

The Jersey..... SIERRAN

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More than 23,000 Members in New Jersey

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New Jersey Election Results – 2005

By Rich Isaac,
Political Chair



Gubernatorial

Clearly the best result was the election of Jon Corzine, with 53% of the vote (to Doug Forrester's 44%). Jon made the environment a major component of his campaign, giving a major speech, on October 7th, that was focused primarily on global warming. Corzine committed his administration to work to

- Reduce energy consumption by 20 percent
- Grow renewable energy resources by 20 percent
- Establish an Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard to require that all contracts to sell energy in New Jersey not just expand generation, but also reduce demand
- Provide special rebates from the "Energy Star" homes program, targeting low- and middle-income families
- Implement a Renewable Portfolio Standard requiring 20 percent renewable energy by 2020
- Establish in New Jersey a world-class center for renewable energy research and manufacturing
- Promote car-pooling, telecommuting, transit-checks and a range of programs to improve automobile efficiency, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and expand public transportation

Corzine also committed his Administration to extend the life of the Garden State Preservation Trust Fund past 2006, to create the "New Jersey Natural Treasure" designation to direct funding to areas with unique or threatened environmental resources, and to extend protection under the Endangered Species Act to animal habitats. (For the full text of Corzine's Oct 7th speech, go to: <http://www.corzinefor-governor.com/speech/view/?id=296>)

Ballot Measures

We were successful in helping to pass (by 55.8%) a constitutional amendment

that authorizes the use of dedicated tax revenues for the purpose of retrofitting diesel-powered school busses, 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.

Senate Race

We endorsed Loretta Weinberg (D) in the special election in LD-37 (Bergen). She won easily.

Assembly Races

26 of our 38 endorsed candidates were successful, including 22 of the 23 incumbents, 4 of the 15 challengers, 17 of the 26 Democrats, and 9 of the 12 Republicans. Below is the list of candidates who won with our support. As usual, incumbents did much better than challengers. We are particularly proud of the successful four challengers: Nelson Albano (D, LD-1), Jim Whelan (D, LD-2), Amy Handlin (R, LD-13), and Gary Schaefer (D, LD-36).

Dlst.	Party	Candidate
1	D	Nelson Albano
2	D	Jim Whelan
7	D*	Herb Conaway
7	D*	Jack Conners
10	R*	James Holzapfel
10	R*	David Wolfe
11	R*	Sean Kean
12	D*	Michael Panter
13	R	Amy Handlin
14	D*	Linda Greenstein
15	D*	Reed Gusciora
15	D*	Bonnie Watson-Coleman
17	D*	Upendra Chivukula
18	D*	Patrick Diegnan
21	R*	Jon Bramnick
21	R*	Eric Munoz
22	D*	Linda Stender
27	D*	John McKeon
31	D*	Lou Manzo
35	D*	Nellie Pou
36	D	Gary Schaefer
38	D*	Bob Gordon
38	D*	Joan Voss
39	R*	John Rooney
39	R*	Charlotte Vandervalk
40	R*	David Russo

* - Incumbent



A "Thank You" to Dennis Schvejda

Dennis Schvejda, who has served the New Jersey Chapter both as a volunteer activist and as a member of the Chapter staff, has stepped down as Chapter Conservation Director to accept a position with the New York / New Jersey Trail Conference. Members of the Chapter Executive Committee, as well as others who have worked with Dennis over the years, recently got together to thank Dennis for all he has contributed and continues to contribute to the Chapter and to wish him well in his new position. Pictured above are former Chair Tina Schvejda, current Chair Ken Johanson, Dennis, Vice-Chair Ruth Prince, Chapter Director Jeff Tittel, and former Chair Sunil Somalwar.

Volunteer Job Opportunities

As a "grass-roots" organization, most 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 Effectiveness Chair, Richard Isaac at 973-716-0297, or emailing him at risaacx@aol.com.

State Level Opportunities

Environmental Attornies - Work pro bono with the Chapter Litigation Chair and Litigation Committee on specific cases; reports directly to the Chapter Chair.

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

Advertising Editor - for this newsletter.

Local Opportunities

Central Jersey Group (Mercer County, parts of Somerset and 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

Northwest Group (Sussex, Warren & Hunterdon Counties):

Secretary, Publicity, Outings,
Membership Chairs

Ocean County Group:

Political Chair, Programs Coordinator,
Membership Chair

Raritan Valley Group (Middlesex and Somerset Counties):

Secretary, Outings Chair

Shore Group (Monmouth County):

Vice Chair, Programs Coordinator,
Coordinators for various conservation issues (marine, wetlands, sprawl, toxics, recycling, etc.)

South Jersey Group

(Atlantic, Cumberland and Salem Counties):

Conservation Chair, Programs Coordinator

West Jersey Group

(Camden Co.):
Publicity Chair, Programs Chair, Inner City Outings, Solid Waste/Recycling Coordinator, Energy Issues Coordinator, Sprawl Issues Coordinator

Choosing Green Electricity in New Jersey

From Sunil Somalwar and Lee Snyder

The 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 ALL consumers) to sign up for one of the choices based on what they can afford and which energy mix appeals to them. Here are some factors you may want to consider.

Green Mountain is the least expensive option at an extra 0.9c per kwhr cost and provides an equal mixture of wind and small hydro.

Community Energy, at an extra



1.3c/kwhr, is about 45% more expensive than Green Mountain but includes 1% local solar electricity, a rather small number.

Sterling Planet, at an extra 1.2c per kwhr, 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

is one of the most cost-efficient ways of reducing global warming.

Jersey-Atlantic Wind, at an extra 2.9c/kwhr, is the most expensive of the choices, but half of its mix is from locally generated wind-power, the other 50% being small hydro.

Consumers can obtain further information by visiting <http://www.njcleanpower.com/>

Unfortunately, only customers of PSE&G and JCP&L in northern and central New Jersey are eligible 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 2006. ☞

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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 have 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 re-forestation 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 panelist noted that 48% of U.S. pregnancies are unintended. Thirty-four million women are in need of family planning assistance through Title X, yet funding has decreased 58% since 1980. Access to emergency contraception has decreased 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. People want 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 preg-

nant. To find out more, go to www.newmoney.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 mis-perceptions, 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 children 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 146 countries. Twenty-five percent of the children in sub-Saharan Africa won't live to age 5. Twenty-five million people are displaced by environmental degradation. Twenty percent of the world's highest income countries consume 86% of the world's resources; 20% of the poorest countries consume 1.3%.

All 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.

If you would like to learn more or become involved, please contact Bonnie Tillery, Population Issues Coordinator at 609-259-6438 or bit44blt@verizon.net.

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

We supported a municipal ordinance in Hamilton Twp, Mercer County, that would amend the zoning ordinance to create a Rural Resource Conservation District, protecting wetlands and the headwaters of streams. (Sept)

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

We voiced opposition to the Windy Acres development in Clinton Township (Hunterdon County) and authorized taking legal action. (Oct)

We authorized yet another lawsuit, identifying an attorney willing to work (pro bono) on a possible amicus brief in opposition to the Laura Avenue development in Hamilton 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 Ecosystem Protection Act. (Nov)

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. 8).

(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.

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 site plans. 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 a fool. Half of the audience will have decided you're a fool before you finish stating your name. The other half adores you. The blank faces on the panel you're addressing don't care; more likely than not, they've already made up their minds. Your presentation is for the press and the half of the room that thinks you're an ass. If you are commenting for an EIS, every question you ask must be answered in writing, no matter how much of an ass you are.

5. Start speaking slowly and clearly.

Advanced move: Stare at the officials. Advanced move: the press loves to quote short, clever, pithy remarks.

6. Say, "Thank you" and sit down. Listen for the applause. See? You're not the only ass in the room. Smile.

7. Stick around and listen some more. Go up for seconds if the mood strikes you. Advanced move: Find the press (they're the ones with laptops and steno pads who aren't applauding) and give them your name and phone number.

8. Go home. The vote will be in the papers tomorrow. Or stick around if you don't have to be up early the next day. The panel is hoping you'll go home.

9. Read all about it in the morning. Advanced move: Write a letter to the editor detailing everything the news story missed.

10. So what if our side lost. We usually do. That's why New Jersey looks the way it does. But when we win, and we do, once in a while, it's big news. Then you do a Snoopy dance of joy in your living room.

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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 1-866-4-ZIP-CAR, or visit: www.zipcar.com/rutgers.

Tools like this could be crucial to reducing auto dependence.

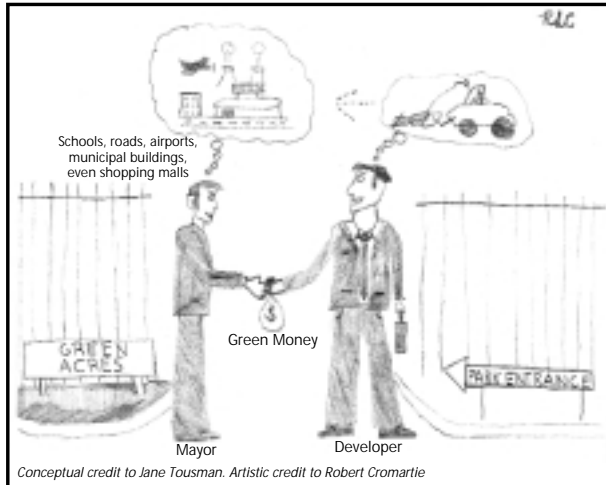
YOU HAVE MORE TO GIVE THAN YOU KNOW

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.

Editorial Cartoon: What "Green Acres" means to some people, unfortunately



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)

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Chair's Message 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. ♪

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Editorial Election Analysis

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



Credit: James Mandelsohn

In most election years and in most of New Jersey's 40 Legislative Districts there are few surprises. The Districts are "rigged," in the re-districting exercise that occurs after every decennial census, to be either strongly Republican or strongly Democratic, so that incumbents can achieve long seniorities, and so that elections can be won inexpensively. In column 1 of the table below-right, the six "competitive" districts are given an asterisk: 1, 7, 12-14 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.) Of course environmental consciousness (heroism) occurs in both major political parties (in New Jersey), so our election "success" cannot be measured merely by a tally of R's and D's. And a variety of factors produces shifts in voting patterns: incumbency (linked to name-recognition), campaign expenditures, local issues, coat-tail effects, scandals, third-party candidates, turnout percentage, and, in this election, a general shift to the D's that probably reflects dissatisfaction with President Bush.

The average district's shift from R to D, between 2003 and 2005, is 4.5 percentage points. (Districts in which there was "no contest" in 2005 were omitted from the averaging.) Many commentators ascribe this shift to dissatisfaction with the Bush Administration. A few districts had reverse shifts, notably two in Hudson County: perhaps related to the large (and increasing?) Hispanic population 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 percentage points deserve individual explanations. The most extraordinary shifts occurred in Districts 1 and 2, where the Democrats vastly outspent the Republicans, and where there were "unusual" Democratic candidates. In District 1, endorsed Democrat Nelson Albano caught public attention as the father of a boy killed by a drunk driver, who wanted to pursue the matter in Trenton. In District 2, endorsed Democrat Jim Whelan started with wide name-recognition as a popular and honest ex-mayor of Atlantic City.

Districts 6 (eastern Camden County, heavily D) and 13 (northern Monmouth plus Old Bridge in Middlesex, one of our competitive districts) were unusual in testing a new "fair and clean elections" concept utilizing public financing. Neither district showed the swing to Democrat, more perhaps because both are experiencing sprawl development, and new suburbanites tend to vote Republican. That explanation may also apply to other "suburbanizing" districts such as some of those in Ocean, Burlington, Hunterdon, Warren and Sussex Counties.

Most interesting to Club members should be the contests in Districts 11-13, centering on Monmouth County. Club activists from our Jersey Shore Group received considerable help from the Club's national Political Committee in the form of an Environmental Voter Education Campaign (EVEC) Grant, worth about \$150,000. Three staff members were hired to train more than 140 local volunteers to distribute literature at tables and door-to-door, operate phone banks, and hold house parties. Pro-environmental voters were identified and reminded to vote on election-day. A radio message was broadcast on a local station. Under federal law, EVEC is required to be broadly educational, not urging votes for specific candidates, but promoting awareness of such issues as New Jersey's sprawl-promoting Fast Track Law, the need to promote clean air by encouraging the use of public transportation, and the need to protect streams. Our Jersey Shore Group was strengthened by the campaign.

The election results in the three districts are difficult to explain. They are all "wealthy" (see below), and under pressure from developers. None of them show the 4.5% shift. We endorsed a mixture of R's and D's: the two Republicans and one incumbent Democrat won and two Democrats, including one incumbent, lost. Strong independent candidates in the 12th District drew more than the losing margin of votes of the endorsed Democratic incumbent. This is the first time the Club has conducted an EVEC campaign in a state election; before we decide on its merits, we should consider how much money was spent by the candidates themselves. It may be that our \$150,000 was swamped

by other expenditures in these three districts.

I included the last three columns of the table in order to try to determine why only some New Jersey legislative districts have environmental heroes. (The data is from Rutgers' 2004 NJ Legislative District Data Book, and the parentheses enclose rank-orders.) Do hero-legislators tend to come from suburban districts? Rural districts? Urban districts? Wealthy districts? High school graduation rates might correlate with suburbanization. The 10 districts with the highest graduation rates are heavily Republican (exceptions: Districts 18, 34 and 38) and produced 26 endorsees, whereas the 10 districts with the lowest graduation rates are heavily Democratic and produced only 8 endorsees.

A correlation graph between high school graduation rate and college graduates produces interesting scatter ($r = .77$), so it is worth looking at college degrees separately. The ten districts with the highest percentages of college graduates are mostly Republican (but include swing 12 and 14, and Democratic 18 and 27), and they produced 30 endorsees. The ten districts with the lowest percentages of college graduates are mostly Democratic (but include swing 1 and 7, and Republican 2 and 9), and they produced 13 endorsees.

So let's look at personal wealth (final column of the table). The data is for "NJ personal income per taxpayer plus

dependants." In the ten wealthiest districts there were 35 endorsees, and only seven of these ten districts are heavily Republican. In the ten poorest districts there were only 6 endorsees; only eight of them are overwhelmingly Democratic. So **wealth** is the most important "predictor" of environmental heroism. I conclude that "chance" plays some role in bringing us legislators supportive of environmental legislation, but the best thing we can do to bias the Legislature in our favor is to improve overall taxable income!

Another hypothesis, to explain why wealthy districts tend to produce environmental heroes, is that Club members tend to be concentrated in them, paying more attention to the candidates, and tending to endorse challengers (non-incumbents) in contests that are "rigged" to favor the opposite political party. But the hypothesis fails: even if losing candidates are neglected, our successful pro-environmental candidates still tend to come from wealthy districts.

A final hypothesis to explain the distribution of environmental heroes is the regional influence of party bosses, such as George Norcross. Such bosses might be beholden to moneyed interests that would be anti-environmental, or perhaps anti-environmentalism is a personal outlook. But I don't have the insider's perspective to judge. I hope this editorial will trigger some enlightening letters from our readership. Hint!

Legislative District	County	2003 Result	2005 Result	2003 Endorsees	2005 Endorsees	HS Graduation Rate	College Graduates	Personal Income
1*	Cape May, & Cumberland	R/D	D	none	1	75% (25)	18% (33)	(232)
2	Atlantic	R/D	D	none	2	75% (27)	18% (33)	(232)
3	Salmon, W. Cumberland	R/D	D	none	1	84% (31)	17% (38)	(285)
4	Gloucester	R/D	D	none	1	84% (28)	22% (29)	(285)
5	W. Camden, W. Camden	R/D	D	none	1	67% (38)	13% (39)	(189)
6	E. Camden	R/D	D	none	1	50% (45)	35% (14)	(165)
7*	Burlington	R/D	D	none	1	81% (24)	21% (34)	(275)
8	Burlington	R/D	D	none	1	51% (7)	35% (15)	(141)
9	Ocean	R/D	D	none	1	70% (28)	15% (37)	(265)
10	Monmouth	R/D	D	none	1	65% (18)	24% (28)	(222)
11	Monmouth	R/D	D	none	1	75% (28)	32% (19)	(8)
12*	Monmouth	R/D	D	none	1	68% (14)	42% (8)	(7)
13*	Monmouth	R/D	D	none	1	87% (9)	38% (20)	(13)
14*	Middlesex	R/D	D	none	1	87% (18)	38% (15)	(14)
15	Middlesex	R/D	D	none	1	74% (22)	33% (17)	(8)
16	Union, Mercer	R/D	D	none	1	54% (25)	30% (11)	(11)
17	Middlesex	R/D	D	none	1	83% (22)	38% (11)	(21)
18	Middlesex	R/D	D	none	1	58% (7)	38% (8)	(18)
19	Middlesex	R/D	D	none	1	85% (19)	27% (25)	(28)
20	Union	R/D	D	none	1	72% (22)	17% (35)	(26)
21	Union, Mercer	R/D	D	none	1	54% (25)	30% (11)	(11)
22	Union	R/D	D	none	1	75% (28)	25% (25)	(25)
23	Hunterdon	R/D	D	none	1	67% (17)	33% (16)	(16)
24	Warren	R/D	D	none	1	68% (13)	33% (16)	(16)
25	Morris	R/D	D	none	1	51% (8)	41% (7)	(5)
26	Morris	R/D	D	none	1	66% (14)	41% (8)	(16)
27	W. Essex	R/D	D	none	1	65% (22)	41% (8)	(8)
28	Essex, Union	R/D	D	none	1	64% (27)	18% (34)	(37)
29	Essex, Union	R/D	D	none	1	67% (40)	15% (40)	(40)
30	Burlington	R/D	D	none	1	84% (7)	28% (24)	(28)
31	W. Hudson	R/D	D	none	1	62% (28)	28% (23)	(21)
32	Hudson	R/D	D	none	1	67% (24)	23% (27)	(24)
33	N. Hudson	R/D	D	none	1	65% (28)	28% (23)	(24)
34	Passaic, Passaic	R/D	D	none	1	50% (38)	28% (21)	(20)
35	Passaic	R/D	D	none	1	67% (28)	15% (38)	(38)
36*	Bergen	R/D	D	none	1	74% (32)	22% (29)	(29)
37	E. Bergen	R/D	D	none	1	61% (15)	23% (13)	(11)
38	W. Bergen	R/D	D	none	1	65% (28)	34% (15)	(17)
39	NE Bergen	R/D	D	none	1	57% (2)	46% (3)	(3)
40	Bergen, Essex, Passaic	R/D	D	none	1	57% (1)	46% (4)	(4)

Sterling Forest Update: Protecting the New York State Portion

By Mike Herson, Conservation Co-Chair of our North Jersey Group

Like one of those horror movies where the monster comes back to life after being vanquished, the developers are back, trying to build in Sterling Forest, this time actually inside Sterling Forest State Park.

Many Sierra Club members will remember how Sterling Forest was "saved" in 1998. The Club's New Jersey Chapter had a key role, working closely with the Sterling Forest Partnership and other groups to help save land that became Sterling Forest State Park. Forestland south of the New York State line was saved by Passaic County to become Tranquility Ridge Park. It was a crowning achievement for all concerned and a victory in an effort that extended for many years.

Funding for the park purchases came from the Federal Government, the State of New York, the State of New Jersey and from private not-for-profit groups. U.S. Senators Lautenberg and Bradley, New York Congressmen Gilman and

Hinchey and New Jersey Congressman Torricelli played major roles in securing federal funds. NJ Governor Christine Todd Whitman and NY Governor George Pataki helped secure state monies. The bi-state and federal cooperation was hailed as a model for others to follow. New Jersey taxpayers paid more than \$19 million toward the acquisitions.

In 1998 Governor Pataki said, "Today's historic announcement will forever preserve Sterling Forest, as we create a new state park and protect water quality for both New York and New Jersey residents... It's a majestic, nearly pristine natural refuge... a remarkable piece of woodland, a watershed for millions, and an outdoor recreational area that now becomes accessible to 26 million people."

But we didn't save it all! Although more than \$78 million was paid to Sterling Forest LLC's parent corporation, the Swiss insurance conglomerate Zurich Financial Services Group, the company reserved 575 acres for itself. Now the company has

proposed to build 107 McMansions on those 575 acres - located virtually in the center of the state park.

The company presented a map of this sprawling development to the Town Board of Tuxedo, NY, which is responsible for evaluating the proposal and the Environmental Impact Study. The 107 home-sites were indicated with 107 round circles that looked like bullet holes through the map. This proposal for houses inside a state park would turn the contiguous forest into Swiss cheese.

The reasons to save Sterling Forest in its entirety, made sense twenty years ago and they make even more sense now. We have more scientific studies and more development pressure than ever before; and we still need clean water. Recently, an Act of Congress recognized the national significance of the Highlands region to the United States.

In 1998 Governor Pataki said, "Sterling Forest contains the single largest block of intact forest in the entire Hudson

Highlands area.... This unbroken deep-forest habitat is crucial for the survival of many resident and migratory species, including black bear, a variety of hawks and songbirds and many rare invertebrates and plants."

This year the NJ Sierra Club's Executive Committee adopted a resolution pointing out that unfragmented, contiguous forest is critical for biodiversity; it cites a US Forest Service Highlands Study pinpointing Sterling Forest as being of the highest biodiversity value in the region and a known habitat for threatened and endangered species including the timber rattlesnake.

Our Chapter is once again taking action. In an example of bi-state cooperation we are actively working with New York State's Atlantic Chapter, which sent a strong letter to the Tuxedo Town Board. We are also working with the Sterling Forest Partnership, the New

(continued on page 6)

Black Bears in the News

By Laura Lynch, Chapter Conservation Chair, helped by Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director

When the New Jersey Department of Fish, Game, and Wildlife proposed a black bear hunt in 2003, the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club opposed the hunt. Two years have passed, and a new black bear management plan has been published. This year's plan is worse than the one it replaces. In 2005 we must state again that a black bear hunt in New Jersey would be wrong.

The past and present black bear management plans do not adequately address public education, nor public safety. They do not stress conservation of black bear habitat. It is the Sierra Club's position that, in this era of rapidly dwindling natural areas in the State of New Jersey, it is imperative to establish and preserve core bear habitat and migratory corridors, both intra- and interstate. Focusing only on our recent increases in the black bear population is shortsighted. Future viability of the black bear population requires identification and preservation of key areas now, especially areas that may not currently be completely protected from future development.

The authors of the 2003 black bear management plan could not agree on the size of New Jersey's black bear population. The Sierra Club argued that until the population size is known, and until all methods of bear deterrent and public education have been tried, a bear hunt would not be warranted. Yet this year's plan does not even attempt to estimate the black bear population size. Instead, the Department of Fish, Game, and Wildlife plans to issue ten thousand permits to hunt one thousand bears. This is twice the number of bears that the State attempted to kill in 2003, yet the number of bears in New Jersey is still unknown. Given that the pre-hunt population estimates in 2003 ranged from 1100 to 3000 bears, to cull 1000 bears could easily drive the population towards extinction.

The hunt cannot honestly be called a management tool. It will be held at the time of year that females, who could be pregnant, are denning and therefore out of sight to hunters. The hunt will take place well within state forests rather than at the edges. Since nuisance bears are those that frequent the edges, a bear hunt in the inner forest will do little to ameliorate human-bear interactions.

To eliminate the edge-dwelling nuisance bears, the plan calls for "Bear-Free Zones." Should a bear enter one of these zones — and that will be easy to do, given that the zones stretch over 40% of the state and most bears can't read — a bear can be killed on-site, any time of year, by any local official. It is interesting to note that the "Bear-Free Zones" align almost exactly with the Fast-Track development areas. This suggests a connection between development and black bear elimination.

Once again, the plan resorts to a hunt and lays out no specifics for public education. Rather than spend time and money teaching people how to live with bears — securing garbage and eliminating temptation are the simplest deterrents — the State does not mandate proper garbage collection.

The plan calls for \$1.35 million, yet the Department of Fish, Game, and Wildlife budget is only \$35,000. For proper black bear management, the department would need \$3-\$4 million. The DEP has only one staff person to oversee bear management and public education.

The Sierra Club has devoted substantial time to reviewing and making recommendations for New Jersey's black bear management program. Black bears are indicative of healthy ecosystems and show us that we still have wild places left. The 2005 black bear management plan would destroy what few we have left. The plan is little more than a trophy hunt wrapped in a flimsy policy. The State of New Jersey can, and should, do better than that. ☞

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 fringe of town, paving vast areas for stores and parking lots, and undermining the economic health of existing downtown shopping areas. These mega-stores are proliferating at an alarming rate, with the world's largest corporation, Wal-Mart, being the leading example. With annual profits of over \$10 billion, an amount exceeding the gross domestic product of 95 countries, Wal-Mart is on an aggressive drive to open new stores. In 2006, Wal-Mart expects to add more than 300 new stores to the existing more than 3000 discount stores, super-centers and Sam's Clubs in the United States alone.

Across the country, Sierra Club chapters and groups have opposed construction of Wal-Mart stores for a range of reasons including wetlands destruction, flooding potential and concerns about increased traffic and impacts on locally owned stores. Today, a broad range of organizations, from churches and labor unions to small businesses and environmental groups, are coming together to highlight Wal-Mart's effect on communities and to promote positive solutions.

Water Pollution

The sheer size of these giant stores and parking areas cause problems from increased traffic congestion to water pol-

lution. Wal-Mart super-center stores span several acres, and the parking lots can be three times the size of the stores, bringing the total footprint to more than 18 acres. Large parking lots contribute directly to non-point source water pollution, which is the leading cause of water pollution in the U.S. Each acre of impermeable parking surface produces runoff of 25,000 gallons of water during a one-inch storm. By contrast, a one-acre undeveloped site would produce only 2,700 gallons of runoff during the same storm. Runoff from impermeable surfaces leads to erosion, flooding, and the flow of pollutants like oil, chemicals, bacteria and heavy metals into waterways.

In addition, Wal-Mart has been the target of various government actions to enforce the Clean Water Act. Since 2001, Wal-Mart has paid settlement costs and civil penalties totaling more than \$8 million resulting from federal Environmental Protection Agency storm water cases. This includes Wal-Mart's payment of \$3.1 million in 2004 to settle Clean Water Act cases in 9 states.

In August 2005 in Connecticut, Wal-Mart agreed to pay \$1.15 million for threatening rivers and streams with chemical pollution. This included \$600,000 in civil penalties for alleged violations of clean-water laws at 22 stores. Connecticut's Attorney General, Richard Blumenthal, noted at the time: "Wal-Mart's environmental record here seems as low

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ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Renewable Energy for a Strong Independent New Jersey

By Faith Teitelbaum, our Global Warming Issue Coordinator

Prepared as a Platform Proposal for Governor Corzine, and designed to:

- Accelerate the implementation of existing clean, energy-efficient technologies,
- Stimulate the development of renewable domestic energy sources, and
- Promote research and development on efficient new technologies, including tidal, wave and geothermal
- Provide new, high-quality jobs for New Jersey's workers
- Reduce dependence on foreign oil
- Lower energy bills for consumers.

The Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter boldly envisions a strong, energy efficient New Jersey.

For too long, the debate over America's energy future has been shaped by the outdated notion that there's an inherent trade-off between environmental and economic priorities. The nay-sayers have told us, for example, that we can stop global warming—or we can have job growth—choose one or the other.

We say we can help build a secure domestic energy base for the twenty-first century, protect our environment, save consumers billions of dollars—and revitalize New Jersey industry by creating an abundance of good new jobs for New Jersey workers.

We advocate a plan that creates 49,000 more high-quality jobs than would be provided under current policies. This would make up for the 50,000 jobs lost in manufacturing between 2001 and 2003.

This plan also generates \$4 billion in yearly savings on consumer energy bills by 2025. That's an annual savings of \$1,100 for every family in New Jersey by the end of the forecast period.

Air quality would be improved and carbon dioxide emissions from NJ facilities cut in half, which would go a long way toward stopping global warming.

Developing clean alternative fuels is critical for New Jersey because we have some of the worst air quality in the nation. Not one county in New Jersey meets the new federal (US EPA) ozone standard.

Every year over 20,000 people in New Jersey are sent to emergency rooms because of the effects of air pollution. Children and older adults are the people most likely to need emergency attention. It is time to reverse this trend of hospital visits, asthma attacks and ozone alerts by replacing these dirty energy production industries with clean, available ones. (Note: All statistics are from 'Redefining Progress: A Special Report for the Blue-Green Alliance, October 2004. See also: Clean Energy

and Jobs: A Comprehensive Approach to Climate Change and Energy Policy, by James P. Barrett and J. Andrew Hoerner, Economic Policy Institute and Center for a Sustainable Economy, 2002.)

Over the past few years, working families in NJ have struggled to keep up with soaring and erratic energy prices. With a tank of gasoline in 2004 costing 38 percent more than it did in 2002 and natural gas more than 53 percent higher, consumers are spending an ever-growing portion of their household budgets on basic energy needs.

At the same time there's an increased recognition that America's growing dependence on foreign oil, i.e., Middle East, Venezuela, Nigeria, Indonesia, etc., puts our national security at risk and makes our economy vulnerable to supply disruptions and price manipulation. Global oil price shocks have preceded nearly every major postwar recession, with tremendous cost in lost jobs and income.

Given recent economic conditions, that's a scenario NJ can ill afford.

The gains are spread throughout New Jersey's economy, with manufacturing adding an additional 6,000 jobs, as investment in efficient technologies improves manufacturing productivity and increases demand for capital goods. Agriculture benefits from increased demand for biomass energy sources, while the service sector boosts hiring to meet growing market demand, as consumers plow the money they save on energy bills back into the economy.

New Jersey's consumers would save an average of \$550 per household on energy costs each year, rising to \$1,100 by 2025. That's money New Jersey's working families can better spend on their kid's education, or invest for a more comfortable retirement. Household purchases of gasoline would cost 39 percent less than under current policies. We'd spend 56 percent less on electricity.

By the year 2025, oil imports would be reduced by an amount exceeding all current US purchases from the OPEC. Air pollution would also be much lower than under current policies, and carbon dioxide emissions (not defined as a pollutant by USEPA) would be cut by 50% below baseline levels, which means cleaner air for everyone and a significant reduction in the primary heat-trapping gases responsible for global warming.

As we begin a new century, American needs an energy policy appropriate to the challenges ahead, a policy capable of ensuring our continued prosperity and leadership as a nation.

(continued on page 6)

ATV Report

From Fred Akers, formerly our ATV Issues Coordinator

There is an increasing ATV problem in many South Jersey municipalities. I have been communicating with the Mayor of Buena Vista Township (BVT, Atlantic County) on this issue; and he says the State Police are not capable or compelled to provide enforcement.

In addition to the obvious safety and health issues, there is extensive wetlands and other environmental damage from illegal ATV use, as "mudding", or riding through wetlands, is one of the most popular ATV activities after "speeding" and "racing". (BVT is home to many Pinelands headwater wetlands for both the Delaware and Great Egg Watersheds). The State Police (and local police) could care less about wetlands, and there are many acres of damaged wetlands that are not owned by the state.

Illegal ATV use now has a virtual "free pass" for most of the state, (especially for non-state owned lands), and it looks like illegal ATV use may always have a free pass here in NJ. By default from insufficient (costly) enforcement, all of the open space we own now or will purchase in the future may eventually become ATV "user areas" for illegal users, to support all the existing and new ATV "units" sold every year.

Since much of our open space and private lands already subsidize the ATV industry because illegal use is not comprehensively enforced, how can NJDEP justify using Green Acres dollars and tax dollars to make legal parks? What state environments will this protect, other than corporate profits for more ATV sales? When will it be time for new state laws to compel enforcement? ☞

Renewable Energy

(Continued from page 5)

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). This Authority would oversee a revolving fund to harness New Jersey's innovative spirit by encouraging the building of an energy infrastructure that uses 20% renewable energy by 2020.

Utilizing pension funds, which control oodles of money, are pressuring major investment firms to invest in renewables. A coalition (Investor Network on Climate Risk) of seven large pension funds has become 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.

The BPU to oversee the codification of an updated Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), the NJ energy efficiency standards.

The DEP, Air Quality Division to begin to regulate carbon dioxide as a pollutant, with reporting on the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI). They would also strengthen energy-efficiency standards for appliances and buildings.

RENEWABLE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

A renewable energy infrastructure

Big Box Stores

(Continued from page 5)

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

Traffic, Sprawl and Blighted Landscapes

In 2005, Wal-Mart reported having over 3,000 U.S. stores, including 242 new Supercenters and a total of 459.2 million square feet of selling space. By 2015, Wal-Mart expects to occupy more than 215 square miles, an area more than 4 times the size of the city of Boston. In addition, Wal-Mart has blighted our national landscape with hundreds of empty store shells and thousands of acres of unused parking lots across the country.

Wal-Mart and other Big Box retailers typically develop stores at the fringes of towns, which are accessible mainly by driving and often result in increased traffic. The huge service area for a super-center draws customers from long distances, and places significant stress on regional road and freeway systems. More traffic on the road contributes to air pollution, water contamination, and the demand for more roads and development.

The Big Box model can also force out other stores, threatening the economic vitality of existing downtowns and neighborhood shopping areas. Ten years after Wal-Mart came to Iowa, Professor Ken Stone of Iowa State University estimated 7,326 local businesses closed in the state's small towns and rural areas due to Big Box retailers. Not only does this phenomenon make for less of a traditional, walkable community with local flavor, it contributes to a pattern of development that fuels sprawl and forces more people to drive longer distances.

Retail Forward, a market research firm in Columbus, Ohio, has examined the impact of super-centers and found that for every super-center that opens, two neighborhood supermarkets close. Since many neighborhood shopping centers

Sterling Forest

(Continued from page 4)

York / New Jersey Trail Conference, the Wilderness Society and other groups.

Our outgoing Chapter Conservation Director, Dennis Schvejda, reached out to NJ-DEP Commissioner Brad Campbell to ask for his assistance. At the last Town Board meeting, John Flynn, the head of NJ-DEP's Green Acres program,

would include the following technologies:

Wind power, giving us a way of producing a tremendous amount of clean energy without any air pollution:

93 wind turbines produce as much electricity as a mid-sized power plant.

3.5 megawatt turbines have been designed that are 300 ft high and have a slow-turning blade. They have a sonar capability that detects flocks of birds and shuts down the turbine.

200 of these windmills could take the place of the Oyster Creek nuclear power station.

Even the cleanest natural gas fired plant produces air pollution and greenhouse gases, while wind turbines produce none.

The average mid-sized 325-megawatt power plant will produce over 600 tons of air pollution per year including nitrous oxide and sulfur dioxide, while wind turbines produce none.

Currently, coal-fired power plants in the U.S. emit 48 tons per year of mercury, a known neurotoxin, while wind turbines produce none.

The major cost for wind power is the startup cost for equipment, but once in place and operational, becomes much cheaper to run, as there is no fuel to buy. In the long run, wind energy will be much cheaper than coal, oil or natural gas. By having more alternative and distributed energy sources, we also

increase the reliability of the power grid and significantly reduce the possibility of large regional blackouts.

We recognize that all forms of power generation entail environmental trade-offs, and that there are drawbacks to wind development. The most contentious issues include visual and wildlife impacts. We assert that most of the negative impacts of wind can be managed. The most important management measures are careful site evaluation and site selection. With adequate site planning the benefits of wind power in reducing the threat of global warming and pollution will substantially outweigh wind's negative impacts. We believe there are locations in New Jersey, including off the coast and in the higher elevations, where wind power can be responsibly sited and generated.

Solar energy is so abundant that the sunlight the Earth receives in 30 minutes is equivalent to all the power used by humankind in one year. When appropriately sited, solar energy creates no pollution and is the most environmentally friendly source of power currently available. It is already used by 200,000 homes in the United States. One system that converts solar energy into heat - and is used to heat the buildings of Ford, General Motors and Federal Express - is already saving about \$400,000 per year in avoided fuel costs, and reducing annual

carbon dioxide emissions by 10 million pounds.

Replace old power plants with efficient plants: New, high efficiency combined-cycle gas-fired power plants are twice as efficient and can be 10 times cleaner than old gas plants, but they must be sited appropriately.

Introduce greater efficiency measures: The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory estimates federal agencies would save \$1 billion annually if they installed currently available, energy-efficient technologies, such as compact fluorescent light bulbs and efficient appliances. Further, if everyone bought only Energy Star appliances, such as refrigerators and washing machines, we would shrink our energy bills by more than \$100 billion.

Provide tax incentives for efficient new buildings and equipment: Offering tax credits for the use of efficient equipment and building designs would bring immediate results. These credits would cut our demand for electricity and natural gas faster than new plants, transmission lines, and pipelines can be built.

Strengthen energy-efficiency standards for appliances and buildings: Introducing new standards for residential and commercial heating equipment, residential and commercial air conditioners and electrical transformers would result in huge energy savings. ☞

New Jersey Sierra Club Appreciation Day Celebrated

Sunday, November 20th, saw the highlight of the Chapter's social season, as more than 50 Chapter and Group officers met with some of our financial supporters to honor some of our legislative and other hero-activists, and to enjoy the farmhouse ambience of the rolling country just north of Princeton.

We met at Pretty Brook Farm, an idyllic old home now used as a residence for faculty of the Princeton Day School, just as the exterior of the building was being photographed for a spread in Martha Stewart magazine! This annual event is probably the only one in which Club members dress up to meet politicians who dress down!

Honored this year were Rich Isaac, who received the Chapter's Volunteer of the Year award, Edward Lloyd, Esq. and Mayor Joseph Scarpelli of Brick Township (Ocean County).

Rich has been a long-time activist with the New Jersey Chapter. He has served as chair of the Chapter's Political Committee since 1998 and more recently has assumed the role of Group Effectiveness Chair. Rich also has chaired the North Jersey Group, the Loantaka Group and the Essex County Group and 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, initially as head of the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic and more recently as head of the Columbia Environmental Law Clinic. Ed is current-

ly representing the Chapter in a lawsuit challenging various aspects of the proposed Xanadu project in the Hackensack Meadowlands. Over the years Ed has been an untiring advocate for the environment, as well as a good friend of the Chapter.

Mayor Scarpelli has worked tirelessly to safeguard water resources and threatened and endangered species habitat in Brick Township and has been a leader in the fight to prevent the relicensing of the Oyster Creek nuclear power station and encourage the development of clean energy throughout New Jersey.

In addition to the awardees, a number of honored guests were in attendance, including Assemblyman Reed Gusciora, Assemblywoman-elect Amy Handlin, Assemblywoman Linda Greenstein, Assemblyman Robert Gordon and Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula. The awardees and honored guests were introduced by Chapter Chair Ken Johanson and Chapter 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 Congressmen in fighting to prevent oil drilling off the coast of New Jersey and in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge of Alaska.

Special thanks go out to Joan and George Denzer for organizing what proved to be a most enjoyable afternoon. ☞



Some happy Club members at Appreciation Day

Congratulations to our Political Vice-Chair, John Kashwick, just elected to Municipal Council in Closter (Bergen County). (We will therefore be replacing him as Political Vice-Chair!)

Photo credits: Meiling Chin, Greg More, and Wynn Johanson



Jeff Tittel, Assemblywoman Greenstein, Meiling Chin



Mayor Scarpelli, Sunil Somalwar, Assemblywoman-elect Amy Handlin, Congressman Frank Pallone, Assemblyman Reed Gusciora, Assemblyman Robert Gordon, Ken Johanson, Jeff Tittel



Mayor Scarpelli accepts his award



Rich Isaac accepts his award



Ed Lloyd and Jeff Tittel



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
 - Ocean County Group:** Ocean
 - Raritan Valley Group:** Somerset & Middlesex
 - Jersey Shore Group:** Monmouth & Ocean
 - West Jersey Group:** Gloucester, Camden & Burlington
 - South Jersey Group:** Atlantic-Cape May, Cumberland & Salem
- The above group names 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 ccgkp@aol.com
 - Political Chair:** Arnold Kushnick 908-788-5637 arnkush@aol.com
 - Group Delegate to Chapter ExCom:** Ruth Prince 908-284-9103 ruthp2@patmedia.net

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

ACTIVITIES: 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.

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
 - Environmental Educ:** Open Position
 - Fundraising:** Open Position
 - Membership Chair:** Barbara Quigley blvquigley@yahoo.com
 - Outings Chair:** Ellen Blumenkrantz eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
 - Political Chair:** Greg Tondi 201-935-7162 gregt75@yahoo.com
 - Secretary:** Open Position
 - Treasurer:** Tom Thompson 201-848-1080
 - US Public Lands:** John Kashwick 201-660-8820 johnkashwick@optonline.net
 - Wildlife:** John Mikalonis 201-496-8113 mikalonisj@yahoo.com
 - Mary Ellen Shaw MaryEllen.Shaw@pseg.com

WEBSITE (sign up for e-mail notices of meetings, events, issues): <http://newjersey.sierclub.org/northjersey.asp>

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

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held once a month (except July, August and December) at 7:30 pm. Upcoming meetings: Thurs, Jan 12 at Paramus Public Library, E-116 Century Road, Paramus (discussion of Sierra Club activities in North Jersey) and Wed., Feb 8 at Ramsey Public Library, 30 Wyckoff Avenue, Ramsey (program TBA). Free. Everyone is welcome! Please contact Betsy (see above) to make sure the meeting is on as planned.

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.

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 vegetative 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).

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GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

CARTRIDGE RECYCLING. Bring your used printer or fax cartridges to Whole Foods Market, 905 River Road in Edgewater, NJ, open from 8 am to 10 pm, seven days a week. Leave them in the window box by the exit door. (Only cartridges that have not been recycled, please.) Thanks for recycling and your support!

Hudson-Meadowlands Group

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

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Louise Taylor	201-886-9320	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	giltc3d2@aol.com
	Donald Kopczynski	201-224-2641	Littlechops03@netzero.com

NEWS: Issues we are currently involved with include keeping an eye on chromium mitigation efforts, preservation efforts for Reservoir #3 and the Harsimus Stem (6th Street) Embankment in Jersey City and working to ensure that the Grand Cove Marina tract in Edgewater is preserved as a park rather than a ferry terminal.

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 Cuillierier	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 Cuillierier	973-736-0913	schatzidog@earthlink.net
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: SECOND TUESDAYS at 7pm. Please contact Janine (see above) for locations.

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

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
	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
	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	908-354-2537	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 learn of our activities, go to: <http://loantaka.njsierra.org>.

To join our emailing list, send a blank email to: [http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-LOANTAKA-NEWS.html](mailto://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 Chatham, 214 Main St., Chatham, NJ.

This is your club and there is always an open invitation to attend an Executive Committee 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.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Meetings are held on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at the Library of the Chatham, 214 Main St., Chatham. (Directions are posted on our website: <http://Loantaka.NJSierra.org>)

Come to a general meeting and learn something new and make some new friends. We'd welcome the chance to meet you and to introduce ourselves at a general meeting. Please see the meeting schedule which follows and join us!

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Jan 11, 2006: Medical Mercury — Speaker: Paul King, PhD. Dr. King is the New Jersey representative for the "Coalition for Mercury-Free Drugs" (CoMeD) [<http://www.mercury-freedrugs.org>]. He is also a Democratic Committeeman for the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills, Morris County, and a Taoist philosopher and servant of Elohim. As a scientist and student of the federal regulations and statutes governing drugs, Dr. King led CoMeD in the drafting and submission of a Citizen Petition to ban the use of mercury in medicine and dentistry unless its use was proven, in appropriate toxicology studies, to be safe. The petition is posted in the FDA Public Docket 2004P-0349 (as well as on the CoMeD web site). Dr. King also wrote and submitted CoMeD's response to the FDA's 180-day response letter indefinitely postponing any decision on knowing non-compliance by the pharmaceutical industry and the FDA itself.

The main topics that will be addressed:

Pink Disease – Calomel (84.98% mercury by weight), the agent for the knowing mercury poisoning of American babies through mercury hidden in teething powders (1890s through 1940)

Thimerosal (49.55% mercury by weight) – Calomel's replacement, the mercury agent replacement for the knowing poisoning of American babies and others through the mercury in some vaccines (1930s through the present)

Amalgam Fillings – Dentistry's contribution to the mercury poisoning of the population and the environment

Feb 8: Is Global Warming a Fact? — Speaker: Stefano Crema. This powerful slide presentation argues that from the melting of Arctic ice to the disappearance of Alpine glaciers, the signs of global warming are becoming more and more apparent. There is little debate in the international scientific community that human activities are causing changes in the climate of the Earth. The main questions today are what the magnitude of the changes will be and whether they will become irreversible before they can be corrected.

Mar 8: TBA: A program has not yet been scheduled. Please visit our website in late February or early March to see what the program will be.

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.

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County)

OFFICERS:

Acting Chair:	Caroline Kulesza	caroline_kulesza@yahoo.com
Vice Chair:	Open position!	
Treasurer:	Bill Wowk	609-587-0502 bwowk@aol.com
Conserv'n Co-Chairs:	Rocky Swingle	609-587-7568 rockyswingle@optonline.net
	Laura Lynch	609-882-4642 laura@sierraactivist.org
Membership Chair:	Open position!	
Programs Chair:	Open position!	
Publicity Coordinator:	Caroline Kulesza	caroline_kulesza@yahoo.com
Political Chair:	Open position!	
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: Get the most up-to-date information and news on our issues and activities at <http://www.sierraactivist.org/getbusy/central.html>.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Open to all Sierra Club members. Please contact an ExCom member (above) for date and location.

GENERAL MEETINGS: We meet on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month at 7:30 pm. PLEASE NOTE THAT WE'VE MOVED OUR MEETINGS BACK TO THE WEST WINDSOR BRANCH of the Mercer County Library, 333 North Post Road (off Clarksville Road), Princeton Junction 08550. Check our website for a map. Our meetings are free and open to all members and the general public. Refreshments provided.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

Jan 11: We'll host a screening of **WAL-MART: The High Cost of Low Price**, a 2005 Robert Greenwald feature length documentary that dives into the deeply personal stories and everyday lives of families and communities struggling to fight a retail giant's assault on families and American values. This film will take you on a journey that will hopefully change the way you think, feel, and shop. Full film is 98 mins., short version is 20 mins. plus parody commercials and extras.

Feb 8: Green Night: Come see how you can make a difference and have fun while doing it. We will show you how you can help curb global warming in a few easy steps. Learn what the Central Jersey Group is doing to preserve Mercer County, and learn how you can help. There will be food, fun, environmentally-friendly goods, and postcards to sign.

Mar 8: Delaware and Raritan Canal: Author and canal trip leader Linda Barth will present 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, one of the most successful towpath canals in the United States.

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:	Open Position!		
Political Chair:	Randy Gill	732-525-2612	ragill@optonline.net
Programs & Publicity:	Sandi Lowich		abstract46@aol.com
Secretary:	Open position!		
Treas'r, Webmast'r:	Don McBride	732-560-0369	dtmcbride@yahoo.com

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

Calling All Volunteers: The Raritan Valley Group welcomes you to our activities. Currently, the 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, 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: TBA; please check with Group officers.

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:	Open position!		
Secretary:	Joe DeLuca	732-389-1835	joe-deluca@att.net
Conservation Chair:	Steve Knowlton	732-747-7011	knowlton@worldnet.att.net
Webmaster:	George Newsome	732-308-1518	newsome1@pobox.com
Treasurer:	Judy Maxcy	732-458-5074	
Political Chair:	Dennis Anderson	(as above)	
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.

Jan 23: 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 Hossay, is Associate Professor of Political Science at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, and the author of the soon-to-be published book, *Unsustainable*.

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 Buttfeld, a financial planner and investment adviser in Red Bank, explains the intricacies of this type of investing.

Mar 27: Is Beach Replenishment Necessary? We've heard so much recently about replenishing our local 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 "retiring" from their current positions at the end of 2005. Anyone willing to serve as Conservation Chair should 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.

Ocean County Group

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
Conserv'n Chair:	Margrit Meissner-Jackson	609-296-4367	syvia1910@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	hrschwartz@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!		Please contact Greg at 732-451-9220.
Political Chair:	Open position!		Please contact Greg at 732-451-9220.

ACTIVITIES & ISSUES: The Group is just starting up, but has already gotten to work on a number of local open space, sprawl, air 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, tabling at local events, fund-raising and a computer-based voter education program for the 2006 elections.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held bi-monthly at 7pm 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 as 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/~glnacee/home.htm

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Gina Carola	856-848-8831	ginacee@snip.net
Vice Chair:	Wayne Zanni	856-728-4507	wzanni@earthlink.net
Secretary:	Becky Payne	856-488-5510	beckyp@snip.net
Treasurer:	Trish Clements	856-768-5639	patri321@comcast.net
Publicity Chair:	Bud Kaliss	856-428-8071	budkaliss@earthlink.net
Political Chair:	Wayne Zanni	856-728-4507	wzanni@earthlink.net
Pinelands Rep:	Lee Snyder		pinelands1@hotmail.com
Greenways Coord's:	Frank and Ellen Zinni		
Conservation Chair:	Stacey Ayala		thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Membership Chair:	Mike Brown	856-547-9221	eyebrown@snip.net
Fundraising Chair:	Reiss Tiffany	856-829-6405	r-cliffany@comcast.net
Sprawl Chair:	Brian Boockoff	609-937-5022	bboockoff@comcast.net
Programs 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 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.

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

Feb 14: Author Barbara Solem-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 Arctic from oil drilling**.

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:	Open position!		
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

(continued on page 10)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

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 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 the 2nd Raptor and Waterfowl inventory on the tidal river in 2005. For more information or to confirm, call Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. Warren Fox Nature Center, Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor (milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50).

Feb 4 (Sat): 7am-5Ppm: **Cumberland County's Winter Eagle Festival**, co-sponsored by Citizens United. View raptors and enjoy lectures, food and exhibits in Mauricetown. Admission. Contact 856-453-2177 for info and directions.

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

Mar 8: (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, the Airport Race Track, ETC. Call Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

Mar 28 (Tues): 7pm: **Great Egg Harbor Watershed Assn Annual Members' Meeting**. Presentation TBA. Warren Fox Nature Center, Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor (milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50). Contact 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 (risaac@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	jkaddad@juno.com
	Dave Ogens	Bandit29@aol.com
Conservation Chair:	Mary Walsh	blehwalsh@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	Joyce White	joycemwhite@att.net
Webpage designer:	Tom Miller	millertom@juno.com
Social Chair:	Adriana Allegrì	aallegri@aol.com
Programs:	Diana Eichholz	MistyAngel2003@yahoo.com
Publicity:	Lynn Forrest	abc77@msn.com
Membership:	Walter Goldenbaum	goldenb1@optonline.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 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 7:30 pm. \$5 donation at door and RSVP (required for pizza only) to joycemwhite@netzero.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.

January 9 - Jeff Van Pelt, 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 - Jay Kantor 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 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 jkaddad@juno.com or 973-364-7573 option # 4.

Friday HAPPY HOURS for Singles in their 30's & 40's. Please check website at www.Singles.NJSierra.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 along 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-minded 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		
(North/Central Jersey):	Anne Dyjak	732-560-0953 annedyjak@verizon.net
Co Chairs		
(South Jersey):	Joy Booth	856-486-1574 joeboo@hotmail.com
	and Jennifer Grenier	856-582-5512 Jennig1@yahoo.com
	and Maxine Vogt	856-779-9156 Mvogt1@juno.com

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

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



Outings

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

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

Central Jersey: Ken Mayberg	kjmayberg@aol.com	Loantaka: Joyce White 908-272-4478 (H)	joyce0201@yahoo.com
Essex County: David Ogens 973-226-7107 (H)	bandit29@aol.com	North Jersey: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417	eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
29 Hatfield Street, Caldwell, NJ 07003		Northwest Jersey: Pat Mangino, Pmangino@aol.com	
Hudson-Meadowlands: Vacant		Raritan Valley: Vacant	
Njersey Shore: Mike Verange 908-732-8364 (H)	mjverange@aol.com	South Jersey: Tom Boghosian 609-625-0878 (H)	boghosian1@verizon.net
1497 W Front St, Lincroft, NJ 07738		3722 Lehigh Ct., Mays Landing, NJ 08330	
		West Jersey: Vacant	

River Touring: Fred Tocce 908-453-2205 (H)
 Rd 1 Box 277, Washington, NJ 07882
 Inner City Outings: Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H)
 NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd. Warren, NJ 07059
 Chapter Outings: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417
 eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Outing Leaders: Please send April-June 2006 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before February 3. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it for the previous Sierran, due to the occasional lag in mailing. Also, please send outing rosters or sign-up sheets to the Chapter Office as soon as possible after each outing.

Note: If possible, leaders should send their trip descriptions to the Group Outings Coordinator instead of directly to the Chapter Outings Coordinator. This is particularly important for occasional leaders.

Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your April-June 2006 trip write-ups by February 8.

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

Sierra Club outings are arranged by volunteer leaders who are in charge of the trip and responsible for the safety, welfare and enjoyment of all participants. Leaders determine qualifications to participate, adequacy of equipment, routes to be followed, and special precautions to be taken. Please arrive adequately prepared and equipped. If you have any allergies, please remember to bring your medication. The leader has the final word in the conduct of the trip. Your cooperation will help assure a safe and pleasant outing.

Please arrive early at the meeting place so that the outing can start on time. For day hikes, lunch, water (at least a liter), extra clothing, rain gear, and emergency equipment should be carried in a small daypack. For all except easy hikes, sturdy over-the-ankle shoes or boots should

be worn. For most trips, you are expected to have your own equipment. In some cases, it may be rented from outdoor/camping suppliers - check the yellow pages or call the trip leader. If the weather is questionable on the date of the outing, you may assume that it will take place, unless the schedule indicates otherwise.

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

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

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

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

Valley Green parking lot in park. Dress for the weather. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eve. pis1@cccnj.net Inclement weather cancels.

FEBRUARY

Feb 35 (Fri/Sun): Shawangunk weekend (NY): Snow-shoe/hike weekend staying at Sky Lake Lodge (www.sky-lake.org) in Rosendale (near New Paltz), which is reserved just for our group. Depending on trail conditions we will hike or snow-shoe (cross-country skiing is also an option) the many carriage-ways and trails in the Minnevaska Preserve and Mohonk area. Daily outings will be 8-10 miles each, including Friday for those who can make it a 3-day weekend. \$235 pays for 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners and park fees. Maximum 14 people. Pre-registration required. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com.

Feb 5 (Sun) Singles: Tundra Swan Hike. 10am, 6 miles, moderate pace. Hike the winter beauty among ponds filled with Tundra Swans. Bring binoculars. Dress for cold weather. NP/NC. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet at Whitesbog Village parking lot. Take Rte 70 east to Rte 530 north (Browns Mills/Ft Dix), go 1 mile, turn right onto Whitesbog Road, go to parking lot. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eve, pis1@cccnj.net Inclement weather cancels.

Feb 11 (Sat): Singles Moonlight Hike, Campfire & Campout. 7:30 pm, 6miles, moderate pace. Hike sand roads around the lake under the full Snow moon and return to a warm campfire. Overnight camping is available, call leader to reserve space. NP/NC. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet at Goshen Pond group campsite, Atison Lake, Burl. Co., from Rte 206 turn west onto Atison Rd, go 1.5 miles to Goshen Pond sign, follow road to campsite. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve, pis1@cccnj.net Inclement weather cancels.

Feb 11 (Sat): Harteshome Woods, Monmouth County (Special Interest: Recent History) 9am. Moderate 6-mile hike has elevation gains and a lot of scenery. Please bring drinks and snacks. Hiking shoes are suggested. Meet 9am at the Rocky Point parking area. Take GSP to exit 117, then Rte 36 toward Sandy Hook approx. 10 miles to the Miller St. exit. Go to the top of the hill make a right. Parking area is straight ahead. Bad weather, including snow cover, cancels. Confirmation/questions please call Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (S).

Feb 12 (Sun): Hike the Black River Trail in Chester. 9:30 am. This time we will start from Willowwood Arboretum and hike to Cooper's Mill Park in Chester. This is an easy 7.5-mile hike from end to end. Meet at Cooper's Mill Park on Rte 513 where we will shuttle over to the trailhead at Willowwood. Crampons/Stabilizers are preferred. Optional dinner afterwards at the Old Mill Inn, across the street from Cooper's Mill; bring snack and lunch. Poor driving conditions may cancel this hike. Please register with Leslie McGlynn: 862-219-5569.

Feb 19 (Sun): Social Hike at Tulp Springs. 10am. Hike 6.7 miles at a moderate pace in the South Mountain Reservation and see some of the many highlights this 2000-acre tract has to offer including a 25-foot waterfall and spectacular views of New York City and South Jersey. Children 10 years or older and friendly dogs are welcome. Bring water and light snack and wear hiking boots. After the hike there will be an optional lunch/hot chocolate at the local diner. Meet in the Tulp Springs parking lot just off Cherry Lane, between Northfield Ave and South Orange Ave in South Orange. A \$3 fee will be charged to non-members. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Rain/snow cancels. Leaders: David Ogens. Bandit29@aol.com, Walter Goldenbaum, goldben1@optonline.net, and Lee Ousley (E).

Feb 19 (Sun): Singles: Orangina Hike: 9:30am, 7 miles, moderate pace. Annual classic hike to old clay pits excavated to make pottery. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NP/NC. Meet at mile marker 12 on Rte 72 E, on dirt road opposite Auto Wreckers; allow extra driving time. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eve, pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Feb 25 (Sat): Clausland Mountain, NY: 11am, 6 miles. We will climb up Clausland Mountain (700' Climb) through historic Rockland Cemetery to an old Nike missile base. Bring hiking boots, lunch, 2 quarts of water. Take Rte 9W to Piermont, NY. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural) at 11am. Leader: John P. Jurasek: 845-365-3618 (no calls after 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC).

Feb 26 (Sun): Singles Hike: Parvin State Park. 10am, 6 miles, moderate pace. Hike the hidden jewel of South Jersey parks. No chiggers, ticks or mosquitoes! Just the quiet splendor of winter on the lake. An historical site will be viewed. The Park Naturalist has been invited to give a guided tour. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social with possible campfire after hike. NP/NC. Take Rte 55S south to exit 35, follow signs to park. At blinking light, Almond Rd & Parvin Mills Rd, turn left, park at Fisherman's Landing parking area on right. Inclement weather cancels. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 evenings or pis1@cccnj.net.

MARCH

JANUARY 2006

Jan 1 (Sun): Clayton Park Upper Freehold Township (Special Interest: History) Ring in the New Year with a moderate 6-mile hike in one of Monmouth County Park System's best-kept secrets. Moderate elevation gains. Hiking shoes not required. Bring snack and drink. Meet at 9am at the Wawa store near the intersection of County Rte 537 and I-195 in Upper Freehold Township. Bad weather (includes snow cover) cancels. Confirmation/ Questions: call Leader Mike Verange 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (S)

Jan 8 (Sun): Singles Hike: Apple Pie Hill. 9am. 7-8 miles. Moderate pace. Hike the highest point in South Jersey for a great panoramic view of the pines. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NP/NC. Meet at Carranza Memorial parking lot, 6.7 miles SE of Tabernacle, Burl. Co, on Carranza Rd. Leader Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 Eve. pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Jan 7 (Sat): Highpoint State Park, NJ It's Winter Trails Day! Snowshoes are free to rent today only. We'll spend the day at the park snowshoeing on the Monument Trail up to the monument and then back to the lodge where we can explore some of the other trails in the area, or try Cross Country Skiing for a while. Ski Rentals are available. Bring lunch and water. Meet at first parking lot on your right inside the park at 9:30 at the far end of the lot near the bathrooms. Poor driving conditions may cancel this outing. Please register for hike with Leslie McGlynn at 862-219-5569.

Jan 14 (Sat): Minnevaska/Lake Awosting. 10:05 am meeting time in New Paltz, NY. Scenic 9-10 mile loop along trails and carriageways to Lake Awosting. Beautiful views. Optional dinner stop in New Paltz after hike. Bring lunch, snacks & water. Heavy rain/snow cancels. Group limit 12 people. Must preregister with Leader Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com.

Jan 14 (Sat): Singles Moonlight Hike: Campfire & Campout. Meet at 7pm, 6 miles, moderate pace. Hike under the wolf moon as we walk on moonlit sand roads and return to a roaring fire. Camping is available — call to reserve space. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NP/NC. Meet at Bryne State Forest group campsite. Entrance to forest is on Rte 72, 1/2 mile from jct. of Rtes 70 & 72. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve, pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Jan 15 (Sun): Island Pond Loop: 10am meeting time in Sloatsburg NY. Moderate-paced, full-day, 9-10-mile hike from Lake Skannati to Island Pond and back. This loop has several scenic views, and only some moderate ups and downs. Heavy rain/snow/sleet would cancel. Bring lunch & lots of water. Limit 12 people. Pre-registration required. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com.

Jan 21 (Sat): Harriman State Park: 10am. Depending on trail conditions we will either take trails or fire roads from Johnsonstown Circle on a moderate-paced 8-9-mile hike. Bring lunch & lots of water. Limit 12 people. Pre-registration required. Heavy rain/snow would cancel. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com.

Jan 22 (Sun): Singles Hike: Ralph Stover State Park, PA. 8:30 am. 7-8 miles. Moderate pace. Be prepared for rock scramble and steep climb for spectacular views of the Tohickon Creek. Hiking boots recommended and good physical condition. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NP/NC. Meet at Hilton Hotel rear parking area, Rte 70, Cherry Hill, to carpool/caravan. Leave at 8:30 am sharp! Or meet at Washington Crossing State Park, PA Rte 32, at 9:30 a.m. Leader Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593, pis1@cccnj.net Inclement weather cancels.

Jan 27-29 (Fri/Sun): Catskill Mountains (NY) Winter Weekend: Alpine Inn. Enjoy all of winter's white magic in the special beauty of the high peaks of the central Catskills by skiing the numerous alpine resorts and cross-country ski trails. Hikers and snowshoers can explore and photograph the scenic mountain beauty of the miles of the spectacular state-maintained trail system covering this mountain range. For the evening fireside we plan a great mountaineering color slide program and/or magic show. Excellent accommodations and gourmet food! Total cost for 2 nights' lodging, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner, 1 trail lunch and all taxes & gratuities: \$212. This is a joint trip of the AMC, Sierra Club and UCHC. Our several cross-country skiing and hiking trips are rated from the easiest to more difficult. Leader: Al Tatyrek (eve 973-763-2303; no calls after 10pm). Send transportation plans, activities planned and other info with \$100 deposit and SASE to our co-leader and registrar: Balance of payment is due on arrival at the Alpine Inn. Info: Website http://www.geocities.com/pebebeck_00/catskills. Registrar & co-leader: Peter Beck (H 201-274-4471), P.O. Box 267, Wharton, New Jersey 07885.

Jan 28 (Sat): Tallman Mountain State Park (NY). 11am, 7 miles. We will hike through Tallman Mountain State Park and view the berms and salt marsh. We will then walk the mile-long Piermont pier halfway across the Hudson! Trails include the Long Path. Bring lunch and water. Take Rte 9W to Piermont, NY. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural) at 11am. Leader: John P. Jurasek (845-365-3618, no calls past 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC).

Jan 29 (Sun): Social Hike: Hatfield Swamp Natural Area In West Essex Park. 10am. Hike 5 miles at a moderate pace on trails through a swamp and forested wetlands and see the Passaic River in its natural setting. Children 10 years or older and friendly dogs are welcome. Bring water and light snack and wear hiking boots. After the hike there will be an optional lunch/hot chocolate at a local restaurant. Meet 10am in the parking lot on Kilpatrick Lane off Bloomfield Ave south of Johnny's Motors, which is 1/4 mile west of the intersection of Passaic Ave and Bloomfield Ave in West Caldwell. Rain/snow Cancels. Leaders: David Ogens. Bandit29@aol.com, Walter Goldenbaum, goldben1@optonline.net, and Lee Ousley (E).

Jan 29 (Sun): Singles Hike: Wissahickon Gorge (PA). 8:30 am. 8 miles, moderate pace over hills. Hike the Gorge in winter with its spectacular views. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet in rear parking lot, Hilton Hotel, on Rte 70, Cherry Hill to carpool/caravan. Or meet at 9:30 am at

Mar 35 (Fri/Sun): Catskill Mountains (NY) Winter Weekend at Alpine Inn: Enjoy all of winter's white magic in the special beauty of the high peaks of the central Catskills by skiing the numerous alpine resorts and cross country ski trails. Hikers and snowshoers can explore and photograph the scenic mountain beauty of the miles of the spectacular state maintained trail system covering this mountain range. In the evening by fireside we plan a great mountaineering color slide program and/or magic show. Excellent accommodations and gourmet food! Total cost for 2 nights' lodging, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner, 1 trail lunch and all taxes & gratuities: \$212. This is a joint trip of the AMC, Sierra Club and UCHC. Our several cross-country skiing and hiking trips are rated from the easiest to more difficult. Leader: Al Tatyrek (eve 973-763-2303; no calls after 10pm). Send transportation plan, activities planned and other info with \$ 100 deposit and SASE to our co-leader and registrar: Balance of payment is due on arrival at the Alpine Inn. Information website http://www.geocities.com/pebebeck_00/catskills. Registrar & co-leader: Peter Beck (H 201-274-4471), P.O. Box 267, Wharton, New Jersey 07885.

Mar 4 (Sat): Pine Meadow Lake loop (NY): 9:15 am meeting time in Sloatsburg, NY. Beautiful 9-10-mile hike along the streams to/from Pine Meadow Lake and the Egg — for NY skyline views. icy conditions would cancel/shorten route. Bring lunch & lots of water. Limit 12 people. Pre-registration required. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com.

Mar 5 (Sun): Singles Hike and Birthday Brunch: 9am, 5 miles at moderate pace. Hike between two rivers in late winter; wildlife sighting possible. Then help celebrate the leader's birthday as we enjoy an all-you-can-eat buffet at Renault Winery Restaurant, NC/NP. Meet at Atison Office on Rte 206, between Hammondton and Red Lion Circle, Burl. Co. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve, or pis1@cccnj.net Limited seating, call early to reserve place. Inclement weather cancels.

Mar 11 (Sat): Ramapo Reservation: 10am. Moderate-paced 10-mile loop connects Ramapo Reservation to Ringwood State Park. Bring lunch & lots of water. Limit 12 people. Optional pizza/beer-stop after hike. Pre-registration required. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com.

Mar 11 (Sat): Singles: Moonlight Hike, Campfire & Campout: 7:30 pm, 6 miles, moderate pace. Hike sand roads around a lake under the full/sap moon and return to a warm campfire. Overnight camping is available: call leader to reserve space. NP/NC. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet at Goshen Pond group campsite, Atison Lake, Burl. Co., from Rte 206 turn west onto Atison Rd, 1.5 miles to Goshen Pond sign, follow road to campsite. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve, pis1@cccnj.net Inclement weather cancels.

Mar 12 (Sun): Social Hike at Jockey Hollow: 10am. Hike 5-6 miles at a moderate pace to where George Washington camped in the beautiful Watchung Mountains. Great views. Children 10 years or older and friendly dogs are welcome. Bring water and light snack and wear hiking boots. After the hike there will be an optional lunch/hot chocolate at a local restaurant. Meet in the parking lot next to the entrance to Jockey Hollow at Wick Farm. Take Exit 30 on I-287 (Basking Ridge) to Rte 202 North to Temple Wick Road, then West to the entrance. A \$3 fee will be charged to nonmembers. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Rain/snow Cancels. Leaders: David Ogens. Bandit29@aol.com and Walter Goldenbaum, goldben1@optonline.net (E).

Mar 12 (Sun): Gertrude's Nose (NY): 10:05 am meeting time in New Paltz, NY. Moderate paced 10-11-mile hike from Lake Minnevaska State Park to Gertrude's Nose. Great views: some scrambles. Bring lunch & lots of water. Limit 12 people. Must pre-register. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com.

Mar 12 (Sun): Farry Highlands: 9:30 am. 6-mile social hike, with moderate ups and downs, probably along Four Birds Trail (white blazes) north of Splitrock Rd in Farry State Park. Visit this web site for more trail & area information, select Farry from the menu: http://www.purdes.com/njhiking/. Meet at Fisherman's Parking area at Splitrock Reservior. Directions: from I-80 take exit 37 Rockaway/Hibernia. Go north on Greenpond Rd (513), towards Hibernia. After about 6.5 miles turn right at the Marcella Firehouse sign onto Upper Hibernia Rd. At the fork/intersection, go left onto Splitrock Rd (do NOT follow the NO OUTLET sign). The road turns to dirt, but keep going past the dam; the parking area is on the left. Arrive at 9:30 am for a prompt 10am start. Leader: Pete Beck, 201-274-4471.

Mar 19 (Sun): Manasquan River Reservoir, Monmouth County: (Special Interest: Birds) Enjoy an easy 5-mile circular hike on one of the largest reservoirs in the area. We may observe water-fowl. Bring snacks, drinks, bird books and/or binoculars. Hiking shoes are not required. This is a great family hike. Meet at 9am at the main entrance to the reservoir on Windeller Rd. Take the GSP to exit 98. Head west on I-195 to exit 28 (Rte 9). Go north on Rte 9. Make first right onto Windeller Rd. The main entrance is 1.5 miles on your left. Meet in the parking area at the far left toward the back. Bad weather, rain/snow-cover, cancels. Confirmation/questions please call: Leader Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (S).

Mar 19 (Sun): Spring Hike In the Pine Barrens: 10am, 6 miles, moderate pace. Hike in celebration of the rebirth of nature and Spring. We'll hike the Sandy Ridge area of the Pine Barrens. Spring flowers possible. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NP/NC. Meeting point is 11 miles south of Tabernacle on Carranza Road, Burl. Co, look for outdoor club sign. Leader Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eve, pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

(continued on page 12)

"When winter comes, the winter wild, that hill and wood shall slay; when trees shall fall and starless night devour the sunless day . . ." -- JRR Tolkien

**Chair**

* Ken Johanson (908) 464-0442
kjohan@comcast.net
72 Laurel Drive, New Providence NJ 07974-2421

Vice-Chair

Ruth Prince (908) 284-9103
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Conservation Chair

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Conservation Vice-Chair

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* Bonnie Tillery (609) 259-6438
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Chris Mills (973) 377-1742
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Group Effectiveness Chair

Rich Isaac (see above)

Council Delegate

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Alternate: Rich Isaac - (see above)

Other ExCom members at large

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1015 South Park Ave., Highland Park NJ 08904-2954
* Lee Snyder (856) 596-0621
pinelands1@hotmail.com

Student Outreach Coordinator

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

Regional Issues Committee

* Joan Denzer** (see George Denzer, above),
Bob Johnson, George Denzer

Atlantic Coast Ecoregion Delegate

Joan Denzer (see above)

Legal Chair

Bill Singer, Esq. (908) 359-7873

Fundraising Committee

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

Personnel Committee

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

Legislative Committee

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

Litigation Oversight Committee

Ken Johanson**, Ruth Prince,
Carolyn Freeman

Finance Committee

George Denzer**, Sunil Somalwar,
Ken Johanson

**Facilities Committee (office,
meeting sites)**

George Denzer**, Joan Denzer,
Bob Johnson, Sunil Somalwar,
Bonnie Tillery

* Indicates Chapter-wide elected ExCom members.

** Indicates committee chair or co-chair

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Issue Coordinators

Alaska Coalition Organizer
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julia@alaskacoalition.org

Clean Air Issues
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wrob_sc@earthlink.net
18 Shadyside Av., Summit NJ 07901-2111

Bill Green (908) 276-2357
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2 Roger Av., Cranford NJ 07016-2715

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534 Elberne Av., Westville NJ 08093-1715

Environmental Justice
Zoe Kellman (201) 321-4578
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Forestry Issues
Nancy Carringer (732) 438-8868
ncarringer@yahoo.com

Global Warming
Faith Teitelbaum (732-229-0553)
faithtei@aol.com

Highlands Issues
Open position

Marine Issues
Tina Schvejda (see Dennis Schvejda, below)

NY-NJ Trail Conference Delegate
Mike Herson (201-262-9472)
mikeherson@hotmail.com

Passaic River Basin Issues
Michel Cuillerier (see left column)

Pinelands Issues
Lee Snyder (see left column)

PPA Liaison: Mike Galloway
M.Galloway@comcast.net

Population Issues
Bonnie Tillery (see left column)

Sprawl Issues
Jane Tousman (see left column)

Tiger Conservation Issues
Sunil Somalwar (see left column)

Transportation Issues
Bob Johnson (see left column)

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

Utah Issues
John Kashwick (see left column)

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

Chapter Director: Jeff Tittel
jefft1@voicenet.com

Conservation Program Coordinator
Kelly McNicholas 609-656-7612
Kelly.McNicholas@SierraClub.org

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

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:
All members are welcome to attend these
monthly statewide policy deliberations, held
on SECOND SATURDAYS in the HAMIL-
TON TWP (MERCER CO.) PUBLIC
LIBRARY. The January meeting will include
issue-prioritizing for the year. More
details, including agendas and driving
instructions, are available in advance from
Ken Johanson, the Chapter Chair.

Jan 14 • Feb 11 • Mar 11

Conservation and/or Political Committee meet-
ings start at 10am. Lunch is shared at noon.
The main meeting starts at 1pm. We some-
times continue discussions informally over din-
ner at a nearby restaurant, at 5pm.

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

Mar 19 (Sun): Four Birds Trail In The Farry Highlands: 9:30 am This is a loop hike of about 6.7 miles. We'll hike a section of this trail down to Misty Pond, then back on the Four Birds Trail to Timber Brook Lake. Crossing the brook, we'll finish at Jacobs Road. Crampons/stabilizers preferred. Bring lunch and water. Inclement weather cancels. Meet at 9:30 at the parking lot on Timber Brook Lake Rd: I-80 West to exit 37 (Hibernia); Left at light. Or I-80 East to exit 37: Right at light. Drive on Green Pond Road for about 15 minutes. (You will see signs for Marcella). Turn right onto Timberbrook Road. Follow this road all the way to the end (paved road turns into dirt road). Boy Scout camp is on your right, parking lot is on your left. Please register for hike with Leslie at 862-219-5569.

Mar 25 (Sat): Hook Mountain (NY) Hike: 10:30 am. 10 miles. Excellent views of the Hudson River and Croton Point. Meet in the Rockland Lake South Parking Lot off of Rte 9W. Leader: John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls after 10pm), or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC).

Mar 26 (Sun): Singles Hike and Haddonfield Tour: 9:30 am. 5 miles, easy pace. We will hike Cooper River Park and then have a guided tour of historic Haddonfield, fee possible. We will eat lunch at a local eatery. Learn about the first dinosaur skeleton find in the United States, a local historian is invited to speak. Meet at Coastline Lounge, Brace Road off Rte 561, Cherry Hill, to caravan to park starting point. NC/NP. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve, pis1@cccj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

APRIL

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

Apr 22 (Sat): Social Hike In Palisades Interstate Park. Join us for a strenuous 4.5-mile hike at a moderate pace as you enjoy majestic views of the Palisades. Highlights include Peanut Leap Falls & the Giant Steps. Hiking boots over the ankles are required and participants must be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & two quarts of water. Meet before 10:30 am at the State-Line parking lot off Palisades Parkway. Take the NJ Turnpike north toward George Washington Bridge. When Turnpike divides, bear RIGHT (spur that forks right). Then stay in left lane, following signs for local NJ exits as you head toward the George Washington Bridge, and go through the tollbooth. Take Exit 72 for Fort Lee/Palisades Parkway. At first light go left onto Fletcher Ave (Rte 9W). Get into right lane, following Fletcher Ave for a short distance, and bear right onto Palisades Parkway. Then take State Line Lookout exit, just past Exit 2. 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 joyce0201@yahoo.com (L).

Apr 29 (Sat): Blauvelt Parks: Piermont South Nyack (NY): 10am. Strenuous 10 miles. Visit Rockland Cemetery, an old Nike base, and an abandoned National Guard rifle range. 2 quarts water. Hiking boots. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural) by 10am. LP out. Return via abandoned RR. Leader John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC).

THE JERSEY SIERRAN

The *Jersey Sierran* is the newsletter of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club. Readers are encouraged to submit articles, photographs, artwork, cartoons on environmental subjects, letters to the editor, poetry, press releases and expressions of opinion.

Articles and letters should be submitted typed and double spaced (or preferably by e-mail or on disk: call for format information). Send submissions to: Dick Colby. The deadline is the 10th of the month two months prior to the issue date.

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

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