th of the month two months prior to the issue date.

The opinions expressed in The Jersey Sierran are not necessarily those of the New Jersey Chapter, the Sierra Club or the editor. Nor does publication of an advertisement imply Club endorsement of the advertised product(s) or service(s). Copyright 2004. All rights reserved. The contents of The Jersey Sierran may be used without permission in publications of other entities of the Sierra Club. Acknowledgement of the source would be appreciated. Some small advertising may be accepted. Please contact the Advertising Manager before submitting an ad. Placement of any ad is contingent upon availability of space and must meet Sierra Club guidelines.

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

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:
All members are welcome to attend these meetings. For more information call Bob Campbell (908) 273-5720 or email: wcob@intact.com.

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

Chapter Director: Jeff Tittel
jefft1@voicenet.com

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

Chapter Administrator
Kelly McNicholas 609-656-7612
Kelly.McNicholas@sierraclub.org

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

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

April 23 (Sat) 9am: Brookdale Community College/Thompson Park. Moderate 6.5-mile hike around Swimming River Reservoir. Please bring drinks and snacks. Hiking shoes are suggested. Go west on Monmouth County Rte. 520 approx. 2 miles to Brookdale Community College make a right at the parking lot #2, Meet in the right back corner at 9am. Bad weather, confirmation call. Leader Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS?)

April 23 (Sat) 10am: Social Hike in Palisades Interstate Park. Join us for a strenuous 4-5 mile crete pace as you enjoy the majesty of the Palisades. Highlights include Pequot Path and hiking over the cliffs are required and participants must be in good physical shape & 2 quarts of water. Meet before 10:30am at the State Line parking lot off Palisades Parkway. Take Exit 72 for Fort Lee/Palisades Parkway. At first light go left after exiting. Take right lane & follow Fletcher Ave. for short distance and bear right onto Palisades Parkway. Take State Line lookout exit, just past Exit 2. Follow road a short distance to Palisades Lookout Inn. Meet group at the snack bar. Leader: Joyce White at 908-272-4 joyce00201@yahoo.com (L)

FUTURE TRIP:

THE JERSEY SIERRAN