Choosing Green Electricity in New Jersey

From Sunil Somalwar and Lee Snyder

T he Sierra Club does not have an official vendor preference in the Clean Power Choice program in New Jersey, but we strongly encourage Club members (and consumers) to sign up for one of the choices based on what they can afford and which energy mix appeals to them. In some factors you may want to consider.

**Green Mountain** is the least expensive option at a price of $0.05 per kwh cost and provides an equal mixture of wind and small hydro.

**Community Energy,** at an extra 1.3c/kwh, is about 45% more expensive than Green Mountain but includes 3% local solar electricity, a rather small number.

**Jersey Whirlpool Planet,** at an extra 1.2c per kwh, has an equal mixture of wind, landfill methane and small hydro. The landfill component is significant because, left unburned, methane is a far more powerful global warming pollutant than CO2, and recovering escaping methane that authorizes the use of dedicated tax revenues for the purpose of retrofitting diesel-powered school buses, transit vehicles and other public vehicles. This measure, when fully implemented, will reduce harmful emissions from diesel-powered vehicles by as much as 90 percent.

**Jersey Atlantic Wind,** at an extra 2.3c/kwh, is the most expensive of the choices, but half of its mix is from locally generated wind-power, the other 50% from small hydroy.

Consumers can obtain further information by visiting www.newjerseypower.com, which has worked with Dennis Schvejda and PSEG and JCP&L in northern and central New Jersey to make it possible for customers to participate in the Clean Power Choice Program at this time. However, both Community Energy and Jersey Atlantic Wind, LLC say that they plan to accept Atlantic City Electric and Rockland Electric customers beginning in April 2008. ✓

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Volunteer Job Opportunities

As a "grass-roots" organization, much of the Sierra Club's campaigning is carried out by member-volunteers. We'll train you — and reimburse some of your expenses! Your time commitment will be tailored to your needs. Finding out more about our volunteer openings is as easy as picking up the telephone and calling our Group Effective Chair, Richard Isaac at 973-716-0297, or emailing him at risaacx@aol.com.

**State Level Opportunities**

Environmental Advocates — Work pro bono with the Chapter Litigation Chair and Litigation Committee on specific case; reports directly to the Chapter Chair.

Inner City Outings Volunteers — Assist this local outreach program provide wilderness adventure outings and environmental education to inner city youth; generally day trips on weekends. Free training provided.

**Volunteer Coordinator** — for this newsletter.

**Local Opportunities**

Central Jersey Group (Mercer County, parts of Somerset & Middlesex)

- Vice Chair, Membership Chair
- Program Chair, Political Chair

North Jersey Group (Passaic & most of Bergen Counties)

- Programs Coordinator
- Fundraising Coordinator, Hike and Outing Leaders, Sierra Student Coalition Liaison

Atlantic Group (Sussex, Warren & Hunterdon Counties)

- Secretary, Publicity, Outings
- Membership Chair

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Population Issues at the Sierra Summit

By Bonnie Tillery, our Population Issues Coordinator

It was indeed inspiring and heartening to join with over 5,000 other like-minded participants at the Sierra Summit in San Francisco this past September.

At the Summit there were two sessions dealing with population issues. The first was moderated by Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope who, in his younger years, was a Peace Corps volunteer handing out condoms in India. In commenting about how to get our message across, he noted that we need to be sure our target audience understands what we are saying. (This is good advice for any issue.)

He talked about riding his bicycle through the countryside of India and meeting an old man who wanted to know what he was doing. Pope explained that he was helping with family planning. The old man replied that he understood “family,” but what did this “planning” mean?

A panel speaker from the Population Reference Bureau noted that our population growth has created a world with no buffers. He talked about how family planning mapping led to mangrove reforestation in the Philippines. When a man became amorous and said to his wife, “Honey, tonight’s the night,” she could respond, “No, dear, think of the mangroves.”

The Guttmacher Institute panel noted that 48% of U.S. pregnancies are unintended. Thirty-four million women are in need of family planning, through Title X, yet funding has decreased 38% since 1980. Access to emergency contraception has increased over the need for abortion; yet, 30% of women are unaware of emergency contraception. Other countries are more supportive and give a clearer message about family planning than does our government.

There is a disconnect between what people want and what is provided. Women are their children to receive comprehensive sexual education, yet we have lost between one-third and one-half of our schools to abstinence only education. With comprehensive sexual education, young people delay their first sexual encounter, are more likely to use contraceptives, and their total number of partners over their lifetime is reduced. The Governor of Maine recently refused to take government money for abstinence only education. Before becoming Governor, he was a U.S. Senator. One of his constituents, a young single mother trying to work her way through college, came to meet with him. She told him about the abstinence only education she received in high school, which is when she became pregnant. To find out more, go to www.npwmoney.org.

A representative from SIECUS (Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S., see www.siecus.org) talked about people’s perceptions of family planning. Perhaps we should say more because many feel that all religions do not support family planning, that reproductive health is all about abortion, that population issues are anti-family, and that emergency contraception is abortion — all false. He noted that when it comes to reproductive health education, we are performing like Bulgaria. At least with developing nations, there is the opportunity to move forward, but our government is moving backward.

Empowering women was the theme of the second population session. As moderator Annette Souder, the Sierra Club’s Senior Washington Representative for Global Population and the Environment, so eloquently stated when you look at all of the issues we work on from global warming to saving a neighborhood park, everything is linked and has its roots in population growth. The number one indicator to slowed fertility is women’s education/literacy.

Representatives from the International Women’s Health Coalition and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) spoke. One-half of the world’s population is under the age of 30 and in or about to enter their reproductive years. Two billion people need comprehensive reproductive health and quality education. We are the only country in the world to stop funding UNFPA for political reasons. The top donors are the Netherlands, Japan and the United Kingdom. UNFPA works in 170 countries. Twenty-five percent of the children in sub-Saharan Africa won’t live to age 5. Twenty-five million people need contraceptive mental degradation. Twenty percent of the world’s highest incomes consume 85% of the world’s resources, 20% of the poorest countries consume 1.3%.

Women are educated, want fewer children. This slowed population growth reduces poverty and helps families achieve economic progress. This also puts fewer demands on the environment and leads to a healthier planet.

If you would like to learn more or become involved, please contact Bonnie Tillery, Population Issues Coordinator at 609/256-4398 or bliney@verizon.net.

We supported a municipal ordinance in Easton, N.J., that would amend the zoning ordinance to allow the expansion (in a Resource Conservation District, protecting wetlands) and the headwaters of streams. (Sept)

We advocated a possible lawsuit to oppose the South Park development in Old Bridge (Middlesex County). (Oct)

We voiced opposition to the Winky Acres development in Clinton Township, Mercer County. (Oct)

We urged consideration of the Waywayanda Highlands (Passaic and Sussex Counties) as an Ecosystem Protection Area under a proposed federal bill, HR 3701, the Endangered Species Protection Act. (Nov)

We supported an amendment to the town’s zoning ordinance in Keyport, Monmouth County, that would allow the building of a reproductive health services clinic in the commercial district. (Oct)

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

Resolutions adopted by the Chapter’s Executive Committee, Sept-Nov 2005:

By Laura Lynch, Chair Central Jersey Group

How To Testify At A Public Hearing, Even If You Have Nothing To Say — In 10 Easy Steps

By Laura Lynch, Chair Central Jersey Group

1. Go to a Planning Board, Township Council, or Environmental Impact Statement public hearing. Bring a pad of paper and a pen.
2. Listen to the presentations. Look at the slide shows. Listen to the public comments. Write down anything you disagree with, and why. One is enough; more is even better. Advanced move: Get mad, but control your rage.
3. Sign up to speak or raise your hand. Get called on.
4. Don’t worry about sounding like an idiot. Half of these facts and figures can be overwhelming. But the solution is simple and proven: educate women and provide reproductive health services. Women who are educated want fewer children. This slowed population growth reduces poverty and helps families achieve economic progress. This also puts fewer demands on the environment and leads to a healthier planet.
5. If you would like to learn more or become involved, please contact Bonnie Tillery, Population Issues Coordinator at 609/256-4398 or bliney@verizon.net.

Confronting the Car Culture

from Sunil Somalwar

Rutgers University has launched Zipcar service on campus. Zipcars can be rented online or over the phone for eight dollars an hour including gas, insurance, mileage, reserved parking and XM Satellite Radio.

For more information call 1-866-ZIP-CAR, or visit: www.zipcar.com/rutgers.

Tools like this could be crucial to reducing auto dependence.

YOU HAVE MORE TO GIVE THAN YOU KNOW

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.

Find out what applications are pending before your community’s Planning Board. Then see above!
Is there an environmental issue that we’re MISSING? If so, please call or write to Club officers.

Striking The Right Balance
by Ken Johanson, Chapter Chair
(KJohan@comcast.net)

These days we hear so much about striking the right balance - striking the right balance between national security and personal liberties, or striking the right balance between growth and environmental protection. The neocons love this phrase, because it allows them to trash both the Constitution and the environment, without being held accountable on either account. The so-called liberal media buys into the scam. The editorial page of The New York Times recently intoned that we need to strike the right balance between national security and personal liberties and then went on to bemoan the fact that people are being held indefinitely without being charged, that detainees are denied access to legal counsel and that some detainees are subject to mistreatment and torture. Hello? Am I missing something here? I thought we went through this exercise 225 years ago. The result was the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The right balance has already been struck.

On the environmental front the editorial page of the Star-Ledger asserts that we need to strike the right balance between growth and environmental protection. The phrase has a nice ring to it, but what exactly does it mean? Balance suggests compromise. Each side sits down and hammers out a solution that neither side is entirely happy with but that both sides can accept. The process works well in many contexts, but it does not work well in the environmental arena. One side, the growth advocates, seek to develop as much property as they can. There is no limit. The other side, the natural environment, is finite. Once it’s gone, it’s gone. So every time we sit down at the table we lose. We keep compromising and the pie that we are dividing becomes smaller and smaller. Eventually there will be nothing left to divide.

It wasn’t that long ago that we were thinking in terms of sustainability, the notion that no development should be approved if it will prevent future generations from enjoying the natural wonders that we are able to enjoy today. That term has now been replaced with the term “smart growth.” Most environmental groups have bought into the change in nomenclature, but I’m not sure that this is a good thing. Smart growth, by its terms, assumes that growth is beneficial. Growth is beneficial if it takes place in established urban areas (assuming that contaminated sites are properly remediated - something that is not happening now - and that limited open space is preserved), but growth is not beneficial if the end result is the loss of natural areas that we should be passing on to our children and grandchildren. The term “smart growth” plays into the hands of the neocons. We need to get back to thinking in terms of sustainability.

The natural environment is under unprecedented attack. The pie is getting smaller and smaller. The time for “striking the right balance” is long since over. We need to stand up for the planet and for all of us who call it our home. Perhaps the Sierra Club slogan sums it up best: For Our Families, For Our Future.

Chair’s Message

HOW NOT TO FEEL GUILTY FOR DRIVING A GAS-GUZZLER
(A five-step explanation by and for the conscience-free)

1. Europeans drive fuel-efficient cars running on gasoline and diesel.
2. Europe has excess gasoline.
3. They ship it to the USA, keeping gasoline prices low.
4. We drive gas-guzzlers because we can.
5. Therefore, it’s Europe’s fault that we use more fossil fuels than any other nation and are responsible for 25% of the world’s global warming pollutants!

(Credit: The Wall Street Journal, 28 October 2002)
INTERNAL

Electoral Analysis

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

In most election years and in most of New Jersey’s Legislative Districts there are few surprises. The Districts are “rigged,” in the re-directing exercise that has been our national census to be either strongly Republican or strongly Democratic, so that incumbents can achieve re-election, and so that elections can be won inexpensively. In column 1 of the table below, the six “competitive” districts are given an asterisk: 1, 7, 12, 134 and 36. They include the mere four districts that currently have “mixed” (R/D) delegations to the State House in Trenton.

The asterisks in column 2 of the table indicate districts that include small portions of an adjacent county or counties.) "Mixed" (R/D) Districts comes back to life after the monster comes back to life after being vanquished, the developers are being told to stop, and from the averaging.) Many factors produce shifts in vote totals. External factors include the Bush Administration. A few districts have reversed shifts, notably in Hudson County: perhaps related to the later than expected Hispanic registration there, which is grateful to President Bush for his persecution of Fidel Castro’s regime in Cuba.

Those districts with shifts highly divergent from 4.5 percent points deserve individual explanations. The most extraordinary shifts occurred in Districts 1 and 2, where the Democrats vastly outperformed the Republicans, and there were “unusual” Democratic candidates. In District 1, where incumbent Albano caught public attention as the father of a boy killed by a drunk driver, who contested the matter in Trenton. In District 2, endorsed Democrat Jim Whelan was elected. Those 575 acres – located virtually in the center of the state park.

The company presented a map of this proposal to the New Jersey Board of Tunxdro, NYC, which is responsible for evaluating the proposal and the managers of the park. This proposal for building a center of the state park. The company presented a map of this proposal to the New Jersey Board of Tunxdro, NYC, which is responsible for evaluating the proposal and the managers of the park. This proposal for building a center of the state park. The company presented a map of this proposal to the New Jersey Board of Tunxdro, NYC, which is responsible for evaluating the proposal and the managers of the park. This proposal for building a center of the state park.
How Big Box Stores like Wal-Mart Affect the Environment and Communities

From the Sierra Club’s web site

“Big Box” stores like Wal-Mart threaten our landscape, our communities and the environment by building on the footprint of natural areas in the State of New Jersey, it is imperative to establish and preserve core bear habitat and mitigate damage, both intra- and interstate. Focusing on only our recent increases in the black bear population is shortsighted. Future viability of the black bear population requires identification and prescription of key areas of prime habitat that are currently or will be protected from future development.

The authors of the 2003 black bear management plan could not agree on the carrying capacity of New Jersey’s black bear population. The Sierra Club argued that until the population size is known, and until all methods of bear management and public education have been tried, a hunt would not be permissible. Yet, this year’s plan does not even attempt to estimate the black bear population size. Instead, the Wal-Mart, Game, and Wildlife plans to issue ten thousand permits to hunt one thousand bears. This is twice as many as the State attempted to kill in 2003, yet the number of bears in New Jersey is still unknown.

The Sierra Club, New Jersey’s black bear management program. Bears are polluting the environment by living on black coupling with the abundant black bear. The Sierra Club has devoted substantial time, energy, and resources to understanding and promoting best management practices for New Jersey’s black bear population.

On the one hand, the State is attempting to manage these bears to keep the population size from growing, while on the other hand, the State is attempting to manage the bears by hunting them. The hunt will take place in the middle of the bear hunting season, thus destroying the habitat for bears while they are breeding. The hunt will take place in the interior and surrounding areas that are home to black bears.

To eliminate the edge-dwelling nuisance bears, the plan calls for “Bear-Free Zones.” The bear-Free Zones would be designated as areas where bears would not be allowed to enter the designated zones. This is in an effort to reduce the number of bears in the state and make it easier to enforce the bear-Free Zones. A bear can be killed on-site, any time of day, by any person with a permit. To note that the “Bear-Free Zones” align almost exactly with the Fast-Track development areas. This will ensure development and black bear elimination.

Once the plan is in effect, the Department of Fish, Game, and Wildlife plans to issue ten thousand permits to hunt one thousand bears. This is twice as many as the State attempted to kill in 2003, yet the number of bears in New Jersey is still unknown. The 2005 black bear management plan calls for $1.3 million to be spent on the black bear program.

The Sierra Club has devoted substantial time, energy, and resources to understanding and promoting best management practices for New Jersey’s black bear population. Bears are polluting the environment by living on black coupling with the abundant black bear. The Sierra Club has devoted substantial time, energy, and resources to understanding and promoting best management practices for New Jersey’s black bear population.
Renewable Energy

The time has come for America to replace its aging, inefficient energy supply system with better technologies for the new century. Our plan calls for: A roadmap for a new authority, the New Jersey Renewable Energy Authority (NJREA), to develop its own ultra-clean power generation. This Authority would oversee a strongly incentivized, green New Jersey's innovative spirit by encouraging the building of an energy infrastructure that uses wind energy by 2030. Utilizing pension funds, which control billions of dollars, to invest more regularly in renewable technologies. A coalition (Investor Network on Climate Risk) of seven large pension funds in a big player. The states are New York, Vermont, Maine, Maryland and Connecticut. New Jersey should join this coalition and use the money to fund renewables.

BPU to oversee the codification of a new, 2030 Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), the NJ energy efficiency standards.

Maryland and Connecticut. New Jersey funds has become a big player. The Climate Risk of seven large pension

Utilities use 20% renewable energy by 2030.

Building of an energy infrastructure that will

New Jersey Renewable Energy Authority will replace its aging, inefficient energy infrastructure by reducing its demand for electricity and natural gas faster than new plants, transmission lines and pipelines can be built.

The major cost for wind power is the same, preserve the property and protect Sterling Forest once and for all. The State of New York will do this, preserve the property and protect Sterling Forest once and for all.

The Jersey Sierran: January-March 2006

For Big Box Stores

Traffic, Sprawl and Blighted Landscapes

The nieghborhood shopping centers, creating blight and driving down property values.

Solutions

Big Box Retailers should comply with all environmental laws and meet environmental standards. We believe that there are locations in New Jersey, including off the coast and in the higher elevations, where wind power can be used.

Big Box Stores

as its prices, and announced that the company had "systematic, repeated violations across the state."

Traffic, Sprawl and Blighted Landscapes

The major cost for wind power is the same, preserve the property and protect Sterling Forest once and for all. The State of New York will do this, preserve the property and protect Sterling Forest once and for all.

Citi has announced that it will use wind power at five of its locations in New Jersey, including off the coast and in the higher elevations.

Our incoming Chapter Conservation Director, Ed Lloyd, Esq. and proclaimed, "The State of New Jersey is a leader in the fight to prevent the redeveloping of the Xanadu project in the Hackensack Meadowlands. Over the years Ed has been instrumental in the formation of our Hudson-Meadowlands and Ocean County Groups, and our Seniors and Singles Sections. Ed Lloyd has represented the Chapter in a variety of legal actions over the years, including as chair of the Chapter's Legal Clinic. Ed is currently representing the Chapter in a lawsuit against the DEP, Air Quality Division to begin codifying the new century.

Jeff Tittel and Kelly McNicholas. The award was given to the Chapter's Political Director Jeff Tittel. Each made a short statement. Ken also took the opportunity to recognize the contributions of the Chapter's many volunteer activists, as well as the Chapter's two staff members, Jeff Tittel and Kelly McNicholas.

Congressman Frank Pallone also put in an appearance and spoke about the cooperation he has received from other New Jersey Congressman in fighting to prevent oil drilling off the coast of New Jersey and in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge of Alaska.

Special thanks go to Joan and George Denzer for organizing what proved to be a most enjoyable afternoon.
Jeff Tittel, Assemblywoman Greenstein, Meiling Chin

Mayor Scarpetti, Sunil Somawar, Assemblywoman-elect Amy Handlin,
Congressman Frank Pallone, Assemblyman Reed Guscione, Assemblyman
Robert Gordon, Ken Johanson, Jeff Tittel

North Jersey Group
(Passaic & Bergen Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:
Chair: Betsy Kohn 201-461-4534 BetsyKohn@aol.com
Vice Chair: Mike Herson 201-262-9472 mikeherson@hotmail.com
Conservation Chair: Tom Thompson 201-848-1080 etrans743@aol.com

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
Ocean County Group: Ocean
Raritan Valley Group: Somerset & Middlesex
Jersey Shore Group: Monmouth & Ocean
West Jersey Group: Gloucester, Camden & Burlington
South Jersey Group: Cape May, Cumberland & Salem

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
Ocean County Group: Ocean
Raritan Valley Group: Somerset & Middlesex
Jersey Shore Group: Monmouth & Ocean
West Jersey Group: Gloucester, Camden & Burlington
South Jersey Group: Cape May, Cumberland & Salem

Northwest Jersey Group (Sussex, Warren and Hunterdon Counties; note that the former Hunterdon County Group has merged into the Northwest Group)

OFFICERS:
Chair: Dennis Miranda 973-209-1814 dm@earthlink.net
Special Events Chair: Pat Mangino 862-432-7552 pmangino@aol.com
Vice-Chr.: Mike Herson 201-262-9472 mikeherson@hotmail.com
Membership Chair: Susan Rotter 973-347-8849 rotter@msn.com
Secretary: Charles Kopp 973-770-7718 ckkopp@aol.com
Treasurer: Arnold Kudspnick 908-788-5637 arnoldkudspnick@aol.com
Group Delegate to Chapter ExCom: Ruth Prince 908-284-6103 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 Borough, 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 Borough’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 Group members are helping to have over 1,000 people show up in opposition as well. The application was postponed when we raised issues that violated the Borough’s land use ordinances.

The Northwest Group 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.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: While individual actions like letter writing are important, our real strength comes from collective action, joining with others to protect, explore and enjoy our natural resources. We meet every THIRD THURSDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at Buehler Cultural Center, 950 High Mountain Road, North Haledon, NJ. Please contact Mike (see above) to verify the meeting is on. We call for volunteers to help with conservation issues or political endorsements or environmental education. Lead hikes and outings. Become an issues coordinator (e.g., for environmental justice or habitat or oceans or recycling or transportation or another issue of your own choosing). To discuss these and other possibilities, please contact Betsy or Mike (see above).

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

WEBSITE (sign up for email notices of meetings, events, issues): http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/northjersey.asp

ISSUES: Ramapo Highlands: we’re organizing with other groups in NY and NJ in opposition to the planned large-scale housing projects that will add a total of 2,000 units in this watershed (a source of much of North Jersey’s drinking water). Sterling Forest: the effort to keep 107 McMansions out of the State Park has gained the support of Sen. Lautenberg, NY Rep. Hinchey, DEP Commissioner Campbell, and local elected officials including North Haledon Mayor Randy George. Stay tuned — the fight goes on! Hackensack and Ramapo Rivers and watersheds: we’re concerned that the vegetation riparian corridors, so critical for habitat and flood control, remain free of encroachment. Let us know if you want to help or hear of plans to develop. Contact Mike or Tom (see above).

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS! Help with conservation issues or political endorsements or environmental education. Lead hikes and outings. Become an issues coordinator (e.g., for environmental justice or habitat or oceans or recycling or transportation or another issue of your own choosing). To discuss these and other possibilities, please contact Betsy, Mike or Tom (see above).

(Continued on page 8)
Please share this newsletter with a non-member friend, inviting use of the coupon on p. 12.
Raritan Valley Group
(Middlesex and Somerset Counties, approximately)

WEBSITE: www.nj.sierra.org/~njarv/

OFFICERS AND CONTACTS:
Chair: Sandi Lowich 732-247-5760 Abstract46@aol.com
44 Chestnut St., Milltown, NJ 08850-1140

Membership: Sunil Somwara 732-572-7721 vsomwara.wl@sierraclub.org
Conservation Chair: Jane Toussain 908-561-5550 jtouss@aol.com
Offices: Open position!
Political Chair: Randy Gill 732-525-2621 ragil@optonline.net

Programs & Publicity:
Secretary: Sandi Lowich open position! abstract46@aol.com
Treasurer: Webmaster: Don McBride 732-566-0369 dmcbride@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, and work on concerns of concerned citizens regarding development, and monitoring and 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 positions of outings chair and secretary are open. If you are interested in filling an open position, 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, 75 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.

Jersey Shore Group
(Monmouth and Ocean Counties, approximately)

Web Site: http://nj.sierra.org/~njshore/

OFFICERS:
Chair: Dennis Anderson 732-888-3158 dennisasa@aol.com
612 Second St., Union Beach, NJ 07735

Vice-Chair: Open position
Secretary: Joe Deluca 732-389-1835 joe.deluca@aet.net

Conservation Chair: Steve Knothlon 732-747-1011 knothlon.worl.net.att.net
Webmaster: George Newhorne 732-308-1518 newsmell.com@boxcon.com
Treasurer: Judy Maccy 732-458-5874
Political Chair: Dennis Anderson (as above)
Outings Chair: Mike Varage 908-902-0718 mivarage@aol.com
Membership: Alan Rosenow 732-780-1308 arosemoumonmouth.com
Programs Chair: Regina (Maury) Knowlton 732-335-1183 rmaurer@sprintr.net

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held at 7:30 pm on the FOURTH MONDAY of each month - except in July, August and December - at a NEW location: the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House at 1475 West Front Street in Lincroft (please check the congregation's website for directions, at http://www.uuocmc.com/where-are-ee.html). 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.

3 Judge: Sustainable Development: Start off the New Year by learning about community conservation and fair trade projects in Central America that help the local people live sustainably. Our guest speaker, Patrick Hoseas, is Associate Professor of Political Science at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, and the author of the soon-to-be published book, Un可持续.

Feb 27: Responsible Investing: Just what is Socially Responsible Investing (SRI)? How did it begin and how has it evolved? Are there any success stories in SRI? Join us as Scott Bittfield, a financial planner and investment adviser in Red Bank, explains the intricacies of this type of investing.

Mar 27: Beach Replenishment Necessary? We've heard so much recently about replenishing our beaches, especially after hurricanes and winter storms. But is this a good idea? Or are we just throwing our money in the ocean? Come hear Tim Dillingham, Executive Director of the American Littoral Society, talk about beach replenishment and the controversy surrounding it.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: We need volunteers to replace two of our Committee Chairs, both of whom are of retirement from their current positions at the end of 2005. Anyone willing to serve as Conservation Chair should contact Bruce Knothlon or Dennis Anderson. If you wish to serve as Program Chair, please contact Regina Knowlton or Dennis Anderson. If you or a friend would like to split the duties of either of these positions, give us a call! This is a great way to be 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.

Ocean County Group

OFFICERS: (All currently in acting capacity)
Chair: Greg Auricema 732-451-9220 hesio1@aol.com
Vice Chair: Outings: DeeMarie Johns 732-644-6434 dawmarrine.johns@hotmail.com
Conveyance Chair: Margot Miersizner Jackson 609-496-3207 jtnsou@aol.com
Secretary: Corinne Washak 732-616-2775 richard.washak@us.army.mil
Treasurer: Howard Schwartz 609-242-9304 hrschwarz@comcast.net
FunRaising (flour): Joyce Isaac 732-920-9270 joyMisa@aol.com
Delegates to Chapter
President: Michelle Dillon 732-341-7699 dillon.richt@att.net
and Carolyn Sarles 732-929-0871 careohlin@aol.com

ISSUES: The Group is just starting up, but has already gotten to work on a number of local open space, sprawl, and water quality issues along with national issues such as preventing drilling in the ALASKA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Volunteers are needed for Ocean County membership outreach, tracking at local events, fund-raising and a computer-based voter education program for the 2006 elections.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held bi-monthly at 7:30 pm on the FOURTH MONDAY at the Dover Twp Municipal Bldg, 33 Washington St, Toms River. For additional information or directions, please contact Greg or Howard (see above). We have some exciting programs coming up:

Jan 23: Willie de Camp, Jr, President of Save Barnegat Bay (and a Sierra Club member) will explain how environmentalists in Ocean County recently won one of their most important victories. He will also discuss present challenges to Barnegat Bay and suggest ways that Club members can help protect this precious jewel.

Feb 25: Join us for a Saturday morning hike in "Double Trouble" park. This beautiful park is a striking in winter as in the warmer months. To sign up or for more information contact Dawn (see above).

Mar 27: Learn how to be a more effective advocate for the environment. Common Cause will be presenting a Power Civics Seminar on how environmentalists can be most effective, particularly at the local level. Don't miss this!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Generally held monthly on the SECOND MONDAY. Locations may vary. Contact Greg (see above) for details.

ATTENTION ALL SINGLE SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH JERSEY: Hey, why should single Sierra Club members up north have all the fun? Our OCEAN COUNTY GROUP is trying to gauge interest in single-oriented social and outdoor activities for single members and their single friends in the central and southern part of our state. All Sierra Club members in Central and South Jersey are invited to contact Dawn or Carolyn (see above) for more information.

West Jersey Group
(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

Web site: users.snip.net/~gineace/home.htm

OFFICERS:
Chair: Gina Carola 856-848-8381 gineace@sierra.net
Vice Chair: Wayne Zanni 856-728-4507 wzanni@earthlink.net
Secretary: Becky Payn 856-485-5100 beckpy@sierra.net
Treasurer: Trish Clement 856-788-5659 patr132@comcast.net
Publicity Chair: Bud Kalos 856-428-8071 budkalos@earthlink.net
Political Chair: Wayne Zanni 856-728-4507 wzanni@earthlink.net
President: Pie Snyder 856-475-7519 pieodyssey@hotmail.com
Membership Chair: Mike Brown 856-547-9221
Fees Tiffany 856-829-6405 r-ciffanny@comcast.net
Fundraising Chair: Brian Bockoff 609-937-5022 bbockoff@comcast.net
Program Chair: open position
Outings Chair: open position
Inner City Outings: Need volunteers! Call Mike at 856-547-9221

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 Rtes. 38 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.

Jan 10: Bill Freund will present "Mesa Verde: How our native ancestors took advantage of the sun and how we lost our connections with natural cycles."

Feb 14: Author Barbara Solen-Stull will talk about her new book "Ghost Towns and Other Quirky Places in the New Jersey Pine Barrens". Books will be available for purchase for $20 and Barbara will sign them for you.

Mar 14: Julia Millan Shaw of the Alaska Wilderness League will speak about efforts to protect the Artic from oil drilling.

South Jersey Group
(Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:
Chair: Tom Boghosian 609-296-4367 tjboghosian@comcast.net
Vice Chair: Open position
Secretary: Julie Akers 856-697-3479 akers@pge naweb.com

Web site: www.users.nsnip.net/~ginace/home.htm

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

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.

Possibly Relevant Meetings:

Jan 24 (Tues): 7pm: Opportunity to catch up on conservation planning for the Great Egg Harbor and Scenic River, at a public (members-only) session of the Watershed Association (an organization that once got its start as our Group Executive Committee). Clay Sutton, ornithologist, will report on the 2nd Raptor and Waterfowl inventory on the tidal river in 2005. For more information, contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. Warren Fox Nature Center, Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor (milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50).

Feb 4 (Sat): 7pm: Cumberland County’s Winter Eagle Festival, co-sponsored by Citizens United. View raptors and enjoy lectures, food and exhibits in Mauricetown.

Mar 8 (Wed): 6:30pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries. Meeting place: Millville Public Library, 120 Buck Street. Cumberland County development issues are usually discussed, including updates on the Holly Farm, the Airport Race Track, ETC. Call Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.


Seniors Section

(A new chapter-wide special interest section offering hikes/cleanup, 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 (nccarringer@yahoo.com) or Richard Isaac (risaaxc@aol.com).

Singles Section

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

Please join us! The NJ Singles Section was specifically created to offer a variety of single-oriented activities to NJ Sierra Club members and those who would like to know more about us. We are a not 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 us a try!

Phone announcements (973) 364-7573
Press 1 for: Final Friday Film Fest (last Friday of each month)
Press 2 for: Ron Pale’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-a-Movie or Volleyball

The BEST way to be notified of upcoming events is to join our listserv by visiting http://lists.nj.sierraclub.org/archives/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
Outings Chairs: Joyce Haddad
Dave Ogens
Conservation Chair: Mary Walsh
Treasurer: Joyce White
Webpage designer: Tom Miller
Social Chair: Adriana Allegri
Programs: Diana Eichholz
Publicity: Lynn Forrest
Membership: Walter Goldenbaum

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 the hike of the month. MONDAY of each month starting at 7pm with optional pizza, at the Chatham Library (214 Main St). Guest speakers at each meeting at 7:30 pm. $5 donation at door and RSVP (required for pizza only) to joycewhite@atinezero.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.

We are collecting used laser/inkjet cartridges and used cell phones at our meetings for recycling. If you have any from work or home to get rid of, please bring them! Sierra Club gets a donation for each one.

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

Central Jersey: Ken Mayberg
E-mail: kmayberg@sierraclub.org

Exxon County: David Ogens 973-220-7107 (h)
29 Haddell Street, Caldwell, NJ 07003
Hudson-Meadowlands: Robert K. Langer
Jersey Shore: Mike Verange 804-732-8164 (h)
2497 W. Front St, Lincroft, NJ 07738
poe4529@aol.com
kjmayberg@aol.com

January 9 - Jeff Van Pet, horticulture specialist & head director of Colonial Parks Rose Garden, the largest Rose Garden in NJ will present a slideshow on roses and Colonial Park, which should bring a breath of Spring into the cold winter weather.

February 13 - Video/Slide presentation of the raw beauty of Alaska, the last wildlife frontier of the United States, by Richard Stone.

March 13 - Joy Booth will give us his colorful slide presentation of Costa Rica and its natural wildlife and habitats.

Directions to the Chatham Library: From I-287 take Rt 24 East to Exit 8 (Summit Ave). Turn left at the top of the ramp and then left again so you go back onto Rt 24 headed West. Take exit 7A for Chatham and bear right onto Rt 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 Rt 24 West. Take exit 7A for Chatham and follow above directions. For further details, call the library at 973-635-0603.

ExCom MEETINGS take place once a month at various locations. All welcome. Contact your 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 kjhaddad@uno.com or 973-364-7573 option 4.

Friday HAPPY HOURS for Singles in their 30’s & 40’s. Please check website at www.Singles.NJ/Sierra.org for exact schedule of dates as well as putting yourself on the listserv.

For YOUNG SIERRANS in their 20’s once a month meet and greet with an ECO (Environmental Concerns Overview) chat group. Times and places will be posted on website or call 973-364-7573 push option # 1 or contact MistyAngel2003@yahoo.com.

Note: After some of the Happy Hours there will be a brief ECO meeting – (Environmental Concerns Overview) informing people of recent developments in our struggle for a better environment. Please remember to RSVP for all events so that you may be informed of the exact date or of any last minute changes.

We are also seeking Young Sierran volunteers - either someone in their 20s to lead other environmentally-mind ed 20-somethings, or someone in their 30s to run events for both 20 and 30 year-olds. If you are able to help please contact us.

HIKES:

Please see the Outings section of this newsletter for our hikes. Many of Paul Serdiuk’s South Jersey hikes/events are also oriented toward singles.

Sierra Student Coalition

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

Website: www.ssc.org/nj

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

Inner City Outings Section

(another chapter-wide special interest activity)

OFFICERS:

Chair: Ann Denny (South Jersey): Joy Booth 856-486-1574 jbooboo@hotmail.com
and Jennifer Grenier 856-582-5512 jennig1@yahoo.com
and Maxine Vogt 857-799-0156 MVogt12@uno.com

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

New Jersey is currently served by two ICO groups, one in the northern-central region and one in the southern region/Camden area. If you would like to experience the rewards of introducing NJ inner city youth to the wonders of nature, your involvement is encouraged and we would be happy to contact you at the above email addresses. To learn more visit our webpage at http://www.sierraclub.org/cgi/newjersey/, or send an email to annedjyak@verizon.net.

Are you receiving our Action Alerts? Go to http://newjersey.sierraclub.org
Outing Leaders: Please send April-June 2006 outings to your Group Outing Coordinator before 3/5 if you are interested in leading an outing or would like to hire a leader. If you are interested in any of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it for the period you wish to conduct an outing. For procedures, please send using our supervisors' up-to-date copies to the Chapter Office as soon as possible after each outing.

Note: Potluck leaders should send trip descriptions to the Group Outing Coordinators instead of directly to the Chapter Outing Coordinator. This is particularly important for trips that do not include meals.

Group Outing Coordinators: Please submit your April-June 2006 outings by 5/4. May-June outings are open to Club members, guests and anyone interested in outings. Unless otherwise specified, the events are free and open to the public. All outings are sponsored by Sierra Club. This is a new policy.

If you have any allergies, please remember to bring your medication, routes to be followed, and special precautions to be taken. The user and skill of each outing should be available to each, so at each visit both the leader and the user. We ask you to register at least one week before the date of the outing, you may assume that it will take place, unless the schedule indicates otherwise.

Sierra Club outings are arranged by volunteer leaders who are in charge of the trip and responsible for the safety of all participants. This means that they determine qualifications to participation, appropriate equipment, and specific personal preparation to be taken. Please arrive adequately prepared and equipped if you are entering the area. Sierra Club leaders may ask you to bring your way of the trip, such as a headlamp, extra clothing, rain gear, and emergency equipment should be carried in a daypack and easily accessible, even easy hikes, sturdy over-the-shoe boots or shoes should be worn. For most trips, you are expected to have your own equipment. In some cases, it may be rented from non-commercial supplies-check the outing leaders, the trip is the leader, if weather is questionable on the day of the outing, you may assume that it will take place, unless the schedule indicates otherwise.

The experience required is, of course, dependent on the difficulty of the trail. For weekend outings or river tours, if you have a question about the experience required, it is not necessary to contact the leader. On potluck trips. Do not call to join a trip after the postdate.

If a trip is sold out, leaders may accept a waiting list. Waiting list members will be contacted at the time of the trip. Sierra Club members will be given preference.

If you have any questions about the experience required of our part of the route, but water safety does impose special precautions on the wilderness. The user and skill of each outing should be available to each, so at each visit both the leader and the user. We ask you to register at least one week before the date of the outing, you may assume that it will take place, unless the schedule indicates otherwise.

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OUTINGS (Continued from page 11)

Mar 19 (Sun): Four Birds Trail in the Farby Highlands: 9:30 am. This is a loop hike of about 6.7 miles. We’ll hike a section of this trail at Hilly Mills, then back on the Four Birds Trail to Timberline Brook. Check your compass, bring water, walk sticks, (Shawangunk BOC staff is preferred, Bring Lynch and a small snack, sun screen etc.) 10 miles. Notes: 5.25 miles is a moderate hike, but the more experienced individuals hike the whole trail (Hillmen), Left at light. Or 180 East to exit 37. Right at light. Drive on Green Pond Road for about 15 minutes. Turn left onto Pine Road. Follow this road for 1.5 miles (paved road turn into dirt road). Boyscout camp is on your right, parking lot is on your left. Please register for this hike with Lesia at 628-218-0569.

Mar 25 (Sat): Hook Mountain (NY) Hike: 10:30 am, 5 miles. Excellent views of the Hudson River and Croton Point. Meet in the Rockland Lake South Parking lot off of Rte 99. Leader: John P. Jurasek 845-835-9528 (call after 10am) or juraszek@optonline.net (JS).

Mar 26 (Sun): Biggs Mike and Haddonsford Tour: 9:30 am, 5 miles, easy pace. We will hike Cooper River Park and then have a guided tour of historic Haddonsford. Free, we will eat at a local eatery. Learn about the first dinosaur skeleton find in the United States. A local historian is invited to speak. Meet at Coffee Lounge, (Braco Road off Rte 5), Cherry Hill, to caravan to park starting point. N/CNP. Leader: Paul Sembler 609-643-2309, pegs2001@hotmail.com. Incident weather cancels.

APRIL

Apr 9 (Sun): Brookside Community College/Thompson Park - Moderate 6.5-mile hike that follows the Thompsin Creek, Total hike distance 5.5 miles. Bring water bottles and lunch. Bring lunch or snack and a couple of quarts of water. Meet before 10:30 am at the Staterline parking lot off Palisades Parkway. Take the NJ Turnpike north toward George Washington Bridge. When Turnpike divides, take R/GP (right fork that forks right). Then drive in left lane, following signs for local R/GP exit to you toward the George Washington Bridge, and go through the tollbooth. Take Exit 32 for Fort Lee/Palisades Parkway. At first light go left into Fletcher Ave (Rte 9W). Get into right lane, following Fletcher Ave for a short distance, and bear right onto Palisades Drive. Then take State Line Lookout exit, just past Exit 32, Follow road a short distance to parking area near Lookout Inn. Meet group at the snack bar. Leader: Joyce White: 908-272-4478 or e-mail JoyceWhite@optonline.net (L).

Apr 22 (Sat): Social Hikes in Palisades Interstate Park: Join us for a strenuous 4.5-mile hike at a moderate pace if you enjoy majestic views of the Palisades. Highlights include Peanut Leap Falls & the Giant Steps. Hiking shoes, boots over the ankles is required and participants must be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & a couple of quarts of water. Meet 10:30 am at the StateLine parking lot off Palisades Parkway. Take the Nj Turnpike north toward George Washington Bridge. When Turnpike divides, take R/GP (right fork that forks right). Then drive in left lane, following signs for local R/GP exit to you toward the George Washington Bridge, and go through the tollbooth. Take Exit 32 for Fort Lee/Palisades Parkway. At first light go left into Fletcher Ave (Rte 9W). Get into right lane, following Fletcher Ave for a short distance, and bear right onto Palisades Drive. Then take State Line Lookout exit, just past Exit 32, Follow road a short distance to parking area near Lookout Inn. Meet group at the snack bar. Leader: Joyce White: 908-272-4478 or e-mail JoyceWhite@optonline.net (L).

Apr 29 (Sat): Blauvelt-Parks Permon South Kyck (NY) - 10am. Strougos 10 minutes. Visit Rockland Cemetery, at old mine base, and an abandoned Guard range. 2 quarts water, hiking boots, Take Rte 9W to Rte 140 N. Head in front of 450 Palisades Ave. (Building #3). Parking on parking lot. Return via abandoned RR. Leader: John P. Jurasek 845-835-9528 (call after 10pm) or juraszek@optonline.net (ACCD).