

The Jersey SIERRAN

Vol. 34, No. 3

More than 23,000 Members in New Jersey

October-December 2005

2005 Assembly Endorsements

Dist./County	SC Group	Party	Candidate
1 CpMay†	South	D	Nelson Albano
2 Atlantic	South	D	Jim Whelan
2 Atlantic	South	D	Damon Tyner
3 Salem†	West	R	Phil Rhudy
3 Salem†	West	R	Jim Zee
4 Glous, Cam	West	R	Frank Winters
7 Burl, Cam	West	D*	Herb Conaway
7 Burl, Cam	West	D*	Jack Conners
8 Burl	West	D	Don Hartman
8 Burl	West	D	Sandy Weinstein
10 Ocean†	Shore	R*	James Holzapfel
10 Ocean†	Shore	R*	David Wolfe
11 Monm'th	Shore	R*	Sean Kean
11 Monm'th	Shore	D	James Reilly
12 Monm'th†	Shore	D*	Michael Panter
12 Monm'th†	Shore	D*	Robert Morgan
13 Monm'th†	Shore	R	Amy Handlin
14 M'sex, Mer	Central	D*	Linda Greenstein
14 M'sex, Mer	Central	D	Dan Benson
15 Mercer	Central	D*	Reed Gusciora
15 Mercer	Central	D*	Bonnie Watson-Coleman
17 M'sex†	Raritan	D*	Upendra Chivukula
18 M'sex	Raritan	D*	Patrick Diegnan
21 Union†	Loantaka	R*	Jon Bramnick
21 Union†	Loantaka	R*	Eric Munoz.
22 Union†	Loantaka	D*	Linda Stender
25 Morris	Loantaka	D	Thomas Jackson
25 Morris	Loantaka	D	Janice Schindler
26 Morris†	Loantaka	D	Avery Hart
27 Essex	Essex	D*	John McKeon
31 Hudson	Hud-Mead	D*	Lou Manzo.
35 Passaic†	North	D*	Nellie Pou
36 Bergen†	North	D	Gary Schaer
37 Bergen	North	D*	Loretta Weinberg.
38 Bergen	North	D*	Bob Gordon
38 Bergen	North	D*	Joan Voss
39 Bergen	North	R*	John Rooney
39 Bergen	North	R*	Charlotte Vandervalk
40 Berg, Pass, Essex	North	R*	David Russo

* - Incumbent **Bolded - Races likely to be CLOSE.**

† - District includes small portions of adjacent county or counties
Notes: District 6 and 13 have been selected to participate in NJ's fair and clean elections project, i.e., those campaigns will have access to public financing.

Sierra Club Endorses Legislative Candidates for November Elections

By Rich Isaac, Chapter Political Chair

On November 8th, the 80-member State Assembly will be up for reelection, with voters in each of 40 districts electing two assemblypersons. The Democrats currently enjoy a 47-33 majority; it is possible for enough Republicans to be elected to accomplish a change of control. And with uncontrolled sprawl, water quality problems and air quality problems - and the continuing threat of fast-track regulation looming - it is more important than ever for Sierra Club members to make their voices heard at the polls.



The Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter recently completed its endorsement process, a lengthy procedure beginning with questionnaire responses from major party candidates, then rigorous interviews, and finally voting by both the Chapter Political Committee and Chapter Executive Committee. In particular, we looked at the candidates' positions on the following environmental issues and pending legislation:

The Issues

(1) Repeal the Fast-Track Act law, currently on hold by executive order. See story on the lower left of this page.

(2) Restoration of the Department of the Public Advocate in the Executive Branch, including the Office of Environmental Advocate. There's good news: since the questionnaire was sent out, a bill has been passed and signed into law!

(3) Reduction of diesel emissions by requiring the statewide retrofitting of diesel vehicles - that is, upgrading diesel vehicles with the installation of cleaner filters and exhaust equipment. A bill accomplishing this objective has also since been passed and signed into law! More good news!

(4) Requiring health insurers that provide prescription drugs to cover the cost of prescription female contraceptives.

(5) Amending the Municipal Land Use Law to require that every municipality conduct a build-out analysis within its six-year reexamination of its master plan, offering citizens a better opportunity to prevent sprawl.

(6) Establishing the New Jersey Clean Water, Drought Mitigation and Water Resource Security Trust Fund, and imposing user fees on water, thereby establishing a mechanism, supported by a substantial and stable source of revenue, to transfer water between public water systems throughout the state during a water emergency, protecting existing water supplies through the acquisition of watershed and wetlands areas, and maintaining existing open space in a manner which would be protective of water supplies.

(7) Authorizing the State, with prior approval by the State House Commission, to use the power of eminent domain to acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes - provided such lands are protective of drinking water sources.

(8) Support for the Electronic Waste Producer Responsibility Act, which would shift financial responsibility for the collection and recycling of discarded electronic waste (e.g., computers, televisions, telephones, photocopiers, which contain lead, mercury, chromium, cadmium, polyvinyl chloride, mixed plastics, beryllium, and other hazardous substances), from the taxpayers to the manufacturers, and which would require them to implement a program for financing the environmentally-sound management of discarded and obsolete electronic equipment.

We also asked candidates for their positions on pending legislation regarding land use at the shore, and the stewardship of already protected lands.

Endorsed Candidates

It would be impossible in this space to provide particulars for each endorsed candidate. Club members (and other readers) are invited to direct questions to the Group Political Chair in your area, identified in the Group News section of this newsletter. Please review the table listing the endorsed candidates by district, as well as take particular notice of the races in Districts 3, 4, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 36, which are most likely to be close for Club-endorsed candidates.

Remember, YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT! If you want to know your election district, more about the race in your district, or help us campaign for a candidate, please call Richard Isaac at (H) 973-716-0297. ☺

SIERRA CLUB BALLOT

2005 Election of Chapter & Group Officers:

Five members of the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) will be elected to two-year terms, joining the four members elected last year, and the 10 Group Chairs or their delegates. (The four members elected last year are George Denzer, Ken Johanson, Lee Snyder and Bonnie Tillery.)

(This 19-member ExCom elects, at each January reorganization meeting, the Chapter Chair, Vice-Chair, Conservation Chair, Legislative Chair, Political Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Delegates to National Council, Delegates to the Northeast Regional Conservation Committee (NERCC), Delegates to various Ecoregion bodies, and other officers included on the Leader List - back page of this Newsletter.)

Six candidates were selected by a Nominating Committee (consisting of Lee Snyder, Ruth Prince and Dick Colby). There was an opportunity, (announced in the July-September issue of this Newsletter), for nomination of petition candidates, but no petitions were received this year.

Please detach the entire ballot along the dashed line on this page. If it includes your mailing label, the label will authenticate your ballot and will be removed before any ballots are counted.

Vote for UP TO FIVE candidates. The second column of boxes is for the second member of a FAMILY membership. Candidates' statements are on p. 2 of this Newsletter.

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

Randomized name order:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rich Isaac | <input type="checkbox"/> Jane Tousman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michel Cuillerier | <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Mills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Johnson | <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Herson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write in: _____ | |

On page 2, the ballot continues with sections for electing members of GROUP and SECTION ExComs. If your Group/Section(s), (based on your county of residence, or Group attendance), is included, please follow the instructions. Please return all ballots without separating them.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Ballot for electing Group/Section officers.....	2
Statements from Chapter Officer Candidates ..	2
Population Issues Coordinator's Report	2
Editorial: Terrorism and the Environment.....	3
Chair's Message: Katrina.....	3
Resolutions Passed by Chapter ExCom.....	3
LTE: Selfishness and Quality of Life.....	4
Meet Bonnie Tillery, ExCom member.....	4
Thanks to our Financial Supporters.....	4
Report from Trenton: Protecting the Highlands.....	5
Debate: Supreme Court and Eminent Domain....	5
More Debate: Wind Energy.....	6
Boycotting ExxonMobil.....	6
Group and Section News.....	7-11
Outings	11-12
Leadership List and Membership Form	12

Thank you, Gov. Codey, for extending the Fast Track moratorium

By Kelly McNicholas, Conservation Program Director
(Kelly.McNicholas@SierraClub.org)

Almost a year to the day after Governor McGreevey signed the worst environmental law in New Jersey's history, Acting Governor Codey issued an Executive Order on July 12, further delaying implementation of the Fast Track law.

"Governor Codey has stopped Fast Track in its tracks," praised Jeff Tittel, Director, Sierra Club New Jersey Chapter. "He has stood up to special interests and did what's right for the people of New Jersey and the environment."

This new order follows a previous executive order signed by former Governor McGreevey the week before his resignation. That order was due to expire in the middle of July.

Codey's Executive Order will stop the law from being implemented until all of the necessary rules in the Departments of Community Affairs, Environmental Protection and Transportation have been finalized. The order also requires that these regulations first be fleshed out in an Interested Party Review process and vetted by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

The Sierra Club along with the Save NJ Coalition of environmental, labor, and housing advocates, led efforts to obtain this Executive Order by gaining 60 cosponsors on a bill to repeal Fast Track, including the leadership of Senators Leonard Lance and Shirley Turner, Assembly members John McKeon, Robert Morgan, John Rooney, and resolutions from over 40 municipal councils. ☺

GROUP BALLOTS

(Please don't detach from the Chapter ballot.)

Vote only those ballots for Group(s) and Section(s) in which you participate. Club rules require the nomination of at least two more candidates than the number of positions open. When those additional candidates haven't been identified, write-in slots are provided instead. The first column of boxes is for "individual" members. Family (joint) members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns.

To learn more about the candidates, contact any of the officers listed in the Group News section in this newsletter.

Candidates for Northwest Group Executive Committee: Vote for seven, maximum.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Karl Jensen | <input type="checkbox"/> Dennis Miranda |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charles Kopp | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruth Prince |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leah Mallon | <input type="checkbox"/> Sue Rotter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pat Mangino | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write in: _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write in: _____ | |

Candidates for North Jersey Group Executive Committee: Vote for five, maximum.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tricia Aspinwall | <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Becker | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Betsy Kohn | <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John Mikalonis | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Ellen Shaw | |

Candidates for Essex County Group Executive Committee: Vote for five, maximum.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Weis | <input type="checkbox"/> Lori Tanner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walter Clarke | <input type="checkbox"/> Michel Cuillerier |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Linda M. Stiles | <input type="checkbox"/> Walter Goldenbaum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Janine Schaeffer | |

Candidates for Loantaka Group Executive Committee: Vote for five, maximum.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paul Sanderson | <input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Huppert |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Johnson | <input type="checkbox"/> Eric Hausker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meiling Chin | <input type="checkbox"/> Sonya Kaloyanides |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____ | |

Candidates for Central Jersey Group Executive Committee: Vote for four, maximum.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nancy Carringer | <input type="checkbox"/> Laura Lynch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonnie Tillery | <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Wowk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____ | |

Candidates for Raritan Valley Group Executive Committee: Vote for five, maximum.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Randy Gill | <input type="checkbox"/> Don McBride |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunil Somalwar | <input type="checkbox"/> Jane Tousman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____ | |

Candidates for South Jersey Group Executive Committee: Vote for three, maximum.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Boghosian | <input type="checkbox"/> Dick Colby |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____ | |

Candidates for Singles Section Executive Committee: Vote for seven, maximum. To be eligible to vote in the Singles Section ExCom election, you must have attended at least one Singles meeting (not other events, only second-Monday-of-the-month meetings at a library) within the past year.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adriana Allegri | <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Johnson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lynn Forrest | <input type="checkbox"/> Dave Ogens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walt Goldenbaum | <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Walsh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joyce Haddad | <input type="checkbox"/> Joyce White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diana Christine Eichholz | |

Vote Yes on Ballot Question #2: to Expand Uses of Dedicated Corporation Business Tax Revenue

Earlier this year the New Jersey Legislature approved a bill to require that diesel school busses, public transit busses and municipal vehicles be retrofitted to reduce harmful emissions. But the bill didn't provide funds to purchase and install the required pollution control equipment.

On Nov. 8 voters will be asked to approve a New Jersey constitutional amendment to permit excess Corporation Business Taxes, now dedicated to the underground storage tank program, to be used instead for the purchase and installation of diesel emission controls. The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club urges you to vote YES.

Statements from Candidates for Chapter ExCom

RICH ISAAC

A Club member since 1976, Rich has served as Chair and Political Chair of the North Jersey, Loantaka, and Essex County Groups, and organized the Hudson-Meadowlands Group. Now serving as both the Chapter's Political Chair and its Group Effectiveness Chair, Rich was recently appointed to the Club's national Political Committee. For his efforts, he has received the Chapter's Political Action Award in 1992, its Outstanding Group Chairperson Award in 1994, and in 2000, an award for being Essex County Group Chair. Rich enjoys walking with his wife, son, and Frisky (his cocker spaniel) together in the woods.



MICHEL CULLERIER

Michel Cuillerier is actively involved with the Sierra Club on a local and state-wide level: Vice-Chair of Conservation gives me the chance to really make a difference in protecting the remaining natural areas that still exist in New Jersey. I have photographed, written about and defended the environment against polluters and abusers. What brings me to this point is a commitment to preserving and conserving all of the valuable natural land in our state and the world. Voting me into a spot on the Chapter level Executive Committee will give me the freedom to work together to make an impact on the environmental movement.



BOB JOHNSON

Member since 1993. Life Member, Issue Coordinator for Transportation, Loantaka Group Outreach Chair, NERCC Alternate, Singles Section Chair. Sprawl, driven by the automobile, is the most serious environmental issue facing New Jersey today. Transportation planning can significantly improve land use patterns and air quality. I continue to explore ways that environmentally efficient transportation can improve the quality of life in New Jersey. I practice what I preach by bicycling to work and to Sierra Club meetings and functions. The Sierra Club is the best organization to spearhead positive environmental changes, and I am proud to be a part of it.



JANE TOUSMAN

Jane is a devoted activist who helped save the Dismal Swamp with over 200 acres of wetlands and forests. She is a certified paralegal and a former President of the Edison Township Council. Efforts have gone into the saving of Roosevelt Long Term Care Facility from privatizing. It is now on the Federal and State Registers. She worked with a citizen group that successfully saved a Revolution War site from being developed by Walgreens. She is now an active member of the "Edison Open Space Committee". Currently on the Executive Committee she represents the Chapter at Annual Meetings in California.



CHRIS MILLS

Chris Mills joined the Sierra Club in 2001, spurred by the Bush administration's anti-environmental policies, and since then he has been active in his local Loantaka group. He has been the Morris County conservation chair since 2001, and has coordinated Sierra Club opposition to several damaging proposals in the County, including massive overdevelopment of the Exxon Tract in Florham Park, the proposed "retirement community" at Delbarton in the Washington Valley, the proposed mega-church in Rockaway Twp and many others. In 2005 Chris was elected as Chapter Membership Chair, and has developed a "best-practices" forum for group membership chairs.



MIKE HERSON

I believe that I can put my planning board and environmental experience to good use for the Sierra Club at the state level. As Conservation Chair for the North Jersey Group, I have worked on the preservation of the Highlands and the Meadowlands and on water protection and land use issues statewide. I was recently named to the NJ Highlands Council's Brownfields Technical Advisory Committee. Serving as a Planning Board member, Environmental Committee Chair, Cross Acceptance Rep and Stormwater Coordinator in my town helps me to understand the issues that face all of us in New Jersey.



POPULATION ISSUES REPORT:

Choices Made, Choices Denied

By Bonnie Tillery, our Population Issues Coordinator

Kakenya Ntaiya's regal bearing and quiet beauty tell of her heritage from the Masai community in the western highlands of Kenya. The oldest of eight children, she helped her mother with the cattle and in the fields, and remembers times when there was no food to eat. Her mother wanted a better life for Kakenya and encouraged her to go to school. Kakenya could see that education was the way to improve her circumstances, but her father wanted her to follow the traditional ways - to be circumcised and then to marry, like all the other girls in her village. Kakenya was so determined to get an education that she made an agreement with her father: she would submit to circumcision if he allowed her to finish high school. At age 15, after ceremonial preparation, "...with what seemed like the entire village crowding in (to the cow pen behind her house) to watch, (she) lifted her skirt and spread her legs and the grandmother grabbed her most intimate pieces of flesh and with a fast, deep, scooping slash tore them out."(1) This is such a painful and traumatic memory that even today Kakenya has difficulty talking about it.

Her father kept his part of the bargain and Kakenya was allowed to finish high school, and even went to college. This young woman who never had a textbook until high school, was able to graduate from Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia, where she attended on scholarship. Kakenya now works as a youth advisor for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). She wants to pursue a law degree, after which she plans to return to Kenya to teach the next generation of girls to get an education, delay marriage and have careers.

Circumcision, also known as female genital mutilation (FGM) or cutting, has now been banned in Kenya and some other African nations. Educating communities about the health risks of infection, infertility and death have helped end the practice. However, tradition dies hard and in poor villages FGM is often performed by the old women who now must be trained in other occupations so they can continue to make a living.

Baba Jallow from The Gambia also had to make a decision which he describes in his book, "Dying for My Daughter." One day his wife called him at work and told him that his father was arranging for the older of his two daughters to be "taken to the bush." This meant that arrangements had been made for the daughter to be circumcised. It was the tradition in his village and "...was also a way of purifying women, a way of initiating girls into womanhood, a way of teaching them the ways of womanhood and a way of reducing sexual promiscuity and protecting virginity."(2) Baba, the first born son, defied his father and told him that if he took Baba's daughter to the bush he would commit suicide. Obedience and deference to one's elders are important in The Gambia society, and having to take this action showed disrespect to his father, causing Baba great emotional pain. However, he stood his ground, his daughter was not circumcised, and Baba was eventually able to make amends with his father.

One of the complications of FGM is obstetric fistula. This usually occurs when women have had the most radical form of cutting and stitching. When they become pregnant they are in labor for many days. The baby's head, unable to pass through the birth canal, cuts off blood flow, tissues die and a hole is created which causes leaking of urine and feces. In most cases the baby is stillborn, and the woman, if she lives, is ostracized by her community because of her uncleanness. Other causes of fistula are malnutrition, small stature, poor health, a pelvis not fully formed and multiple pregnancies in older women. The World Health Organization estimates there are at least 50,000 to 100,000 new cases of obstetric fistula each year (for more information go to www.endfistula.org).

This past summer, the U.S. Foreign Relations Authorization bill contained a program to prevent fistula. Contraceptives were an important component, since delaying pregnancy until a woman is fully formed and well nourished, or enabling older women to space pregnancies are the most basic means of prevention. But, Rep. Chris Smith's (R-NJ) amendment to the bill (which passed) removed contraceptives from the list of preventive measures. In New Jersey, the following representatives voted against birth control for poor women in developing countries, denying them the choice and the opportunity for a healthful life: Ferguson (Dist. 7), Garrett (Dist. 5), LoBiondo (Dist. 2), Saxton (Dist. 3), and Smith (Dist. 4).

We as human beings are deeply touched by these practices, but why should we as environmentalists care? When women are educated they have their first child later, they space their children farther apart, and have fewer children, thereby reducing impact on our natural resources. Not only do the women, their children, their families and communities all benefit, but the environment does, too.

(1) "A Road Paved with Pledges and Pain" by Amy Argetsinger, Washington Post, 12/29/03.

(2) Dying for My Daughter by Baba Jallow, Wasteland Press, 2004, p.3.

Contact Bonnie at blt44blt@verizon.net or 609-259-6438. ☞

Editorial Sustainability in the Presence of Terror

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

I was actually on a train heading for central London on the morning of July 7th (as were perhaps a million other people), when cell phones started ringing all around me, and a passenger informed everyone else that bombs had gone off in three subway ("Underground") trains, and that all the London rail terminals had been closed.

My objective in this editorial is to view the London bombings in association with a superb book that I was just then reading: Jared Diamond's "Collapse," and to relate both to a Sierra Club perspective on the New Jersey environment.

Diamond ascribes the collapses of five ancient societies (Easter Island, about 1600AD; Pitcairn and Henderson Islands, about 1500AD; the Anasazi Civilization of northern New Mexico, about 1150AD; the Mayas, about 750AD, and the Norse colonies on Greenland, about 1410AD) - to a combination of five "environmental" factors: the using up of natural resources, such as all the trees on Easter Island; climate change; attacks by hostile neighbors; loss of support from friendly or "parental" societies; and the constraints that cultures impose on their own members, such as environmental ethics or attitudes toward population control.

He also considers five modern societies that have collapsed, or that are likely to: Rwanda's genocide (of 800,000 Tutsi) in six weeks of 1994; Haiti's decline in the 19th and 20th Centuries; Australia's current precarious environmental situation; Montana's mining contaminations, and losses of forests, soil, and water supply; and the decline of Los Angeles, with respect to quality of life, in the forty-odd years that Diamond has lived there.

I urge you to read the book, and to decide whether I am correct in inferring

that, in the Third World countries of Asia, Africa and South America (at least), population growth alone will inevitably result in the instabilities that provoke mass killings in those countries, and incidents of terror in all countries.

The only thing that spared New Jersey from Diamond's consideration is the fact that he has never lived here. But our main problem is central to his analysis: too many people, consuming too many resources, and producing too much waste, for sustainable maintenance of our woodlands, farms, fisheries, water supply and breathable air.

In three reflective chapters at the end of his book, Diamond offers "practical lessons" to help us understand how disastrous economic and political decisions get made, especially by large corporations, and to convince me (at least) that even the complete success of current efforts to achieve global population stabilization will not be enough to prevent many "collapses" in the next fifty years.

One poignant section of Diamond's book contains rebuttals for common "one-liner" criticisms of common environmentalist claims such as those of Bjorn Limburg and Julian Simon, and of that made to me by New Jersey's former Governor, Christine Todd Whitman: "the environment has to be balanced against the economy." Here's a fragment of Diamond's reply: "This one-liner puts the truth exactly backwards. Environmental messes cost us huge sums of money in both the short run and in the long run; cleaning up or preventing those messes saves us huge sums in the long run, and often in the short run as well. In caring for the health of our surroundings, just as of our bodies, it is cheaper and preferable to avoid getting sick than to try to cure illnesses after they have developed." ☺



Credit: James Mendelsohn

Chair's Message Katrina

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

Katrina had to happen. But man-induced global warming made the storm stronger than it otherwise would have been, Bush policies destroying protective wetlands left New Orleans defenseless from powerful gulf storms, and congressional unwillingness to adopt environmentally sound measures to protect population centers led to an unprecedented loss of life. Add to this the failure of government to provide for the evacuation of people living at the poverty level who do not own cars, and who have no place to go, as well as the incomprehensible failure of the federal government to respond on a timely basis, and the resulting calamity was inevitable.

A few days after the disaster I, like so many of you, was feeling depressed and angry, so I sent a message to my fellow activists trying to put into words some of my feelings. While I expressed my outrage at the indifference and complete lack of caring by the Bush administration, I also suggested that not all of the 51 percent of the electorate who voted for Bush necessarily share his "I'm number one - the hell with everyone else" view of the world. A good friend and fellow activist responded that I was deluding myself, that we are pretty much a stupid, selfish nation. I can't argue with that. We are in large part a stupid, selfish nation.

But that doesn't mean that we can't change. I'm old enough to remember the sixties - the era of drugs (I never inhaled) and free love (which somehow I managed to miss out on). Today's neocons look at the sixties as a low point in our nation's history. I couldn't disagree



more. The sixties movement was characterized by love, by understanding, by tolerance and by a commitment to caring for our fellow men. Are these such bad ideals? In today's society, yes. In my mind, no.

So what happened in the past forty years to turn things so completely around? Why is our society today characterized by greed, intolerance and indifference to the plight of all living creatures (other than the very rich)? I do not pretend to know the answer to this question. But I do know that leadership makes a difference and that the American presidency is an incredibly powerful position. President Kennedy reached out to the American people by asking us to consider not what our country could do for us but rather what we could do for our country. President Johnson, for all of his faults, managed to carry out much of Kennedy's agenda. And President Nixon had a large role in enacting many of the nation's basic environmental laws.

Today we have perhaps the most fit (in terms of physical conditioning) president in our history, but also one of the least knowledgeable and least concerned presidents in terms of environmental issues and sensitivity to the plight of all but the very wealthy. The president sets the tone for the nation. There is hope for the United States of America and for the environment upon which we all depend. But there is no hope while George Bush remains our president. ☺

Development Threat to Liberty State Park

by Michel Cuillerier, Chapter Conservation Vice-Chair

Members of our Essex and Hudson County Groups have joined an effort to oppose the permitting (by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection - DEP) of a second private marina in Liberty State Park, right behind the Statue of Liberty. A developer (WA Residential Urban Renewal Co.) has not yet submitted an official application but, in a letter to the DEP, has proposed the leasing of 42 acres of public water (including 2 grassy jetties) all along the southern end of this urban state park.

There is already the private "Liberty Landing" marina at the north end of the Park, with 550 boat slips and a pump-out station; its 99-year lease allows dry-rack storage of 288 boats.

The Sierra Club, along with NY/NJ Baykeeper, an organization called "Friends of Liberty State Park," and other environmental groups, has fought this battle before! Plans to develop a golf course in half of the Park were thwarted in the early 1990s largely by a group of citizens who organized themselves into the Club's Hudson County Group (now our Hudson-Meadowlands Group) in order to gain political "gravitas." The then-DEP Commissioner, Scott Weiner, assured us that "any [development] proposal for Liberty State Park will depend on a broad public consensus." Now we have asked for public hearings on the new development plans.

In a letter sent to current DEP Commissioner Brad Campbell on July 4, Friends of Liberty State Park notes that, "behind Lady Liberty, the Park is sacred land and water, with its urban open spaces and harbor views. Liberty State Park is New Jersey's 1976 Bicentennial gift to the nation, a powerful symbol of our democracy and America's values,

and a spiritually uplifting oasis. Its true purposes, expressed by New Jerseyans for 29 years, must be honored."

In part the argument for preserving the Park has an economic class component, since marinas tend to be affordable only by wealthy people. "The mostly lower income urban people who regularly relax, picnic, play and fish at the Park's South End, middle income people who do the same and who use the Public Boat Launch, and all visitors have the right to enjoy open, unblocked South End harbor views. Another key issue of course is unfettered/uncluttered access by users of Public Boat Launch. The Public Good must be chosen over private interests."

It is a great sign that Commissioner Campbell, in a July 16 story in the Jersey Journal, stated that he "probably would reject" this proposal and that an overwhelming public benefit would have to be shown for a privatization lease, which is an impossible standard for this "People's Park" which must remain free and green forever. The Sierra Club will stay vigilant to protect Liberty State Park. ☺

Resolutions Adopted by ExCom: June-August, 2005

We supported **open space preservation of the Harsimus Stem Embankment in Jersey City** (Hudson County): This former railroad route separates two national historic districts, has developed natural upland vegetation, and has been proposed as a component of an interstate (East Coast) Greenway. (June)

We strongly opposed the **expansion of Exit 13 of the New Jersey Turnpike** (in Union County), since it would require the filling of wetlands. We will take all necessary and appropriate actions including retaining Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic. (July)

Air Pollution Control: The Chapter endorsed public question #2 on the November 8 ballot that would initiate a State Constitutional Amendment to expand uses of dedicated tax revenue to fund air pollution control and administrative costs of the underground storage tank program. This measure would authorize the use of revenues for diesel retrofitting required under the recently enacted diesel bill. (August)

We opposed **residential development in New York's Sterling Forest State Park**, to increase the protection given to the entire Highlands Region, with specific reference to several massive sprawl developments currently proposed: the 1,195-unit Tuxedo Reserve on 2,000 acres in Tuxedo, 400 units on the 1,000-acre Wrightsman Plateau in Ramapo and the 292-unit

Lorterdan project on 249 acres on Sterling Mine Road in Ramapo. (August)

We approved **political endorsements** for the November 8th state and local election, presented on p.1. (August)

Notes: (1) Not all lawsuits actually come to fruition. Approval must first be granted by the Club's legal staff in San Francisco, and other circumstances may obviate a suit. For current status, contact the Chair of the Litigation Oversight Committee (p. 12).

(2) But volunteer legal services are urgently needed! It should be obvious from the above that Sierra Club members with legal credentials would be enthusiastically welcomed by the members of our Litigation Oversight Committee. Please contact them via Kelly McNicholas, Conservation Program Coordinator, in our Trenton office: 609-656-7612 or kelly.mcnicholas@sierraclub.org.

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.

EARTH WISE SINGLES

We Are People Like You

- ...eco-passionate and green-living
- ...politically active
- ...enjoy the great outdoors
- ...eat natural and organic foods and use Earth-friendly products

Please Join Us

www.EWSingles.com

Selfishness and the Diminished Quality of Life

by Brian Boockoof, the West Jersey Group's new Anti-Sprawl Chair

I recently drove past a plot of land near the corner of Church Street and Church Road in Mount Laurel, New Jersey. This plot was probably no more than the length and width of a football field. Yet, they were tearing down the trees to make room for new housing. As has become the norm, the developers will probably build "McMansions" right on top of each other to maximize their profit by building as many homes as possible on a small plot of land with little regard for the increased pollution or traffic that inevitably arises from development.

The fact that these houses will sit so close to each other with barely a yard is of no consequence to the "all about me's". They simply want to live in a house 10 times too big for their needs and display it as a trophy to illustrate how utterly important they are to the world.

Additionally, they are unconcerned about the destroyed trees. Trees provide twofold protection from the elements. First, they provide shade in the summer by reducing energy costs in the form of less air conditioner use. They also act as natural barriers against the winter elements, such as cold wind, to reduce energy costs and resource usage in the form of less heating requirements. This equates to less pollution caused by ozone-depleting air conditioning and less drain on our natural resources by decreased use of electricity, natural gas, oil, or wood (since many of these "Starter Castles" have huge fireplaces) for heat. However, as long as people have the money to pay the increased energy costs, they give no thought to what their increased energy consumption costs the planet.

Despite taking most of the heat from the environmental community for overdevelopment in the form of new housing, the developers should hardly shoulder all of the blame. It is the "all about me's" that have created and supported a market for such housing with their desire, not need (as they define it), for new housing. How dare they be subjected to living in a "pre-owned" home? Doesn't the world know how important they are? In all seriousness, the "all about me's" have no idea what ramifications their selfish acts have on the world and our future - so let's explore this.

The "all about me's" need a new house. This creates a market for new housing which the developers are more than willing to exploit. Development requires the loss of trees to clear the way for new housing construction and increased surface coverage.

Let's hear it for trees. High school science teaches us that trees are needed to exchange carbon dioxide for oxygen and make the air clean and breathable. A reduction in trees leads to a reduction in air quality since there are fewer trees to

regulate the carbon dioxide and oxygen levels. This, in turn, leads to reduced air quality and increased respiratory ailments such as asthma and a host of airborne allergens. Increased respiratory ailments lead to a decrease in the quality of life in the form of higher healthcare costs due to breathing treatments and medications (life is difficult to enjoy when it's difficult to breathe).

Let's hear it for open space. Increased surface coverage decreases the ability of the ground to absorb rainwater. Runoff is increased into the storm drains overwhelming their capacity with the potential of flooding. Furthermore, when the ground cannot absorb enough water, the water table decreases and wells go dry. Wells need to be drilled deeper causing ground instability. Finally, a variety of chemicals from lawn treatments and pavement salt are carried to the water supply leading to possible poisoning and even more chemicals (supposedly of the "safe" variety) in the drinking water. Quality of life is decreased by flood potential, increased ground instability, and increased healthcare costs associated with poisoned and over-treated drinking water.

Let's hear it for taking action against individual selfishness that diminishes the quality of life for all. Here's what you can do:

- Inform and educate your neighbors. Make them aware of the detrimental impact of new housing to property taxes (they rarely decrease, due to the additional cost of new schools and infrastructure) and quality of life (increased pollution, traffic, and noise with decreased open space, plant life, and wildlife).

- Attend township planning and zoning board meetings. Don't let developers and township officials sneak "greed-growth" housing construction or detrimental development past you and your neighbors. Research the issues and present your case.

- Advise local politicians and other township officials that they are accountable to you. Tell them that you will only tolerate development based on smart growth principles and will not tolerate their economic interests superseding your quality of life.

If we all stand up with one voice and shout, "No more!", we can go a long way to improving our local environment and the quality of life for everyone.

Brian (bboockoff@comcast.net) is the Sprawl Chair for the West Jersey Group. He has aspirations of influencing public environmental policy. When not attempting to persuade / enlighten the masses to the ills of Sprawl, he actually enjoys the "benefits" of Sprawl: sitting in unmoving traffic, breathing polluted air, and losing increasing amounts of real income to increased taxes. ☺

Meet the ExCom: An interview with Bonnie Tillery, Chapter Secretary and Population Issues Coordinator



WHEN AND HOW DID YOU FIRST BECOME INTERESTED IN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM?

All you parents out there who think your children aren't paying attention, take heart. My parents were always active in their community and always trying to instill in their children a love for the environment. Especially trees and birds. I was the typical bored teen, but somewhere along the way I began to see what they were so enthusiastic about.

HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN YOUR WILLINGNESS TO LEAD, I.E., TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE THAN THE AVERAGE ENVIRONMENTALIST?

I feel that preserving the land, protecting the water and having safe air to breathe are vitally important to our health and the health of everything else on earth. I wanted to try to convey this message to others, but was not a born or trained speaker. Then I listened to other activists and saw that their enthusiasm and commitment were just as important as the way they made their presentations, and I told myself I could do it too.

(Continued on page 6)

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Contributed by Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net), our Chapter Chair

As Chair of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who provided the Chapter with financial support during calendar year 2004. Without the generous support of our members and friends, we would not have been as successful as we were in opposing environmentally harmful projects and promoting legislative and regulatory initiatives to improve the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink.

Following is a listing, by donor category, of those who contributed \$100 or more to the New Jersey Chapter during 2004. This is the first time we have attempted to publish a list of donors, so please forgive us if we inadvertently have left your name off the list or included you in the wrong donor category. Also, if your contribution was received after the close of the year, it does not appear in this listing but will be included in the list of 2005 donors. And please be assured that we are deeply appreciative of all donations to the Chapter, regardless of the amount. You are the reason why we are as effective as we are. Thanks again for your support!

Benefactors (\$1000 and above)

Anonymous (3)
Richard H. Colby
The Ettinger Foundation
The Environmental Endowment of NJ
The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
James G. Gilbert
Ken and Wynn Johanson
The Prentice Foundation
David O'Leary
Edward C. Pfeiffer
Yo La Tengo, Inc

Patrons (\$500 to \$999)

Anonymous
Doris R. Aaronson
Dennis Anderson
Rollin A. Bush
Edward T. Cone
Judith S. Craig
Frank C. Hooper
Samuel G. Huber
Donald B. Louria
Michael Protzel
Glen M. Skar
Scott Stekler

Partners (\$250-\$499)

Anonymous
Evelyne A. Axelrod
Wendy W. Benchley
N.N. Gladfelter
Stephen C. Gruber
Ray Anita Hemphill
Helen Hirsch
David Huemer
Peter W. Jewell
Keitha Kinne
Martin Lawrence, III
Jeffrey Liebman
Anne Glynn MacKoul
Martin T. Maurice
Alessandra Mills
Elise Wendel Murray
R. Eric Rush
Jean E. Schwarzbauer
Jessica W. Seaton
Lori A. Tanner
Debra Tomajko
Janet White

Supporters (\$100-\$249)

Anonymous (10)
Mary Anne Adams
William G. Anderson, Jr
Alice C. Andrews
Richard M. Anscher
Robert Atkinson
Margaret H. Babcock
Susan Barbuto
Kirk R. Barrett
George and Oney Barron
Margaret W. Bartlett
Richard Batherman
Marshall M. Bazar
Louis R. Beck
Jennifer Bell
Thomas F. Boghosian
Eve Bolkin
Joyce T. Brady
Paul T. Brady
Doreen Brennan
Audrey L. Buckingham
Thomas G. Burgess
Michael J. Buriani
Kathleen J. Caccavale
Thomas F. Cardea

Sean Carlin
Raymond A. Cassetta
Ann Cavanaugh
Sandra B. Chase
Adam Cohen
Brooke Coneys
Peter H. Craig
Willard P. Crane
William J. Cromartie
Barbara A. Cronin
Patrick Crowley
Elizabeth R. Cutler
Elizabeth S. Cziffra
Susan D. Dawson
Kathryn N. Demos
Michelle Dempsey
James B. Dexter
Thomas G. Doak
Robert D. Dreeke
Paul L. Dunklee
Timothy G. Dyas
Patricia Eames
David J. Epstein
Shaness Farrell
Bud Feder
Peggy B. Fitzsimmons
Harvey Flaxman
Leo M. Flynn
Carl B. Ford, Jr
Carolyn Freeman
Holly Frey-Dueland
Sheryl Fuhrmann
Norma Fund
Lucille B. Gagnault
Perry S. Goldschein
William E. Gourgey
Nicholas Greendyk
Kathleen Haake
Leslie Hamilton
Mariah C. Hasker
Diane B. Hawkins
Paula J. Hayes
Jay Heyman
Robert Honsinger
George A. Hooper
Janet F. Hopkins
Michael W. Huber
Margaret M. Hudak
Geraldyn G. Humphrey
Dwight A. Irving
Martin D. Judd
I. Michael Kadish
Dan Karalis
Kenneth N. Kavulia
Michael F. Keady
Eleanor S. Kelemen
Donis King
Carol M. Kleis
Deborah Knowling
Christa Koehler
Julia Kozak
Richard G. Kraeuter
Sybil Kramer
Carol A. Kurtz
John M. Lagos
Jim Lanard
Margaret L. Lancefield
Arthur S. Levy
Karen Linder
Susan A. London
John F. Lucas
Beverly Luck
William L. Lupatkin
Laura Anne Lynch
Catherine P. Magee
Alexander B. Magoun
Laura K. Maines
John P. McLaughlin
Donald S. McClure

Susan McManigal
Peggy D. McNeill
Lucinda L. Mercer
Frederick Meyer
Thomas G. Michlik
Sondra K. Mittleman
Richard C. Moody
Bill Morewood
Samuel P. Morgan
Joseph W. Morin
Jeffrey Morris
Benjamin Muckenhoupt
Kathleen Murray
Joseph W. Myers
Harold A. Nash
Katherine T. Nelson
Robert L. Newton
Laura W. Noll
William H. Osborne
Glenn A. Palmer
N. Parkinson
Leonora A. Pedraja
Mary M. Penney
Sharon J. Pillon
Joanne Pizza
Nicholas H. Polombo, Jr
Laurie A. Pynch
John C. Raby
Carol C. Rakowski
Martha S. Reinehart
Nancy E. Reinhold
Dorothy A. Rhu
Lucie V. Rieger
Ted Riskin
Joseph M. Roland
Howard Rose
Arthur E. Roswell
Benjamin F. Rush, Jr
Loralyn Saporito
Ronald Sauers
Randi M. Scher
Laura C. Schneider
Frances Schultz
Noel P. Schulz
Joseph G. Shannon
Elizabeth Sherer
Grace Sinden
Sasha B. Slocum
Lee Snyder
Thomas S. Sokolik
Jordan Spencer
Robert J. Stemcovski
Robert A. Sternhell
Carol G. Stewart
Susan G. Stone
Alan J. Stultz
Lee E. Synder
Rush Taggart III
Edward D. Thomas
Mary F. Thomas
Jana L. Tognoli
Elizabeth A. Toolen
Jane Tousman
Donald M. Ullmann
Jean Flood Unger
James D. Vance
William C. Ward, Jr.
David A. Wasmuth
Sharon E. Waters
Jessie Weeks
Bruce C. Weidenburner
Charles F. West
Barbara Westergaard
Ellen J. White
Geoffrey Wiland
John J. Wolfe
Esther T. Woodward
Kenneth M. Young
John V. Zurlo

STATE-WIDE WRAPUP DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director



Sierra Club Celebrates Anniversary of Highlands Act Calls for Development Freeze in Region

On August 10 we celebrated the one year anniversary of the signing of the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act. Passage of this law crowned 18 years of effort by the Sierra Club and other environmental groups to protect this treasured region of New Jersey.

In the past year development pressure in the Highlands has gotten worse as many developers are trying to beat the adoption of both the Highlands rules and the Highlands plan. There are hundreds of property owners applying for exemptions. We are deeply concerned that this rush to development will undermine our efforts to protect the Highlands and will lead to the loss of many environmentally important properties as well as negatively impact our water supplies. Right now the Highlands are at a crossroads, and unless we put a development freeze in place as we did in the Pinelands 20 years ago, we will undermine the importance of this historic law. The Highlands could be destroyed by a loophole big enough to drive a bulldozer through.

Sierra Club wants the freeze to be put in place immediately and held until the following are finalized:

- Highlands Plan for both the Preservation and Planning Areas
- Capacity Analysis for the Highlands
- Plan for Comprehensive Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)
- Fix Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) rules to eliminate several major loopholes including linear development
- Fix DEP rules to include public participation requirements for the exemption process
- DEP and Highlands Council will create a list of targeted acquisitions in the Highlands
- DEP must withdraw all sewer service areas and permitted capacity
- Change State Plan in Planning Area to protect natural resources and water supply
- Towns in Planning Area should have to get permission from the Council on Affordable Housing to change their COAH plans to both meet obligations and protect environmentally sensitive areas

Acting Governor Codey has the power to enact a freeze in the Highlands as supported by the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Tahoe-Sierra Preservation Council, Inc. vs. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency*, allowing councils to enact building moratoriums until completion of their plans. We urge him to have the same courage as Governor Brendan Byrne did to put a freeze in the Pinelands until the regional plan there was finalized.

Over the past year, the Council has shown a real commitment to the intent of the Highlands Act by hiring some expert staff, laying the groundwork for a strong Master Plan and involving the public throughout the process. A freeze would give them time to get their job done.

The DEP also needs more time to fix its rules, including those permitting overly broad waivers, weak forest protections, and those that exclude public input or oversight when permits are considered. The Sierra Club continues to push for strong Highlands rules and specifically requests the DEP to incorporate the following recommendations in the final rule proposal:

Narrowly Define Waivers

While the Act provides for limited

waivers in order to protect health and public safety and to allow for redevelopment of certain areas, we believe the provisions for implementing these waivers do not include a strong set of standards so that they will be open to abuse. For example, in the case of public health and safety waivers, the rules must include provisions governing documentation of septic failure, documentation of and criteria for determining unacceptable public health risks, performance of an alternatives analysis, and express prohibition on new connections to any infrastructure installed to remedy the public health threat.

The DEP must also restrict brownfield sites to exclude those that would clearly conflict with the Act or the Department's regulatory standards. For example, waivers should not be issued within buffers of C1 streams or Highlands waters but should instead be issued when the redevelopment restores and improves ecological function and water resources as consistent with the objectives of the Act.

Implement Strong Forest Protections

In order to uphold the Act's prohibition on forest disturbance, we believe the DEP must incorporate the latest science (edge and contiguity metrics) in their regulations. We believe the burden must be on the applicant to demonstrate that it is "not possible" to avoid disturbing a forest. This burden of proof should require the "alternatives" analysis to consider: a) a demonstration of need; b) off-site development locations in more environmentally suitable locations; c) TDR into growth areas outside the region; and d) non-development beneficial use options for the property. In the event that the applicant has demonstrated that avoiding forest disturbance is "not possible", the rules need to require mitigation, based on biomass, productivity, area contiguity, and edge metrics.

Define Linear Development for Public not Private Benefit

Linear development exemptions are limited in scope under the Act to such things as "infrastructure, utilities, and rights-of-way" and should not include new driveways and roads to serve private development. The legislative intent of these provisions is to allow critical public utilities and public infrastructure, such as power lines, pipelines, and other public infrastructure to traverse the region. The term "infrastructure" was clearly intended to apply to public infrastructure, not private, and was not intended as a loophole to serve sprawl in the region.

Retract Exemptions

The DEP has moved forward, outside of the scope of public review, with giving exemptions for development and permit applications for projects within the Highlands Preservation Area. We believe that this is outside their authority and we also support a recent Attorney General brief that pushes DEP to establish a process for public participation. Many of these exemptions, including those for Christ Church, Eagle Ridge and Powder Hollow, are quite contentious and should be subject to public scrutiny. Accordingly, the DEP should refrain from providing any new exemptions and should retract all exemptions given until a formal process has been adopted that mandates public participation and establishes a process for appealing their decisions. ☺

Debating the US Supreme Court's "Kelo" Property Rights Decision

Compiled from a press release and from e-mail correspondence

On June 23 the U. S. Supreme Court in a split 5-4 decision sanctioned the condemnation of private land by municipalities (eminent domain) -- for private development. Under this ruling, based on a lawsuit that originated in New London, Connecticut, cities and towns can condemn anyone's property, even if it is not blighted, and hand it over to big developers.

"This creates open season on our neighborhoods and validates and further expands the corrupt pay-to-pave system in New Jersey," said Jeff Tittel, Director of the Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter.

The decision will have dire consequences on places like Petty's Island in Camden County, Cramer Hill in Camden, Long Branch (Monmouth County), and virtually everywhere in the state -- as it is not limited to redevelopment areas but can apply to any place a municipality decides would be appropriate for economic growth. We fear that this ruling will displace affordable housing for luxury housing, small business for big business and will undermine battles won for environmental conservation.

In Edison (Middlesex County), where environmentalists stopped development of a strip mall at Oak Tree Pond, the city then condemned the property across the street for the same politically connected developers. The New Jersey courts ruled against this action as being inappropriate. The Supreme Court ruling could now overturn that.

Urban areas in New Jersey are immediately threatened by this decision. At Cramer Hill, where more than 800 families are trying to save their neighborhood from bulldozers, there could be devastating consequences. Long Branch residents are fighting to stop the takeover of their neighborhood for replacement by luxury condos. In Jersey City (Hudson County) there were efforts to tear down a neighborhood of family homes to build luxury high rise condominiums. Officials in Pennsauken want to condemn Petty's Island, where there is a bald eagle's nest, for a golf course and luxury housing.

Some additional examples of areas threatened by the Kelo precedent include open space conversions to golf courses, and the redevelopment of Holly Farm in Millville (Cumberland County).

As a result of this decision, citizens need to become more involved in local government and planning deliberations.

"Many of us hoped and believed this Court decision would have gone the other way, to limit the abuse by towns in kicking people out of their homes and destroying communities," said Kelly McNicholas, the Club's Chapter Conservation Coordinator. "It is a very sad day for our country."

Our Chapter Chair, Ken Johanson, a retired lawyer, had an opposite opinion. He noted that, "in recent years there have been many abuses of the power of eminent domain. But the power still constitutes an important tool in the exercise of legitimate governmental power. I personally am relieved that the court has upheld the power of governmental entities to condemn property and to transfer property to private interests for the greater public good. Our goal of rejuvenating our cities is doomed if this power does not exist. And how about condemning lands for open space preservation and selling the lands to a non-profit organization to manage? I only wish that the Court could have found a way to address the abuses that have become so prevalent. Note that the decision was written by the Court's most liberal justice and joined in by the Court's more liberal and moderate members. The

Court's most right-wing members, joined by Justice O'Connor, dissented. Note also that the Court did invite states to address inequities by enacting appropriate legislation. I think that we need to follow up on this suggestion. The statutory law in New Jersey is far too broad. By amending existing statutory law we should be able to prevent future abuses of the power of eminent domain."

An opposing view was proffered by Mike Selender, Conservation Chair of our Hudson-Meadowlands Group: "as an urbanite, I have to disagree with Ken. This Supreme Court decision won't help the cities. It will help private developers with political connections. They are already subsidized heavily by tax abatements in many cities. This decision will allow developers to run amok. An example would be the Cramer Hill section of Camden being condemned for developer Cherokee. Will this decision be used for the public good? I doubt it. It will more likely be used to condemn land for casinos, shopping centers and sports venues."

Eric Hausker, Co-Conservation Chair of our Loantaka Group, thanked Ken "for a very nuanced and thoughtful comment on the Supreme Court decision. Governments have always exercised this right. A few blocks from me in Rahway, 13 homes were condemned which had frequently flooded during the last few decades. They lay next to a bend in the Rahway River and were replaced by a dozen acres of newly created parkland. So, the sword can cut two ways. Enlightened progressive government will use this power to enhance a community. As long as the current market value of the property is offered to the evictees, they will make out like bandits! Or corrupt governments can give in to any powerful greedy pressure group and abuse the power of eminent domain to the disadvantage of the less powerful."

"The changes required to create a sustainable society gradually freeing itself from fossil fuels unfortunately can only be carried out by a strong activist government with powers to seize property from private citizens (with just restitution). More than just traditional property rights are at stake here. Some day somebody's hilltop property will be condemned in order to restore a wildlife preserve or to install wind towers. Only committed citizen groups can keep the government honest in its exercise of this power."

Finally, here's what Sunil Somalwar, former Chapter Chair, had to say, in defence of the Court's decision: "what would have happened in Western States if the decision had gone the other way? There, water rights are property rights! Would "takings" then have become a property right violation, endangering implementation of endangered species protections? What about the properties in many state parks? (My friend's grandfather built a lake in Cuyahoga County near Cleveland, Ohio, by erecting a dam on a stream. With preserved forests all around, it justifiably became a state park and their summer property was taken over for the public good.) With New Jersey politicians scared of crossing power brokers like George Norcross, are urban areas such as NJ an exception? Averaged over the entire nation, I wonder if the decision will do a greater good! I think that forced urban renewal in the bombed-out south side of Chicago or in Philadelphia has substantial environmental benefits."

"This decision could promote a major tool for establishing habitat corridors or imposing transit-friendly urban planning to reduce emissions. I can understand why this decision was opposed by the Darth Vader wannabes on the Court?" ☺

The Controversy over Offshore Wind Turbines

We received the following responses to the letter by Sidney Goodman, which appeared in the July-September issue of this Newsletter:

(1) from Bill Klitgaard :

Wind power is not a realistic answer to our power situation. There are a number of factors that work against wind power, including:

Its **intermittent nature** reduces the electricity value. First, the need for power may not correlate with times of high wind velocities (unless by good luck) and therefore the "economic value" of the power produced by wind turbines is problematic. Second, because wind is intermittent, alternative sources of power must be available. Switching equipment must be in place and "tuned" to the variation from wind generators in order to provide uniform load balancing between power sources. The alternative power source needs to be easy and efficient to shut on and off, or scalable in an efficient manner. Large central station power plants (which are typically the lowest cost per kwh source of power) don't meet those requirements, as they tend to work best when they can be scheduled and run continuously at fixed levels of output.

Wind has **negative siting aspects**. These include visual and auditory pollution, large land use requirements, and development of environmentally or culturally sensitive land. This is the main reason for negative reaction to the offshore NJ wind farm and the big bruhaha up in Massachusetts around the Nantucket plant. I'd suggest that almost every new wind farm runs into opposition on the siting front. Examples include the Wind River project in Wyoming, where locals did not want to see formerly undeveloped hillsides touched; the Boundary Mountains in Maine, where hikers did not want to see turbines on hills opposite their hiking trails; and if you look at the NY Times for July 4, (page 5) you see the same fight over a proposed wind farm near the Lake District in the north of England.

Avian mortality. Wind turbines kill birds. There is a huge debate over the magnitude of this, which often becomes a question of how many and how severe that is relative to alternatives, but there can be no doubt about the effect. In the Altamont Pass in California for instance, the bird deaths include red tailed hawks and golden eagles; in Tarifa, Spain (near the Straits of Gibraltar) the deaths include griffin vultures. That's not a great advertisement for green power.

Limited availability. Wind varies in intensity and is only sufficiently strong and consistent to provide a good siting location in a few spots. Many times those sources are far from utility interconnection and face long transmission lines (added costs and inefficiency from power loss). Many times those sources are in harsh environments which make generation of power difficult and maintenance expensive. Often the sites are expensive to develop due to a lack of roads or severe working conditions. Examples include offshore wind power, mountainous terrain (subject to icing conditions), and deserts. Even in an area that seems logical, development may not happen for a host of odd reasons - for instance, eastern Montana has a great wind resource but is far from demand and faces huge distribution disadvantages (plus the local utility climate is very much "pro coal").

Cost. Wind advocates suggest that wind power is cost effective and the lowest cost source of renewable energy. A quick measure of this can be found in "cents per kilowatt hour" which uses the average lifetime cost of the power source divided by power expected to be produced. Wind power has come down

to 4-5 cents per kwh, which is remarkable. However, power companies have even lower cost alternatives - they can buy power "off the grid" for 2-3 cents, they can develop new co-generation facilities with cost in the 3 cent range. Even coal gets down to the 3 cent range. Moreover, the long-term nature of the calculation can be deceptive. Wind power has a much higher proportion of the cost front loaded in the installed capital base which skews comparison in an unfavorable manner.

From my personal perspective there are better choices.

First - push much, much harder on conservation. The cost per kwh of added insulation, double pane windows, more efficient appliances, etc. is far superior to any power plant. These are choices we can make right now with existing technology.

Second - push harder on the solar panel front. Today the cost is wildly uneconomic (roughly 10 cents per kwh) but the technology is still young and there are many areas for improvement. I'm particular hopeful a push toward solar roofing panels (replacing normal roofing) would be a big win. New materials and processes (like nanotech) hold the promise for reducing cost substantially in the future.

Third - raise the cost of power. This is hard to do since the impact is regressive in economic terms. Yet, I believe price is the most impactful factor in terms of changing behavior and consumption. Higher prices will lead people to consume less and make alternative choices (as it did with cars and gasoline in the 1970's). Higher cost will make investment choices migrate quickly. If I ran the world, I'd do this through an immediate imposition of \$5/barrel on oil coming from the Middle East, by imposing a carbon tax and by imposing a weight tax on vehicles.

Finally - push hard for combined cycle coal. Oh yeah, I know, coal is awful - but combined cycle technology has very low lifetime cost and can be married up with CO2 sequestration effectively. It's a domestic power source as well. Environmentalists hate coal - so much so that it clouds their vision, in my view. But this would be one of the few choices we could make where large amounts of energy can be addressed right now. The shift to coal is happening anyway due to higher cost of petroleum - what I'm taking about is pushing to make the extra investment (like about 15% higher initial cost) for combined cycle plants that will have much, much lower pollution than conventional coal power plants.

Sorry for the long and rambling piece, but the article touched a nerve. Wind power is not a realistic answer for our needs and I'd rather spend time and effort on measures that lead to a broader and more impactful outcome on energy policy and energy consumption.

(2) From Sunil Somalwar (svsomalwar@sierraactivist.org):

The thinking these days is that we need an energy mix. Wind is only ONE of the components. No one source, including combined coal, is the answer. Nuclear, I am afraid is also going to be a component. Barring a breakthrough or major reductions in fossil fuel subsidies, photovoltaic solar may be unrealistic at this point as a major new contributor to the energy mix. Mr. Klitgaard's concern about wind fluctuations is irrelevant as long as there is a grid (which is basically supported by coal). And he is very right about conservation.

(3) Editor's note: Wind turbines are far more prevalent in Britain, now, than in the US. They are quite visible (and noiseless), both singly and in "farms," in some of the most pristine parts of Scotland. ☺

Environmental and Public Interest Groups Expose the Truth about ExxonMobil's Environmental Policies

Supplied by Brian O'Malley in the Sierra Club's Washington DC office

Exposing and changing ExxonMobil's irresponsible and deceptive behavior is the mission of a new campaign called "ExxposeExxon.com," launched outside ExxonMobil service stations nationwide on July 12 by a coalition of twelve of America's largest public interest and environmental groups with a combined membership of more than 6.4 million.

ExxposeExxon.com is revealing the truth about the world's largest and most profitable oil company's actions, including actively lobbying Congress to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling, trying to avoid paying all the damages due to those harmed by the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, and funding organizations that work to discredit the science behind global warming.

"For years, ExxonMobil has intentionally put its own profits above a clean environment and the health of America's families. As a result, we are asking all Americans not to accept a new job at ExxonMobil, invest in the company, or to buy ExxonMobil's gas and products," stated the ExxposeExxon coalition in a letter sent to ExxonMobil CEO Lee Raymond.

Americans want clean sources of energy that protect public health, reduce pollution, curb global warming, and save consumers money. Instead, ExxonMobil has continually worked to make the U.S. more dependent on oil and failed to invest a significant sum of its considerable profits into clean sources of energy, unlike competitors such as BP and Shell.

As part of the campaign, the coalition of groups will reach out to Americans across the country and ask them to help "Exxpose Exxon" by refusing to work for ExxonMobil, refusing to invest their hard-earned dollars in ExxonMobil, and refusing to buy ExxonMobil products. The ExxposeExxon campaign has launched this effort in more than fifty cities from coast to coast, including Washington, DC, Austin, Boston, Chicago, Des Moines, Honolulu, New York, Minneapolis, and Philadelphia. The coalition is reaching out to the public through the Internet, through the news media, through door-to-door contact, bumper stickers and t-shirts.

As part of its education effort, the ExxposeExxon campaign, which includes the Alaska Wilderness League, Defenders of Wildlife, Greenpeace, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, and U.S. PIRG (Public Interest Research Group), also released a new report, "ExxonMobil Exposed: More Drilling, More Global Warming, More Oil Dependence." The report details how the Texas-based oil giant has consistently

moved the U.S. backward, not forward, on energy policy. Among the report's findings are:

- ExxonMobil is the only oil company remaining in Arctic Power, the single-issue group lobbying to open the Arctic Refuge to drilling.

- Between 1998 and 2004, ExxonMobil gave more than \$15 million to organizations working to hide the facts about global warming.

- As increased demand for dwindling world oil and gas supplies earned ExxonMobil a record-breaking \$25.3 billion in net income in 2004, company executives dismissed suggestions that they invest in renewable energy, calling it "uneconomic."

- While ExxonMobil has pledged \$100 million over 10 years for research at Stanford University into new energy technologies, such as burying carbon dioxide emissions, the company's commitment is just two days worth of its 2004 profits and is dwarfed by its spending on oil and gas exploration in 2004 alone - more than \$1 billion. In addition, the Stanford project has no goals and no guarantee that ExxonMobil will apply any of the technology it helps develop.

"Our nation can chart a course towards a cleaner, healthier energy future by harnessing the American ingenuity that has marked this country throughout its history. ExxonMobil can be a part of that solution or continue to fight it tooth and nail," stated the coalition's letter to Mr. Raymond.

The ExxposeExxon campaign is reaching out to the American public, calling on ExxonMobil to:

- Protect, instead of drill, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and drop out of Arctic Power.

- Support mandatory caps on global warming pollution and stop funding junk science to cloud the debate on global warming.

- Save consumers money at the pump and ease our oil dependence by investing in renewable energy and energy efficiency and supporting fuel efficiency.

- Pay all of the punitive damages awarded to fishermen and others harmed by the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

"Thanks to ExxonMobil's refusal to pay the \$4.5 billion dollars in court-ordered punitive damages to victims of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, thousands of fishing industry workers like me were forced out of the business or in a number of cases had to declare bankruptcy," said Ross Mullins, founder and chairman of the Prince William Sound Fishermen Plaintiffs' Committee.

For more information, please visit www.ExxposeExxon.com ☺

Interview: Bonnie Tillery

(Continued from page 4)

DESCRIBE YOUR PARTICULAR ROLE IN THE NEW JERSEY CHAPTER.

I'm Secretary of the Chapter's Executive Committee, but my greatest efforts are to educate people about population issues. I see this as the core to preserving our planet for future generations. Population issues are also human rights issues. Mothers must be able to determine how many children they can capably carry and raise. When women are empowered to make these decisions, they have fewer children - so that they can adequately feed, shelter and educate those they do have. This puts fewer strains on our natural resources.

WITH SO MANY ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS OUT THERE, WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT THE SIERRA CLUB?

The Sierra Club is not an amorphous or

distant organization; it's right here in our neighborhoods, made up of committed volunteers. We decide the issues or activities we want to work on and how much time we will spend. I first got interested in the Club through its hikes to interesting places in New Jersey. That's one level of activism. Reading Jeff Tittel's quotes in the daily papers got me more interested in the politics of preserving land. From there, I just kept going.

WHAT ADVICE HAVE YOU FOR SOMEONE CONSIDERING MORE INVOLVEMENT IN CLUB ACTIVITIES?

Jump right in. You don't have to be an expert. For whatever you want to do, there is training available. And, your fellow Club volunteers are friendly, helpful, and accessible.

Scandalous Federal Energy Bill Passed

(From a National Sierra Club Press Release)

On 28th July the Senate approved the energy bill conference report (H.R. 6) by a vote of 74-26. This followed on the heels of the House vote the previous day to approve the conference report 275-156. The energy bill next went to President Bush, who signed the bill into law.

Note: Both of New Jersey's senators, Corzine and Lautenberg, supported the Sierra Club position by voting against the bill. Our Congressmen were also mostly on "our" side, with only Fergusson, Frelinghuysen and Garrett voting for the bill. New Jersey supplied 3 of the 31 Republican Congressmen who bucked the Bush Administration's position supporting the bill.

Those were sad days for our environment and the country. Here is part of a statement prepared by Carl Pope, the Sierra Club's Executive Director.

"America needs a safer, cleaner, and more secure energy future. Sadly, the energy bill that has emerged from the House and Senate conference committee fails on all counts. Instead of cutting America's oil dependence, boosting production of renewable energy, and lowering energy prices, this bill funnels billions of taxpayer dollars to polluting energy industries, and opens up our coastlines and wildlands to destructive oil and gas activities.

"If Congress believes that this bill will

lower gas prices or cut America's oil dependence, then the heat wave must be affecting their judgement.

"Americans don't want to give free reign to the energy industry to spend their tax dollars and evade environmental and consumer protections. What they want is for Congress to address high energy costs by putting real solutions to work. The energy bill conference failed on multiple occasions to demonstrate that kind of leadership and as a result produced a bill that continues America's downward spiral of increasing oil dependence and rising prices.

"It's unfortunate that, as Americans head to the beach for summer vacation, their representatives in Congress [are] opening up these very coasts to destructive oil and gas drilling. Approving an inventory of oil and gas reserves off America's coasts - a destructive process itself - is the first step toward dismantling decades of important coastal protections.

BY THE NUMBERS:

\$2.32: Average retail price for regular gasoline, up 39 cents over the last year. (Energy Information Administration (EIA) - www.eia.doe.gov)

\$2,873: Amount average family of four will spend on gasoline this year (Consumer Expenditure Survey from Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Energy Information Administration)

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:	Barbara Quigley		blvquigley@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

GROUP WEB SITE: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/northjersey.asp>

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

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Held 7:30 pm every THIRD THURSDAY of the month at Buehler Cultural Center, 950 High Mountain Road, North Haledon, NJ. Help identify issues and goals, develop strategies and campaigns, and inspire and motivate the public. For more information, contact Mike (see above).

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held once a month (except July, August and December), as follows:

Oct 6: 7:30 pm at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood, NJ: "The Natural and Social History of the Palisades, with slides and film footage from the early 20th Century, by Eric Nelsen of the Palisades Interstate Park.

Nov 10: 7pm at Clifton Public Library, 292 Piaget Avenue, Clifton, NJ: Program to be arranged. Check the group website or contact Betsy (see above).

ISSUES: Across the border in NY State, the Ramapo River watershed (an important source of New Jersey's drinking water) is under intense development pressures, especially in the rural parts of Tuxedo and Ramapo. Tuxedo Reserve will add 1,195 units to more than double the town's population. Other residential projects of concern include the 292 units on 249 acres on Sterling Mine Road and 400 units on Wrightsman Plateau. Meanwhile, Sterling Forest still faces the threat of 107 McMansions in the State Park. Back in NJ, vegetative riparian corridors along the Hackensack River and its tributaries need to be protected from encroachment to maintain habitat and aid in flood control. In West Milford, water supplies and quality of life are jeopardized by the massive Eagle Ridge development. To find out more, contact Mike or Tom (see above).

MANY WAYS TO VOLUNTEER! Join us to protect open space, air and water, or choose candidates to endorse, or monitor legislation. Or help with public education programs, fundraising, tabling at events, or promotion. Or take on one issue that interests you, such as environmental justice, global warming, forests, oceans and marine life, population, recycling, transportation, or another of your own choosing. To discuss the possibilities, contact Betsy or Mike (see above).

RECYCLE YOUR USED PRINTER OR FAX CARTRIDGES! Bring them to Whole Foods Market, 905 River Road in Edgewater, NJ, open from 8am to 10pm, seven days a week and leave them in the Sierra Club box in the front window by the exit door. (Please note, already recycled cartridges not accepted.) Thanks for recycling!

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.

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

(Continued on page 8)



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
Vice-Chr,			
Membership Chair:	Susan Rotter	973-347-8849	rotterls@mindspring.com
Treasurer:	Charles Kopp	973-770-7718	cggkp@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: 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.

The Northwest Group is helping to mobilize and support citizen groups in Andover Borough and Township to fight poorly planned development. In Wantage, Northwest helped a citizen's group successfully oppose a large-scale development by identifying the correct COAH requirements for the township's planning board and council.

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

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

Secretary-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

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. Below are some free events taking place, usually at 7pm, at the Essex County Environmental Center, which may be of interest to Group members. The Center is on Eagle Rock Ave. in Roseland. Refreshments are provided. Contact Rosemarie (973-736-0913) for more information:

Oct 12: The basics of backpacking, presented by Drew Kahn.

Nov 9: Exploration of the Costa Rican rainforest: the plants, animals, insects and politics of Le Selva Biological Station. A documentary video by Jay Kantor, Ph.D. When ecologists first began studying biodiversity in the rainforests of Costa Rica, 80% of the country was forested, and currently only 25% remains forested. Even in the country's biological preserves like Le Selva, wildlife is being negatively impacted, as surrounding land is being converted into agriculture, and rare hardwood trees are being cut down by poachers. In his first hand documentary video, Jay Kantor takes on a fascinating hike through the rainforest, guided by a passionate and dedicated Costa Rican biologist. This video discusses some of the issues surrounding the challenge to protect the country's precious biological preserves.

Dec 7: Conscious consumption - thoughtful gift-giving for the holidays. Presented by Clare Mayer of the Garden State Earth Institute.

Loantaka Group

(Morris and Union Counties, approximately)

WEBSITE: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka.asp>

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	wrobc_sc@earthlink.net
Webmaster:	Melissa Goss		
Greenbrook:	Bob Muska	908-665-2296	rmuska@erols.com

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

To join our emailing list, send a blank email to:
<http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-LOANTAKA-NEWS.html>

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!

DIRECTIONS: Directions to the Chatham Library are posted on our website <http://Loantaka.NJSierra.org>

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Oct 12: Meet the Candidates Night. Members will have a chance to meet and interact with Sierra Club-endorsed candidates up for election in Morris and Union Counties.

Nov 9: Highlands Treasures at Risk - Slide Show and Talk. Speaker: Wilma E. Frey, Project Manager, the Highlands, New Jersey Conservation Foundation. Wilma works with the Highlands Coalition. With forested ridges, sparkling lakes and reservoirs, and abundant wildlife, the New Jersey Highlands provide drinking water for over half of New Jersey's residents and form a nationally significant link in the Appalachian

Mountain chain. We'll see photographs of the region's little-known treasures, including internationally significant migratory songbird habitat, recreation opportunities and historic resources. Recent federal and state legislation will help protect the region and its water supply. Your questions about the NJ Highlands Act answered. And - how you can help!

Dec 14: Impact of Mercury on Human Health. Speakers: Jeffrey Huppert, Loantaka Group Education Coordinator, and Bob Campbell, Loantaka Group Air Quality Coordinator. Jeffrey and Bob will explain how mercury gets into our bodies, what it does when it gets there, the probable link to autism and brain damage, fish consumption advisories, environmental significance and more. There will be time for questions and concerns. This topic is a must for anyone who is pregnant or has growing children at home.

Activities: (Look at 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.

A Loantaka Fall Hike:

Oct 30 (Sunday): Pyramid Mountain Natural Historical Area: 4-5 miles at moderate pace, starting at 10am from the parking lot adjacent to the Visitor Center just off Boonton Ave in Montville Twp. Detailed directions to the park are provided on the Morris County Park Commission website: <http://www.morrisparks.net/parks/pyrmt-main.htm>. The leader will be Douglas Voroloeff, a Park Commission Senior Teacher Naturalist and a Sierra Club member. Douglas has a Masters Degree in Environmental Sciences from Montclair State Univ, and has been an educator for the past 10 years. Bring 1 qt of water, hiking boots, and clothing appropriate for the weather. Children welcome (aged 8 or older) so that they too can learn about the trees, shrubs, and animals that inhabit the Park.

The Loantaka Group conducted an on-line auction with our Morris/Union County membership over the Labor Day weekend. The following businesses generously provided auction-suitable items:

Ahrre's Coffee Roastery (six bags of Fair Trade Coffee)
Our friend Jim Burchell of Peaceworks (two bags of Fair Trade Coffee)
The Community Theater of Morristown (free tickets for two)
The New Jersey Renaissance Kingdom (tickets for their Fall festival)
The New Jersey Symphony (tickets for two at an upcoming concert)
The Office Beer Bar & Grill (dinner for two at the Summit or Cranford locations)
Sages Pages (\$25 gift certificate at their bookstore in Madison)
Sterling Hallmark Shops (two \$50 gift certificates good at their Stirling, Summit and Madison locations)
Village Hardware & Paint (\$50 gift certificate at their Chatham retail store)
Westfield Symphony (four silver tickets for any subscription concert for 2005-06)
Whole Foods (\$50 gift certificate good at their Millburn location)

Please consider patronizing the above places of business and thank them for their generosity.

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

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

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:

Oct 12: DVD presentation of THE END OF SUBURBIA: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of The American Dream. As the population of suburban sprawl has exploded in the past 50 years, so too has the suburban way of life become embedded in the American consciousness. Suburbia, and all it promises, has become the American Dream. But as we enter the 21st century, serious questions are beginning to emerge about the sustainability of this way of life. The End of Suburbia explores the American Way of Life and its prospects as the planet approaches a critical era, as global demand for fossil fuels begins to outstrip supply. As energy prices skyrocket in the coming years, how will the populations of suburbia react to the collapse of their dream? And what can be done NOW, individually and collectively, to avoid The End of Suburbia? Duration: 78 mins. Popcorn provided. Read more at <http://www.endofsuburbia.com/>.

Oct 15: Service Outing at the Hamilton Trenton Marsh, 9am to 12 Noon. Please join us and the Friends for the Marsh for a fall cleanup. Experience for yourself the wonder and beauty of this urban wetland and help pick up trash and remove weeds & out-of-place species. Wear long sleeves & long pants; bring clippers, work gloves, hat, water-proof boots, and drinking water. Trash bags will be provided. Meet at 9am at Spring

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

Lake - Roebling Park. Directions: From U.S. 1 South exit onto S. Broad St./Rte 206. Turn right onto Sewell Ave. after church with steeple and green dome. Continue to end of Sewell and turn left onto dirt road. Drive down hill to parking lot. Contact Harold Rapp (above) for more information, or visit <http://www.marsh-friends.org/>.

Nov 9: We will visit Vietnam this evening as Central Jersey Group Outings Chair Ken Mayberg shares a slide presentation of this past summer's trip. Vietnam has recently opened its doors wholeheartedly to western travelers. We'll see pictures of colorful mountain hill tribes, river life on the Mekong Delta, cone hatted women working in rice paddies, and monuments from the days of emperors. Ken has bicycled and hiked extensively around the world, and his talent as a photographer rivals that of any professional. You don't want to miss this!

Dec 14: Please join us for our annual Holiday Party at the library. Bring your favorite holiday treat to share as we celebrate our 2005 successes and wash down our disappointments together! Are 2006 Sierra Club calendars on your shopping list? Buy them from our Group at the party and provide direct support to our local work! Enjoy a Happy and Safe Holiday Season. See you next year!

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

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:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Political Chair:	Randy Gill	732-525-2612	ragill@optonline.net
Programs & Publicity:	Sandi Lowich		abstract46@aol.com
Secretary:	<i>Open position!</i>		
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:

Oct 19: Delaware and Raritan Canal: Back by popular demand, Linda Barth has a new slide program based on her latest book "The Delaware and Raritan Canal at Work." See rarely-seen historic photographs of the canal, the mills, distilleries, quarries and businesses along the canal, and the vessels that plied the waterway.

Nov 16: Endangered Species: Julia Huff of the Environmental Law Clinic of Rutgers University presents a slide program about endangered species such as wolves, the big predators, and the changing aspects of the Endangered Species Act. The clinic is a vital partner of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Dec 21: Alaska Wilderness: We will explore the challenges facing Alaska and its magnificent wilderness with Julia Millan Shaw of the Alaska Wilderness League, an advocacy organization working to protect the natural lands and waters of Alaska, particularly the Tongass National Forest and the Arctic Refuge. After the breathtaking slide program, find out what you can do to help.

Executive Committee Meetings: Held at 7pm on the FIRST THURSDAY of every other month beginning with September except for July and August at officer's homes. All Sierra Club members are invited to attend. Please contact the group chair for location.

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.

Oct 24: "The End of Suburbia": Subtitled, "Oil Depletion and the Collapse of The American Dream", this film "explores the American Way of Life and its prospects as the planet approaches a critical era, as global demand for fossil fuels begins to outstrip supply." Learn what you can do NOW to help avert the collapse of our current way of life.

Nov 28: Green Night: Here is your chance to do something positive for the environment. We present current environmental issues — you write letters to elected officials and others. We supply the pens, paper, and stamps!

Dec 4 (Sunday): Holiday Party: No meeting this month, but join us for a party to toast the holiday season. The fun starts at 3pm, at the home of a group member. For more information and directions, please visit the Group website in the Fall.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

We need volunteers to replace two of our Committee Chairs, both of whom are "retiring" from their current positions at the end of 2005. Anyone willing to serve as Conservation Chair, please contact Steve Knowlton or Dennis Anderson. If you wish to serve as Program Chair, please contact Regina Knowlton or Dennis Anderson. Or if you and a friend would like to split the duties of either of these positions, give us a call. This is a great way to become more active and to learn more about your local environment.

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.

New Ocean County Group

Now being formed

OFFICERS: (All currently in acting capacity):

Chair:	Greg Auriemma	732-451-9220	hesiod1@aol.com
Vice-Chair, Prog, Outings:	DawnMarie Johns	732-644-634	dawnmarie_johns@hotmail.com
Conservation Chair:	Margrit Meissner-Jackson	609-296-4367	sylviaJ1910@aol.com
Secretary:	Corinne Washik	732-616-2446	corinne.washik@gdc4s.com
Treasurer:	Richard Washik	732-616-2775	richard.m.washik@us.army.mil
Publicity:	Howard Schwartz	609-242-9304	hschwartz@comcast.net
Fund-Raising (pro tem):	Joyce Isaza	732-920-9270	JoyMisa@aol.com
Delegates to Chapter ExCom:	Michelle Dillon and Carolyn Sarles	732-341-7699	dillon.richard@att.net
		732-929-0871	careohlin@aol.com

Membership

Chair: *Open position!*

Political

Chair: *Open position!*

ACTIVITIES: The Group is just starting up, but plans to work on a number of local open space, sprawl, and air and water issues, together with a comprehensive political program. Volunteers now needed for Ocean County membership outreach, tabling at local events, fund-raising and a computer-based voter education program.

****OPENINGS**** The Group has openings for Membership Chair (providing new members with information about the Club, our Chapter and our Group), and Political Chair (being involved in the Club's political elections program). For those interested in helping on these or other issues, please contact Greg at 732-451-9220, or hesiod1@aol.com.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Please contact Greg at 732-451-9220, or hesiod1@aol.com for the location and day of the week, which may vary.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held monthly at 7pm on the FORTH MONDAY of the month at the Dover Community Room, Dover Township Municipal Building, 33 Washington Street, Toms River. For directions, please call Greg: 732-451-9220 or Howard: 609-242-9304. A Holiday Party is planned in lieu of a General Meeting in December.

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	rctiffany@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.

(continued on page 10)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

Oct 11: A speaker from PSE&G will describe their Resource Recovery Center.

Nov 8: The "Turtle Lady", Cindy Pierson, will present the research and rehab efforts underway to save the snapping turtles of Pompeston Creek.

Dec 13: Year-end Wrap-up and Holiday Party. Bring your favorite holiday treat to share as we review our successes for the past year and plan for the challenges that we will face in 2006 as we work to save the planet.

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:	<i>Open position!</i>		
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.

Great news: On July 29, Julie Akers, our Group Secretary and Treasurer, received the NJ Governor's Award for Volunteerism — for her many environmental accomplishments as a volunteer.

Beyond service to the Sierra Club, Julie's activities have included:

- Organizing Atlantic County Friends of the Park, which promotes the County Park System,
- Chairing the Buena Vista Township (BVT) Environmental Commission, and resisting the siting of a landfill,
- Spearheading the 20-year effort to achieve federal Wild & Scenic Status for the Great Egg Harbor River,
- Organizing the Watershed Association for the River,
- Leading an effort to provide environmental education in local schools,
- Serving in the DEP's Wildlife Conservation Corps, monitoring locations of endangered frog species,
- Serving on the Atlantic County Parks and Environment Advisory Commission,
- Managing BVT's Clean Communities Program, which cleans roadsides and reports illegal dumpers.

Relevant Meetings:

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!). Clay Sutton, ornithologist, will report on bird sightings on the River in 2005. For more information or to confirm, call Fred Akers, 856-697-6114. Warren Fox Nature Center.

Oct 19: (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).

Nov 9: (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 Julie Akers, 856-697-6114

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

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: abc77@msn.com (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.sierraclub.org/archives/nj-singles-news.html> (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.

Oct 10: Movie or speaker to be decided. Please join our listserv or call our phone line to find out more details as the date nears.

Nov 14: One of our most popular speakers, Ken Mayberg, will be sharing slides of Vietnam. This country, still emerging from years of war and economic challenges, possesses rare beauty. See traditional tribes wearing colorful costumes, women working the rice paddies, the river-based lifestyle of the Mekong Delta, and monuments to past empires. Get ready to see a side of Vietnam you've never seen before.

Dec 12: Ultra-fabulous holiday party! Join listserv for 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.

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.

Oct 6, Thursday, 9pm — "Young Sierrans" Bar & Music Night. For environmentally-minded singles 20-39 years of age. We are forming a new sub-group within the Sierra Club Singles Section for the 20s and 30s age group. Houlihans Restaurant, 1288 US Rte 22, Bridgewater. Gather with the Young Sierrans at the bar for some nice conversation, cocktails, and friendly atmosphere. At 10pm a guest DJ will rock and roll the night away with 80s music. RSVPs recommended by 10/5 to MistyAngel2003@yahoo.com or call 973-364-7573 push option # 1.

Oct 15, Saturday, 6-9pm — "Young Sierrans" Exotic Dinner & Belly Dancing. Marakesh Restaurant, 321 Rte 46 East, Parsippany, NJ. For singles 20 to 39. Approximate Cost: \$36 for members, \$39 for non-members. Price is subject to change; please contact event coordinator close to the time of event for exact pricing. Price includes a 6-course Moroccan dinner, appetizers, dessert, tax, tips, along with exotic belly dancing show of both men and women in traditional garb. The restaurant limits us to 20 seats; only RSVP if you are serious about coming. RSVPs required by 10/14 to MistyAngel2003@yahoo.com or call 973-364-7573 push option # 1. This event is not recommended for vegetarians.

Nov 9, Wednesday, 5-7pm: Happy Hour with Optional Dinner Afterwards. Mortons Steakhouse at the Shops of Riverside, One Riverside Square, Hackensack. Singles Mortini Nights. Enjoy a select offering of \$4 martinis and complimentary filet mignon sandwiches during this midweek Happy Hour. For those who would like to get to know others better over an optional steak dinner you may head into the dining room afterwards. Our group has reserved space in the bar area limited to 40 people; RSVPs required by 11/1 to MistyAngel2003@yahoo.com or call 973-364-7573 push option # 8.

