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23,500 Members in New Jersey

July-September 2005

Update on the Fast Track Law

By Kelly McNicholas, Conservation Program Coordinator
(Kelly.McNicholas@sierraclub.org)

In July, 2004, the Fast Track Law to speed-up pollution permits and outsource the oversight of environmental protection was enacted by former Governor McGreevey. We aggressively fought to stop passage of this Law, and helped organize the Save NJ Coalition of almost 50 urban, labor, environmental and faith-based groups to call for its veto.

Our campaign to repeal Fast Track continues to be our number one legislative priority. We won a temporary moratorium on its implementation, and have used the delay effectively. During the Spring we held fifteen public meetings on Fast Track: to educate citizens, local elected and appointed officials, and the press on the ramifications of this ill-conceived and damaging law. We talked to more than 700 people, worked with activists in more than 40 towns to pass resolutions, and gained the co-sponsor-

ship of 59 legislators on a bill to repeal Fast Track. But our work is still not done.

While concern about the Fast Track law has grown into a drum beat across the state, our message has not gotten to Acting Governor Codey and Assembly Speaker Sires. Without their agreement to post the repeal bill to the floor of the Legislature for a vote, the moratorium will end and the Fast Track program will take effect, and pave our state.

Please continue the drumbeat by talking to our legislators, our local officials, our local papers and our neighbors. It is our voice and our vote that will put a stop to the damage this law will bring to New Jersey. For more information about the Fast Track to sprawl, pollution and traffic, as well as ways to contact our legislators and send letters to newspaper editors, please visit www.SaveNJ.net or call or write me in the Chapter office. ☺

An Interview with Lee Snyder, our Pinelands Issues Chair, and a newly elected member of the Chapter's Executive Committee



JS: When and how did you first become interested in environmental activism?

I took Elizabeth Woodford's (founder of Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge) Pine Barrens course at

the local high school. She was one of the original experts and activists for preservation of the New Jersey Pine Barrens. After the classes, field trips and canoe explorations, I began to understand how valuable and fragile the Pinelands ecosystem was. I realized how interconnected we were with the water, air, woodlands, wetlands, plants and animals.

JS: How do you explain your willingness to LEAD, i.e. to become more active than the average environmentalist?

There is a need for more to be done, and I didn't see many others stepping up to the plate for clean air, clean water, less destruction of the environment. Most people are concerned with these issues; however, they either do not have the time or the incentive to get personally involved. There has to be a counterpoint to the unrelenting forces now at work to degrade the environment. We need many more people willing to help in tipping the balance toward conserving a healthy environment.

JS: Describe your particular role in the New Jersey Chapter.

On the state level, I'm a member of the Executive Committee, New Jersey Pinelands Issues Coordinator, and Chair of the Nominating and Election Committees for the Fall, 2005, round of ExCom elections. On the local (West Jersey Group) level, I serve on the Group ExCom as Group Pinelands Representative. Actually, this last role was my first volunteer position, and things have kind of taken off from there.

JS: With so many environmental organizations out there, what's special about the Sierra Club?

Without describing the obvious reasons, and in no particular order, my take on what's special about the Sierra Club are political clout, 800,000 members, extensive grassroots network of dedicated people, name recognition, and very small percentage of funds used for administration costs - most funds go to protect and preserve the environment.

JS: What advice might you have for someone contemplating becoming more involved in Sierra Club activities?

The Club welcomes participation by all in its many activities. You will meet great people with like-minded goals. You can become as involved as you like and as you are able. Hikes and outings are a good way to start. Attend the monthly meetings of your local Group, where there are usually interesting and timely presentations. Don't be deterred if you do not consider yourself an environmental expert. There are many environmental issues, and therefore many opportunities to learn and expand your knowledge. ☺

Protecting the Highlands

By Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently released interim rules for implementation of the Highlands Act. The rules are now in effect and govern development activities in one of the state's most environmentally sensitive areas. The rules will be in place until formal rules can be proposed after the input of the Highlands Council and the public. We have deep concerns about these interim rules, whose purpose is to protect the important resources of the Highlands. The policy goal established by the Legislature in the Highlands Act is not "balance," as DEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell would argue, but, rather, land preservation and water resource protection: "all...measures should be guided, in heart, mind, and spirit, by an abiding and generously given commitment to protecting the incomparable water resources and natural beauty of the New Jersey Highlands so as to preserve them intact, in trust, forever, for the pleasure, enjoyment, and use of future generations."

The Highlands Act was a compromise on a compromise. More than half of the environmentally sensitive acreage of the Highlands was left out of the Preservation Area. Approximately 200,000 of the 350,000 vacant acres the U.S. Forest Service identified as environmentally sensitive were designated Planning Areas 1 and 2, and are thus subject to development. The Preservation Area boundary was drawn to accommodate massive developments to benefit politically well-connected developers and donors.

The Highlands will continue to suffer the "death of a thousand cuts" as there are also many projects that will be grandfathered or receive exemptions and waivers, subjecting thousands of acres of the Preservation Area to development. The exemption of single-family homes on existing lots will, by itself, add thousands of new units, since there are approximately 20,000 such lots in the Preservation Area. The Highlands Act also exempts (flawed) State Plan centers, affordable housing sites, and growth areas in the State Plan that are subject to the Fast Track Law — regardless of whether they are on environmentally sensitive lands. There are also large-scale development projects in the middle of the Preservation Area that are exempted from the Act's protections. Commissioner Campbell allowed these exemptions without any public process or standards. Some of these sites are on Category-1 (pristine) streams and right next to reservoirs.

In his interim rules, Commissioner Campbell abuses his discretionary authority and weakens Highlands Protections. First, he fails to establish criteria for redevelopment, especially on brownfields. These former industrial sites may be developed without the 300-foot stream buffers that are required elsewhere, and may be forced to accept sewer extensions. The Commissioner has also allowed economic cost to over-ride environmental protection in redevelopment and toxic site cleanup decisions.

Commissioner Campbell has added driveways and access roads to the definition of linear development — which was supposed to be limited to public infrastructure such as utility and gas lines. Even with 88-acre minimum lot sizes in forested areas, this exemption will allow roads and driveways to cut through stream buffers and steep slopes and will allow large-scale development to occur on mountaintops and scenic ridgelines.

One of the main purposes of the Act was to stop water- and sewer-line extensions into the Highlands Preservation Area in order to stop overdevelopment and protect water supplies. Appropriately, under the Act, water and sewers can be extended to protect public health —

but since the rules don't have criteria, it will be unclear as to whether this exemption will be granted

"We have deep concerns about these rules, whose purpose is to protect the important resources of the Highlands."

only for justifiable emergencies or to build inappropriate projects. Worse, we believe the DEP Commissioner has gone far outside the scope of the Act to authorize new water and sewer lines to any project that receives a permit.

The Act also directs the DEP to consider secondary and cumulative impacts, mandate water conservation for all users, and tighten toxic site cleanup standards to protect the region's public water supply. The interim rules ignore or fail to accomplish these important objectives. The rules also do not provide the public and landowners with an opportunity to comment, request public hearings, or conduct administrative challenges to DEP permits.

The Sierra Club has been joined, in raising these significant concerns about excessive and inappropriate discretion in the DEP's interim rules, by the Highlands Coalition and virtually the entire New Jersey environmental community. We have urgently appealed to Commissioner Campbell to reject regulatory loopholes that would undermine the objectives of the Highlands Act. The Sierra Club continues to be extremely concerned by provisions in the rules that exceeded the Commissioner's authority under the Act, and we will work to ensure that the rules are changed to reflect the spirit and intent of the law - protecting the water supplies and natural resources of the Highlands. ☺

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Forest Issues Update

By Nancy Carringer (ncarringer@yahoo.com), our Forestry Issues Coordinator

In the continuous assault of the Bush Administration on the Environment, two major attacks stand out—the changes instituted in the National Forest Management rules, and the changes in the Roadless Rules, which allow increased logging in roadless areas.

Forest Management

On Dec. 23, two days before Christmas, the Administration announced sweeping changes in the Forest Management rules. According to the Washington Post:

“The Bush administration issued comprehensive new rules for managing the national forests, jettisoning some environmental protections that date to Ronald Reagan’s administration, and putting in place the biggest change in forest-use policies in nearly three decades.

The regulations affect recreation, endangered-species protections and live-stock grazing, among other things, on all 192 million acres of the country’s 155 national forests. Sally Collins, associate chief of the U.S. Forest Service, said the changes will replace a bureaucratic planning process with a more corporate management approach that will allow officials to respond to changing ecological and social conditions.

The new rules give economic activity equal priority with preserving the ecological health of the forests in making management decisions and in potentially liberalizing caps on how much timber can be taken from a forest.

The government will no longer require that its managers prepare an environmental impact analysis with each forest’s management plan, or use numerical counts to ensure there are “viable populations” of fish and wildlife. The changes will reduce the number of required scientific reports and ask federal officials to focus on a forest’s overall health, rather than the fate of individual species, when evaluating how best to protect local plants and animals...”

“Our national forests cover 191 million acres in 44 states,” said William H. Meadows, Wilderness Society President. “These are the places Americans go to hike, camp, fish and bird watch. This latest move sets aside the common-sense, balanced approach that’s proven effective for two decades.”

The public will have no opportunity to comment on this rule change.

For more on these wildlife protection rules, go to <http://www.wilderness.org/NewsRoom/Statement/20041007.cfm>

Roadless Rules

Last July the Bush Administration overturned a Clinton era rule — which preserved almost 60 million acres from road building and logging. According to Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman’s July comments, “replacing the Clinton rule with a policy that would allow governors to petition the federal government if they wished to keep certain areas roadless would encourage cooperation between state and federal officials and end the litigation that has dogged Clinton’s ‘roadless’ rule since its inception.

According to environmental groups, however, “It’s another case of the Bush administration having happy talk on the environment, but it’s basically rape and pillage.” Earth-Justice attorney Doug Honnold, who has defended the rule in Idaho, Wyoming and D.C. courts, states, “The broader debate is: Should [national forests] be devoted to development and corporate subsidies, or should they be set aside for amenity uses like wildlife protection and places where people can go to avoid the crush of civilization?”

In the meantime, according to the Washington Post, “The administration has pushed forward with several projects in roadless areas since last year, when a

Wyoming federal judge issued a permanent injunction against the Clinton rule. As part of a settlement of a suit by Alaska, the Forest Service recently proposed eight miles of new road construction in a roadless area in Tongass National Forest to enable timber sales. For the next 18 months, officials will follow the interim rule allowing exceptions for safety concerns. Once the new proposal takes effect, a governor would have to prepare a petition asking for greater or less protection than is called for under existing forest management plans, which are less stringent than Clinton’s roadless rule. If the Forest Service accepts the petition, it would negotiate a detailed plan with the state.

Other Forest issues:

The Interior Dept. and the State of Utah worked a backroom deal in 2003 that scrapped wilderness protections for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in Utah and elsewhere. That settlement provided that the BLM would never again identify and protect wilderness qualities on 150 million acres of America’s public lands under its oversight.

For more on this, go to <http://www.wilderness.org/NewsRoom/Release/20041011.cfm>

The good news is that The Redrock Wilderness bill has been reintroduced in this Congress, and both NJ Senators have signed on as co-sponsors. Please contact your Representative to ask him to co-sponsor the companion House bill.

Eastern Forest Roadless Areas: Routinely Understated and Underrated

People can be forgiven for thinking that there can’t possibly be many remaining roadless areas on our National Forests in the populous eastern U.S.: the Forest Service apparently thinks that too.

A new report, “Eastern Roadless Areas Under Threat,” details the agency’s systematic disregard of roadless areas. That practice not only defies common sense; it also deviates from official agency guidance. The report looks at roadless areas on forests across the East and the Midwest, from Wisconsin’s Chequamegon to Virginia’s Jefferson National Forest.

You can download the full report at <http://www.wilderness.org/Library/Documents/EasternRoadlessAreasReport.cfm>

AN IMPORTANT NJ FOREST ISSUE: The McClellan Old Growth Forest in West Orange

The first 20 of 44 acres were cleared in 1999 by Seton Hall Prep — after the Town of West Orange planning board approved it over the neighborhood’s objections. The second phase of clear-cutting has been stalled while Msgr. Kelly raises the remaining money necessary to complete Kelly Athletic Complex.

The Sierra Club is suggesting alternative uses that would avoid destroying the Old-Growth trees in favor of a living outdoor classroom with ballfields strategically placed in an area presently used as a dump site for the trees that were cut in the project’s first phase.

“Some of these trees witnessed the birth of our nation. Is this the example for stewardship of a living historic monument you would expect from an educational institution?” asks Bruce Kershner (forest ecologist, international authority on Old-Growth forests, and author of Sierra Club Guide to Ancient Forests of the Northeast), who was brought in to do a survey of the estate in 2002 by local environmental groups when they learned that Seton Hall Prep had not provided the legally mandated environmental impact statement. The Governor George McClellan Estate remains the only unprotected and endangered old growth forest site within the northern New Jersey Metro area. ☺

Reason For Hope

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@verizon.net), our Population Issues Coordinator

With tragedies daily in the news, what gives Jane Goodall, the famous primatologist, reason for hope? Goodall’s presentation to population activists from around the country capped a weekend of learning about, and lobbying for, \$800M for USAID international family planning programs, \$50M for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and repeal of the Global Gag Rule.

What do population issues have to do with the study of chimpanzees? Like Sierra Club founder John Muir, Goodall “recognize(s) the interconnectedness of everything: people, animals and the environment.” She noted that there are more children born every day than there are great apes and chimps left in the world. The realization that to save the chimps she had to save the land hit home one day when she flew into Gombe National Park in Tanzania, where her world-famous work took place. She saw that the park was surrounded by farms. To save the land, the lives of the people had to be improved in sustainable ways. She started a program of reforestation to prevent soil erosion. Contour farming was taught, and women were empowered through microcredit loans for small businesses, and instruction in reproductive healthcare, so they could voluntarily space their children and improve survival rates.

Recently Goodall visited a village in Africa where a structure was to be named in her honor. She wasn’t sure just what it was, perhaps a school or something of that nature. She soon learned that the facility was a VIP latrine. But this was indeed an honor, because these Ventilation Improved Pit latrines are specially designed to prevent the spread of diseases such as malaria, and to provide privacy. She noted that, after puberty, girls refuse to use open latrines. So, for lack of a latrine with privacy, women quit school and end up having eight children rather than two. Educated women marry later, have fewer children and lower maternal mortality. A child is more likely to survive if its mother has four or more years of education.

With stories such as these, Goodall held us spellbound. How could she, for example, see a motherless baby chimp in the market, its eyes glazed over, and not be touched to her very core. As loggers build roads deep into the heart of

the forest, commercial hunters follow. The chimp’s mother had probably been killed for “bush meat.” Since baby chimps don’t provide much meat, they are sold illegally in the market. Goodall gave the low gentle call that a mother chimp would use and saw a spark in the eyes of the listless baby. This little chimp was rescued and the Jane Goodall Institute (www.janegoodall.org) now has an orphan chimp program that creates local jobs and provides environmental education. Local people who come to the sanctuary see how much the chimps are like us. Indeed, there is only a 1% difference in our DNA, and it would be possible for humans to receive blood transfusions from chimpanzees. When people leave the sanctuary, they resolve never to eat bush meat again and are educated about alternative sources of protein in their diets.

Education is the key, which is why Goodall started the Roots and Shoots® program “to engage and inspire youth of all ages through service-learning projects.” Young people are taught they can make a difference, they can take better care of the environment, and think holistically about the world. To learn more about this program, go to www.rootssandshoots.org.

Jane Goodall notes that, without hope, “...all we can do is eat and drink the last of our resources as we watch our planet slowly die.” Instead, we can have faith in ourselves, our intellect and spirit; a respect for all living things; and understanding, compassion and love. These can give us all reason for hope.

Locally, legislators in New Jersey are still dragging their feet on passing a Contraceptive Equity Bill without further amendment. Thank you to everyone who contacted their Assembly members to urge them to vote for A292 in the same form that passed the Senate. Please continue to write and call on this issue. Not only do women in Africa deserve better, so do women in New Jersey.

Additional Note: On March 21, NJ Governor Codey signed legislation that will require all New Jersey hospitals to provide survivors of sexual assault with information about and access to emergency contraception. This bill passed both houses of the Legislature by unanimous vote earlier this year. The law took effect on April 21. ☺

Candidates Sought for Chapter Executive Committee

The next (Oct-Dec) issue of this Newsletter will contain a ballot for the election of five of the nine at-large members of the New Jersey Chapter’s Executive Committee (ExCom). Members serve for two years, and are expected to attend monthly ExCom meetings, as well as perform in a variety of activist roles.

Candidates can make their interest known in two ways: They can ask the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Lee Snyder (856-596-0621; pinelands1@hotmail.com) to be considered as a

“Nominating Committee” candidate, or they can send him a petition with signatures of at least 15 Club members — to become a “Petition” candidate. Deadline: 5pm, August 12.

Current ExCom members whose terms will be expiring are Joan Denzer, Rich Isaac, Bob Johnson, Sunil Somalwar, and Jane Tousman. Members elected last year, and whose terms will therefore continue for another year, are George Denzer, Ken Johanson, Lee Snyder, and Bonnie Tillery. In addition the 10 Group Chairs (or their designees) serve on the ExCom. ☺

Intern and Volunteer Opportunity in our Trenton Office

Want to help the environment? Maybe you’re a student interested in learning how to change the world while gaining internship credit. Or perhaps you are retired or in between jobs or your children have grown up and left you with a few free hours per week? We could use some reliable help in our Trenton office. Tasks include answering phones, compiling mailings and reports, investigating issues, planning events, helping our members, etc. Our work is exciting and important and you will surely come away with a rewarding experience. If interested, please contact Kelly McNicholas (609-656-7612 or Kelly.McNicholas@SierraClub.org). (Reasonable travel expenses reimbursed.)

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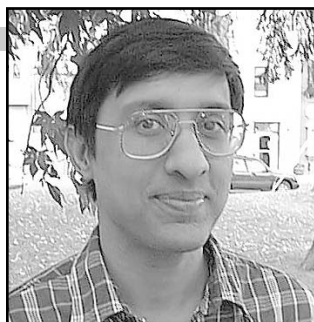


If you have already jettisoned the 100 year old technology and converted to compact fluorescents, convince your friends and neighbors to do the same. We would be happy to give you at-cost sample kits. Contact your local Sierra Club Group leaders or e-mail Sunil Somalwar at SVSomalwar@SierraActivist.Org

(We mean no insult to the hybrid cars. They are wonderful, too.)

Guest Editorial Is Gasoline Expensive?

by Sunil Somalwar, ex-Chapter Chair



Only a few short years ago, one could buy gasoline at throwaway prices.

We still haven't recovered from the "we are running out of everything" statements of the 1970's. Such statements were mostly true, in that the global environment has indeed suffered tremendously since then, but the Wal-Marts of today are still bursting at the seams with cheap goods (while distant China gets trashed, environmentally), so people don't perceive any crisis, and the right-wing damns us as "Chicken Little's."

Petroleum has been dirt cheap for the last 15 years or so. Prices will probably never return to those levels - partly because American purchasing power has fallen in relation to that of the rest of the world. However, after a few years of current pricing levels, venture funds or oil companies will probably invest in development of the Tar Sands of Alberta, which will be a huge source of oil. Then there is always plenty of coal. (But the technologies for making gasoline out of tar sands and coal will be extremely damaging to the environment.)

I suggest that, instead of continuing to sing the "petroleum is running out" theme-song, we should stick to our efforts to reduce fossil fuel subsidies and thus wean our society away from this addiction. A petroleum tax is the best way to do this, so it was nice to hear Assemblyman John Wisniewski (D, eastern Middlesex Co.) getting radio time

recently to promote a higher gasoline tax.

The future I see is that, as gasoline prices recover from their rock bottom levels of the last decade or two, all sorts of energies, some good and some bad, will kick in, along with some demand-side reduction (i.e. conservation). There won't be any meltdown in the petroleum market; instead, there will be minor corrections like the current one reflecting changes in relative purchasing power. We can expect many short-term fluctuations as well. The only possibility of a meltdown is for the dollar itself -- since the Cheney/Bush and Wal-Mart teams have piled up huge budgetary and trade deficits. So petroleum could very well remain cheap and plentiful, but not for Americans.

Gasoline in the US is still very cheap, by international standards.

Note: I never say that petroleum prices are high. They are NOT, whether you think comparatively with respect to other commodities, such as bottled water, or in historic terms: gasoline was much more expensive 25 years ago in real (non-inflated) dollars. The price of gasoline is certainly not high when one takes into account the huge subsidies our society gives to the petroleum industry (from defending the Middle East to the healthcare costs of treating asthmatics).

(Sunil *loves* to discuss energy: susomalwar@sierraactivist.org)

Chair's Message Root Canals and the Environment

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



There I was, sitting in my dentist's chair dreading the impending ordeal. Sure, he told me that it wasn't going to hurt, but that was easy for him to say. It wasn't his tooth, it was mine. He gave me a few shots of novacane and then asked me what I did for a living. Speaking was becoming a challenge, but I did manage to mumble that I was a retired lawyer and Chair of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club. He indicated that he was a birder, a fly fisherman, and a person who, like me, was deeply concerned about the state of our natural environment. He then asked me what kinds of things the Sierra Club was working on. By this stage in the procedure I had an array of metallic and plastic devices lodged in my mouth, but somehow I managed to get out the words "Fast Track." Much to my surprise he was familiar with the Fast Track Permitting Act and volunteered that he felt that this was a bad law. He then asked me how much of the State was covered by the Law. By now he was digging away at the decayed nerve of my tooth. I gave a grunt, which was all that I could do, and he went on with his work.

Well, he was right on both counts. It didn't hurt and the Fast Track Permitting Act is a bad law. After the procedure was completed and I was working on sorting out the location of my tongue and my lips, I somehow managed to get across to the good doctor that the Sierra Club was requesting that municipalities adopt resolutions supporting the repeal of the

Fast Track Law. He stated that his wife was a member of the town council and encouraged me to give her a call. I did just that and, several weeks later, the governing body adopted a resolution urging the repeal of the Fast Track Permitting Act.

If there's a moral to this story, I suppose it is that all of us who care about the environment need to take advantage of every opportunity we are presented with to reach out to our friends, neighbors and acquaintances, not only to educate them and let them know how they can help us in our mission, but also to take advantage of particular skills and contacts which they may be able to provide. We are engaged in a battle for the hearts and souls of the American people. We cannot afford to sit back and expect those who care about the environment to come to us. We need to reach out to them. There are many people, like the good doctor, who already know about the issues that we deal with on a day-to-day basis, but there are many others who care about the environment but are less well-informed. We need to reach out to both groups. This is not a nine-to-five job. This is a full-time commitment. So keep the Sierra Club and the environmental movement in mind and be prepared to interject environmental issues into the conversation whenever the opportunity arises. And pay particular attention to dentists, especially those who specialize in performing root canals. ☺

Editor's Follow-up: National Sierra Club Election Results: Referendum on immigration:

My editorial in the April-June issue ("Sierra Club Referenda") urged a NO vote on a National ballot question proposing that the Club oppose immigration into the United States. I'm happy to report that the proposal was soundly defeated by 102,455 votes to 18,998, or more than 5:1. In other voting, all of the candidates elected to the Club's National Board of Directors were "Nominating Committee" candidates: i.e. none of the "single issue petition candidates," including those interested only in immigration or vegetarianism, were successful. The results of the other two referendum questions were an imposition of a minimum one-year membership requirement for future BoD petition candidates, and a prohibition on write-in candidates. More than 15% of the national membership voted, 40% electronically and 60% by US Mail.

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.

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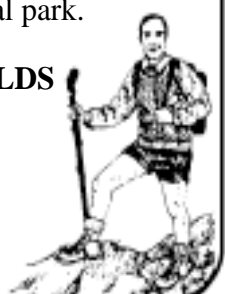
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Is there an environmental issue that we're MISSING? If so, please call or write to Club officers.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Controversy Blowing in the Wind - Wind Generators off NJ Coast

by Sidney J. Goodman, P.E., M.S.M.E.

I have heard complaints that offshore wind generators spoil the view and kill birds. Airplanes kill birds, windows kill birds when they smash into them, and cats kill them. There are no calls to abolish airplanes, windows, or cats.

The number of birds killed by wind turbines is small compared to that killed by pollution from coal, oil, gas, nuclear power, or killed in wars fought to control oil. Other living beings are also killed from these sources. Wind power saves lives and reduces disease.

Improvements in wind generator design have reduced the already-small threat to birds.

Improvements have made wind power the fastest growing segment of the energy production market.

Before I became an engineer, I was an artist. I find the latest wind generator designs aesthetically pleasing. I am not alone. Tourists go off the beaten path to view windmills in many lands. We can't please everyone though.

Are tombstones better to look at? Is the anguish of pollution victims better to see? Bad air inflicts tens of thousands of deaths and illnesses. Radioactive emissions from nuclear plants have harmed many despite white-wash reports. The first signals that nukes weren't as clean as ballyhooed was the discovery of deformed frogs and animals near plants in normal operation. In the HBO documentary movie "Chernobyl Heart", the ghastly condition of children was shown. A doctor commented that, in Belraus, only about 15 to 25 per cent of the children are healthy. This was 18 years after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Despite denials by nuclear promoters, farmers downwind of the 1979 Three Mile Island (TMI) nuclear plant accident, near Harrisburg, PA, experienced still-born and deformed animals. This never happened throughout generations of farming. Farmers near nukes complained about this long before TMI.

Referring to the first war with Iraq, The Wall Street Journal mentioned the lament of Dr. Carl Sagan. Dr. Sagan was concerned that our government was

spending about as much money on non-nuclear alternatives to fossil fuel as we were spending during each hour of the war with Iraq. Whether his statistics are exact or not, the gist of his point was and is very true.

Wind power can generate hydrogen as well as electricity. Hydrogen is the cleanest fuel imaginable. When it burns, its effluent is water that is pure enough to drink. Astronauts drink the water from fuel cells on spacecraft. I learned that when I designed fuel cells at H Power Corporation. Fuel cells produce electricity from hydrogen and air.

Wind blows day and night. At night, when the demand for electricity is low, wind power can produce hydrogen almost cost-free, by electrolyzing water. The idea for putting wind power off the coast of New England was proposed to provide New England with all the electricity it needed. Utilities opted for nuclear power instead.

Nuclear engineers laughed at the hydrogen option. They taunted that hydrogen is dangerous because it explodes. Yes, it can explode. Gasoline and natural gas explode. Combustibility is what makes them useful as a fuel!

There was a hydrogen explosion in the TMI nuclear plant during its partial meltdown. We were lucky that the plant had only operated for three months when the accident happened. If the plant had been operating much longer, the explosion would have been great enough to blow the plant wide open. That didn't scare nuclear engineers. But hydrogen at a little old windmill or at a solar system (which can also produce hydrogen) is terrifying to them.

We have been cheated out of a golden age of economic and environmental benefits of renewable energy; less inflation, increased employment, lower energy costs, a more peaceful world, less proliferation of nuclear weapons, and a cleaner environment. Dick Cheney's secret energy meetings scuttled these benefits. It was a theft. The answer to his perfidy is blowing in the wind. ☺

(Sid Goodman (gizmogeek@mindspring.com) is a former Chapter Energy Issues Coordinator.)

Care about making your voice heard? Interested in making a difference?

Join the New Jersey Chapter Voter Education Campaign this fall to help educate voters on environmental issues affecting their community and to encourage everyone to vote on Election Day.

For more information contact the New Jersey Chapter
new.jersey.chapter@njsierra.org or call Kelly McNicholas (609) 656-7612

Or clip and mail to: New Jersey Chapter, 139 W. Hanover Street, Trenton, NJ 08618

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

Resolutions Adopted by Chapter ExCom in March, April and May

(1) We authorized an amicus brief supporting the preservation of Petty's Island, in the Delaware River near Camden, as a nature reserve. The Rutgers or Temple Univ. Law Clinic would represent us. (March)

(2) We authorized litigation of violations of New Jersey's Administrative Procedures Act as applied to special projects exempted from the Highlands Water Protection Act, using the Rutgers Law Clinic. (March)

(3) We authorized petitioning of EPA Region II to rescind some of the NJ-DEP's

authority to regulate water quality, as a means of forcing the DEP to stop stalling on the establishment of standards for groundwater source protection. (March)

(4) We urged preservation of the West Essex Highlands Tract in West Orange Township, Essex County. (April)

(5) We reaffirmed our position on HR 1431, The federal Fisheries Science and Management Enhancement Act of 2005, and agreed to urge our Members of Congress to support it. See the article on page 6 of this Newsletter. (May)

(6) We endorsed our Hudson-

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



The Arctic Wildlife Refuge, Oil Consumption, and You

Tim Wright, Cranford NJ

With increasing World population, and industrialization of countries such as China and India, pressure on energy resources will only increase. It is just a question of time before the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other special places will be drilled for oil. It was just the tip of the iceberg when the US Senate recently voted to allow exploratory drilling in the Arctic Refuge. If we care for these places we must take it upon ourselves NOW to decrease our consumption and use alternate fuels. If we fail to do so, these precious places will be lost — one by one. We can't afford to be lazy and wait until opportunities to save energy come our way. We must actively seek them out. At the present time in New Jersey we get 50% of our power from nuclear, 28% from natural gas, and the next largest energy source is coal

[1]. The question is do we want more of the same? If we expect change then we must change.

The most powerful political, economic and motivating tool is money, like it or not. We should be mindful in our purchasing decisions every day, and ask ourselves, as we compare products, which one was made with less energy. If we buy appliances that are fuel efficient, producers will make more of them. To find out whether an appliance is relatively efficient you can go to www.energystar.gov. The site is fairly comprehensive. Even builders and mortgage lenders have energy star ratings.

Green energy is available in New Jersey [2,3]! In fact, every state has green energy suppliers. You don't have to change your supplier. You simply pay a premium every month on your electric bill, for which your supplier buys some of its energy from a green generator. Nothing else changes. Your energy supplier will still come out and fix things if something goes wrong.

If you live in PSE&G territory (North Jersey), there are alternate energy marketers you can get through PSE&G. One of them, Green Mountain Energy Company, makes half of its power in hydroelectric dams, and much of the remainder by burning biomass, a fuel that contains sulfur and other pollutants. Another alternative is Community Energy, which mostly generates from wind power. For commercial users that want to lower their bills, there are suppliers of combined heat and power [4].

Solar energy is also available in New Jersey: for commercial roof-tops with help from the state's clean energy program [5], as well as for residential roof tops [6,7]. New Jersey even has solar energy dealers [6,7]. In fact the state will pay up to 70 % of the cost of installation through the clean energy program

[6,7]. These installations not only provide electricity — they also protect the roof from sunlight, which should extend the life of the roof. Flexible thin-film photovoltaic cells will generate electricity even when it is cloudy [8].

Fuel cell technology will be available soon. New catalysts have been developed that can extract hydrogen directly from fuels like gasoline or methanol — converting it directly to energy in one step [9]. Vehicles with fuel cells are already being tested to determine feasibility and engineering parameters [10]. If automobiles and home heating units were made using fuel cells, efficiency would be significantly improved. Fuel cells will provide heat as well as electricity and will improve the fuel efficiency to 70% or more [11]. I am not advocat-

ing just methanol. There are other fuel sources as well but at the time of this writing references pertaining to methanol fuel cells were easier to find.

While hydrogen produced from wind or other renewable sources is the ultimate fuel for clean renewable energy, two large problems remain. Firstly, the technology doesn't yet exist for manufacturing hydrogen. (We can make it by "reforming" coal, but that takes energy: reducing the overall efficiency, and producing carbon dioxide as a byproduct.) Secondly, the infrastructure for storing hydrogen needs to be developed and proven safe, especially for automobiles. This is why we must support current green energy providers, and I don't mean just the government. Individuals like you and me have to utilize it — not just pay it lip service.

- [1] http://www.green-e.org/your_e_choices/nj.html
- [2] http://www.green-e.org/your_e_choices/pyp.html
- [3] <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/buygreenpower/index.htm>
- [4] <http://www.epa.gov/chp/>
- [5] <http://www.powerlight.com/newjersey/index.shtml>
- [6] <http://www.njsolarpower.com>
- [7] <http://www.energyenterprises.biz/>
- [8] <http://www.pbs.org/saf/1506/resources/transcript.htm>
- [9] http://www.purehydrogen.com/site_2002/news_documents/press_release_09_2003.html
- [10] <http://www.lanl.gov/orgs/ce/fuelcells/technology.shtml>
- [11] <http://www.methanol.org/pdf/Frame.cfm?pdf=RESIDENTIAL.pdf>

Tim (timwright31@hotmail.com) is a long-time activist in our Loantaka Group. He was our environmental coordinator for the John Kerry campaign in North Jersey. He uses compact fluorescent light bulbs, gets 35 mpg on his old car, and plans to buy a Prius next. ☺

Camp Todd Preservation Caps 20-Year Effort to Preserve Ramapo Scout Camps

By Betsy Kohn, Chair of our North Jersey Group, and Dennis Schvejda, Chapter Conservation Director

On a sunny mid-April afternoon, Governor Codey, Bergen County Executive McNerney and DEP Commissioner Campbell stood atop the Ramapo Mountains, above Oakland (Bergen County), to make it official: Camp Todd's 73 mountaintop acres will be preserved. The State is supplying \$4 million, the County \$3.55 million and Fyke Nature Association is contributing \$450,000 to acquire the last of the Boy Scout camps in the Ramapos.

There's a long history behind the preservation efforts for Camp Todd.

As a Scout, one of us (Dennis Schvejda) camped at Todd from '67 to '73, several times each year. As a Scoutmaster in the early '80's, Dennis took his Scouts there. According to Dennis, "when the Scout Council decided to sell Camp Todd to a developer, we tried to find a non-profit conservation organization willing to pur-

chase the Camp. That failed. The original developer went belly up after a few years, and the property reverted to the Resolution Trust Corporation, a federal entity that held title to several Highlands parcels. There was a big push by NJ environmentalists and our Congressional delegation to transfer title to the State of NJ, but that failed. We then worked to get the City of Oakland a Green Acres grant to buy the property. We were successful, and Oakland was awarded the grant. But they sat on it for too long, and lost the money. What's left of Camp Todd now is a remnant, the developer having built hundreds of units, and is continuing to do so on the banks of the Ramapo River and up the hill."

The most recent frustration occurred in 2003, when Oakland's Planning Board, ignoring the public outcry, voted 4-3 to allow construction of 22 McMansions.

Since then, North Jersey Group members continued to press officials publicly for preservation, while Dennis worked quietly with state and local officials to find the funding to make preservation of Camp Todd finally happen.

On Todd, there was really "an alignment of the stars." Oakland Mayor Szabo and the Town Council supported the purchase, as did Brad Campbell. Hugh Carola helped convince Fyke to supply some of the purchase price. Capt. Bill Sheehan helped shepherd the project through the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund, along with Adam Strobel, Director of Open Space for Bergen County. The Highlands Coalition also provided support. And we can't forget the New York / New Jersey Trail Conference, which put in plenty of work over the years on all these camps.

We may have lost significant portions of Todd, but we did prevail and save the

heart of it. We're ecstatic that at least this piece of the camp, containing the lake and overlook, will be protected. This is the culmination of efforts to protect not only Todd, but also Yaw Paw, Tamarack and Glen Gray.

Camp Todd's acquisition brings to 1,000 the number of acres of Boy Scout camps saved in Bergen County's Ramapos. Add that to the adjacent Ramapo State Forest and the Ringwood State Forest and we have about 19 square miles of contiguous forest in northern New Jersey extending up to the New York border.

"Little did I know as a young Scout," said Dennis, "that I would work so long, and with so many great individuals and organizations. After more than 20 years of effort, we have finally succeeded!"

Visit the following link for photos of Todd: <http://sierraactivist.org/gallery/todd>. ☺

Sierra Club Film and New Worldwatch Book Bring Home the Importance of Local Food

Supplied by Bonnie Webber, a member of the Sierra Club's National Sustainable Consumption Committee

The most significant—and encouraging—change in the American diet today is an ever-growing interest in eating local food. More and more Americans are preparing meals of vegetables, fruit, meat, and other ingredients grown and raised on nearby farms, rather than from distant agribusinesses. School districts, hospital chains, food service providers, and even the nation's top grocers are also seeking out food that has been raised nearby.

The Sierra Club has sponsored a short film titled *The True Cost of Food*. The Club's National Sustainable Consumption Committee is using the film as the centerpiece of a campaign to educate the public about food issues. The 15-minute animated film is a light-hearted, thought-provoking video intended to introduce a discussion on the environmental costs of the way agribusiness is raising our food. It encourages people to buy local and organic food and eat less meat. Check it out at www.truecostoffood.org.

The benefits and re-emergence of local food are documented and examined in *Eat Here: Reclaiming*

Homegrown Pleasures in a Global Supermarket, a new book from the Worldwatch Institute. *Eat Here* describes how this simple shift in eating habits not only delivers superior taste, but is also better for people's health, the livelihoods of small farmers, and the global environment. The book shows how people have responded to concerns about mad cow disease, urban sprawl, and heavy pesticide use by taking control of their food supply and demanding locally grown fare. Learning more about how food is produced and connecting to food sources allows consumers to make decisions that are better for us and for the planet.

Many readers have used the book to organize "local food dinners," meals built around local ingredients, where attendees can discuss the book and its implications for their local food economy. Attendees at these dinners might be

inspired to start a farmers market, sponsor an edible schoolyard, or lobby their elected officials to support local agriculture. (For information on getting discounted copies of *Eat Here* for hosting one of these dinners, please contact cberner@worldwatch.org.) The book

"Learning more about how food is produced and connecting to food sources allows consumers to make decisions that are better for us and for the planet."

and film complement each other beautifully and can be used together to run a lively meeting that appeals to

people of varying commitment levels.

The book and video feature things you can do to promote local foods in your own life or community:

- Learn what foods are in season in your area and try to build your diet around them.
- Shop at a local farmers market.
- Ask the manager of your favorite restaurant or supermarket how much of their food is locally grown, and then encourage her or him to increase that share.
- Take a trip to a local farm to learn

what it produces.

- Host a harvest party at your home or in your community that features locally available and in-season foods. Invite a local farmer to speak at your party.

- Produce a local food directory that lists all the local food sources in your area, including CSA arrangements, farmers markets, food co-ops, restaurants emphasizing seasonal cuisine and local produce, and farmers willing to sell direct to consumers year-round.

- Buy extra quantities of your favorite fruit or vegetable when it is in season and experiment with drying, canning, jamming, or otherwise preserving it for a later date.

- Plant a garden and grow as much of your own food as possible.

- Speak to your local politicians about forming a local food policy council to help guide decisions that affect the local foodshed.

For information about *The True Cost of Food*, visit www.truecostoffood.org; to order a copy contact us at truecostoffood@aol.com. For more information about *Eat Here*, including discussion questions and activity ideas, visit www.worldwatch.org/features/food. ☺

Opening Up Public Meetings in New Jersey

Club Member lobbies for the televising of local Planning and Zoning Board Meetings

Many New Jersey municipalities are served by cable TV stations that offer coverage of local governmental meetings. The service is generally provided at no charge, as a component of the agreement that enfranchises a cable provider with exclusive rights to serve a municipality – except that the municipality must supply a person to actually operate the camera and audio. At times when meetings are not being broadcast, the channel often offers a "bulletin board" of community notices and public service announcements.

Although many towns televise the meetings of the Governing Body, relatively few televise meetings of Planning and Zoning Boards, at which many important land use decisions are made. Jane

Tousman, a member of the Chapter's Executive Committee, and our Sprawl Issues Coordinator, has been leading a campaign to require such coverage in her town of Edison, Middlesex County. The issue is controversial: Board members are appointed rather than elected, and therefore less comfortable in the "public eye." Board meetings are often boring, and concerned with the minute details of site plans as they appear on detailed blueprints – which are not photogenic. It's a rare Planning Board meeting that sees much controversy or public input.

North Brunswick, also in Middlesex County, has been televising its Planning Board meetings since Dec 28, 2004. The service was requested by the

Board Chairman, and approved by a vote of the entire Board. Volunteers help with the TV production, including local high school students. The town reportedly asked the cable franchiser for extra lighting to improve the quality of the broadcast.

Perhaps a more important need related to the opening up of public meetings would be the televising, in advance of each Board meeting, of an agenda that includes a substantive outline of each proposal that is up for consideration. Such material could be offered by the cable channel in a public notice, including facsimiles of the blueprints of the developments under consideration, and/or they could be made available on a municipality's web site. The advantage

of web provisioning is that proposals could be downloaded. Some busy planning and zoning boards hold informal "workshop" sessions at which no voting takes place, and there is a freer discussion, and "mark-up," of proposals. These would be less suitable for telecasting, but more important for involvement of the public.

To learn more about Jane Tousman's efforts in Edison, contact her at JD Tous@aol.com. To learn more about your community's level of planning "openness," each municipal clerk should be able to connect you with your Planning Board secretary, and with the Chairpersons and other members of your Planning and Zoning Boards. ☺

DEP Budget: Death by a Thousand Cuts

By Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director

The proposed FY 2006 State budget, which takes effect on July 1, contains the most drastic cuts to the Department of Environmental Protection in the last 10 years. Core programs and staff will be cut, so that some of the money can be used to implement Fast Track (see story on p. 1) – which will result in more sprawl and more pollution. The DEP budget cuts will directly impact New Jersey's environment as well as its public health. We are cutting money for cleaning up underground storage tanks – at a time when we have a backlog of more than 3,800 tanks that need to be cleaned up. We are hiring new staff to give permits to developers – while at the same time we may lay off 54 conservation officers, game wardens and other personnel in the Division of Fish and Game.

DEP Expenditures	FY05 Available	FY05 Adjusted	FY06 (Proposed)
Staff & Programs:	\$252,225,000	\$225,524,000	\$216,636,000
Grants in Aid:	\$17,144,000	\$16,250,000	\$0
Capital:	\$194,511,000	\$116,453,000	\$82,463,000
State Aid:	\$12,372,000	\$12,372,000	\$10,072,000
Debt Service:	\$64,218,000	\$63,240,000	\$28,943,000
TOTAL:	\$540,470,000	\$433,839,000	\$338,114,000

DEP expenditures for staff and programs will drop by approximately \$36 million. The entire DEP budget for FY2006 will suffer a 22% cut – which comes on top of last year's large cuts.

PROGRAMS THAT WILL BE ENTIRELY ELIMINATED:

PROGRAMS THAT WILL BE ENTIRELY ELIMINATED:	TOTAL CUT
Greenhouse Gas Action Program	\$239,000
Tire Management Local Program	\$2,300,000
Diesel Program	\$300,000
Recycling	\$1,100,000
Parks Capital Repai	\$4,000,000
Stormwater Management	\$6,000,000
Livable Communities	\$10,000,000
Environmental Grants (to Environmental Commissions)	\$17,000,000

PROGRAMS THAT WILL BE REDUCED

PROGRAMS THAT WILL BE REDUCED	TOTAL CUT
Site Remediation Cleanup Funds	\$15,900,000
Site Remediation Staff/Administration	\$1,500,000
Underground Storage Tanks	\$5,500,000
Brownfield Cleanups Loans & Grants	\$5,500,000

Enforcement	\$1,500,000
Office of Permit Information	\$2,800,000
Land Use Management - Fish and Game	\$3,900,000

Funding for Fast Track

In contrast to the significant gutting of environmental programs, Acting Governor Codey's proposal provides \$20 million in the DEP budget to create a new Division of Smart Growth with 165 new positions – to implement Fast Track. An additional \$15.5 million will create a SEPARATE Division of Smart Growth in the Department of Community Affairs – also to implement Fast Track.

DEP Diversions

Within the DEP budget, \$45 million from several trust funds, intended originally for open space purchases, are to be diverted for salary and administration. There is also a shift of \$2.3 million from a fund for Natural Resource Damage claims – to pay for administrative costs.

In a separate raiding of environmental funds, \$7.5 million from the Garden State Preservation Trust will go to pay for salaries and benefits to the employees of Green Acres, Farmland Preservation and Historic Trust programs. The Dam Repair program will also experience a diversion – of \$551,000 from program costs (i.e. dam repair) to administrative costs.

Parks

Under Governor Whitman, New Jersey averaged \$12 million per year for repairs to parks. In the last three years under McGreevey and Codey, the average was \$2 million per year. Now, the FY2006 budget allocates zero dollars! Tourism is one of the largest industries in New Jersey, with more people visiting our parks than Yellowstone and Yosemite combined. We need to increase funding to the Division of Fish and Wildlife by \$5 million to avoid layoffs and increase the number of year-round park personnel, and by another \$5 million so we can hire enough people this summer to supervise and maintain our parks.

In contrast, Essex County has budgeted \$50 million for park repairs in the last three years while the State has only budgeted \$6 million, in the same time period, for its entire system of parks.

Another Contrast: Tax Cut for Polluters

The proposed Codey budget gives a \$12 million tax break to the hundred largest polluters in New Jersey by repealing the air toxics tax. ☹

Sierra Club Supports New Federal Legislation to Manage Marine Fisheries

Club members are asked to contact their Members of Congress to recommend co-sponsorship of this legislation.

Supplied by Brooks Mountcastle, Mid-Atlantic Organizer, Marine Fish Conservation Network

After three years of intense investigation into the health of our oceans, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy (USCOP) released its final report on September 20, 2004. The Commission, appointed by President Bush, concluded that, "Our failure to properly manage the human activities that affect the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes is compromising their ecological integrity, diminishing our ability to fully realize their potential, costing us jobs and revenue, threatening human health, and putting our future at risk." The Commission went on to say that, "The message from both experts and the public alike was clear: our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes are in trouble and major changes are urgently needed in the way

we manage them."

Among the recommendations were a series of measures designed to enhance fisheries science and management to ensure the long-term sustainability of marine fish, ocean ecosystems and the coastal communities that depend on them. The Fisheries Science and Management Enhancement Act of 2005 seeks to implement those recommendations by making the following changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA):

1. STRENGTHENING THE USE OF SCIENCE IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

In many fisheries, councils must significantly limit the number of fish caught to ensure long-term sustainability, while at the same time allocating fish among

competing groups of fishermen. Because of the political difficulty and economic consequences of reducing quotas, some councils delay conservation decisions and instead set unsustainable catch levels which are contrary to scientific recommendations.

To address this problem, the USCOP recommended amending the MSA to require councils to develop fishery management plans that at minimum conform to the recommendations of qualified scientific advisors.

2. BROADEN THE REPRESENTATION ON FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS AND REDUCE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A recent study by the Stanford

University Fisheries Policy Project found that multiple viewpoints improve decision-making because groups with diverse perspectives tend to look at and consider a broader range of information and options when making decisions.

The USCOP recommended amending the MSA to require governors to nominate a slate of candidates that includes at least two representatives of commercial fishing interests, recreational fishing interests, and representatives of the public to serve on councils.

The bill amends the MSA to implement this recommendation and to require the Secretary of Commerce to ensure balance when making council appointments.

Currently, council members have a

(continued on page 10)

Sierra Club de Puerto Rico Club Inaugurates First Spanish-Speaking Chapter

Contributed by Jennifer Hattam, Sierra Associate Editor

The traffic-clogged road out of San Juan is lined with Wal-Mart's, car dealerships, and McDonalds. Only the road signs *en Español* remind visitors that they're not in the mainland U.S. But a drive of less than an hour (if the traffic gods are with you) puts you in the midst of a lush rainforest, where the modern world suddenly seems impossibly far away.

Tension between development and conservation is especially acute in Puerto Rico, a densely populated island about the size of Connecticut. There's not much room to build, but powerful developers keep building anyway. Until now, environmentalists have had a tough time keeping them at bay.

"Most environmental groups here are formed to protect individual places,"

says Francisco ("Pachi") Pérez, an environmental consultant and vice chair of the newly formed Puerto Rico Chapter of the Sierra Club. "They're in a sprint race, using up all their energy in one fight, but developers are in a marathon race. They have the money to be in it for the long haul."

Pérez and other activists hope that the resources of the Sierra Club will help change that equation. The new chapter, the Club's 64th, and its first in more than a decade, was chartered in February by the national Board of Directors during a visit to the island. The seeds were planted three years ago, when five Puerto Rican students traveled to Washington, D.C., to attend the Sierra Student Coalition's fourth annual Public Lands Action Summit, a wildlands lobbying

event. Since then, that core group of activists has acquired more than 200 additional members.

The new Chapter's priorities will be urban sprawl, solid waste, and enforcement of environmental laws. A major conservation campaign is already in full swing to stop two hotel groups from developing the island's Northeast Ecological Corridor, a 3,200-acre coastal area that encompasses most of Puerto Rico's distinctive ecosystems, including wetlands, forests, coral reefs, mangrove swamps, and a bioluminescent lagoon.

The two mega-resorts planned by Four Seasons Resorts & Hotels and Marriott International would include more than 1,900 residential and tourist units, and three golf courses. The developments would threaten the habitat of dozens of

rare or endangered species that live in the corridor, including the Leatherback sea turtle, and exacerbate water shortages in neighboring communities. Existing development has already dried up taps, pushed local fishermen into more distant and dangerous waters, and created heat islands that reduce the amount of rainfall in El Yunque, the only tropical rainforest in the U.S. National Forest system.

"If we keep allowing development here," says Hector Horta, a biologist with Puerto Rico's natural resources agency, "it won't end until they have a 5-star hotel on top of the rainforest."

Visit www.puertorico.sierraclub.org to learn more about the Club's newest chapter and take action to protect Puerto Rico's coastline. ☹



Group News

FROM AROUND THE STATE

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

- Northwest Jersey Group:** Hunterdon, Sussex & Warren
- 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, Warren and Hunterdon Counties; note that the former Hunterdon County Group has merged into the Northwest Jersey Group)

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Dennis Miranda	973-209-1814	dmmg@earthlink.net
Special Events Chair:	Pat Mangino	862-432-7552	pmangino@aol.com
Membership Chair:	Susan Rotter	973-347-8849	rotterls@mindspring.com
Treasurer:	Charles Kopp	973-770-7718	ccgkp@aol.com
Political Chair:	Arnold Kushnick	908-788-5637	arnkush@aol.com
Group Delegate to Chapter ExCom:	Ruth Prince	908-284-9103	ruthp2@patmedia.net

GENERAL MEETINGS: The Northwest Group meets at 7pm on the LAST TUESDAY of each month. For locations and details, please contact Susan Rotter, 973-347-8849. We feature guest speakers, plan hiking trips and address conservation issues.

ACTIVITIES: We are vigorously opposed to the expansion of a sewer service area in Vernon Township for Mountain Creek Ski Resort — that would result in the degradation of the pristine Black Creek Marshes, home to half a dozen NJ Endangered and Threatened Species.

In Hopatcong Boro, the Northwest Group mobilized the residents to oppose a 200-acre development in the Highlands for 700 new adult housing units. Attending the Planning Board meetings, representatives of the Northwest Group managed to have over 1,000 people show up in opposition as well. The application was postponed when we raised issues that violated the Boro's land use ordinances.

Plans to Merge the Hunterdon and Northwest Jersey Groups

The New Jersey Chapter Executive Committee is considering merging two local Groups, the Hunterdon County Group and the Northwest Jersey Group, as a way of strengthening volunteer conservation activities in Hunterdon, Sussex, and Warren Counties.

If you think these two Groups should remain separate, or if you would like to help revitalize our efforts in these areas, please contact Richard Isaac, Group Effectiveness Coordinator, at 973-716-0297, or risaacx@aol.com.

North Jersey Group

(Passaic and Bergen Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Betsy Kohn	201-461-4534	BetsyKohn@aol.com
Vice Chair:	Mike Herson	201-262-9472	mikeherson@hotmail.com
Conservation Chairs:	Tom Thompson	201-848-1080	etrans743@aol.com
	Mike Herson	201-262-9472	mikeherson@hotmail.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
Political Alternate:	Greg Tondi	201-935-7162	gregt75@yahoo.com
Publications Chair:	Emily Stoecker	201-265-5889	EmilyStoecker@earthlink.net
Secretary:	Barbara Quigley		blvquigley@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Tom Thompson	201-848-1080	etrans743@aol.com
Wildlife:	John Mikalonis	201-930-7804	mikalonisj@yahoo.com

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

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held at 7:30 pm once a month (except July, August and December). We will meet on Sept 8 (Thurs) at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood (program TBA). For more information: <http://new-jersey.sierraclub.org/northjersey.asp>

UPPER RAMAPO RIVER WATERSHED THREATENED: Several large-scale housing projects are being proposed on Ramapo and Mahwah watershed land in NY State, just across the NJ border. The Ramapo River supplies up to 64 million gallons daily to over 2 million residents in northern New Jersey. It seems absurd that this important bi-state watershed is protected downstream in New Jersey (under the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act), while upstream, it can be given over to subdivisions,

roadways and traffic. Meanwhile, a developer plans to build over 100 McMansions on 575 acres in the middle of Sterling Forest State Park. To find out how you can help stop this, contact Tom (see above).

PROTECT WATERSHEDS IN BERGEN AND PASSAIC COUNTIES: Riparian corridors, wetlands, woodlands, and forested slopes must be maintained for water supplies, river health, flood control, wildlife habitat, and open space. Let us know if you hear of any plans to develop or pave. To find out more or help, contact Mike (see above).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Pursue your interest in an issue like climate change or environmental justice or recycling or sustainability or transportation or one of your choosing; or help with public education, publicity, fundraising, tabling, political endorsements or campaigns, or conservation issues. For more information, contact Betsy (see above).

SIGN UP FOR GROUP E-MAIL NOTICES: <http://NorthJersey.NJSierra.org/listinfo.html>

RECYCLE YOUR USED PRINTER OR FAX CARTRIDGES! Bring your used cartridges, laser or inkjet, to Whole Foods Market, 905 River Road in Edgewater, NJ, open from 8 am to 10pm, seven days a week. Just leave them in the Sierra Club box in the front window by the exit door. (Please note, cartridges that have already been recycled are not accepted.)

Hudson-Meadowlands Group

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

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Louise Taylor	201-674-8949	l.g.taylor@erols.com
Vice-chair and Conserv. Chair:	Mike Selender	201-451-5411	mike_selender@mindspring.com
Treasurer:	Charlotte Ermoian	201-224-4553	c.ermoian@att.net
Secretary:	Connie Ftera	201-869-7950	cftera@earthlink.net
Political Chair:	Melissa McCarthy	201-230-8365	mc.mel@verizon.net
Publicity:	Betty Leung	201-224-3542	leung-ibet@msn.com
Parks:	Rosemary Arena	201-861-6222	rosemaryarena@cs.com
ExCom Members:	Gil Hawkins	201-944-5799	gilc3d2@aol.com
	Donald Kopczynski	201-224-2641	Littlechops03@netzero.com

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

Issue Priorities for 2005:

- 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)

Essex County Group

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

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Janine Schaeffer	973-432-2043	janinesch@prodigy.net
Vice-chair:	Dave Ogens	973-226-0748	bandit29@aol.com
Conservation:	Michel Cuillerier	973-736-0913	schatzidog@earthlink.net
Political:	Chris Weis	973-224-0474	CWeis11@cs.com
Media:	Walter Clarke	973-723-1642	walterclarke@verizon.net
Outings/Parks:	Dave Ogens	973-226-0748	bandit29@aol.com
Open Space:	Michel Cuillerier	973-736-0913	schatzidog@earthlink.net
Secret'y-Treasurer:	Lori Tanner	973-857-0519	LJensen@montclairlaw.com
Fundraising:	Linda M. Stiles	973-736-2224	birdlady07052@msn.com
Event Coordinator:	Maria K. de Wakefield	973-736-0913	schatzidog@earthlink.net
Membership:	Camille Gutmore	973-667-2203	cgutmore@hotmail.com
Energy Conserv'n:	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

NEWS: A Great Day for Essex County:

On Monday, May 2nd, Essex County Executive Joe DiVencenzo announced the opening of a new state-of-the-art Environmental Center. It is located on Eagle Rock Avenue, off of the Eisenhower Pky South, in Roseland. The new Center will provide school children and their families with a unique opportunity to learn about the environment and gain an appreciation for nature in an interactive atmosphere. "For many of our children, coming to see the trees, river and wildlife is like entering a whole new world", said County Executive DiVencenzo proudly. The New Jersey Audubon Society will provide classes and nature programming at the Center. The Essex County Group will also work closely with the Center to create exhibits related to the environment. Please give it a visit!

Seton Hall Prep Property: Over 50 people attended the Bruce Kershner presentation on Ancient Forests — at the West Orange Library on March 31st. Mayor John McKeon

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Become active in one of your Group's conservation campaigns! Attend a Group meeting!

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

attended part of the slide show. We had press in the New York Times, New Jersey Network news did a piece on it, and West Chronicle covered our press conference in front of Seton Hall Prep on Northfield Avenue. We have generated a lot of interest in the issue. What's at stake is the remaining 20+ acres of a forty-acre tract on Prospect Avenue where parts of an Ancient Forest remain and which contain the ruins of Gov. George McClellan's arboretum. The school plans to expand its sports facilities and eventually destroy this valuable, historic and environmentally sensitive area. **Late-breaking news: the NJ Office of Historic Preservation has asked us for more documentation of McClellan's ownership and cultivation of an arboretum.**

West Essex Highlands: The Essex Group has organized an effort to stop a high-density development on the Second Watchung Mountain in West Orange. The property is one of the last remaining privately owned large forested areas in Essex County. The development would result in the loss of an ecologically sensitive and highly scenic tract of land. Its many streams are headwaters for Canoe Brook, a tributary of the Passaic River, and are classified as Priority Wetlands by the Environmental Protection Agency. We hired a traffic expert to counter the developer's testimony at the West Orange Planning Board meeting on June 15.

OTHER 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.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Please contact Janine (see above) for dates and locations.

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



The Essex County Environmental Center was formally opened on May 2nd. Present (L to R) were Chapter Director Jeff Tittel, Group Secretary-Treasurer Lori Tanner, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo Jr., Group Chair Janine Schaeffer and Chapter Chair Ken Johanson.

Loantaka Group

(Morris and Union Counties, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Co-Chairs:	Chris Mills	973-377-1742	ChrisMills@sierraactivist.org
	and Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
Treasurer:	Joyce White	908-272-4478	joyce00201@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Sonya Kaloyanides	973-275-0288	skaloyanides@yahoo.com
Conservation Chairs:			
Morris County:	Chris Mills	973-377-1742	ChrisMills@sierraactivist.org
Union County:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	hauskerr@aol.com
Political Chair:	Meiling Chin		chinmeiling@yahoo.com
Programs:	Steve Yafet	908-354-2537	yafet@erols.com
Education Coord:	Jeff Huppert	973-263-0344	jeffhup@optonline.net
Fundraising Chair:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	hauskerh@aol.com
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 Coord:	Bob Campbell	908-273-5720	wrobe_sc@earthlink.net
Webmaster:	Melissa Goss		
Greenbrook:	Bob Muska	908-665-2296	rmuska@erols.com

To find out our activities, go to: <http://loantaka.njsierra.org>

To join our emailing list, send a blank email to:

<http://lists.njsierra.org/listinfo.cgi/loantaka-group-announcements-njsierra.org>

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (ExCom) 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 ExCom meeting. Right now, we have open positions on our Executive Committee. If you are interested in a position and would like to find out more, please contact Paul Sanderson. There will be no ExCom Meetings in July and August. Join us on September 6.

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. (Directions are posted on our website: <http://Loantaka.NJSierra.org>)

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!

MEETING SCHEDULE:

July and August - No General Meetings scheduled.

Sept 14: Julia Somers, Executive Director of the Great Swamp Watershed Association, will give an **update on major regional development issues**. She will be accompanied by Blaine Rothausser, a naturalist and photographer, who will present a slide show of **the Great Swamp and its inhabitants**.

Activities: (Look on our website for more information.)

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.

On Sunday, July 10, the Loantaka Group is going to have a **hike on our adopted trail** (the Yellow Trail) in the Lewis Morris Park in Morris County. The hike will begin at 11am at the parking area on Rte 24 across from the Lake. The parking area is a couple of miles from the Green in Morristown, as you take Rte 24 towards Mendham. This is a moderate hike of about 4 miles over some hilly, but mostly level terrain. For more information, please go the Loantaka website at <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka.asp>

Loantaka Group Fundraising: an electronic AUCTION:

To fund the battle to save our state's undeveloped areas — our forests, rivers, wetlands, and the Highlands — against the rising tide of urban sprawl, air and water pollution and loss of wildlife habitat, Loantaka is planning an e-mail "silent" auction - carried out entirely on-line - to be held early in the Fall.

We are soliciting merchants and businesses in Morris and Union Counties for in-kind donations in the form of services or merchandise which we can offer for bidding. Examples would be Dinners for Four, 15-minute Shopping Sprees, Bed & Breakfast getaways, Gift Certificates of \$50-\$100, Body Care services, discounted hybrid vehicles, or specific items to be sold to the highest bidder. The proceeds will go into our general fund to support Sierra Club initiatives for conservation, environmental education, and consciousness-raising.

We appeal to Loantaka members who own businesses or who have contacts in, or can network with, restaurants, theaters, spas, malls, small businesses, and the like. Please contact Eric Hausker, fundraising chairperson for the Loantaka group at: hauskerr@aol.com if you can contribute "auctionables." You and your contributing organization will be mentioned as the generous donor.

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County, parts of Burlington, Middlesex and Somerset)

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Laura Lynch	609-882-4642	Laura@Sierraactivist.org
Vice Chair:	Lisa Ridge	732-658-6440	lisaridge@optonline.net
Treasurer:	Bill Wowk	609-587-0502	bwowk@aol.com
Conservation Chair:	Rocky Swingle	609-587-7568	rockyswingle@optonline.net
Membership Chair:	Tim Ridge	732-658-6440	timridge@optonline.net
Programs Chair:	Lisa Ridge	732-658-6440	lisaridge@optonline.net
Publicity Coordinator:	Caroline Kulesza		caroline_kulesza@yahoo.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 Coord:	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.

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. Our meetings are free and open to all members and the general public. We always share information about our involvement in local, state and national conservation issues, and suggest ways in which everyone can get involved.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE: No program meetings scheduled in July and August. Check the Outings Schedule and our website for last-minute activities. Have a great summer!

Sept 14: Video presentation of **The True Cost of Food**. What are the long-term costs of "cheap" food in America? What impact does agribusiness have on the environment and human health? This flash-animated short film takes a critical look at the way food is produced in the United States and offers sustainable alternatives. Produced by Free Range Graphics for the Sierra Club National Sustainable Consumption Committee.

E-MAIL NOTICES: If you'd like to receive those last minute reminders of meetings or outings, please send your e-mail address to Tim Ridge (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/~njar/

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

OFFICERS AND CONTACTS:

Chair:	Sandi Lowich	732-247-5760	Abstract46@aol.com
		44 Chestnut St,	Milltown NJ 08850-1140
Membership:	Sunil Somalwar	732-572-7721	svsomalwar@sierraactivist.org
Conservation Chair:	Jane Tousman	908-561-5504	jdtous@aol.com
Outings:	Dave O'Leary	732-572-2059	DaveOL@earthlink.net
Political Chair:	Randy Gill	732-525-2612	ragill@optonline.net
Programs:	Sandi Lowich		abstract46@aol.com
Publicity:	Pat Affrunti		PAffr79085@aol.com
Secretary:	Open position!		
Treas'r, Webmast'r:	Don McBride	732-560-0369	dtmcbride@yahoo.com

ISSUES: We are fighting development along streams, wetlands, flood plains and steep slopes. We are pro-farmland preservation. Group members are involved in local issues, answering questions for concerned citizens regarding development, and monitoring/reviewing all township/regional land use master plans in our area. This includes working to protect threatened and endangered species. Help us stop developers from buying sub-standard lots and obtaining permits and variances for 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, 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 Rte 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:

No public meetings will be held in July or August.

Sep 21: Vegetarianism: Megan Metzelaar, a New Jersey attorney and a vegan, will discuss healthy eating habits, vegetarianism, eliminating meat from your diet, and how vegetarianism helps the environment. Recipes will be available.

Executive Committee Meetings: Held at 7pm on the FIRST THURSDAY of every other month except for July and August. Currently, meetings are 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.

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:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Secretary:	Joe DeLuca	732-389-1835	joe-deluca@att.net
Conservation Chairs:			
Monmouth Co:	Steve Knowlton	732-747-7011	knowlton@worldnet.att.net
Ocean County:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Ocean County Section Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Webmaster:	George Newsome	732-308-1518	newsome1@pobox.com
Treasurer:	Judy Maxcy	732-458-5074	
Political Chair:	Laura Bagwell	732-741-8678	l.bagwell3@verizon.net
Outings Chair:	Mike Verange	908-902-0718	mjverange@aol.com
Membership:	Alan Roseman	732-780-1308	aroseman@monmouth.com
Program Chair:	Regina (Maurer) Knowlton	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 a NEW location: the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse at 1475 West Front Street in Lincroft (please check the congregation's website for directions, at <http://www.uucmc.org/where-we-are.htm>). Come early to socialize and enjoy refreshments. For additional directions or information, please call Regina or Steve Knowlton at 732-335-1183, or visit our web site.

July 17: (Sunday), noon till ??? — **Annual Group Picnic:** Join your fellow Group members at Turkey Swamp Park in Freehold Township for a fun-filled afternoon of eating, talking, eating, playing games, eating, hiking, . . . oh, did I mention eating?!! We gather at one of the lovely picnic areas — just follow the signs to find us! Bring a dish to share, vegetarian or otherwise, and bring the kids or grandkids, too, if you have any! For further information, or directions, please contact Joellen Lundy, at jfutey@comcast.net or 732-741-4756.

Sept 10 (Saturday), 7am to 1pm: **Fundraiser Yard Sale:** Please help support our Group in our annual fundraising event, a Yard Sale to be held on Ely Harmony Road in Freehold Township. If you wish to donate portable "treasures" you no longer want or need, contact Stan Greberis at 732-431-0882 or Marinel Mukherjee at 732-780-8678 prior to Sept 3. All donations to be accepted on Saturday, Sept 3. Call for directions if you wish to attend or make a donation. This is a great way to recycle and to support your Jersey Shore Group!!!

Sept 26: Success Story in Holmdel: We hear so much about the losses — of farmland, parks, wildlife habitat — wouldn't it be nice to hear a success story?!! Join us as Russell Dronne, former member of both the Holmdel Environmental Commission and Township Committee, tells us about the efforts to preserve open space in Holmdel generally, with specific reference to the Ramanessin Greenway Trails, including the infamous "Chase tract".

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: The Group's Executive Committee meets monthly at members' homes (no meetings in July, August or December). 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:	Wayne Zanni	856-728-4507	wzanni@earthlink.net
Pinelands Rep:	Lee Snyder		pinelands1@hotmail.com
Greenways Coord's:	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	r-tiffany@comcast.net
Sprawl Chair:	Brian Boockoff	609-937-5022	bboockoff@comcast.net
Programs Chair:	<i>Open position</i>		
Outings Chair:	<i>Open position</i>		
Inner City Outings:	<i>Need volunteers!</i>		

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.

July and August: We do not meet in July or August. Please join us on a hike.

Sept 13: Rick Holmes, from Absolutely Energized Solar Electric will discuss the **benefits of solar energy for your home** and the NJ Solar Energy Incentive Program.

South Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:

Group, Outings Chair:	Tom Boghosian	609-625-0878	boghosia@atlantic.edu
Vice-Chair:	Sally Nunn	609-704-1790	nunsal@comcast.net
Conservation Chair:	Fred Akers	856-697-3479	akers@gowebway.com
Pol. Chair, Calendars:	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. To be placed on a carefully guarded distribution list for local issues and meetings, please e-mail dick.colby@stockton.edu.

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 proposals to develop several large tracts of environmentally sensitive land in Millville.

Relevant Meetings:

Aug 17 (Wed): 7pm: Great Egg Harbor River Council: **Comprehensive Management Plan implementation** meeting. Contact Fred Akers, 856-697-6114. Warren Fox Nature Center, Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor (milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50).

Sep 14 (Wed): 6:30pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries. Meeting place: Millville Public Library, 210 Buck Street. **Cumberland County development issues** are usually discussed, including updates on the Holly Farm and the Airport Race Track. Call Fred Akers, 856-697-6114.

Sep 27 (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!). For information or to confirm, call Fred Akers, 856-697-6114. Warren Fox Nature Center.

Seniors Section

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

The Section hopes to promote Senior participation in letter writing campaigns, in social outings, and in increasing membership in a dynamic group component of the NJ Sierra Club. For further information, contact Nancy Carringer (ncarringer@yahoo.com) or Richard Isaac (risaacx@aol.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

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GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

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@comcast.net
Outings Chairs:	Joyce Haddad	jkhaddad@juno.com
	Dave Ogens	Bandit29@aol.com
Conservation Chair:	Mary Walsh	blehlwalsh@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	Joyce White	joycemwhite@att.net
Webpage designer:	Tom Miller	millertom@juno.com
Social Chair:	Adriana Allegri	aallegri@aol.com
Programs:	Diana Eichholz	MistyAngel2003@yahoo.com
Publicity:	Lynn Forrest	lvf77@msn.com
Membership:	Walter Goldenbaum	goldenb1@optonline.net
Calendar Chair:	Nancy Sullivan	nancysullivan@comcast.net

Volunteer Opportunities: We need volunteers in all areas of the state to run events. Volunteers needed for the positions of: hike leaders, Fundraising Chair/Co-Chairs, and members of all committees, including social event planners. 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 activist 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.

No meetings will be held in July or August.

On **Sept 12**, Paul Smith will be presenting a **slide show of Duke Gardens Park** in Hillsborough. Doris Duke's Estate is open to the public for hiking, biking, and birding walks.

On **Oct 10** we will be showing a **film**. Please join our listserv to find out more details.

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

PLANNING/EXCOM MEETINGS take place once a month at various locations. All welcome. Contact any officer for location.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS:

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

SOCIAL DINNER: Third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Join us for dinner in a Montclair restaurant. Location will be announced 2 weeks before the social. RSVP is required to jkhaddad@juno.com or 973-364-7573 option # 4.

SINGLES DINNER

Friday, Aug 19, 7pm at the Grand Buffet Restaurant, 875 Rte 17 South, Ramsey, NJ. Approximate cost: \$15 includes full buffet, tax, & tip for members. \$3 extra for non-members. RSVP Required by 8/19 noon to MistyAngel2003@yahoo.com or 973-364-7573 option # 8.

SINGLES DINNER & DANCE: Saturday, Sept 24, 7-10pm at Jimmy's in Morristown. Join us for the first ever Sierra Singles Dinner & Dance at Jimmy's Haunt, 217 South Street, Morristown. This group will be hopping to the beat of a different drum as us singles mingle in our own private room complete with DJ, dancing, food & more! Space is limited, so reserve your space in advance and don't get left out! Reservations are required, as is advance payment. Contact Diana at MistyAngel2003@yahoo.com or 973-364-7573 option # 8. For checks received by the September 9th deadline, \$35 in advance pays for everything including all-you-can-eat penne ala vodka pasta and other hot finger foods. After September 9, \$40 in advance payment is still requested to hold your place and reservation. We will be located in the glass Courtyard at the back of Jimmy's, and can make special music requests of the DJ. Checks must be made payable to the "Sierra Club" and can be sent to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 933, Bound Brook, NJ 08805.

SINGLES DINNER-AND-A-MOVIE: Aug 6: RSVP required - Please join us at 6pm at The Plaza Grille, 3 Headquarters Plaza, in Morristown, NJ. Approximate cost is \$30, (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 June 10th to: MistyAngel2003@yahoo.com, or 973-364-7573, ext. 8.

SINGLES PICNIC/VOLLEYBALL/SWIMMING: Saturday, July 16th, 2pm, 107 Rte 523 (Oldwick Rd.), Whitehouse Station, NJ. RSVP required to Diana at MistyAngel2003@yahoo.com or 973-364-7573 option # 8. Cost and details of event to be announced.

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 Tejal Kuray; 732-770-2142; tejal.kuray@ssc.org for information.

Inner City Outings Section

(another Chapter-wide special interest activity)

OFFICERS:

Chair

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

Volunteer Coordinator: Patti Lynch Njicoutings@aol.com

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/>, or send an email to NJICOoutings@aol.com.

Volunteer Job Opportunities

All volunteers are provided with training, and may be reimbursed for telephone calls and postage. The time involved is flexible, and tailored to the individual needs of volunteers. Finding out more about our volunteer openings is as easy as picking up the telephone and calling our Group Effectiveness Chair, Richard Isaac at 973-716-0297, or emailing him at risaacx@aol.com.

State Level Opportunities: Advertising Editor for the *Jersey Sierran*; Seniors Program Coordinator for the Seniors Section; Environmental Attorney.

RESIDENTS OF OCEAN COUNTY: The NJ Chapter is organizing a new Group in Ocean County!!! If you live in Ocean County, and are interested in learning more, please contact Richard Isaac, at: 973-716-0297!

Other Local Opportunities: See the "open position" designations in each Group's News (pp. 7-10 of this Newsletter).

FEDERAL FISHERIES LEGISLATION

(Continued from page 6)

unique exemption from the conflict of interest standards that apply to all other advisory bodies to the federal government. They are governed instead by provisions in the MSA which require them to recuse themselves from voting on a council action related to a fishery in which they have a significant financial interest. The Stanford study found that only two recusals have been filed out of thousands of votes since 1997, despite the fact that fully 60 percent of the appointed council members had a direct financial interest in the fisheries they managed.

To address this problem, the bill amends the MSA to prohibit council members from voting on a matter affecting a fishery in which they have a financial conflict of interest.

3. TRAINING NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Members of regional fishery management councils are required to make very difficult decisions based on extremely complex information, competing interests and multiple legal and regulatory requirements. The USCOP recommended training in these areas to improve council members' decision-making.

The USCOP recommended amending the MSA to require the Secretary of Commerce to provide training for newly appointed council members in fisheries

science, basic ecology, social science and fishery economics, the requirements of the MSA, and other relevant statutes and regulations.

The bill amends the MSA to implement this recommendation.


4. COOPERATIVE RESEARCH, DATA COLLECTION AND GEAR MODIFICATION PROGRAM

One of the greatest challenges facing fisheries managers is the lack of information about the health of the nation's fish populations, the effects of fishing on ecosystems and the impact of various types of fishing gear on ocean habitat and other ocean life. Fishermen have a wealth of knowledge based on direct experience that can contribute to a greater understanding of these questions and the development of ways to minimize the negative impacts of fishing.

The USCOP recommended increased collaboration with fishermen through cooperative research activities.

The bill amends the MSA to implement this recommendation by directing the Secretary of Commerce to establish a cooperative research program, which would be funded with Saltonstall-Kennedy Act monies.


(Brooks Mountcastle can be reached at bmountcastle@conservefish.org.)



Thank You!

For Remembering the Sierra Club!

Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting this Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. This makes you an important part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Outings

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

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

- Central Jersey:** Ken Mayberg
kjmayberg@aol.com
- Essex County:** David Ogens 973-226-0747 (H)
64 Elm Road, Caldwell, NJ 07006
- Hudson-Meadowlands:** Vacant
- Jersey Shore:** Mike Verange 908-732-8364 (H)
1497 W Front St, Lincroft, NJ 07738
- Loantaka:** Joyce White 908-272-4478 (H)
loantaka0201@yahoo.com
- North Jersey:** Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417
eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
- Northwest Jersey:** Pat Mangino, Pmangino@aol.com
- Raritan Valley:** Dave O'Leary 732-572-2059
daveol@earthlink.net, 34 S Fourth Ave, Highland Park NJ 08904
- South Jersey:** Tom Boghosian 609-625-0878 (H)
4794 Andorea Dr., Mays Landing, NJ 08330
- West Jersey:** Vacant
- River Touring:** Fred Tocce 908-453-2205 (H)
Rd 1 Box 277, Washington, NJ 07882
- Inner City Outings:** Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H)
NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd. Warren, NJ 07059
- Chapter Outings:** Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417
eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Outing Leaders: Please send October-December 2005 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before July 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 October-December trip write-ups by Aug. 9.

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

Sierra Club outings are arranged by volunteer leaders who are in charge of the trip and responsible for the safety, welfare and enjoyment of all participants. Leaders

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

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

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

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

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

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

JULY 2005

Jul 3 (Sun) 9am: Social Kayak Trip. We will do the Maurice River, Cumberland Co. Meet at Al & Sam's Canoe Rentals on Rte 47, Delsea Drive, Vineland. 2 miles S. of Rte 40. Bring picnic type food to share for a BBQ afterwards at a local park. Call leader to reserve space. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593, eves. pis1@cccnj.net

Jul 4 (Mon) 9am: Manasquan River Reservoir, Monmouth County (Special Interest: birds). Enjoy an easy 5-mile circular hike on one of the largest reservoirs in the area. We may observe waterfowl. Bring snacks, drinks, bird books or binoculars. Hiking shoes are not required. This is a great family hike. Meet at the main entrance to the reservoir on Windeller Rd. Take the GSP to exit 98. Head west on I-195 to exit 28 (Rte 9.) Go north on Rte 9. Make first right onto Windeller Rd. The main entrance is 1.5 miles on your left. Meet in the parking area at the far left toward the back. Bad weather, including high heat index cancels. Confirmation/questions please call. Leader Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

Jul 9 (Sat) 10am: Mount Taurus. Moderate 6 miles. A long uphill, but at a moderate pace and with spectacular views of the Hudson. Take the Bear Mountain Bridge to Rte 9D North 7 miles to Main St. (Rte 301). Go left down Main St to the end to meet the group at the train station. Joint with AMC. Leader John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

Jul 10 (Sun) 9am: Social Hike, Bull's Island. 7 miles moderate pace. We will do a loop and lunch hike. Hike on one side of the Delaware, we stop for lunch in a small restaurant in Stockton, and then finish hiking on opposite side of the River. NC/NP. Meet in rear parking lot of Hilton Hotel, Rte 70, Cherry Hill to carpool/caravan or meet at 10am at second parking lot near footbridge over river, Bulls Island SP on Rte 29, 6 miles N of Rte 202 bridge. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593, eves. pis1@cccnj.net

Jul 16 (Sat) 9:15am: Harriman streams/lakes loop. 11-mile easy hike along streams/lakes in Harriman to viewpoint of Manhattan skyline. Bring lunch, snacks & lots of water. Group limit 12 people. Hikers must pre-register. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Jul 17 (Sun) 10am: Delaware Water Gap/Sunfish Pond. We mile loop with initial long climb up to Mount Tammany, then descend to Dunfield Creek trail & loop to Sunfish Pond. Back on the AT. Bring lunch, snacks & lots of water. Group limit 12 people. Hikers must pre-register. Expect to finish around 6pm. Opt. dinner stop. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Jul 17 (Sun) 8:30am: Social Bike Ride. Three Bridges Ride in the Pine Barrens. Class D ride, easy pace, with frequent stops. Meet at Batsto Village parking lot. Off Rte 542, 9 miles E of Hammonton. Bring picnic type food to share for a tailgate social after ride. Contact leader for Additional info. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593, eves. Or pis1@cccnj.net

Jul 22 (Fri) 6pm: Social Moonlight Kayak Trip. Paddle the Mullica River with a BBQ after paddle. Some paddling experience required. Limited space, call leader to reserve space. Please bring picnic type food to share after paddle. Meet at Bel Haven Canoe Rentals, on Rte 543, 12 miles E of Hammonton, Atlantic Co. Bring flashlight and whistle. PFD's must be worn. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593, eves. pis1@cccnj.net

Jul 23 (Sat) 7:30pm: Social Moonlight Hike. 6 miles moderate pace. Enjoy a moonlight hike, under the Buck moon, on sand roads as we listen to the sounds of the summer serenade. Meet in field behind Atsion Office on Rte 206, between Red Lion circle and Hammonton, Burl. Co. Bring snack type food to share at tailgate social after hike, and a chair or blanket. NC. Pets must be leashed at all times. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593, eves. Pis1@cccnj.net

Jul 23 (Sat) 10am: Minnewaska/Lake Awosting 11-mile scenic loop along trails and carriageways to Lake Awosting, with picnic/swim stop. Beautiful views. Bring lunch, snacks & lots of water. Group limit 12 people. Hikers must pre-register. Can be combined with Sunday hike for weekend trip. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Jul 30 (Sat) 4:30pm: Social Hike, Dinner & Movie. 5 miles easy pace. We will hike Cooper River Park, then have a picnic style dinner outdoors in the park and then watch an outdoor movie. Meet at parking lot next to the Lobster Shack, Park Drive, Cooper River Park, one block S of Rte 70, Merchantville. Look for OCSJ sign. Bring picnic type food to share, lawn chair/blanket to sit on. NC/NP. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593, eves. pis1@cccnj.net

AUGUST 2005

Aug 7 (Sun) 9am: Social Kayak Trip. We do the Egg Harbor River. We will have a pizza party after trip and a volleyball game. Call leader to reserve kayak, space is limited. PFD's must be worn. Meet at Palace Restaurant, Rte 322, Weymouth, Atlantic Co. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593, eves. pis1@cccnj.net for additional information.

Aug 7 (Sun) 9am: Harteshome Woods, Monmouth County (Special interest: Recent History). Moderate 6-mile hike has elevation gains and a lot of scenery. Please bring drinks and snacks. Hiking shoes are suggested. Meet at the Rocky Point parking area. Take GSP to exit 117. Take Rte 36 toward Sandy Hook approx. 10 miles to the Miller St. exit. Go to the top of the hill make a right. Parking area is Straight ahead. Bad weather, including high heat index cancels. Confirmation/questions please call. Leader Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

Aug 12 (Fri) 7:30pm: Social Hike and Meteor Shower. 6 miles moderate pace. Short hike and then watch the Perseid Meteor Shower, a solar system spectacular. Bring snack type food to share at tailgate social after hike, blanket or chair to sit on. NP/NC. Meet in field behind Atsion Office on Rte 206, between Red Lion Circle and Hammonton, Burl. Co. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 pis1@cccnj.net

Aug 14 (Sun) 9:30am: Social Tube Float Trip Sunday. Repeat of last year's great trip. 4 lazy hours floating down the Delaware River. Bring lunch with you in a small cooler, we will eat in picnic area after float trip. Bring snack to eat on river. NO Alcohol on river! Bring change of clothes for optional tour of New Hope After trip. Call leader to reserve space by 11th. Meet at Bucks County River Country Outfitters, on Rte 413, Point Pleasant, PA. Call leader for carpool info. NC/NP. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593, eves. or pis1@cccnj.net

Aug 19 (Fri) 6pm: Social Moonlight Kayak Trip. Paddle the Mullica River with a dinner stop possible at a local restaurant. Paddling experience required. Limited space, call leader to reserve space. Meet at Bel Haven Canoe Rentals, on Rte 543, 12 miles east of Hammonton, Atlantic Co. Bring flashlight and whistle. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 pis1@cccnj.net

Aug 20 (Sat) 7:30pm: Social Moonlight Hike. 6 miles moderate pace. Hike dirt roads lit by moonlight in the Pines. Bring swim-wear, chair or blanket. Bring snack type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NP/NC. Meet at Lake Oswego parking lot on Lake Oswego Road. Off Rte 563, 8 miles S of Chatsworth, Burl. Co. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593, eves. pis1@cccnj.net

Aug 21 (Sun) 9am: Social Bike Ride. Class D ride, 20 miles. Suitable for beginners. Bulls Island to Frenchtown on D&R Canal tow-path. Suited for mountain and hy-bred type bikes. Bring water and snack for ride and picnic type food to share for tailgate social after ride. Meet at Bulls Island parking lot, closest to the road, Rte 29, 3 miles N of Stockton. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evenings, or pis1@cccnj.net .

Aug 27 (Sat) 4:30pm: Social Sunset Hike. 6-7 miles. Moderate pace. Enjoy a sunset on the river as we cool off in the river in the late afternoon. Bring swim-wear, picnic type food to share at the tailgate social after the hike. N/C, pets must be leashed. Meet at Atsion Office, off Rte 206, between Hammonton and Red Lion Circle, Burl Co., Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593, eves. or pis1@cccnj.net .

SEPTEMBER 2005

Sep 10 (Sat) 10:15am: Blauvelt Parks: Piermont-South Nyack. Strenuous 10 miles. Visit Rockland Cemetery, an old Nike base and an abandoned National Guard rifle range. 2 quarts water. Hiking boots. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural). LP out. Return via abandoned RR. Joint with AMC. Leader John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

Sep 11 (Sun) 9am: Brookdale Community College/Thompson Park. Moderate 6.5-mile hike that follows the Swimming River Reservoir. Please bring drinks and snacks. Hiking shoes are suggested. GSP Exit 109, head west on Monmouth County Rte 520 approx. 2 miles to Brookdale Community College make first right proceed to parking lot #2 Meet in the right back corner. Bad weather, including high heat index, cancels. Confirmation/questions please call. Leader Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

Sep 16 (Fri) 6pm: Social Moonlight Kayak Trip. Paddle the Mullica River with a dinner stop possible at a local restaurant. Paddling experience required. Limited space, call leader to reserve space. Meet at Bel Haven Canoe Rentals, on Rte 543, 12 miles E of Hammonton, Atlantic Co. Bring flashlight and whistle. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 pis1@cccnj.net

Sep 17 (Sat) 7:30pm: Social Moonlight Hike. 6 miles moderate pace. Hike dirt roads lit by moonlight in the Pines. Bring swim-wear, chair or blanket. Bring snack type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NP/NC. Meet at Lake Oswego parking lot on Lake Oswego Road. Off Rte 563, 8 miles S of Chadsworth, Burl. Co. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593, eves. pis1@cccnj.net

Sep 17 (Sat) 9:15am: Island Pond Loop. 11-mile moderate paced full day hike from Lake Skannati to Island Pond and back. This loop has several scenic views, and only some moderate ups and downs. Bring lunch & lots of water. Limit 12 people. Must pre-register. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Sep 18 (Sun) 9:30am: Norvin Green. 10-mile moderate paced full day loop includes several viewpoints and portion of the Highlands Trail. Some steep ups and downs. Bring lunch & lots of water. Limit 12 people. Must pre-register. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Sep 18 (Sun) 1pm: Social Sunset Kayak Trip. Meet in the early afternoon after all your chores are done and paddle the Mullica River. A beautiful sunset guaranteed. We will have a BBQ either at the landing or the outfitters so bring picnic type food to share. Call leader to reserve space. Meet at Bel-Haven Canoe rental, Rte 542, 12 mile E of Hammonton. PFD's must be worn. NC/NP. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593, eves. or pis1@cccnj.net .

Sep 18 (Sun) 10am: Social hike in Fanny Highlands/Splitrock Reservoir. About 6 miles. The terrain has moderate ups & downs. Bring lunch so that we can take our time and enjoy the outdoors, we will be on the trail about 4 hours. Location: Fanny Highlands - Fisherman's parking area at Splitrock reservoir. Directions: From I-80 exit 37 Rockaway/Hibernia. Go north on Greenpond Rd (Rte 513) towards Hibernia. At about 6.3 miles turn right (Marcella firehouse) onto Upper Hibernia Rd. (the Marcella Community Center building is on the left). At .9 miles, turn left onto Split Rock Rd. The road turns to dirt keep going past the dam and the parking area is on the left. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Rain or adverse weather conditions cancels. If uncertain, call hike leader for status of hike. Leader: Pete Beck 201-274-4471, peteback_00@yahoo.com

Sep 24 (Sat) 10:30am: Social Hike in Watchung Reservation. We will hike about 6 miles of hills & level terrain at a moderate pace. Highlights include pine plantation & Deserted Village. Hiking boots are preferred and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & 2 quarts of water. Meet at the Trailside Nature Center parking lot. Take I-78 West to exit 43 (New Providence/Berkeley Heights). At light, turn right onto McMane Avenue. Then turn left onto Glenside Ave. for about 1 mile. Turn right onto Rte 645 and pass Lake Surprise. At traffic circle, take first right and proceed 1/2 mile to Trailside. OR Take I-78 East to exit 44, turn

(Continued on page 12)

*"I wandered in Summer in the elm-woods of Ossiriand.
Ah! The light and the music in the Summer by the Seven Rivers of Ossir!" — JRR Tolkien*



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Council Delegate
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svsomalwar@sierraactivist.org
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* Lee Snyder (856) 596-0621
pinelands1@hotmail.com

Student Outreach Coordinator
Jeff Huppert (973) 263-0344
jeffhupp@optonline.net

Regional Issues Committee
*Joan Denzer** (see George Denzer, above),
Bob Johnson, George Denzer

Atlantic Coast Ecoregion Delegate
Joan Denzer (see above)

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

Fundraising Committee
Ken Johanson**, Ruth Prince, Joan
and George Denzer, Sunil Somalwar,
Tina Schvejda

Personnel Committee
Ruth Prince**, Ken Johanson, Sunil
Somalwar, George and Joan Denzer

Legislative Committee
Ken Johanson**, Dave Mattek, Joe Leist,
Kelly McNicholas, Carolyn Freeman,
Charles Sheard, Jeff Tittel,
Dennis Schvejda, Laura Lynch

Litigation Oversight Committee
Ken Johanson**, Ruth Prince,
Carolyn Freeman

Finance Committee
George Denzer**, Sunil Somalwar,
Ken Johanson

**Facilities Committee(office,
meeting sites)**
George Denzer**, Joan Denzer,
Bob Johnson, Sunil Somalwar,
Bonnie Tillery

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

**NEW JERSEY CHAPTER
LEADERSHIP**

Issue Coordinators

ATV Issues
Fred Akers (856) 697-3479
akers@gowebway.com
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Clean Air Issues
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Bill Green (908) 276-2357
WGreen@spcorp.com
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Delaware River Issues
Gina Carola (856) 848-8831
ginacee@snip.net
534 Elberne Av, Westville NJ 08093-1715

Environmental Justice
Zoe Kellman (201) 321-4578
zoeks@verizon.net

Forestry Issues
Nancy Carringer (732) 438-8688
ncarringer@yahoo.com

Highlands Issues
Open position

Marine Issues
Tina Schvejda (see Dennis Schvejda, below)

NY-NJ Trail Conference Delegate
Dennis Schvejda (see below)

Passaic River Basin Issues
Michel Cuillerier (see left column)

Pinelands Issues
Lee Snyder (see left column)
PPA Liaison: Mike Gallaway
M.Gallaway@comcast.net

Population Issues
Bonnie Tillery (see left column)

Recycling Issues
To Be Announced

Sprawl Issues
Jane Tousman (see left column)

Tiger Conservation Issues
Sunil Somalwar (see left column)

Transportation Issues
Bob Johnson (see left column)

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

Utah Issues
John Kashwick (see left column)

Chapter Office 609-656-7612
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Chapter Director: Jeff Tittel
jefft1@voicenet.com

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

Conservation Program Coordinator
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:

All members are welcome to attend these monthly statewide policy deliberations, held on **SECOND SATURDAYS**, in the **NEW BRUNSWICK PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 60 Livingston Avenue, a 10-minute walk from the train station. Details, including agendas, public transit and driving instructions, are available in advance from Ken Johanson, the Chapter Chair.

July 9 • August 13 • September 10

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

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

left at the light onto Glenside Avenue. Then follow directions above. Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce White at 908-272-4478 or joyce@yahoo.com

Sep 24 (Sat) 1pm: Social Introduction to Camping, Map Reading, and Survival Techniques. Learn how to set up a tent, start a fire, and read a map. Several outfitters have been invited to bring sample tents and equipment to try out. Seminars on other topics are planned. A great way to learn the how-to's of camping and some practical outdoor skills. Contact Leader to reserve a spot. Meet at open field next to Atsion Office, Atsion Lake, Rte 206, between Rte 70 and Hammonton. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593, eves. or pis1@cccnj.net

Sep 25 (Sun) 8am: Social Hike. Hartshorne Woods Park. 7 miles moderate pace. We will hike a trail with hills and great vistas of the Navesink River. Good physical condition and proper footwear recommended. Bring lunch and water with you. NP/NC. Meet in rear parking lot of Hilton Hotel Rte 70 Cherry Hill to car pool/cavan at 8am or meet at 10am at Buttermilk Valley Trailhead, Navesink Ave, off Rte 36, Middletown, NJ, Monmouth Co. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593, eves. pis1@cccnj.net

OCTOBER 2005

Oct 9 (Sun) 9am: Southern Allaire State Park (Special Interest: Geology). 4.5-mile moderate hike is in the northern fringes of the Pine Barrens. Bring drink and snack. Hiking shoes preferred. Meet at the large dirt parking lot on the right, off Hospital Rd., in Wall Township. Take GPS exit 98, turn right on to Allenwood Rd. At "T" intersection (Ramhorn Rd) turn right. Make next left (Hospital Rd.) the parking area is approximately 1 mile on the right. Bad weather cancels. Confirmation/Questions call Leader Mike Verange 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

FUTURE TRIP:

COSTA RICA THANKSGIVING 2005 TRIP: November 18-28 \$1500.

The rainforests, volcanoes & beaches of the Pacific Northwest. This will be an active trip, visiting several different parks in this beautiful country. Great birding, wildlife (monkeys) and beautiful beaches. Hike through the rain forest to waterfalls and hot springs, see white faced and howler monkeys, parrots, blue morpho butterflies, take a boat trip to an offshore island for a beach barbecue and snorkeling, walk across hanging bridges in the treetops, enjoy great food, accommodations, and the company of other Sierra Club members. Lodges include: www.buenavistacr.com for our first 3 nights, www.hotelparadisocr.com for 1-2 nights and final 3-4 nights at www.amordemar.com One more rainforest lodge still pending. \$1500 trip price, based on double occupancy, includes all local transfers, local guides, all lodging, all 3 meals daily, all activities (zip lines or massages are extra charges), and a donation to the Sierra Club. All participants must be able to walk 4-5 hours/day at a leisurely pace on most days. There will be numerous stops on our walks for wildlife viewing, lunch, and taking in the scenery. Leader will help make flight arrangements which should cost about \$500-\$600 roundtrip from Newark or JFK. Contact Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417 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.

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P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80328 and to the Chapter Office, 139 West Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08618 or call 415-977-5653.

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



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