Extreme Makeover for NJ: Time for a Bottle Bill

By David Yennior, our Solid Waste and Recycling Issues Coordinator

An extreme make-over is needed for New Jersey. We must address our litter problem, half of which is recyclable but sadly polluted—roadsides, parks, beaches and which ways cannot be good for the state’s public image. The time has come for a container deposit bill which in New York State was called the Returnable Container Act (RCA). Littering is illegal. Litterbugs create an atmosphere of lawlessness which breeds contempt for all our laws. Having inmates in orange vests removing the trash along our highways does not make sense. These prisoners should be learning marketable skills, rather than picking up after lawless citizens.

Better enforcement of existing litter laws, and higher fines, would help. But, given the higher priorities of other tasks, it is unlikely that we can rely on the police to be effective. We have to address the “point source” of the problem. An RCA, by mandating a 5% or 10% refundable deposit on each beverage container, has worked well in eleven other states.

New Jersey is far dirtier than the 11 states which have deposits: New York, Delaware, Massachusetts, Connecticut. More than a dozen other states have deposits: California, Oregon, Washington, etc. The US consumes more bottled water than any other nation. Deposits make consumers responsible for their purchases and manufacturers responsible for their products.

Government should not have to collect private sector recyclable products. In states with an RCA, glass producers and aluminum industries get back a raw material for reuse that is far cheaper than new raw materials. The US, more energy-conserving than the primates requires no new raw materials and energy resources used in manufacturing aluminum.

Recycling rates in New Jersey have dropped from 45–55% since 1995. Up to 25% of containers collected are mixed and recycled at recycling centers. The system is inefficient and wastes our tax dollars. There is a proposed Recycling Enhancement Act (REA) that could help, but an RCA would be more effective.

New Jersey is dirtier than the 11 states which have deposits: New York, Delaware, Massachusetts, Connecticut.

Chapter Reorganizes

By Ken Johnson, Chapter Chair

The Executive Committee (ExCom) of the New Jersey Chapter held its annual reorganization meeting on January 14. Ken Johnson, Chair, and Ruth Prince, Vice Chair, were each re-elected for one-year terms. ExCom also approved the appointment of many other officers, delegates and committee members, and Laura Lynch, the Chapter’s Conservation Chair, announced the appointment of more than a dozen issue coordinators. All are listed on the last page of this issue of the Jersey Sierran.

To many who attended the meeting the most interesting and most important matter on the agenda was the adoption of Chapter Priorities for 2006. After a spirited discussion, during which it was noted that much of the Chapter’s work is reactive— in essence reacting to unforeseen crises—and that we need to remain flexible so that we can adapt where appropriate to the environmental agenda of incoming Governor Corzine, ExCom approved the adoption of the following priorities for 2006:

**LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

**Top Priorities:**
- Repeal of the Fast Track Law
- Eminent domain – tighten the New Jersey definition of blight in existing law in order to address current abuses
- Green Acres authorization and reform

**Other Priorities:**
- Alternative energy - Require the use of wind, solar and hybrid vehicle technology by governmental bodies and provide incentives for private use.
- Energy efficiency - Require the adoption of programs for buildings, appliances, lighting and vehicles by governmental bodies and provide incentives for private measures.
- Solid waste and recycling - Support three bills introduced in the 2004-2005 legislative session to promote recycling of electronic equipment, require recycled content in plastic packaging containers and impose a retail tax on solid waste generation to support recycling programs. Support the adoption of a bottle bill.

**ELECTION RESULTS**

**Supplied by Lee Snyder, Elections Committee Chair**

The Oct-Dec, 2005, issue of this newsletter included a Chapter balloting for the election of five of nine total ExCom members. From more than 160 ballots cast, the following five (in alphabetical order) were elected to two-year terms:

- Michel Cuillerier
- Mike Hensom
- Rick Isaac
- Bob Johnson
- Jane Tousman

Meet Michel Cuillerier, new member of the Chapter Executive Committee

(Michel lives in West Orange and has been Chair of our Essex County Group.)

1. How/why (and when) did you get involved in the Sierra Club?
   I was at a Town Council meeting some years ago which considered a certain development proposal, where I mentioned people who shared my viewpoint. They invited me to a meeting of the town’s Planning Board where we fought an unnecessary parking lot proposed in a conservation overlay area. Shortly afterwards, I was invited to a back-yard barbeque and asked if I wanted to join the Sierra Club. I had already heard of the Club but had not met any of its volunteers. It was their level of commitment and sincerity that helped me decide to join.

2. What Club activities are most meaningful to you?
   The ongoing fight to preserve the Alaska Wildlife Refuge from oil exploration. Our Essex Group sponsored a presentation at the Montclair Library which was a big success.

3. What Sierra Club “projects” are you engaged in currently?
   (1) Preserve another Ancient Forest Tract in New Jersey: the one Seton Hall Prep of West Orange plans to turn into an expanded practice field and parking lots.
   (2) Preserve the last forested area of the Second Watchung Mountain.
   (3) Prepare an exhibit about the Passaic River in the new Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland.

4. How has the Sierra Club changed your life?
   For many years I have been engaged in the environmental movement, both as a leader and a supporter. What the Sierra Club has brought me is stability and history. Stability because I now stand with other leaders and a supporter. What the Sierra Club has brought me is stability and history.

5. Describe your particular role in the Chapter.
   In addition to my new role as an

Volunteer Opportunities

Want to help the environment? Maybe you are a student interested in learning how to change the world while gaining internship credit. Or perhaps you are retired or not in between jobs or your children have grown up and left you with a few free hours per week. We could use some help in our Trenton office: Tasks include answering phones, compiling mail and reports, investigating issues, planning events, helping our members, etc. Our work is exciting and important and will surely come away with a rewarding experience. If interested, please contact: Kelly McNicholas (609) 460-7612 or Kelly.M.Nicholas@SierraClub.org. (Reasonable travel expenses reimbursed.)
### ISSUE COORDINATOR’S REPORT: Madagascar, The Wonder and The Worry

By Bonnie Tillery, our Population Issues Coordinator

(btt44b@verizon.net)

Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine I’d ever be on a plane to Madagascar, home of lemurs, chameleons and other exotic plants and animals. In fact, 90% of the flora and fauna there are found nowhere else in the world. Yet, there I was, embarked on an incredible ten-day journey with nine other Sierra Club members from around the U.S.

Besides meetings with USAID (United States Agency for International Development) officials and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), we visited three villages, a zoo, a national park, and three forest preserves. Our trip took us from the capital, Antananarivo, and the central plateau region filled with terraced rice paddies, to the dry region at the southern tip of the island, around Ft. Dauphin on the Indian Ocean.

What a wondrous place Madagascar is. Most of the world’s chameleons are found here. These exotic creatures move in slow-motion until they sense danger, then they zip up and rest back so fast, snapping up their insect prey, that you barely see them. The huge yellow comet moth with long feathery tail and copper markings is a marvel to behold. The indri, a type of lemur, holds the mammalian record for fecundity, having 25 to 30 young at a time.

In January, 2006, the Edison Town Council held a hearing on redevelopment of the 100-acre Ford site on US Route 1 near Mountain Road, the current owner of the property, is proposing two 100,000 sq. ft. big box stores, retail, restaurants, a 150-room hotel, a 100,000 sq. ft. office building and 440 units of age-restricted housing. Just under three acres will be donated to be used for open space use. This, and other hearings are being held because Hartz needs to reallocate the site from residential to mixed use.

Local residents at the hearing expressed many concerns. These included the following:

- **Traffic**: Big box stores and residential units will exacerbate traffic problems along the busy Route 1 corridor.

- **Toxics**: The site contains 12 pits full of oil, paints and other hazardous fluids. The DEP has yet to certify that the site has been cleaned up.

- **Open Space**: Less than 3% of the site will be retained as open space. This is inadequate.

I think there should be more space set aside for parkland, libraries, schools and community centers. In addition, more improvements to handle traffic increases must be included in the proposal.

We cannot be confident the applicant will adequately address our concerns. At the hearing, when traffic came up, Hartz said NJDEP would handle it. When toxins arose, we were referred to NJDEP.

To its credit, the Township is requiring a traffic study and additional impact statement and a fiscal impact statement. We urge the Township to await the results of this study before committing to a redevelopment plan which, as currently constituted, appears to have several serious flaws.

Finally, when the application reaches the Edison Planning Board (and its expert consultants), we urge that the public be given the opportunity to participate BEFORE any decisions are made.

This is a major project with significant financial and quality of life implications for Edison and its residents. Let’s get it right.

Jane Lives in Edison. Contact ber at adoubad@email.com. Her campaign to bring about televising of Edison Planning Board meetings, described in the July-Sept, 2005, issue of this newsletter, was ultimately successful, and resulted in the resignations of several Board members, as well as a favorable agreement to air the Feb. 16 issue of the Newark Star-Ledger. Congratulations, Jane!

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### ISSUE COORDINATOR’S REPORT: Costa Rican Thanksgiving

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

O n the Friday before Thanksgiving, eleven hardy New Jersey Sierrans joined Ellen Bluemenkatz for a 12-day adventure, hiking in and around the marvellous Costa Rican ravens of natural beauty. We visited rainforests in Rincon de La Vieja National Park, Heliconias Biological Reserve, Cerro Nature Reserve, and Cabo Blanco Preserve. Our hikes provided a chance to see the sights and sounds of these protected areas, waterfalls, rivers, birds, monkeys, howler monkeys, hot springs, deserted beaches, numerous birds — toucans, herons, oropendulas, kingfishers, and the gorgeous blue crowned motmot — and wonderful insects: the blue morpho butterfly and leaf cutter ants among them.

Many creatures entertained us — monkeys, lizards, iguanas, and the continually who joined us at dinner.

On Thanksgiving Day we hiked in the Kogoty Moqeres Preserve. (Go to http://www.keytostaristica.co/gua- nanac.htm for photographs of this preserve and Heliconias Reserve.)

We followed and crossed (many times!) a beautiful stream which took us to the foot of an enormous waterfall — at least 100 feet high, with a wonderful pool at the base where we swam and frolicked. Then the group climbed 500 stairs to the Alberque Cerro Encantado Lodge at the top of the falls and enjoyed a home cooked meal of Costa Rican dishes.

After lunch there was a ceremonial tree planting to commemorate our visit. The trail varied in length and terrain. Those in areas hard hit by hurricanes were severely eroded. Indeed, our last hike, at Cabo Preserve, was so challenging that only the “magical seven” completed the grueling 2-hour, mile trek.

To this forest-minded person the most wondrous part of the trip was seeing the magnificent trees of the rainforest. We were able to plant trees on the ground, we viewed their canopy from hanging bridges, and we passed among and over them on a night hike. The national tree is the Guanacaste, an inspiring species that soars into the air for 60 to 70 feet, and lives to a ripe old age. The palm heart tree in Heliconias, and every other tree in that forest, supported a host of symbolic plants— bromeliads, ferns, Philodendron.

There was an “excape” which the guide thought was 200 years old, and a “selva” which appeared to be 300 years old. Such grandeur! These trees were at an altitude of about 3400 feet. We learned about the “strangler fig,” which weaves its branches parasitically around a “victim” tree, eventually killing the larger, older host.

Our visit culminated with a rafting trip down the Pacuare River, an exciting and challenging day of class 3 and 4 rapids, an astounding climax to 12 days of amazing sights, sounds, and efforts with a now-close-knit group of Sierrans.

For information on joining an expedition such as this one, perhaps contact Ellen Blumenkatz (The Leader List on the back page of this newsletter.)

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### Carpooling Advice

By Sunil Somalwar, Chapter Chair Emeritus

If you commute to work, consider checking out Carpoolworld.com and rideshare.com websites. There are plenty of New Jersey / NYC metro area carpoolers on the sites and you can find someone to ride with you to share the burden. Another website, nuride.com, is a bit different in that it recruits employers and gives frequent-flyer style rewards for carpooling. However, it is not clear how much people are interested in this option.

In related news, a federal proposal passed by the House and passed to the Senate directs the Dept of Energy to encourage carpooling.

Does your community televise its Planning Board meetings? (See italics above!)
The numbers in each row of the table increase exponentially. I suspect there are other effects which "mask" the dogma. One is the recent relative flow of New Yorkers into the new suburbs located in the territories of our Loantaka, Moore and North Jersey Groups. Another is the tactic adopted in the 90s, of canvassing for new members: contracting with an organization largely of Rutgers college students to knock on suburban doors, offering Club literature, making a sales pitch, and taking new memberships. These "canvass" members provide much of the income necessary to maintain our lobbying staff, but they tend to be short-termers. That’s my guess as to why such a large percentage of our members joined so recently (64% of our current members joined since the year 2000!). Of course one could also take the optimistic view that more than 20% of our members have been with us for more than 10 years, and 6.6% of our members have been involved for more than 20 years. And of course the Sierra Club should not be singled out for its record of seeking new members: all big membership organizations devote substantial resources to recruitment. (It would be interesting to know the equivalent membership statistics for our two public broadcasting stations. I suspect that the Sierra Club scores well on a comparative basis.)

Perhaps the most important effect on membership dynamics is the pace and profound fragmanation of development which is incompatible for most people with long-term involvement in lobbying campaigns, and even social societies. I would just like to assure the vast majority of members who DON’T get involved in outings, meetings or lobbying that some of life’s greatest satisfactions are "rubbed" by the Sierra Club. In my own case, the achievement of federal Wild & Scenic status for the Great Egg Harbor River, a team effort that took about 15 years, and which continues to challenge my energies, ranks as one of my proudest accomplishments, and the friends I formed as some of my fondest. Hope to see you out there?"
Will Legal Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Parks Really Protect Wildlife?

By Fred Akers, our former ATV Issues Coordinator

Last October the NJ DEP’s Division of Fish and Game submitted a New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) to the US Fish & Wildlife Service. This far-reaching blueprint declares that local animals and plants in our wildlife species most in need of protection exist in New Jersey. It uses $381,715 of state money to leverage a $1.1 million federal State Wildlife Grant (SWG).

Many other states are using this program to protect species from becoming threatened and endangered, and it is hoped that Congress will produce a stable and permanent funding source for rare-species conservation through continued SWGs. New Jersey’s Wildlife Action Plan provides for better coordination of wildlife research and management among programs within the Division of Fish and Game, state and federal agencies, and many partners in the conservation community.

A number of threats to wildlife were recognized in the WAP. Not surprisingly, motorized recreation vehicles on or near public natural lands and waterways (e.g., off-road vehicles (ORVs) and personal watercraft) were declared to be a cause of disturbance and habitat destruction, i.e., as major threats to wildlife and their habitats. One of the most destructive aspects of motorized recreation is that it occurs mainly during spring and summer when animals are attempting to breed and plans are actively growing. Acute and chronic noise disturbance can cause animals to abandon their breeding areas or otherwise fail to reproduce. Motorized vehicles also kill wildlife directly, especially reptiles and amphibians. To address these threats, the Division of Fish and Game has invented the strategy of providing legal ORV riding areas in places “remote” from wildlife. The assumption is that ORV riders will be responsible enough to avoid riding in wildlife-sensitive sites – if they are provided with alternative sites.

Unfortunately, this basic assumption has never been substantiated. There are no quantitative or qualitative data, studies, or reports to support the idea that legal parks will significantly reduce illegal riding of ORVs. One might even hypothesize that legal ORV parks will attract enough new riders such that a substantial portion of them, riding illegally, will result in more damage to wildlife than is produced currently. This possibility should “disqualify” the legal park concept in New Jersey’s Wildlife Action Plan.

Without evidence that legal ORV riding areas would be likely to conserve and protect wildlife from illegal ORV use, diverting conservation protection resources to build legal riding sites would diminish the funds available for other wildlife protection measures. The Wildlife Action Plan also proposes to “survey ORV users through recreation associations to determine their level of satisfaction and use of designated areas.” Such a survey should be funded and conducted by private industry and/or state recreational promotion groups, not by the people who should be focusing on habitat and wildlife conservation.

Likewise, spending time and money to locate the least disruptive sites for ORV parks will do little to accomplish the primary mission of wildlife protection. With 165,000 ORV users in New Jersey already, and 14,000 new sales each year, the proposed strategy of using ORV parks for even a small percentage of all these owners to protect wildlife is misguided, irresponsible, and likely to be a complete failure.

The Wildlife Action Plan admits that even legal ORV operation threatens both wildlife and people. Its conflicting strategies are embodied in the following two WAP statements:

“Unlawful ORV use on public land has become a major threat to wildlife habitats. Human disturbance and wildlife mortality from vehicles occur in the most important and intact wildlife habitats in the state. Heavy ORV use renders habitat unsuitable for most wildlife. ORV activities can result in habitat unsuitability, soil compaction, soil erosion, and sedimentation from dirt trails.”

“Using ORV parks continues to be a difficult problem because communities and those involved in low-impact recreation often do not want high noise, high-impact recreation activities adjacent to homes, parks, golf courses, etc. This regulation or management of ORV parks to remote areas that are most critical for wildlife.”

The New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan is a wonderful document created through extraordinary effort and collaboration, and the authors are to be commended for their good intentions. However, using conservation resources to establish legal ORV riding areas could be a big mistake that would actually work to defeat wildlife protection.

A better strategy would be to focus resources on education and enforcement against illegal ORV use on all public lands. Increasing the $200 fine for riding ORVs in Wildlife Management Areas, and other fines, increasing the number of enforcement officers and their efforts, and conducting a statewide “anti-mudding” campaign modeled after the one used by the US Forest Service out west, would do more to protect New Jersey’s sensitive wildlife than spending time and money making legal places to ride.

Here’s a link to the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan:
http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fw/wap/index.htm

Contact Fred Akers at Akers@gowebway.com.

Chapter ExCom Resolutions, Jan-Feb 2006

We re-elected Ken Johnson as Chair, and approved the list of officer appointments provided on the last page of this newsletter. (Jan)

We decided on tentative Chapter issue priorities for 2006. listed on p. 11 (Jan)

We approved the by-laws required for the establishment of a New Group for members in Ocean County. (Jan)

We authorized legal action to save Thompson Park in Monroe Twp., Middlesex Co., a Green Acres site, from diversion to permit construction of a high school. (Jan)

We began the process of authorizing another lawsuit: defending a Rural Resource Conservation Zone in Hamilton Twp, Mercer County. (Feb)

A variety of Club books, notecards, badges and clothing is available from www.sierraclub.org/store
Let there be Light
(but only from compact fluorescents)

By Sunil Somalwar, Chapter Lightbulb Authority

In his 2006 State of the Union address, President Bush highlighted wind and ethanol as alternate sources of energy. Ironically, at that very same time, his Dept of Energy was getting ready to fire alternate fuel researchers in its Colorado research headquarters. As expected, the main energy message from this Administration continues to be that some magical technology is going to fix the problem in future, long after Cheney and Bush have left office.

In the meantime, mindless subsidies to the fossil fuel industries continue and so does this Administration’s active sabotaging of the global efforts to curtail global warming pollution.

So, at least for the time being, we are left on our own to do our part. One of the simplest (and most financially rewarding) ways is to use a technology that is fairly old at this point: compact fluorescent light bulbs. We have been running this project for a year or so, and have convinced many people to try these bulbs — by handing out sample bulbs on an “at-cost” basis at Group meetings, tabling at environmental events and other avenues.

The project statistics are already impressive: lifetime savings from all the bulbs replaced so far, in New Jersey, amount to over 400 tons of carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, and over $35,000 on energy bills, not to mention the multiplier effects: people who took our bulbs are probably telling their friends and neighbors about them, and purchasing additional bulbs in stores.

Chapter activists Gina Carola and Bonnie Tillery deserve special mention because so far they have “sold” enough bulbs to save four hybrid cars’ worth of emissions each, while pursuing other significant environmental issues (not to mention that Gina is also a proud owner of a Prius.)

If you are interested in doing a similar campaign for your neighbors, coworkers, school, scout troops etc, contact svsomalwar@sierraactivist.org for literature and detailed instructions.

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.

The Ultimate Adventure Guide DVD Version
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On your TV & Internet Enabled PC!

Ever wish you could sample a trail before you started hiking? Well then the Ultimate Adventure Guide is for you!

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The Chapter’s Political Committee is now working on Congressional endorsements for November. It’s interesting!
Interview
(Continued from page 5)
East Coasterner. I remain Conservation Vice-Chair of both the Essex Group and on the Chapter (State) level, and Passaic River Coalition Issues Coordinator.
Outside the Club, I am vice president of the Friends of Liberty State Park in Hudson County. We are park advocates who work to keep the Park free and green.

6. What advice might you have for a new Club member contemplating activism?
Don’t try to do too much at the start like I did. Yes, new members are always welcome to participate at any level they feel comfortable with, but after awhile you’ll understand that volunteering will give you back more than you put in, ten-fold. No kidding, sometimes it looks like you are all on your own in a fight to preserve a property of national beauty. Once you’ve begun, the universe answers back with help from the unexpected corners of your world.
Not everyone is called upon to give some of his life to the common good but if you have the urge, just do it. You’ll find it is very rewarding.

ONE-STOP LOBBYING:
Bursting at the seams with pride, the Sierra Club’s Washington, D.C., Legislative Program has just unveiled its own National Legislative Tracker, which allows the public to learn about key pieces of environmental legislation, follow Sierra Club positions on particular bills, and take action as requested. Spread the word! http://www.sierraclub.org/legislativetracker/

ONE-STOP SHOPPING:
Now you can visit a single web page to sign up for any of the national Sierra Club’s email newsletters—The Insider, Currents, RAW, Daily Ray of Hope, and Planet Newsletter. Try linking to it as “Sierra Club E-Newsletters” here:
http://www.sierraclub.org/email/

PRIMAIY ELECTION TO WATCH:
New Jersey’s 11th Congressional District (most of Hudson, Essex, Middlesex and Union Counties), formerly represented by now-Senator Robert Menendez, will be fought over on June 6 by State Assembliesmen Albino Sires and Joseph Vas. To get involved in the endorsement process, contact the Political Chair of our Hudson Meadowlands Group.

THE DAY THE WATER DIED
March 24 marked the 17th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska’s Prince William Sound. The second episode in the Sierra Club Chronicles documentary series investigates the state of affairs in the town of Cordova, where fishermen and other residents whose livelihoods were devastated by the spill have yet to be compensated by ExxonMobil. OBS and in January the oil company announced record profits. Spread the word—let folks know they can get a free copy of "The Day the Water Died" on DVD if they organize a house party.
http://www.sierraclub.org/tribe/

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)
Northwest Jersey Group: Hunterdon, Sussex & Warren
North Jersey Group: Passaic & most of Bergen
North 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

These designations are approximate: members are welcome to participate in whichever group(s) they find convenient

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

OFFICERS:
Chair: Dennis Miranda 973-209-1814 dimiranda@earthlink.net
Vice Chair: Pat Mungio 806-342-7552 pmungio@aol.com
Treasurer: Susan Rotter 973-347-8849 rottenwo@mindspring.com
Secretary: Charles Kopp 973-770-7718 ckgop@aol.com

Contact David at DavidYennior@cs.com

Shawn Solves green glass problem by
creating an incentive for consumers to recycle.
Conserves our natural and energy resources.
Reduces U.S. dependency on oil.

w w w . c o n t a i n e r - r e c y c l i n g . o r g
and/or www.bottlehill.org

www.container-recycling.org

Passaic & Bergen Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:
Group Chair: Betsy Kohn 201-467-4544 BetsyKohn@aol.com
Vice Chair: Mike Herson 201-262-9472 mikherson@hotmail.com
Conservation Chair: Tom Thompson 201-848-1080 etrans743@aol.com

Contact Mike (see above) for date and location.

WHAT TO EXPECT:
expected results:
Ten other states, including New Hampshire are considering similar legislation. Here are some expected results:

Reduces litter by 75%: Cleaner environment Reduces global warming
Reduces hazards to Coastal wildlife Helps to improve the image of New Jersey

Interview
(Continued from page 5)

Extreme Makeover
(Continued from page 3)
Vermont, Maine, California, Hawaii, Michigan, Iowa, and Oregon. Since the BCA of 1983 in New York, litter has been reduced by 75% and 80% of their containers are recycled. Deposits remain where the unrecyclable, nontoolgradable items from the waste stream.

In New Jersey only 50% of plastic containers are being recycled, meaning that 70% are discarded in landfills or incinerated. Only 50% of our aluminum cans are being recycled. One trillion aluminum cans have been trashed in the US from 1972-2003. A deposit bill will conserve the energy needed in aluminum manufacturing.

Michigan’s successful BCA, initiated in 1978, imposes a 10¢ refundable deposit on all single-use or refillable containers: beer, soft drinks, juice, carbonated and mineral water, wine, and liquor bottles and cans. 25% of the unredeemed deposits go to the retailers for handling and disposal costs. 25% of the unredeemed mineral water, wine, and liquor bottles are being recycled. One trillion aluminum containers are recycled. Deposits 75% goes to the state treasury.

Enacting a BCA in New Jersey is the right thing to do. Ten other states, including New Hampshire are considering similar legislation. Here are some expected results:

Reduces litter by 75%: Cleaner environment

Reduces global warming

Reduces hazards to Coastal wildlife

Helps to improve the image of New Jersey

Reduces observance of litter and recycling laws

Reduces recycling from the present 3% to 80%

Conserves our natural and energy resources

Recycles more plastic and reduces U.S. dependency on oil

Creates an incentive for consumers and industry to recycle

Encourages use of and/or production of reusable containers

Recclaims aluminum, a very desirable recyclable substance

Solves green glass problem by returning to the distributor

Keeps more recyclables out of landfills and incinerators

Saves precious tax dollars by reducing government

Creates additional revenue for New Jersey

Makes the producers of containers responsible

Creates private sector jobs

Increases property values

Increases tourism

To the 25,000 NJ Sierra Club members, local Group leaders, and advocates for the environment, there is a lot of hard work ahead. We invite your suggestions, participation, and commitment. Together, we can give New Jersey a much-needed makeover and make our state a better place to live. Contact David at DavidYennior@cs.com
April 11 (Tues): a spectacular slide presentation by Julia Shaw of the Alaska Wilderness League about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaskan rainforests, and the impact of oil development, as is a densely wooded ravine in Wyckoff. 2. Large-scale housing projects totaling 2,000 units are being planned on watershed land in the Ramapo commuter bus and ferry transfer station, leaving little open space for a park. This is a cheaper diversion of land space funds and it violates the public trust. 4. We remain vigilant to keep the Hackensack and Ramapo riparian corridor, critical for habitat and flood control, free of encroachment. To learn more or help out, please contact Mike or Tom (see above).

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE. Join us to discuss local and Highlands issues. We meet every THIRD THURSDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at Buehler Cultural Center, 950 High Mountain Road, North Haledon, NJ. Check our website or contact Mike (see above) to be sure the meeting is on as scheduled.

ISSUES: 1. Steep slopes adjacent to Campgaw Reservation in Mahwah are under threat of development, is a densely wooded ravine in Wyckoff. 2. Large-scale housing projects totaling 2,000 units are being planned on watershed land in the Ramapo Highlands (which supplies much of northern NJ’s drinking water). 3. Edgewater’s park and marina, funded in part by the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund and Green Acres, has added a “ commuter bus and ferry transfer station,” leaving little open space for a park. This is a cheaper diversion of land space funds and it violates the public trust. 4. We remain vigilant to keep the Hackensack and Ramapo riparian corridor, critical for habitat and flood control, free of encroachment. To learn more or help out, please contact Mike or Tom (see above).

Loantaka Group
(Morris and Union Counties, approximately)

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Greenbrook: Bob Muskia
800-665-2269 rmsuka@ersols.com

To learn of our activities, go to: http://loantaka.njsierra.org

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Meetings are held on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St., Chatham, NJ

This is your club and there is always an open invitation for you to attend an Executive Committee meeting. Right now, we have open positions on our Executive Committee. If you are interested and would like to find out more, please contact Paul Sanderson.

GROSSE POINTE MEETING: On April 22 (Sat): Celebrate Earth Day at the Essex County Environmental Center! Contact goldenb1@optonline.net after April 15th for details.

May 9: A Consumer’s Right to Know. David Biederman, of the Office of the New Jersey Attorney General, will lecture on New Jersey’s Consumer Protection Laws, how they are enforced, and what the Office of the New Jersey Attorney General does to protect consumers. Consumer protection issues such as identity theft, home improvement contractors scams, auto lemon laws, and charlatan lawyers, will be addressed. Discussion to follow. For specific information call 973-228-8776.

June 6: NY/NJ Baykeeper on the Lower Passaic River. Please help us welcome NY/NJ Baykeeper Andy Willner to the Essex County Environmental Center for an enlightening discussion on Baykeeper’s work on the Lower Passaic River. Topics include the Passaic River Patrol, Superfund and cleanup activities, open space and restoration goals for the waterfront, and environmental justice. Discussion follows. For specific information call 973-228-8776

July 11: “Highlands to Oceans”—Book Presentation and Discussion. The New York Sierra Club’s Mountain inspector,后卫 the most densely settled corner of the North American continent. But until now this astonishing natural area, which survives and thrives even after 400 years of phenomenal economic growth—has not even had a name: Join Christopher Metz, co-author of “Highlands to Ocean,” to learn about your two “addresses” and for an update on the health of this magnificent region we call home.” Afterwards engage in a lively discuss.

For specific information call 973-228-8776.

Loantaka Group
(Morris and Union Counties, approximately)

WEBSITE: http://loantaka.njsierra.org

OFFICERS:
Group Co-Chairs: Chris Mills and Paul Sanderson
973-377-1742 908-253-2441
Treasurer: Joyce White
Sonya Kaloyanides 973-257-0288
skaloyanides@yahoo.com
Constitution Chair: Chris Mills
973-377-1742
Treasurer: Eric Hauser
Chair: Melling Chin
972-669-0719 hauserk@aol.com
Programs: Steve Yafet
908-354-2557 yafet@ersols.com
Co-Chair: Melissa Goss
Air Quality: Bob Campbell
973-257-5242 wroc@sc@eartheartlink.net
Greenbrook: Bob Muskia
800-665-2269 rmsuka@ersols.com

To learn of our activities, go to: http://loantaka.njsierra.org

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For specific information call 973-228-8776.
GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

Activities: (Check our website for more information.) The Ioantaka 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 statewide initiatives focusing on air quality, transportation, and environmental legislation. Volunteers are always welcome. Call Paul (908-253-2414), Chris (973-577-1742) or Bob Johnson (908-771-9676) for more information.

Central Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:

Chair: Caroline Kulesza caroline_kulesza@yahoo.com

Vice Chair: Open position!

Treasurer: Bill Wovk 609-587-0502 bwovk@aol.com

Conservation Chair: Rocky Swingle 609-587-7504 rockyswingle@optonline.net

Co-Chairs: And Laura Lynch 609-888-4642 laura@sierraclubvert.org

Membership Chair: Open position!

Programs Chair: Caroline Kulesza caroline_kulesza@yahoo.com

Publicity Chair: Joe Lent 609-259-6438 joelent@verizon.net

Outings Chair: Ken Mayberg 609-445-9185 kmajberg@aol.com

Outreach Coordinator: Harold Rapp 609-674-0145 hl rapp@aol.com

Forest Coordinator: Nancy Carringer 732-894-8084 ncarringer@yahoo.com

WEB SITE: To get the most up-to-date information and news on our issues and activities, visit http://www.njsierra.org/getbays/central.html

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Meetings are generally held on the FIRST THURSDAY of the month at 7:30 pm. Please contact Caroline Kulesza (above) for the location, which may vary. These meetings are open to all Sierra Club members.

GENERAL MEETINGS: We meet on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month at 7:30 pm at the West Windsor Branch of the Mercer County Library, 333 North Post Road, Princeton Junction, 08550. The library is adjacent to the municipal complex at the corner of Old Post and Clarksville Roads. Check our website for a map. Our meetings are free and open to all members and the general public. Refreshments provided.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

APR 12: Keeping It Local: Defining a Sustainable Community and How You Can Help. Ralph Copelman, of Sustainable Lawrence, and Anne Neumann, of the Princeton Regional Environmental Commission, will describe how Lawrence and Princeton are kicking the oil habit and getting off the grid. We will learn how and where to buy local and how to be sustainable in our own homes.

MAY 10: Preserved in Paintings: Local artist Charles Alden will exhibit his paintings. We will learn the history of these sites and what we can do to preserve them.

Jun 14: Preserved in Print: Local photographer Gordon Christie will show selections from his extensive travels. We will highlight sites that are threatened by human incursion, and we will learn what we can do to protect them.

The Central Jersey Group Goes On A National Sierra Clubs Trip

We are organizing some local members to go together on a National Sierra Trip. More details on the trips can be found on our Sierra Club web site or on the Sierra Club website, http://www.sierraclub.org.

One of the following trips will be selected:

Trip 60628A: High on the Trails of the Central Sierra. California. July 28 Leader is Sonnda Dunkle (highly recommended). Cost is $745. Stay at the Tamarack Pines Inn on the day off.


For more information, please contact Sandi Lowich, the Group Chair.

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, 175 Ticxs 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 houses. All Sierra Club members are invited to attend. Please contact the group chair for location.

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

Web Site: http://njsierra.org/~njshore/

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Dennis Anderson 732-888-3158 dennis@aol.com

Vice-Chair: Open position!

Secretary: Joe DeLuca 732-189-1835 joe dela@verizon.net

Conservation Chair: Faith Teitelbaum 732-229-6555 faithful@aol.com

Webmaster: George Newsome 732-908-1518 newsome1@poobox.com

Treasurer: Judy Maxcy 732-494-6704

Political Chair: Laura Bagwell 732-741-8078 lbagwell@verizon.net

Outings Chair: Mike Veragen 908-992-0718 mjveragen@aol.com

Membership Chair: Alan Bossman 732-783-1348 arosemann@monmouth.com

WEB SITE: http://www.njsierra.org/jerseyshore.html

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 732-888-1518.

Ocean County Group

OFFICERS: (All currently in acting capacity):

Chair: A. Gregory Auriemma 732-451-9220 sierraclubOC@aol.com

Vice-Chair: Open position!

Programs: Open position!

Conservation Chair: Margrit Meissner Jackson 609-296-4567 sjw1910y@yahoo.com

Secretary: Corinne Washik 732-516-2414 corinne.washik@dgic.com

Treasurer: Richard Washik 732-616-2775 richard.m.washik@us.army.mil

Publicity: Howard Schwartz 609-242-5904 hschwartz@comcast.net

Funding and Development Chair: Joyce M. Izasa 732-520-4270 joi@msn.com

ExCom: Sandy Brown 609-242-9084 sandybrown@comcast.net

Chapter President: Position rotates among Group ExCom members.

Note: Dawn Marie Johns directs outings and maintains membership functions.

OPEN POSITION: Contact Greg at 732-451-9220 for more information.

ACTIVITIES & ISSUES: The Group has just received recognition from the Club’s national office, and has already begun work on several local issues: Preventing drilling in for Bricks! (members of the Ocean County Group are welcome to join us, as always!)

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 732-888-1518.

The Jersey Sierran: April-June 2006

Please share this newsletter with a non-member friend, inviting use of the coupon on p. 12.
GENERAL MEETINGS: New location noted! Held bimonthly at 7 pm on the FOURTH MONDAY of January, March, May, July, September and November at the Skywalk Café, 100 Ocean County Administration Building, 120 Hooper Avenue (2nd Floor), Toms River. For additional information or directions, please contact Greg or Howard (see above). We have some exciting programs and activities coming up:

Apr 22 (Sat): Earth Day clean-up in conjunction with NJ WaterWatch. All-day workshops, speakers and informational tables for details, or call one of the officers listed above. (Likely to be tours of the new Authority wetlands.)

Apr 29 & 30 (Sat-Sun): Our first annual garage sale fundraiser. Clean out your garage and basement and help raise funds for our Ocean Group.

May 22 (Mon): Regular general meeting at our new location. Rich Bizup, of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, will present, Water: Our Precious Resource. Everyone who lives in Ocean County knows both our development and water resources are critical issues. Please come, learn more, and become more involved!

June 4 (Sat): Tabling event at the 16th annual Point Pleasant Street Fair. Have some fun at this great annual event and help spread the Club's environmental agenda by volunteering to help.

June 24 (Sat): Tentative date for our first annual BBQ or dinner-dance fundraiser.

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

Web site: users.snj.net/~ginacee/home.htm

OFFICERS:
Group Chair: Gina Carola 856-848-8831 ginacee@snj.net
Vice-Chair: Wayne Zanni 856-728-4507 wzanni@emailink.net
Secretary: Karlin Kulpa 856-786-5639 patriltc@comcast.net
Treasurer: Trish Clements 856-728-4507 wzanni@emailink.net
Publicity Chair: Bud Kalliss 856-828-8071 budkalliss@emailink.net
Public Relations Chair: Wayne Zanni 856-728-4507 wzanni@emailink.net
Pinelands Rep: Lee Snyder pinslnd1@hotmail.com

Greenways Coords:
Frank and Ellen Zanni

Conservation Chair: Stacey Ayuda thundervolllgalaxy@yahoo.com
Membership Chair: Mike Brown 856-547-9221 eyebrown@snip.net
Fundraising Chair: Reesie Tillery 856-829-6845 rctillery@comcast.net
Swirl Chair: Brian Bockock 609-937-5022 bbockock@comcast.net
Programs Chair: Bill Freund
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 (between Rtes 37 and the convergence of Rtes. 88 and 73, just north of the light at Chapel Avenue). Handicap accessible parking and entrance in rear of building.

Apr 13: Bonnie Tillery will present "The Magical Island of Madagascar." What the people of Madagascar are doing to protect their special resource.

May 9: Erik Mollenhauer presents Discovering A Lost World: What was the New World like at the time of Columbus?

Jun 13: Update on the Camden Greenways

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

OFFICERS:
Group Chair: Tom Boghosian 609-625-0878 boghosian@erizon.net
Vice-Chair: Sally Nunn 609-704-1790 munald41@comcast.net
Conservation Chair: Open Position!
Public Relations Chair: Dick Colby 609-985-8435 dick.colby@stockton.edu
Membership Chair: Gary Roman 609-625-1348
Secretary/Treasurer: Julie Akers 856-697-3479 akers@shareway.com

The central conservation issue, for which the Group was founded in the 1970’s, continues to be protection of the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continues to consume the energies of those few officers who remain active — both within the Sierra Club and in two other organizations that have “spun off” from the South Jersey Group. Very few of our local members seem interested in the meetings we’ve scheduled in the past few years, and many of them have been cancelled for lack of interest. For the present, we’ll continue to be listed in this Newsletter, and offer a point of contact for Club members in South Jersey who want help with local issues. If you have topics (and places) for meetings, please let the officers know about them. Please contact the officers’ specified in advance of each meeting, if you wish to attend; otherwise we’ll cancel. We welcome general comments from Club members in South Jersey. To be placed on a carefully guarded distribution list for local issues and meetings, please e-mail dick.colby@stockton.edu.

Current Issues: Club officers and staff have been following closely the several studies seeking to determine sustainable water supply levels for southeastern New Jersey, with the hope that findings will be used by planners (such as those employed by the Pinelands Commission) to limit population growth. Another hot issue is proposals for the development of several large tracts of environmentally sensitive land in Millville.

Possibly Relevant Meetings:
Apr 1 (Sat) All day! Stockton College’s fifth annual Environmental Education Forum, sponsored by the Community Water Watch. Midyear workshops, speakers and informational tables. Free to all, even breakfast and lunch! Register by calling Stockton Water Watch (609)948-0697 or NJCWW@stockton.edu. Information from Julie Akers (see above).

Apr 29 (Sun) All day! Earth Day — as celebrated by the Atlantic County Utilities Authority — at their recycling headquarters in Egg Harbor Township. See local newspapers for more details, or call one of the officers listed above. ( Likely to be tours of the new wind farm on City Island!)

May 10 (Wed) 6:30pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries. Meeting place: Gant Room, 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.

May 23 (Tue) 7pm: Opportunity to catch up on conservation planning for the Great Egg Harbor Wild and Scenic River, at a public (membership) session of the Watershed Association (an organization that once got its start as our Group Executive Committee!). For 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 90).


Seniors Section
(A Chapter-wide Special Interest Section offering hikes/cleanup, social gatherings, movies, meetings, etc. — soon to be called “Fifty Plus Section!”)

The mission of the Senior Section has been to support Sierra Club goals, and to promote activism through letter writing and other active support for environmental issues. Seniors worked through a Letterwe, “the Senior Forum.” But this mission is evolving.

A new list server, called “NJ Fifty Plus News,” with already more than 80 members, has replaced the Senior Forum. Terry Stimpfel (terinstimb@hotmail.com) is the coordinator of activities — she organizes the calendar. Events and activities will be posted weekly, and will include (as exemplified by our February, 2006, listings): “Socialize & Dine at ... Hiking 6 miles in Monmouth County at a moderate pace; Sierra Green Night with the Central Jersey Group; Sunday afternoon EcoChat and Social; and Concert and Dance—Rock Hop.”

With new members, it is hoped that new leadership will emerge, and the Fifty Plus group will be able to develop an Executive Committee (ExCom) to focus the Section's energies, and a web site to keep records and communications. For further information, please contact Nancy Carringer at ncarcinger@yahoo.com.

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

Please join us! The NJ Singles Section was specifically created to offer a variety of single-oriented activities to NJ Sierra Club members and those who would like to know more about us. We are 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: singles.njsierra.org
email: abc77@msn.com (mention “Sierra Club” in your subject line)

The best way to be notified of upcoming events is to join our free listserve. Anyone may subscribe by going to: http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-SINGLES-NEWS.html and clicking on ‘Join or leave the list’. You may subscribe and unsubscribe at will; on how to unsubscribe are at the bottom of each announcement. We recommend joining the listserve as some events are advertised only by email. If you prefer not to receive email, you may view an archive of all prior messages at http://lists.sierractub.org/archives/NJ-SINGLES-NEWS.html.

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 Joyce Whitejwhite@metro.net or 973-605-7753, ext. 3, by noon the day before. (Please leave name and specify plain or veggie toppings on 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 the Senior Forum. Alternatively, you may donate directly to the Senior Forum at the Holly Farm, the Airport Race Track, Etc. Call Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

On April 20 – Phil L’Hommedieu presents a slideshow on our local jewel, the NJ Highlands.

May 8 – Julia from the Alabama Wilderness Coalition will inform us of both the beauty of the Arctic and the dangers posed to it by oil extraction.

June 12 – Drew Kohn will be giving us backpacking tips for the summer months ahead.

Directions to the Chatham Library: From I-287 take Rt 24 East to Exit 8 (Summit Ave). Turn left at the top of the ramp and then left again so you go back onto Rt 24 headed West. Take exit 7A for Chatham and bear right onto Rt 124 (Main St). Follow Main St. through 2 lights. The Library is to your right about 1/2 block past the 2nd light. From Parkway take I-76 West to Rt 24 West. Take exit 7A for Chatham and follow above directions.

(continued on page 10)

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

(Continued from page 9)

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 Moomtaz at the Hannibag. RSVP required; join our listserve for further details.

SOCIAL DINNER: THIRD TUESDAY of each month at 7pm. Join us for dinner in a Morristown establishment. Location will be announced 2 weeks before the social. The RSVP is required to jkhaddad@juno.com; 973-564-7753, 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 listserve.

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 our website or call 973-364-7753 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 change.

We are also seeking Young Sierra 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.

SUMMER PICNIC at 107 Oldwick Road in Whitehouse Station will be JULY 22nd. We need help with the cooking, procuring food, people to bring gifts, food, etc. Please sign up for our picnic committee by calling Diana at 973-564-7753 option # 8, or emailing MistyAngel2003@gmail.com. We expect 200 people or more, and we desperately need volunteers.

HIKES:

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

50 PLUS:

Are you 50 or better and occasionally bored by singles events? The 50Plus singles events provide an opportunity to socialize with interesting people while enjoying a variety of nature, cultural and sporting even guest events held throughout the state. So join with like-minded folk and even help the environment. To learn about upcoming events join the Singles listserve; check the Singles web page or call the hotline (973)-564-7753, option # 6. For more information please contact Terry at terry@stretta.com.

Young Sierrans

(A special interest section for Young Sierra Club Members ages 18-35 with socials and ECO chats along with discussions to connect and inform environmental-minded individuals seeking to get involved with preserving the future.)

YOUNG SIERRAN COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Young Sierrans Leadership Chair: Jackie Enfield
Young Sierrans Conservation Chair: Bill Fewchuk
Young Sierrans Outreach/Membership Chair: David Smith
Young Sierrans Outing Chair: Open Position! Contact us!
Young Sierrans Greenbelt Coordinator: Open Position!
Young Sierrans Web Master: Open Position!
Young Sierrans Publicity Chair: Open Position!
Young Sierrans Coordinator/Moderator: Diana Christine Eichholz at MistyAngel22@aol.com
Young Sierrans Phone Line: 973-564-7753 press # 1

YOUNG SIERRANS (age 18-35):

monthly Sunday 30 pm Friday meeting in back community room of Panera Bread, 136 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08542 (right next door to the Princeton Triumph Brewery). ECO (Environmental Concerns Overview) Chat Group with nightlife social afterwards. Contact MistyAngel22@aol.com or call 973-564-7753 push option # 1.

Sierra Student Coalition

web site: http://www.ssc.org/nj

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

STUDENT TRAINING: This summer the Sierra Student Coalition will hold training sessions in North Carolina, Minnesota, Washington, California, Connecticut, and Puerto Rico (the last for native Spanish-speakers only). More information is available on the website: www.ssc.org.

Inner City Outings Section (another Chapter wide special interest activity)

OFFICERS:

Chair (North/Central Jersey): Anne Dyjak
Co-Chairs (South Jersey): Joy Booth 846-4574 joebob60@gmail.com and Jennifer Grenier 856-58-5512 jennig6@hotmail.com and Maxine Vogt 856-779-0156 Shovat11@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 IGO groups, one in the northern-central region and one in the southern region/Camden area. If you would like to experience the rewards of interacting 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, please check our webpage at http://www.sierraclub.org/nj/newjersey/, or send an email to annedj@verizon.net.

GROUPOUTINGS COORDINATORS

Central Jersey: Ken Mayberg kmayberg@juno.com
Essex County: David Ogens 973-728-7107 (H) 1479 Post Road, Callicoon, NY 12723 Hudson/Meadowlands: Vacant
Jersey City: Mike Vorano 550-7832 (H) 1479 Post Road, Longwood, NJ 07738 Looptopia: Joyce White 985-272-4479 (H) joew2yj02@yahoo.com
North Jersey: Ellen Blumenkrantz 210-784-8417 EllenBlumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Northwest Jersey: Pat Mangoni, pmangoni@gmail.com
Raritan Valley: Vacant
South Jersey: Tom Boghosian 625-6278 (H) 3722 Longhill Ct., Maple Shade, NJ 08052
West Jersey: Vacant
River Touring: Fred Tocce 909-403-2205 (H) 16 Box 277, Washington, NJ 07882
Inner City Area Outings: Anna Dyjak 732-560-0593 (H) annedj@verizon.net
17 M. Horse Rd., Warren, NJ 07059
Chapter Outings: Ellen Blumenkrantz 210-784-8417 EllenBlumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Outing Leaders: Please send July-October 2006 entry with your Group Outings Coordinator before 5pm if you are planning to lead an outing due to the beginning of one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it for the previous Sierra, 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 discriptions 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 July-October 2006 trip write-up by May 10th.

NOTES ON OUTINGS: All Outings are open to Club members, guests, and anyone interested in outings. Unless otherwise specified, the events are open to any members, adults, and you are requested to contact us at the above email addresses. To learn more, please check our webpage at http://www.sierraclub.org/nj/newjersey/index.html, or send an email to annedj@verizon.net.

If you are a Sierra Club member interested in becoming an Outing Leader or have suggestions for new outings, contact your local Sierra Club Chapter Chair or the Central Jersey Sierra Club Chair for assistance and further information. The Sierra Club Outings Chair is available by email at the above e-mail addresses.

APRIL

1st Apr 10 (Sat) Wagner Chisholm Trees, Washington, DC. Meeting, at 8am, hike along the eastern prospec- to TN’s Capital’s cherry blossoms. Meet at Hilton Hotel, 2011! Cherry Hill. We will have lunch at the festiv- ial dinner and enjoy a tour of cherry blossoms at the Hilton Hotel. Meet at 8am. Hotel: 2011! Cherry Hill. We will have lunch at the festiv- ial dinner and enjoy a tour of cherry blossoms at the Hilton Hotel. Meet at 8am. Hotel: 2011! Cherry Hill. We will have lunch at the festiv- ial dinner and enjoy a tour of cherry blossoms at the Hilton Hotel. Meet at 8am. Hotel: 2011! Cherry Hill. We will have lunch at the festiv- ial dinner and enjoy a tour of cherry blossoms at the Hilton Hotel. Meet at 8am. Hotel: 2011! Cherry Hill. We will have lunch at the festiv- ial dinner and enjoy a tour of cherry blossoms at the Hilton Hotel. Meet at 8am. Hotel: 2011! Cherry Hill. We will have lunch at the festiv- ial dinner and enjoy a tour of cherry blossoms at the Hilton Hotel. Meet at 8am. Hotel: 2011! Cherry Hill. We will have lunch at the festiv-

Are you receiving our Action Alerts? Go to http://newjersey.sierraclub.org

Your Sierra Club Newsletter
May 14 (Sat) Ramsey Valley Country Reservation/Kingswood State Park, 10:15 am. Moderate-paced loop hike in the Ramsey Valley Country Reservation, a 450-acre tract that contains many outstanding species of wetland and upland plants and a number of wetland birds. Bring lunch & lots of water. Great 12 people. Must preregister: Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-849-6074 or ellemkrantz@hotmail.com.

May 15 (Fri) Mount Tenen, NV. Modern, 6 miles up; at a moderate pace and with a fantastic view at the top. Meet at 9 am at Tennent's Canoe Rental on Rt 47, Delphia Drive, 2 miles from the state line. You must preregister with leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 or pis1@cccnj.net.

June 11 (Sat) Siding Kayaking (Maurice River, NJ), 9 am to 3 pm. Meet at 9 am at Maurice River State Park. Contact: Ellen Blumenkrantz, ellemkrantz@hotmail.com or 201-849-6074.

June 11 (Sat) Siding Pot-Mill-Horn, Wharnsme Pop-Roof, 7:30 to 10 pm. Meet at 7:30 pm in the Siding parking lot. Contact: Ellen Blumenkrantz, ellemkrantz@hotmail.com or 201-849-6074.

June 11 (Sat) Siding Pot-Mill-Horn, Wharnsme Pop-Roof. Meet at 7:30 pm. Meet at 7:30 pm in the Siding parking lot. Contact: Ellen Blumenkrantz, ellemkrantz@hotmail.com or 201-849-6074.
OUTINGS (Continued from page 10)

June 24 (Sat) Anthony Wayne Trail/NY. Moderate-paced hike up 300 feet,2 miles, on the Anthony Wayne trail near the AnthonyWayne Memorial. Bring insect repellent, water and sunscreen. Meet promptly at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot on the east side of Route 574, near Route 130. Rain cancels, otherwise all weather. Contact: Jane Tousman, 908-561-5504, jane@tousman.com.

June 30 (Fri) Independence Day Fireworks at the Morristown Green. Meet at 8:30 p.m. at the Gatehouse. Fireworks begin at 9:00 p.m. Contact: Mike Gallaway, mgallaway@comcast.net.

JULY

July 2 (Sat) Mt. Tom Bike Ride along the Delaware Water Gap. We'll ride 50 miles (roundtrip) from Frenchtown, NJ, to Lambertville, NJ. Bring a picnic lunch and swim in the Delaware. Meet before 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot on the north side of Route 170 at the Cuyahoga River. Leader: John P. Jurasek, 845-340-5844, jurasek@optonline.net.

July 2 (Sat) NJ-ACOC Tugboat Cruise. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at the north end of the Morris Canal (route 170) near by Saddle River. Leader: Tony Winters, 201-933-4133, twinters7122@aol.com.

July 2 (Sun) Jacob Riis Trail Bike Ride. Meet at 11:00 a.m. at the entrance to the Jacob Riis Trail headwater which is a narrow gravel path 500 yards north of the parking lot on Route 170. Leader: John P. Jurasek, 845-340-5844, jurasek@optonline.net.

July 2 (Sun) Delaware River Bike Ride. Meet at 1:30 p.m. near the wide bridge on the river at Freehold on Route 9. Leader: John P. Jurasek, 845-340-5844, jurasek@optonline.net.

July 3-4 (Sat-Sun) Delaware River Bike Ride. We'll cycle 80 miles (roundtrip) from Freehold, NJ to Lambertville, NJ. Bring a picnic lunch and swim in the Delaware. Meet at 9:00 a.m. near the wide bridge on the river at Freehold on Route 9. Leader: John P. Jurasek, 845-340-5844, jurasek@optonline.net.

July 8 (Fri) Delaware River Bike Ride. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at the north end of the Morris Canal (route 170) near by Saddle River. Leader: Tony Winters, 201-933-4133, twinters7122@aol.com.

July 22 (Sat) Delaware River Bike Ride. Meet at 10:30 a.m. near the wide bridge on the river at Freehold on Route 9. Leader: John P. Jurasek, 845-340-5844, jurasek@optonline.net.

July 24 (Mon) Delaware River Bike Ride. Meet at 10:30 a.m. near the wide bridge on the river at Freehold on Route 9. Leader: John P. Jurasek, 845-340-5844, jurasek@optonline.net.

July 28 (Fri) Delaware River Bike Ride. Meet at 10:30 a.m. near the wide bridge on the river at Freehold on Route 9. Leader: John P. Jurasek, 845-340-5844, jurasek@optonline.net.

July 28 (Fri) Delaware River Bike Ride. Meet at 10:30 a.m. near the wide bridge on the river at Freehold on Route 9. Leader: John P. Jurasek, 845-340-5844, jurasek@optonline.net.

July 28 (Fri) Delaware River Bike Ride. Meet at 10:30 a.m. near the wide bridge on the river at Freehold on Route 9. Leader: John P. Jurasek, 845-340-5844, jurasek@optonline.net.

July 31 (Mon) Delaware River Bike Ride. Meet at 10:30 a.m. near the wide bridge on the river at Freehold on Route 9. Leader: John P. Jurasek, 845-340-5844, jurasek@optonline.net.