

The Jersey..... SIERRAN

Vol. 35, No. 3 More than 23,000 Members in New Jersey July - September 2006

Sierra Club Endorses Stender for Congress

By Rich Isaac, Political Chair

The Sierra Club has endorsed Assemblywoman Linda Stender's (D-22nd AD) election bid against incumbent Congressman Michael Ferguson (R) in New Jersey's 7th Congressional District, the first time that the organization has endorsed against him. The 7th District zigzags across the north middle of the state, containing eighteen communities each in Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, sixteen communities in Union County and parts of Edison, S. Plainfield and Woodbridge in Middlesex County.



Our choice was clear. The Club views elections as referendums on the incumbent; Ferguson's environmental voting record, as recorded in the League of Conservation Voters' scorecard, dropped from about 60% four years ago, to about 35% two years ago, to a mediocre 17% during the current session of Congress. It is the second worst in the New Jersey delegation; only Rep. Garrett's (R, 5th CD) is worse.

Ferguson supported the 2005 Energy Bill, providing billions in tax breaks to oil companies at a time of record profits, shielding manufacturers of MTBE, a carcinogenic gasoline additive, from lawsuits for contaminating drinking water, preempting the ability of states to regulate the siting of liquefied natural gas terminals, and exempting certain oil- and gas-drilling activities from the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act.

Also, Ferguson voted for the so-called 'Gasoline for America's Security Act of 2005' which, while purporting to address refinery capacity, would have unnecessarily extended the Clean Air Act deadlines for ozone-pollution cleanup, increasing the health risk to millions of Americans.

In contrast to Ferguson's deteriorating environmental record, Assemblywoman Stender has a really good environmental record. As a Freeholder, she spearheaded the passage of Union County's open space, recreation and historic preservation trust fund, initiated the County's largest-ever tree replacement project, and initiated the Clean and Green Program to improve the appearance of County property. In the State Assembly she strongly supported repeal of "Fast-Track" and the passage of Clean Car legislation to reduce air pollution.

The contest between Assemblywoman Stender and Rep. Ferguson will be close! With President Bush's popularity at an all-time low in New Jersey, and with Stender's extensive political experience, it is possible that she will win. I urge people in CD-7 who care about environmental issues to vote for Linda. If you'd like to help send her to Washington, please contact Meiling Chin, Political Chair of our Loantaka Group, and the Chapter's liaison to the Stender campaign, at chinmeiling@yahoo.com. ☺

New Jersey Sierra Club Cool Cities Campaign

By, Rachel Hurford, Peggy Najjar, and Faith Teitelbaum



Greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase. They cause global warming, deterioration of our environment, and a less healthy future for our children. But what can we do? Our time and energy are consumed by the responsibilities of modern life: work and commuting, the need to spend quality time with our families, and keeping ourselves healthy. Do you perhaps send money to the Sierra Club, hoping that others will do the work for you? Or are you prepared to "engage" and have an impact on the future health of our planet? There is something we all can do: join the community of energized activists in the Chapter's "Cool Cities Campaign, Solving Global Warming One City at a Time".

A National Campaign

Our first task is to convince each of New Jersey's municipalities to pass a resolution signing onto the "US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement" (USMCPA). The Agreement obligates communities to take concrete steps to lower greenhouse gas emissions and become Cool Cities. Over 200 cities and towns, representing 42 million people, have already done it. On the day the Kyoto Treaty was ratified, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels launched the USMCPA to advance the goals of the Kyoto Protocol in the US at the local level.

Local Beginnings

Six months ago, Rachel Hurford and her husband Andy Lea started a campaign to urge all the municipalities of Mercer County to adopt the USMCPA. As of May, 14 of the 566 municipalities in New Jersey have done it! They are

Bayonne, Bloomfield, Brick, Closter, Elizabeth, Hamilton, Hightstown, Hope, Hopewell Borough, Hopewell Township, Kearny, Newark, Plainfield, Robbinsville and Westfield. Mercer County's Board of Freeholders has also passed a resolution in support of the USMCPA and will cut emissions at the county level. Now we are recruiting Club members to help champion the USMCPA in their towns and counties.

Making Your City Cool

Cool Cities must agree to the following three actions:

1. Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets locally, through such measures as anti-sprawl land-use policies, urban forest restoration projects, and public information campaigns,
2. Urge state governments, and the federal government, to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto Protocol — a 7% reduction from 1990 levels by 2012, and
3. Urge the U.S. Congress to pass the bipartisan Climate Stewardship Act, which would establish a national emissions trading system.

Examples of Local Initiatives

There are many initiatives towns can take to reduce greenhouse emissions. They do not have to be costly. For example, Salt Lake City is saving more than \$32,000 a year by having installed 861 light-emitting diode (LED) traffic signals — which also require significantly less maintenance than conventional lights. Other efforts include more recycling, planting trees, upgrading outdated appliances with energy efficient ones, requiring new buildings to be energy efficient, and requiring bike paths in new construction projects.

(Continued on page 3)

Other Candidates Endorsed for Congress (Locations are approximate)

- 1st CD (Camden, Gloucester Counties): **Rob Andrews (D)**
- 2nd CD (Atlantic, Cape May, Cumb, Salem): **Frank LoBiondo (R)**
- 3rd CD (Burlington, Ocean): **Jim Saxton (R)**
- 6th CD (Middlesex, Monmouth): **Frank Pallone (D)**
- 8th CD (Essex, Passaic): **William Pascrell (D)**
- 10th CD (Essex, Union): **Donald Payne (D)**
- 12th CD (Hunterdon, Mercer, M'sex, Monmouth): **Rush Holt (D)**

Report from Trenton

Highlands at Critical Juncture Concern about Implementing the Highlands Act

Supplied by Chapter Director Jeff Tittel

Almost two years after the Highlands Act's passage, and months before its master plan is due, leaders of the NJ Highlands Coalition emphasized on March 24th the need to implement the act quickly and strongly.

"Every day lost means more water supply and endangered species lands are paved over. We have a lot of work to do and we need everyone to keep their eye on the prize," said David Pringle of the NJ Environmental Federation and Co-Chair of the Coalition's Legislative Committee. "The Governor has said that we have to get the Highlands right because it all starts there and he's right — for 2 years

all has rested there, Fast Track still looms, and little else is happening."

"We have concerns that the Highlands plan will not live up to the intent of the law and will become a vehicle for weakening and undermining the protections of water supply in the Highlands," added Jeff Tittel, who is also Co-Chair of the NJ Highlands Coalition's Legislative Committee. "We won a great victory with the passage of the Act two years ago, but if the plan isn't done right, we will lose that victory."

The environmentalists noted several ongoing challenges in maintaining the integrity between the rules, the Regional

Master Plan (RMP), and the Highlands Act:

- The Highlands Council has been unable to replace let alone build staff due to the state's budget problems — there are 9 openings, maybe more, with a third of the positions unfilled;
- 2 original Task Force and Council members have resigned - other resignations are possible;
- DEP's final Highlands rules due to be adopted in May contain significant loopholes;



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POPULATION ISSUES COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Speaking with One Voice for Reproductive Health

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@verizon.net)

"Life in Lubbock, Texas taught me...that sex is the most awful, filthy thing on earth and you should save it for someone you love."

Butch Hancock, The Flatlanders Band from
"The Education of Shelby Knox"



Shelby Knox was a high school student in Lubbock, Texas who thought it was wrong that abstinence-only sex education was all that was offered to Lubbock teens. She wanted to do something about it by changing the sex education policy of her school district. Lubbock, Texas has one of the highest rates of teen pregnancy in our country — 1 in 14 girls become pregnant — and one of the highest rates of STDs (sexually-transmitted diseases) and HIV/AIDS. The documentary, "The Education of Shelby Knox" tells the story of Shelby's fight for access to comprehensive sex education and the reality of abstinence-only education.

This documentary, and an opportunity to talk with Shelby Knox, was the kick-off event for the "One Voice - Reproductive Health and Population Summit" in Washington, D.C., held during the first weekend in April (see photo below). Co-sponsors for this event — bringing together many energized and enthusiastic high school and college students from across the country, as well as some of us returning old faithfuls — were Advocates for Youth, Sierra Club, SIECUS (Sexuality Information and Education Caucus of the U.S.) and Population Connection.

Educational workshops and seminars included topics such as political barriers to contraception, politics of sex education, international family planning, a discussion of how young people are shaping the future, and exportation of ideology. Energized and well versed on the issues, we charged up Capitol Hill the following Monday morning to talk with our representatives about three bills: the Responsible Education About Life (REAL) Act (S.368/H.R.2553), which requires that federal dollars be spent on comprehensive sex education, which includes abstinence, but arms young people with the information they need to protect themselves if they do not abstain; the Access to Legal Pharmaceuticals Act (Alpha; S.809/H.R.1652), which requires pharmacies to dispense all legal prescriptions; and the Global Democracy Promotion Act (H.R.4465), which would counter the Global Gag Rule. The Global Gag Rule, ostensibly imposed to stop abortion, has actually increased the number of abortions overseas by limiting poor women's access to family planning information and education. This barrier to free speech would be illegal if imposed in the United States.

We are proud that Senator Lautenberg is the Senate sponsor for Alpha and the REAL Act. Since 1996, close to \$1 billion in federal dollars has been spent on abstinence-only education programs — which have proven not to work — yet NO federal dollars have been spent on comprehensive sex education. Comprehensive sex education includes abstinence as a proven method for preventing pregnancy, but goes beyond

"just say no" to provide medically-accurate information that helps young people make healthy choices.

On the House side, Representatives Holt, Pascrell, Rothman, and Pallone have signed onto Alpha (Sen. Menendez has signed on in the Senate); Andrews, Holt, Rothman and Payne have signed onto the Global Democracy Promotion Act; and Andrews, Holt, Pallone, Payne, and Rothman have signed onto the REAL Act. Senator Menendez has also introduced S.2508, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Responsibility, and Opportunity Act of 2006, which includes a job-training component.

During the training, we also learned about One-by-One, a grassroots volunteer initiative in support of the United Nations Population Fund's "Campaign to End Fistula." Women who suffer from fistula, a condition caused by obstructed labor during childbirth, are desperately poor, have no access to medical care, are left incontinent, and are often shunned by their families and communities. Together with One-by-One, the Sierra Club is spearheading the "Green/Pink" Project, combining the issues of women's health and rights, access to life-saving reproductive healthcare and environmental conservation. The parties are designed for participants to take action and raise money to save one woman's life, end obstetric fistula and ultimately protect the global environment.

Women who have access to health care are able to contribute to society, and are key to addressing the root causes of poverty — which lead to the environmental destruction we see in the world today. Women who are able to choose the number and spacing of their children choose to have fewer, healthier children. This reduces the demand for resources, and helps curb forest destruction and global warming. But here in the US we need to do our part as well. Actions we can take include reducing our own consumption, holding our members of Congress accountable, and encouraging their support for the bills mentioned above.

If you are interested in attending the One Voice Summit next spring, please contact me.

More about One-by-One is at www.onebyoneproject.net. Check out "The Education of Shelby Knox" at www.pbs.org/pov/pov2005/shelby-knox/index.html.

In the next issue we return to Madagascar to learn about Champion Women and Champion Communities.

Note: The One-Stop Shopping box of the April-June issue of this newsletter lists our e-newsletters. Bonnie reminds us that they do not include the population e-newsletter:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/population/e-newsletter/>



Thanks For Your Support!

Compiled by Ken Johanson, Chapter Chair

As in prior years, members and friends of the New Jersey Chapter came through in 2005 and provided us with the financial support we depend upon to carry out our vital work. To all those who contributed to the Chapter during 2005, please accept my most sincere thanks. We could not have been as effective as we were in achieving our goals without your financial support.

Following are the names of those who contributed \$100 or more to the Chapter during 2005. I apologize in advance if your name was inadvertently left off the list. Also, if your contribution was received after the close of the year it does not appear below but will be included in the list of 2006 contributors. And please be assured that we are deeply appreciative of all contributions to the Chapter, regardless of the amount.

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Resolutions adopted by ExCom in March, April and May:

We recommended (to the Club's National Political Committee) **endorsements of Congressional candidates** for the June Primary and November General elections, all of which were approved. The list is on p.1. (March, May)

We opposed the Fefferman and AFC Realty Development on a 17-acre site formerly known as the Scientific Glass Company on **Liongate Drive in Bloomfield, Essex County**, where 114 townhouses are proposed, which is within a federally designated flood hazard plain, and urged the NJDEP to refuse the applicant's request for waivers and permits. (March)

We authorized the formation of a **Young Sierrans Section** to encompass the age groups of roughly 18 to 35, noting that the members need to develop an environmental agenda. (March)

Protecting the Metedeconk River watershed in Ocean and Monmouth Counties: We called upon the Townships of Jackson and Brick, and the Counties of Ocean and Monmouth, to take all reasonable measures to limit development in said watershed (which supplies water to Brick, Point Pleasant, Point Pleasant Beach and Howell), by both limiting the size and scope of development projects (including the

so-called "Mitch Leigh 5000-unit Development"), and through the acquisition of land for open space. (April)

A **revised procedure for our Group elections**: When elections are "contested," we agreed to provide space for 50-word candidate-statements, on the ballot. (April)

Clean Air Lawsuit: We authorized the initiation of legal proceedings against Marcal Paper Company for violations of environmental laws, and to oppose issuance of an operating permit for a factory in Elmwood Park, Bergen County. (May)

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) 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 Crystal Snedden, Program Assistant, in our Trenton office: 609-656-7612 or Crystal.Snedden@sierraclub.org.

What do you suppose is the "environmental spin" on property tax reform in New Jersey?

Find out if your community's Development Ordinance promotes "Smart Growth."

Kelly McNicholas Bids Farewell



After three wonderful and exciting years as your Conservation Program Director, I will be leaving to pursue a long-time dream of becoming a Peace Corps volunteer. I anticipate serving in Africa, on environmental projects. My years with the Club have provided many fond memories and a deep belief that inspired and motivated citizens can make positive change happen in our world.

There are many victories I am proud to have helped achieve. I organized many rallies, press events, public meetings and Trenton Lobby Days that ultimately built strong public demand for our priority issues. I was especially proud to promote passage of the **Highlands Act**, achieving a decades-long Chapter goal. Combating the destructive **Fast Track Law**, by organizing information sessions in every county, and press coverage in key legislative districts, is another legacy. These efforts, along with the superb lobbying work of our Chapter Director, Jeff Tittel, and other key allies around the state, resulted in the indefinite postponement of "Fast Track" by Governor Codey.

I also carry fond memories of my work with the **Choice NJ Coalition**: last December, after eight years of work, we finally passed a bill to expand contraceptive coverage in insurance plans. It was exciting to work with all layers of the Sierra Club, bringing together volunteers, Chapter staff and the national Global Population Program to coordinate action on this issue.

I'm also proud of my efforts to "grow" the Chapter, helping to generate almost \$100,000 in donations, grants and cost savings. It was also my pleasure to help pick my replacement, Crystal Snedden, whose title will be Program Assistant.

I have most enjoyed working directly with the volunteers and local activists

who pour their hearts into the communities they live in. From helping to start our extremely successful **Ocean County Group**, to seeing one of our volunteers fight construction of a school on a Superfund site and then run for her local school board, I am deeply inspired by the dedication of Club members.

At times, our fight to prevent relicensing the **Oyster Creek nuclear power plant** has seemed hopeless: we are opposed by Exelon, a powerful national corporation, and an unwieldy federal bureaucracy, the NRC. But by sharing some humor with the local activists who live in the shadow of the plant, there is the feeling that right is on our side, and that the chances of winning are good.

Whenever I go to **Camden**, whether to testify against yet another Title V air pollution permit, see some local parks, or hear about new drinking water contaminants, I talk to voters who have been disenfranchised and sold out by their elected officials in a city that has been left behind by the state. But I also hear stories about groups like the South Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance — that works every day to motivate neighbors and chip away at the city's problems. This reminds me that all change is local and all victories have to start somewhere. It is these activists and our dedicated Chapter volunteers — who juggle full time jobs, children and family commitments, yet still find time to dedicate many hours each week to environmental causes — who will continue to inspire me throughout life, and whom I will miss most when I'm gone. Thank you for so many wonderful memories! ☺

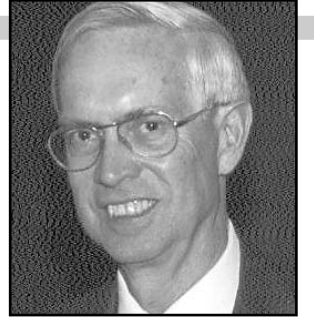
Nominations Sought for Chapter Executive Committee

Later this year members will have the opportunity to elect four members to the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom). A nominating committee, chaired by Sunil Somalwar, has been appointed to prepare a slate of nominees. All Chapter members are invited to submit names of candidates. Members also may submit candidate petitions. The name of any Chapter member proposed by petition of at least 15 Chapter members, will be included on the ballot, provided that the candidate has given his or her written consent. Names for consideration by the nominating committee should be sent by July 21 to Sunil Somalwar, Chair, 2006-07 Nominating Committee,

c/o Sierra Club, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08618.

The nominating committee will report the names of nominees to the ExCom on July 28. Candidate petitions must be received, by the committee chair, by August 11. It is anticipated that ballots will be mailed on or about September 13. All Chapter members of record as of the date mailing lists are prepared by Sierra Club headquarters in San Francisco will be entitled to vote. Ballots must be returned to the address specified on the ballot no later than December 1. Ballots will be counted at a time and place yet to be determined. There will be additional information in the next issue of the Jersey Sierran. ☺

Chair's Message Intelligent Design



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

The proponents of intelligent design cite the eyeball and other incredibly complex and wondrous creations as proof that their hypothesis is correct. But eyeballs, and their human and non-human hosts, are being destroyed as a result of wars and civil conflicts that rage throughout much of the world, and the natural environment upon which we all depend is succumbing to the relentless and mindless onslaught of mankind. As the writer of a letter to the editor of the Star-Ledger recently observed, "I don't know about this intelligent design theory, but it's for sure that some folks weren't the result of it."

Intelligent design is advanced as an alternative to the theory of evolution and does not directly seek to refute incontrovertible evidence that mankind has had a significant impact upon our natural environment. However, I have found that those who reject overwhelming scientific evidence in support of the theory of evolution tend not to be troubled by equally compelling evidence that human forces are severely impacting the state of our natural environment.

According to these folks there is no cause for alarm. Sure, we've been encountering some problems in recent years, including an increase in the frequency and intensity of hurricanes and other severe weather events, but everything will work out in the end, just as it always has in the past. To those who embrace this Pollyannaish view of the state of the world, I can only suggest that they pay heed to the cautionary advice we receive on a regular basis from our friends in the investment community: "Past performance is no guarantee of future results."

Ed Ayres, in his book *God's Last Offer*, points to four "spikes," as he calls them,

that have occurred in recent times. The first is the carbon spike, the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that is largely responsible for global warming, and that already has contributed to unprecedented storms and other devastating natural disasters across the planet. The second is the extinction spike. Ayres notes that the earth is now in the throes of the fastest mass extinction in the planet's history and, I might add, the first such event that is attributable to the human species. The third is the consumption spike. Unsustainable consumption is depleting the planet of its finite resources, including its forests, its topsoil, its water and its fossil fuels. And the fourth is the population spike. While Ayres argues convincingly that all four spikes are interrelated, there can be little doubt that he is correct in asserting that the population spike drives the other three.

The proponents of intelligent design would have us reject analytical reasoning and ignore the lessons of science. But to ignore science is to invite disaster. Ayres believes that we still have time — that there is hope for the planet and for the species that call it home. But time is running out. We as a nation have yet to take meaningful steps to address any of the crises that Ayres so convincingly describes in his book. Unfortunately, there is an appalling lack of leadership at the national level.

Those of us who recognize the seriousness of the threat we face need to find a way to wake up the American people, as well as our elected representatives. We need to convince them not only that there is a problem, but also that if our response to the problem is to be effective, it must be based on sound science, not on spurious hypotheses that do not stand up to scientific scrutiny. ☺

Cool Cities

(Continued from page 1)

Tools to Help You - our Website

Information is available from <http://sierraclub.org/nj/coolcities>. We will offer training meetings in your region. Our Activist Toolkit provides complete guidelines. We urge the formation of coalitions (with other community clubs, faith-based groups, schools, businesses, environmental groups, etc.). Members of Environmental Commissions can be especially important allies. A united front will be more persuasive when presenting the USMCPA proposal to municipal councils and mayors.

Subsequent Goals

After convincing our cities, we will ask all New Jersey Counties to commit to reducing emissions. Then we hope to get action at the state level. The recent Northeastern seven-state agreement to combat global warming by reducing CO₂ emissions from power plants, and the adoption of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), are big steps for New Jersey. However, there are many

other opportunities for the state to reduce emissions.

Please contact us with your questions. Updates on progress in other states can be found on the national cool cities website, <http://www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/coolcities>, or <http://coolcities.us/>.

Rachel Hurford:
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Faith Teitelbaum, NJ Sierra Club
Global Warming Issues Coordinator:
faithtei@aol.com
Peggy Najjar, NJ Cool Cities Media
Contact: mnajjar@prodigy.net

Rachel Hurford is the mother of two small children who are her motivation for protecting the future of our planet. Peggy Najjar lives in Union County and is a former teacher and returned Peace Corps volunteer. Faith Teitelbaum is our Chapter Global Warming Issues Coordinator and Conservation Chair of our Jersey Shore Group. ☺

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Volunteer Opportunities

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

Sierra Club Opposes Construction of New Jersey Schools on Toxic Sites

By Jeff Tittel and Kelly McNicholas

The construction of new public schools in New Jersey is managed by the state's School Construction Corporation (SCC). The SCC recently attempted to use "Abbott" funds (funds specifically assigned to the poorest school districts) for a new school in Union City (Hudson County) — to be located on contaminated property used during the Second World War to store uranium ore for the Manhattan Project. We were pleased to learn that another site has since been chosen, but we remain concerned about other schools that are planned, or are currently in the midst of construction, or have been completed — on equally toxic sites.

On average, children in our urban areas have already been shortchanged in the quality of education they are receiving — compared to our suburbs. It is wrong for the state also to be risking their health when we send them to school.

The SCC is not exclusively to blame for the flawed process of siting new schools. The local school districts and the NJ Department of Education also play significant roles in narrowing down the lists of properties from which the SCC can choose. In Gloucester City (Camden County) the local school board chose to locate a new middle school on what is both a federal Superfund site with radioactive contaminants, and a site known by state officials to contain heavy metals and fume-emitting compounds that they plan to leave partially in the soil. The ex-mayor testified to the state Legislature's Joint Committee on Schools that the site was chosen so that other, cleaner, sites in town could be reserved for private development.

The problems of an SCC that distributes funds without discrimination, and corrupt local officials who look on the Abbott school fund as a redevelopment gold mine, are compounded by significant flaws in the state's site remediation program. The program rarely exercises its authority to require the total removal of all contaminants, even when public funds are being used. In most cases toxic waste left in the ground is simply covered by a thin vinyl liner and two feet of dirt "cap" separating the kids on the playground from the harmful chemicals below. Also, there is currently no assur-

ance that the dirt used for the cap is clean. In the example of an Abbott school in Trenton, contaminated dirt was brought to the site as fill before the foundation was poured on top of it. Having an inspector to verify the cleanliness of the fill would address this problem at ongoing cleanups around the state.

The amount of residual toxic material permitted to remain is determined by a mathematical formula that state risk assessors will tell you has many safety factors built into it. The problem is that, in applying the formula, they assume all exposed persons to be six feet tall, weighing 180 pounds, and male — not your skinny, four-foot tall 10-year old with a metabolism that processes more toxics in the same way s/he can process more candy bars. We believe complete cleanups should be achieved at all future school and residential sites, and that the standards should be protective of our most vulnerable populations.

While much attention has been paid to the fiscal problems related to Abbott schools, we believe the following steps will help address the health-related concerns as well:

Freeze the siting of any new school on a site known to be contaminated.

Enhance monitoring, with indoor and outdoor sampling, of any school completed or under construction on a contaminated site.

Issue stop-work orders at any school construction site where contaminants are found.

Require remediation at any school found to be contaminated (e.g. installation of ventilation, water filtration systems).

Instruct the NJ Department of Environmental Protection to issue school exposure standards that are protective of children's health.

Create a public process for the siting of Abbott schools and expenditure of funds.

Children are the cornerstones of our future and schools are often the cornerstones of communities. We have brought these concerns to the attention of Governor Corzine and are hopeful that he will share our concerns and will work with us to create compelling solutions.

Jeff Tittel is our Chapter Director and Kelly McNicholas is our Conservation Program Coordinator. ☺

Are We Running out of Water?

By Fred Akers, Administrator of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association

"Water Rules Threaten Development Throughout County" was a recent headline in the Atlantic City Press. But after reading the article, I wondered why the headline didn't instead read, "Development Threatens Water Supply Throughout County"?

While there may be the public perception that the available drinking water in Central and Southern New Jersey is infinite, a moment's reflection should enable one to realize otherwise!

In fact, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJ-DEP) and the US Geological Survey (USGS) continue to produce findings that question the long-term sustainability of our drinking water supply. And it is clearly NJ-DEP's job to ensure, long-term and state-wide, that there will be enough drinking water. It should be obvious that there are limits that will eventually require either the tapping of new sources, or the limiting of consumption, or both.

Since much of New Jersey's drinking water comes from rainwater that seeps into the ground (aquifer recharge), developers have historically been "double dippers." By this I mean that development both increases consumption and decreases supply: the increased amounts of pavement and roof surface send rainwater into storm drains — and thus directly into rivers and the Ocean, reducing the quantity available to recharge underground aquifers.

An additional "loss" of drinking water results from the fact that our sewage treatment plants discharge their effluent directly or indirectly out to sea. So water is "used" only once!

With less water entering the ground, water tables drop, and streams and shallow wells dry up. At the same time, rainwater washes contamination from street-gutters, and other impervious surfaces, into storm-sewers, bypassing the "natural" cleansing route through wetlands. This is bad not only for freshwater swimming and recreational fishing, but can also impact offshore commercial fisheries and shellfisheries.

So, instead of the perception that "protecting our water supply for tomorrow is a threat to new development today", municipal and county planners and the media should take the lead from NJ-DEP and place a higher value on the public importance of local long-term

water supply sustainability when they push for all the new "ratables" they can jam into their towns and counties. Water conservation and aquifer recharge should be a larger part of planning.

For example, Atlantic County has recognized the increasing value of drinking water, and is taking many initiatives to protect and conserve water quality and quantity. The Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA), managers of a regional wastewater treatment plant that discharges about 31 million gallons per day into the Atlantic Ocean, has progressive wastewater reuse projects underway (costing \$11 million) to reuse 130 million gallons per year.

The ACUA has also secured state funding for a county-wide water conservation education program, and their extensive web resources about water conservation are available to the public at <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/>. Atlantic County has a Groundwater Advisory Committee appointed to review and advise the county on technical and regulatory groundwater issues, and the Atlantic County Office of Planning is an active participant in the implementation of the Phase II stormwater rules that require aquifer recharge for new development.

Progressive measures like these by counties and municipalities are necessary now to make sure that the demand for drinking water will never exceed supply. Water is not an infinite resource, and it is up to all of us to use it wisely.

(The Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association is concerned with water supply to the watershed's four counties: Atlantic, Camden, Cape May and Gloucester. akers@gowebway.com.) ☺

Inner City Outings: Help Make Big Things Happen

By Marty Cohen, ICO Chair for North and Central New Jersey

On April 29th, while leading a contingent of teenagers on an ICO hike, we ran into a retired school teacher who asked us what group we were, and remarked that as an active teacher he had made it a practice to take students on hikes several times each year. In fact, one of the members of his hike that day was a friend who had been his student 20 years previously. So we readily agreed on the huge benefits of taking children on hikes, and he was delighted to learn about the Sierra Club's ICO program. The Sierra Club's "essence" is to combine experiencing the environment with the political activism necessary to protect it. Critical elements of our "tool kit" are exposure and education; along with diversity, this is what ICOs are all about. If you have any doubt about the effectiveness of this approach, just attend one of our outings!

ICO works because of dedicated volunteers. To expand this great program we need to increase our numbers — we need both hike leaders and agency coordinators: people who find and communicate with the youth social service agencies that supply our "clientelle." If you have interest and ability in either of these functions, and can commit to about five hours per month, for about six months of the year, you are really needed. (Please note that the use of the words "dedicated" and "commit" in this paragraph is not to be taken lightly).

To volunteer or learn more about ICO, please contact me at ico-north@newjersey.sierraclub.org or 201-670-8383 (8am - 9pm, please). ☺

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Dumping in the Delaware River

By Gina Carola, our Delaware River Issues Coordinator

Unknown to many, Americans live with a frightening legacy of past wars in the form of stockpiles of chemical weapons. One of these is VX nerve agent, stored in seven sites across the country. So lethal is this chemical that a single drop of it, the size of a pinpoint, could kill an adult in minutes.

Thankfully, the United States agreed in 1985 to comply with an international treaty to dispose of VX and other such substances. The US Army was assigned this job. But the process is not simple: VX must first be neutralized - converted to a

highly corrosive liquid called caustic VX hydrolysate. Only then can the individual components be destroyed.

VX hydrolysate contains ethylmethylphosphonic acid and methylphosphonic acid, two water-soluble substances that would endanger both drinking water and aquatic life. Another, called 2-(diisopropylamino) ethanethiol, or thiolamine, actually aids in the reforming of VX, while another component called EA 2192 retains nerve agent properties. Then there is the nerve agent itself. Each of these chemicals alone is highly toxic, but left together in solution the danger is multiplied because together they could reform VX. Because of this possibility, the Chemical Weapons Convention mandates that each of the chemicals that are components of the VX nerve agent must be destroyed completely.

So the job at hand is to destroy the VX nerve agent and all of its components in order to prevent them from contaminating the environment with long-term implications for human health and wildlife. The attacks on the United States on 9/11 made it imperative to do this as quickly as possible in order to eliminate targets for terrorists. But doing it quickly should not mean throwing caution to the wind. It must be done as safely as possible to prevent an accident that could cause just as much damage as an outright attack by terrorists.

Originally, the Army planned to neutralize a large stockpile of VX agent that is stored in Newport, Indiana, followed by a process called Supercritical Water Oxidation (SCWO) to destroy the hydrolysate on-site. This process would convert the hydrolysate into carbon dioxide, water and salts — which could then be buried deep underground. SCWO was assessed and approved by the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program

as a safe, effective technology. This process was acceptable to the citizens of Indiana, and the Army was granted a permit by the State of Indiana to move forward. It was a win-win situation.

But, to speed up the process, Congress asked the Army to find a faster method. One proposal was to ship the caustic hydrolysate to a commercial biological treatment plant in Ohio, using t a n k e r trucks: 2-3 of them per day for 2-3 years! However, objections from residents of both



At a press conference on April 6. The speaker is Tracy Carluccio, Director of Special Projects at Delaware Riverkeeper. Others (L to R): Commodore Mike Kovacs (Yapewi Aquatic Club), Gina Carola, Paul Jusino (President, Delaware River Yachtman League), Jody Carrera (ANJEC), Bob Williams (Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club), and Jessie Weeks (Cape May City Environmental Commission). Photo: Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

Indiana and Ohio convinced the Army to abandon that plan. As a next alternative, the Army proposed a contract with DuPont, in Salem County, NJ, for treatment at the company's biological treatment plant — which sits right on the Delaware River. There would still be the danger of moving 2-3 truckloads per day from Indiana, through Ohio and Pennsylvania into New Jersey on Rte I-80 through the Delaware Water Gap, then the NJ Turnpike. The destroyed hydrolysate would be flushed into the Delaware River.

New Jersey's elected officials called upon the Centers for Disease Control to investigate the safety of the plan. The CDC reported that it could not recommend treatment and disposal at the DuPont facility until the EPA provides information on the likely environmental effects of release into the Delaware River. Much of South Jersey gets drinking water from the Delaware River or from the aquifers that are recharged by tidal tributaries feeding the river.

What Do We Do Now?

It is up to the citizens of New Jersey to let our elected officials know that the best thing for New Jersey and the United States is to destroy VX nerve agent on-site in Indiana - according to the original plan. Please tell Gov. Corzine, Senators Lautenberg and Menendez, and Congressmen Rob Andrews and Frank LoBiondo (if you live in CDs 1 or 2, respectively) that the Delaware River is not a sewer to be used by the Army to dump their old chemical weapons. Here are their phone numbers; e-mail can be sent by Googling them:

Governor Jon Corzine (609-292-6000)
Sen. Robert Menendez (202-224-4744)
Sen. Frank Lautenberg (202-224-3224)
Rep. Robert E. Andrews (202-225-6501)
Rep. Frank LoBiondo (202-225-6572)

How to acquire solar-sourced electricity without roof panels:

There's a non-profit organization in Lawrence Township, Mercer County, that intends to build a "solar farm," offering "shares" to Township residents.

All the benefits without the roof panels

For no more than people pay for electricity today, they will be able to buy locally-grown solar energy from Lawrence Solar.

The average electricity use in a Lawrence household is 9000 kilowatt hours per year. This is equivalent to 15,300 pounds of coal, or 9900 pounds of CO₂ per year. By converting to solar energy for electricity, their coal use, and their CO₂ pollution, will be zero.

Here's the website: www.sustainablelawrence.org/solar.

Obituary of Jerome Wyckoff

G. Jerome "Jerry" Wyckoff, author, editor, grass roots environmentalist and activist, who worked to save the New Jersey Highlands and Sterling Forest watershed from suburban sprawl, died April 26, in Pompton Plains, from complications of cancer. He was 95.

Mr. Wyckoff was born in Jersey City. He earned a BA in English from Trinity College, Hartford, and an MA in American Literature, specializing in the works of Emerson and Thoreau, from Columbia University.

An earth science photographer and science writer, his first books for laymen were *The Story of Geology* (Golden Press, 1959) and *Rock, Time and Land Forms* (Harper & Row, 1966). His last was *Reading the Earth* (Adastra West, 1999). He was the managing editor of *The Harper Encyclopedia of Science*. A World War II veteran, he served in the US Army in communications, based in New York City.

A die-hard environmentalist, Mr. Wyckoff was a founding member of

Ringwood, NJ's Environmental Commission, which he chaired from the late seventies through the early eighties. He joined the Sierra Club in 1970, and was also active with the League for Conservation Legislation and the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters. Pointing out rocks, land-forms, and wild flowers, he shared his passion for hiking the Hudson Highlands and High Peaks region of the Adirondacks with his children, grandchildren and friends. He co-founded the North Jersey Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club. Mr. Wyckoff's slide shows were in demand for his unparalleled photography and instruction on geology, meteorology and his travels in Africa and China.

An indomitable spokesperson for the powerless and disenfranchised, Mr. Wyckoff was a member of the Fair Housing Coalition, a watchdog group for minority rights in Ridgewood, NJ in the fifties and sixties. For more than 40 years, he chaired the New Jersey Chapter of the United Negro College Fund. ☞

Second Passaic River Symposium

Friday, October 13, 2006, at
Montclair State University, Montclair NJ

Two years after the First Symposium, it is now time to gauge what progress has been made in addressing problems in the Basin, what new efforts have been launched, and what new challenges we still face.

The Symposium is a collaboration between the Passaic River Institute of Montclair State University and the Hudson-Delaware Chapter of the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC).

See www.csam.montclair.edu/pri or www.hdcsetac.org for details.

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Sierra Club's Northeast Regional Conservation Conference

September 29 - October 1

Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry PA
(<http://www.pecc.org/>)

Sierra Club members in Chapters from Pennsylvania to Maine (and Eastern Canada) will gather to consider three main topics: Energy, Wild Legacy, and Healthy Communities. There will be sessions on how to get involved, presentations by leaders of each of the campaigns, and time to "network" with members from around the northeast, ranging from new-member novices to seasoned activists. If you have questions, please visit NERC's website (www.sierraclub.org/nercc) or contact Robert Johnson, robert.johnson@comcast.net.

The Pocono Environmental Education Center is the largest of its kind in the Western Hemisphere:

- Quarter of a million-acre classroom
- Thirteen miles of hiking trails wind through hemlock ravines and forests, meadows.
- Dogs are permitted, provided they are leashed at all times.

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.

Pending Legislation in Trenton

from Ken Johanson, Chapter Chair

The New Jersey Legislature convened a new two-year legislative session in January. The Club's Legislative Committee meets regularly to consider and take positions on several hundred bills that already have been introduced and that would have an impact upon the environment. A brief synopsis of each of these bills, as well as the names of the primary sponsors, the current status and the Chapter's position, are set forth in two easy-to-use bill tables, one for the General Assembly and one for the Senate. You can access the bill tables from the Chapter's website, <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org>; click on "Committees and Initiatives." The tables will be updated and supplemented throughout the 2006-2007 legislative session.

HIGHLANDS ACT

(Continued from page 1)

- RMP documents to date place more emphasis on development than conservation;
- Open space funding is running out;
- Controversial infrastructure projects threaten more sprawl; and
- Over 400 developments have received exemptions to the Act.

"We're concerned because the water capacity study needs to answer important questions. Why are parts of the Pequannock River reduced to bare rock every summer? Why must families in West Milford choose between washing their clothes and their children due to a lack of well water? How much water remains in the Highlands? When will it run out?" asked Ross Kushner of the Pequannock River Coalition and Co-Chair of the Coalition's Water Resources Committee. "We're concerned because the few details that have been provided suggest available capacity will be vastly inflated. Could that be because the same agencies that got us into this mess have been hired as consultants to conduct the study? Will they call attention to their own past mistakes?"

To fix this, the advocates recommended eight steps to the Governor, Legislature, DEP and the Council itself:

1. Immediately fill the open seats on the Council to restore its pro-preservation emphasis;
2. Immediately give the Council the staffing resources necessary to adopt a strong plan quickly;
3. Fix loopholes in the Highlands and other critical endangered species and water rules;
4. Adopt a strong Regional Master Plan (RMP) based on ecological protection

and true carrying capacity;

5. Increase funding to preserve open space, provide appropriate equity to landowners, and avoid a political backlash;

6. Apply 75% of the water supply surcharge towards open space acquisition with priority going towards the Highlands;

7. Restore the 4% cap on new capacity in the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF); and

8. Pull back exemptions that were approved without proper public participation or outside the scope of the law.

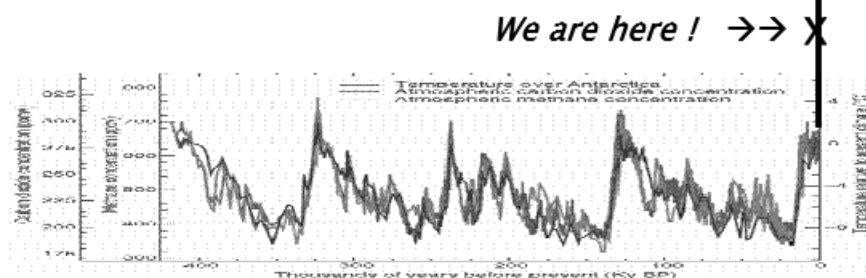
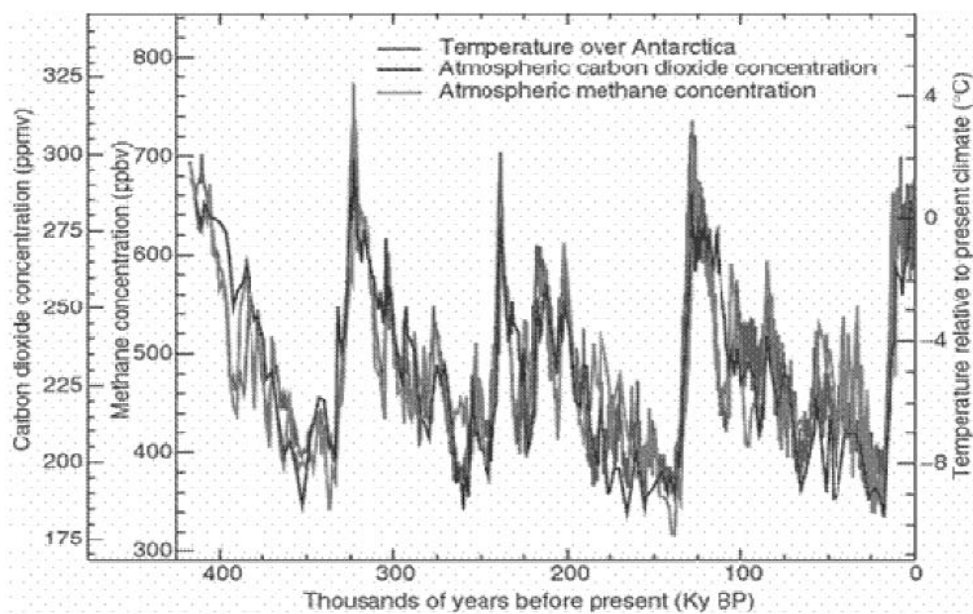
"The TTF 'fix' signed into law on March 23rd funds a \$30 million, sprawl-inducing expansion of Route 206 in Byram Township in the heart of the Highlands at a cost of \$110 million," added Scott Olson of North Byram Concerned Citizens and a member of the Coalition's State Committee. "This robs taxpayers of \$80-million that could be used to preserve land, not pave it over - for a single mile of roadway! By replenishing TTF without appropriate controls, the door is wide open for additional projects to scar the Highlands. The RMP must carefully examine the dozens of projects like this throughout the region to prevent further rape of the land and robbery of the taxpayers."

"We need a well-documented, comprehensive RMP to help Highlands municipalities strengthen their own master plans so they protect their drinking water, open lands and recreation areas," concluded Sandy Batty of the Association of NJ Environmental Commissions and Vice Chair of the NJ Highlands Coalition. ☺

Does your Congressman know how you feel about global warming?

Carbon Dioxide Through The Roof

CO2 concentration in 2100!! →→ X



Ice cores drilled from the polar regions reveal earth's climate over the last 400,000 years. The horizontal scale represents time in units of 1000 years before present with the zero mark at the right indicating today. The vertical scales show temperature relative to the present average and the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases CO₂ and methane. It is hard to tell which one is which and that is precisely the point: earth's temperature as it naturally went through the ice ages went hand in hand with the greenhouse gas concentrations. These remarkable correlations show how significant greenhouse gases are in determining the temperature.

The same figure on a compressed scale tells us what we are doing to the greenhouse gas concentrations by burning up fossil fuels in merely a blink of an eye on the geologic time scale. We are already beyond concentrations ever seen and headed to a multifold increase over the next century according to a reasonable scenario that takes into account the population growth, higher living standards and improved energy efficiency. Unfortunately, the actual efficiency improvements have not kept up with the assumptions in the scenario since it came out.

Human culture has existed over the very stable climate of the last 10,000 years which represents roughly half a tick on the horizontal scale. By taking the greenhouse gases to unprecedented levels, we are performing an uncontrolled experiment on the grandest scale possible. Fasten your seatbelts (and your children's and grandchildren's) and don't let anyone tell you that global warming is not important because earth's temperature varies naturally.

(From Sunil Somalwar, Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Rutgers University. Stay tuned to find out how we can rid ourselves of our fossil fuel addiction with another addiction of a better kind.)

New additions to the Chapter's website (<http://newjersey.sierraclub.org>) include descriptions of our conservation campaigns, and our "Bill Table": legislative proposals on which we have passed judgement.



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

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

Northwest Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Dennis Miranda	973-209-1814	dmmg@earthlink.net
Vice-Chr,			
Mem'sh'p Chair:	Susan Rotter	973-347-8849	rotterls@mindspring.com
Treasurer:	Charles Kopp	973-770-7718	ccgkp@aol.com
Secretary, Publicity:	Marie Springer	201-660-8880	aikidomarie@yahoo.com
Special Events Chair:	Pat Mangino	862-432-7552	pmangino@aol.com
Delegate to			
Chapt. ExCom:	Ruth Prince	908-284-9103	ruthp2@patmedia.net

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.

GENERAL MEETINGS: The Northwest Group meets at 7pm on the FOURTH 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.

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			
Co-Chairs:	Tom Thompson	201-848-1080	etrans743@aol.com
	Mike Herson	201-262-9472	mikeherson@hotmail.com
Membership Chair:	Barbara Quigley		blvquigley@yahoo.com
Outings Chair:	Ellen Blumenkrantz		eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Passaic River Issues:	Tricia Aspinwall		taspinwall@hotmail.com
Political Chair:	Greg Tondi	201-935-7162	gregt75@yahoo.com
Program Chair:	Open Position		
Secretary:	Open Position		
Treasurer:	Tom Thompson	201-848-1080	etrans743@aol.com
US Public Lands:	John Kashwick	201-660-8820	johnkashwick@optonline.net
Wildlife/			
Endangered Species:	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 four times a year. Please contact Betsy or Mike (see above) for date and location.

GENERAL MEETINGS. Held once a month at 7:30 pm:

No meetings in July or August.

Sept 14: at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Ave in Englewood: Slide presentation by naturalist Nancy Slowik, director of Greenbrook Sanctuary, about ecological landscaping. Find out how to keep unwanted animal or invasive plant species out of your garden. Free. Everyone is welcome.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE. Join us to discuss local and Highlands issues at Buehler Cultural Center, 950 High Mountain Rd in North Haledon, usually on the THIRD THURSDAY. Please contact Mike in advance (see above) to be sure the meeting is on as scheduled.

ISSUES: The Ramapo Highlands Coalition (of which we are a member) is working to raise public awareness about the threat to regional water supplies from plans for large-scale housing that will total 2000 units. Outcry over plans to build on steep slopes next to the Campgaw Reservation in Mahwah forced the developer back to the drafting board (we're waiting). Efforts to save Depe Voll ravine in Wyckoff have gained momentum, as residents call for an open space trust fund to save the woods. The addition of the commuter bus/ferry transfer station to Edgewater's park and marina (acquired with county and state open space funds) crowds out the park space and raises concerns of an improper diversion of open space funds, in violation of the public trust. The vegetative riparian corridors of the Hackensack and Ramapo Rivers, so critical for habitat and flood control in our densely populated region, must be kept free of encroachment. To find out more, help or bring other issues to our attention, please contact Mike or Tom (see above).

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS! If you have extra time and want to help us fight sprawl, protect air, water, wetlands, and wildlife, elect pro-environment candidates, lead outings, or help in other ways, please contact a Group officer (see above).

CARTRIDGE RECYCLING. Bring your used printer cartridges to Whole Foods Market, 905 River Rd in Edgewater, open 8am to 10pm, 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	LTaylor2@aol.com
Vice-Chr,			
Conserv. Chr:	Mike Selender	201-484-7277	mike_selender@mindspring.com
Treasurer:	Charlotte Ermoian	201-224-4553	c.ermoian@att.net
Secretary:	Connie Ftera	201-869-7950	cftera@earthlink.net
Political Chair:	Melissa McCarthy	201-230-8365	mc.mel@verizon.net
Publicity:	Betty Leung	201-224-3542	leung-ibet@msn.com
Parks:	Rosemary Arena	201-861-6222	rosemaryarena@cs.com
ExCom Members:	Gil Hawkins	201-944-5799	gilc3d2@aol.com
	and 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:

Co-Chairs:	Dave Ogens	973-226-0748	bandit29@aol.com
	Walt Goldenbaum	973-925-8662	goldenb1@optonline.net
Vice-Chair:			
Conservation Chair:	Michel Cuillerier	973-736-0913	schatzidog@earthlink.net
Political Co-Chairs:	Chris Weis	973-224-0474	CWeis11@cs.com
	Billi Schloss	973-467-8154	billi_s@yahoo.com
Media:	Walter Clarke	973-723-1642	essexsierra_pr@verizon.net
Outings/Parks:	Dave Ogens	973-226-0748	bandit29@aol.com
Treasurer:			
Secretary:	Billi Schloss	973-467-8154	billi_s@yahoo.com
Fundraising:	Linda M. Stiles	973-736-2224	birdlady07052@msn.com
Event Coordinator:	Walt Goldenbaum	973-925-8662	goldenb1@optonline.net
Membership:	Maria K.de Wakefield	973-736-0913	schatzidog@earthlink.net
West Orange:	Sally Malanga	973-736-7397	sally@eccobella.com
	Linda M. Stiles	973-736-2224	birdlady07052@msn.com
Member-At-Large:	Janine Schaeffer	973-432-2043	janinesch@prodigy.net

ACTIVITIES: Presently building a Passaic River Display for the Environmental Center in Roseland. Working towards saving a major forested tract in West Orange and an Ancient Forest on Gov. McClellan's former estate. Working to preserve wetlands in the Hatfield Swamp in the Passaic River Basin and the 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.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Please contact Dave or Walt (see above) for dates and locations.

GENERAL MEETINGS: The regular meetings described below are free and open to the public. They take place on TUESDAYS, from 7 to 9pm, at the Essex County Environmental Center, 621 Eagle Rock Ave. in Roseland. Refreshments are provided. Contact Walt Goldenbaum (goldenb1@optonline.net or 973-925-8662) for general information.

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 clean-up 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-New Jersey metropolitan region is an immense natural area, as well as the most densely settled corner of the North American continent. But until now this astonishing natural treasure - which survives and thrives even after 400 years of phenomenal economic growth - has not even had a name. Join Christopher Meier, co-author of "H2O: 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 discussion. For specific information call 973-228-8776.

(Continued on page 8)

Group meetings offer interesting speakers, topics, and fellow members, plus involvement and usually food!

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

August 8: Trail Cooking in the Wild. Drew Kahn, professional trainer and volunteer instructor with the Institute of the Great Outdoors, will follow up his backpacking program with Trail Cooking. It is fast and easy high-energy meals that can be fun to prepare and perhaps better than one might make at home. He will prepare at least two dishes and share them. Topics covered will include breakfasts, lunches, and dinners, as well as dehydrating and where to look for trail foods. Discussion will follow. For further information call 973-228-8776.

September 12: NJ Transportation and the Environment. Damien Newton, Tri-State Transportation Campaign's NJ Coordinator, will be at the Essex County Environmental Center to discuss transportation issues in and around Essex County focusing on how transportation effects the environment and what can be done to reduce those impacts. Topics such as truck traffic and routing, promoting transit, and the case against road widenings will be covered. Discussion to follow. 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	973-377-1742	ChrisMills@sierraactivist.org
	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
	and		
Treasurer:	Joyce White		joyce00201@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Sonya Kaloyanides	973-275-0288	skaloyanides@yahoo.com
Conservation Chairs:			
Morris County:	Chris Mills	973-377-1742	ChrisMills@sierraactivist.org
Union County:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	hauskerr@aol.com
Political Chair:	Meiling Chin		chinmeiling@yahoo.com
Programs:	Steve Yafet	908-354-2537	yafet@erols.com
Education			
Coordinator:	Jeff Huppert	973-263-0344	jeffhup@optonline.net
Fundraising Chair:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	hauskerr@aol.com
Outreach &			
Events Chair:	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			
Coordinator:	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>

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.

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

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

MEETING SCHEDULE:

July and August - No Meetings

Sept 13: According to a Star-Ledger article published this past January, Cranford (Union County) has become the first community in New Jersey to enact "an ordinance adopting Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards for all new municipal buildings and existing structures. It's expected that these guidelines will ensure that all new public buildings will be environmentally friendly and energy efficient, a move the local officials hope will result in savings to taxpayers. We have invited a representative from the Speaker's Bureau of USGBC, the United States Green Building Council. The program will likely touch on such issues as sustainable sites, water conservation, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality. We hope also to attract representatives of the governing bodies from many towns in Morris and Union Counties.

Activities: (Check 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, parts of Burlington, Middlesex and Somerset)

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Caroline Kulesza	caroline_kulesza@yahoo.com
Vice Chair:	Open position!	
Treasurer:	Bill Wowk	609-587-0502 bwowk@aol.com
Conservation		

Co-Chairs:	Rocky Swingle	609-587-7568	rockyswingle@optonline.net
	And		
	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 Committee:	Joe Leist	609-259-6438	leistJA@msn.com
Outings Chair:	Ken Mayberg	609-443-9138	kjmayberg@aol.com
Outreach Coordinator:	Harold Rapp	609-671-0435	HalRapp@aol.com
Forest Issues Coord:	Nancy Carringer	732-438-8688	ncarringer@yahoo.com

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

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 most months at 7:30 pm at the West Windsor Branch of the Mercer County Library System, 333 North Post Rd, Princeton Junction, corner of Clarksville and Old Post Roads. Check our website for a map. Our meetings are free and open to all members and the general public. Refreshments provided.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

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.

July and August: No meetings scheduled.

Sept 13: Bonnie Tillery will present a program on Madagascar. Learn about the fragile beauty of this country.

E-MAIL NOTICES: If you'd like to receive those last minute reminders of meetings or outings, please send your e-mail address to Laura Lynch (above). If you'd like to receive issue alerts, please send your e-mail address to Laura Lynch (above).

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties, approximately)

WEBSITE: www.njsierra.org/~njrar/

OFFICERS AND CONTACTS:

Chair:	Sandi Lowich	732-247-5760	Abstract46@aol.com
			44 Chestnut St, Milltown NJ 08850-1140
Membership:	Sunil Somalwar	732-572-7721	svsomalwar@sierraactivist.org
Conservation Chair:	Jane Tousman	908-561-5504	jdtous@aol.com
Outings:	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 in these areas. Help us stop developers from buying sub-standard lots and obtaining permits and variances to construct 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 County, 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:	Faith Teitelbaum	732-229-0553	faithtei@aol.com
Webmaster:	George Newsome	732-308-1518	newsome1@pobox.com
Treasurer:	Judy Maxcy	732-458-5074	
Political Chair:	Laura Bagwell	732-741-8678	l.bagwell3@verizon.net
Outings Chair:	Mike Verange	908-902-0718	mjverange@aol.com
Membership Chair:	Alan Roseman	732-780-1308	aroseman@monmouth.com
Program Chair:	Stephanie Seyr		quiquack@verizon.net

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 contact Dennis Anderson or Faith Teitelbaum (see list of officers, above), or visit our web site.

July 16 (Sun): noon till ??? — Annual Group Picnic. Join fellow Group members at Turkey Swamp Park, Freehold Township for a fun-filled afternoon of eating, talking, eating, playing games, eating, hiking, . . . oh, did I mention eating?! We gather at one of the lovely picnic areas — just follow the signs to find us! Bring a dish to share, vegetarian or otherwise, and bring the kids or grandkids, too, if you have any! For further information, or directions, please contact Marinel Mukherjee (baykoof944@aol.com or 732-780-8678).

Sept 25: Global Warming - Are You Ready? What is the magnitude of the changes, and will they will become irreversible before they can be corrected? Stefano Crema is a PhD chemist who has worked for multi-national chemical industries for more than 25 years — in research and marketing. He argues in a powerful slide presentation that, from the melting of Arctic ice to the disappearance of Alpine glaciers, there is little doubt in the international scientific community that human activities are causing changes to the Earth's climate. For information: Stephanie Seyr: quiquack@verizon.net.

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: A. Gregory Auriemma, Esq. 732-451-9220 sierraclubOC@aol.com
Vice-Chair, Prog,
Outings: Dawn Marie Johns 732-269-3729 sierraclubOC@hotmail.com
Conservation
Chair: Margrit Meissner-Jackson 609-296-4367 sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com
Secretary: Corinne Washik 732-616-244 corinne.washik@gdc4s.com
Treasurer: Richard Washik 732-616-2775 richard.m.washik@us.army.mil
Political Chair: Open position! Contact Greg Auriemma for information.
Publicity: Howard Schwartz 609-242-9304 hrschwartz@comcast.net
Fund-Raising: Joyce M. Isaza 732-920-9270 realtymstr@aol.com
ExCom
Member: Sandy Brown 609-242-9304 sandylbrown@comcast.net
Delegate to Chapter ExCom: Position rotates among Group ExCom members.

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

ACTIVITIES & ISSUES: We're hard at work: Preventing drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, defending the Endangered Species Act, fighting drilling off the Jersey Coast, repealing New Jersey's "Fast Track" (pro-development short-cut law), and supporting expanded recycling legislation.

Also, we've targeted critical local open space, sprawl, and air and water quality issues in Stafford and Jackson Townships here in Ocean County. Volunteers are needed to help with these issues, membership outreach, tabling at local events, fund-raising, and a computer-based voter education program for the 2006 elections.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Generally held monthly on the SECOND MONDAY of each month. Contact Greg for more information on location.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held Bi-Monthly on the FOURTH MONDAY of January, March, May, July, September and November at the "Skywalk Cafeteria" at the Ocean County Administration Building, 129 Hooper Avenue (2nd Floor), Toms River. For additional information or directions, please contact Greg or Howard (see above).

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

June 17 (Sat): Come join us for a fun canoe trip on Cedar Creek. Have a great time but also help us publicize the need for greater protection for this beautiful creek. For more information contact Dawn (732-269-3729 or sierracluboc@hotmail.com.)

June 24-25 (Sat-Sun): We need your help for our first annual garage-sale fund-raiser. One person's junk is another's treasure. Get rid of your stuff and help Mother Earth. You can help by either holding a garage sale fund-raiser or contributing your stuff. Contact Joyce (732-920-9270 or realtymstr@aol.com.)

July 24 (Mon): 7pm: General Meeting: This should be an educational and fun "enviro film" night. The Bush Administration has targeted endangered species as part of its environmental "hit-list." Learn more about endangered species and how you can fight back. Bring a friend. We'll have free hot buttered pop-corn and soft-drinks.

August (Date TBA): BBQ Fund-Raiser. Please contact Joyce (732-920-9270 or realtymstr@aol.com) for more information. To be held at a motel right next to the Ocean, thanks to its owner, one of our new members! But we need to work out the date.

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Gina Carola 856-848-8831 ginacce@snip.net
Vice-Chair: Wayne Zanni 856-728-4507 wzanni@earthlink.net
Secretary: Open position!
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-ctiffany@comcast.net
Smart Growth Chair: Open position!
Programs Chair: Bill Freund
Outings Chair: Open position!

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.

The West Jersey Group **does not meet in July or August.** Please join us on a hike sometime this summer. Hope to see you at our September meeting.

Sept 12: Darren S. Port from New Jersey Green Homes Office of NJ Department of Community Affairs will talk about renovating your home to make it an Energy Star Home.

South Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:

Group, Outings Chair: Tom Boghosian 609-625-0878 boghosian1@verizon.net
Vice-Chair: Sally Nunn 609-704-1790 nunsal41@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

The central conservation issue, for which the Group was founded in the 1970s, continues to be protection of the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continues to consume the energies of those few officers who remain active — both within the Sierra Club and in two other organizations that have "spun off" from the South Jersey Group. Very few of our local members seem interested in the meetings we've scheduled in the past few years; most 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. 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) who authorize development. Other hot issues include proposals to develop several large tracts of environmentally sensitive land in Millville, damage done to sand trails by ATVs, and inducements for public recycling.

Possibly Relevant Meetings:

July 12 (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.

July 25 (Tues) 6pm: Pot Luck Picnic and hike in the Park (or Virtual Tour if inclement weather!) 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 50).

August 5 (Sat): 10am - 5 pm: Pinelands Folk Arts Festival: Sponsored by Atlantic County Friends of the Parks, with support from GEHWA and other county organizations. Pinelands environmental and cultural awareness exhibits, entertainment, and demonstrations; open to the public. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor (milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50).

August 22 (Tues): 7pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: Trustees' meeting, open to the public. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. Warren Fox Nature Center, Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor (milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50).

September 13 (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.

September 26 (Tues) 7pm: Opportunity to catch up on conservation planning for the Great Egg Harbor Wild and Scenic River, at a public (membership) session of the Watershed Association (an organization that once got its start as our Group Executive Committee!). For 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).

Seniors Section

(A chapter-wide special interest section offering hikes/cleanups, 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 ListServe, "the Senior Forum." But this mission is evolving.

A new ListServe, called "NJ Fifty Plus News," with already more than 80 members, has replaced the Senior Forum. Terry Stimpfel (teristimb@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—Sock 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 report accomplishments. For further information, please contact Nancy Carringer at ncarringer@yahoo.com.

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

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

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: singles.njsierra.org

email: letgo7@optonline.net (mention "Sierra Club" in your subject line)

The BEST way to be notified of upcoming events is to join our free listserv. 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; directions on how to unsubscribe are at the bottom of each announcement. We recommend joining the listserv 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.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-SINGLES-NEWS.html>.

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Bob Johnson	robert.johnson@comcast.net
Outings Chairs:	Joyce Haddad	jkhaddad@juno.com
	Dave Ogens	Bandit29@aol.com
Conservation Chair:	Position Open	Contact us! We need you!
Treasurer:	Joyce White	joycewhite@netzero.net
Webpage designer:	Tom Miller	millertom@juno.com
Social Chair:	Position Open	Contact us! We need you!
Programs:	Position Open	Contact us! We need you!
Publicity:	Lynn Forrest	letgo7@optonline.net
ANWR Coordinator:	Diana Eichholz	MistyAngel22@aol.com
Cool Cities Coordinator:	Terry Stimpfel	terystimb@hotmail.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. For directions, visit <http://Loantaka.NJSierra.org>). Guest speakers at each meeting at 7:30 pm. \$5 donation at door and RSVP (required for pizza only) to joycewhite@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.

No meetings in July or August

Sept 11: Speaker to be announced

ExCom MEETINGS: take place once a month at various locations. All welcome. Contact any officer for location.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS:

Social Dinner: FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month at 6:30 pm. Join us for dinner in Morristown at the Famished Frog. RSVP required; join our listserv for further details.

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

Annual Summer Picnic: July 22, Noon to 6pm. Somerset County Park Commission's Duke Island Park, Old York Road, Bridgewater. Rain or shine. We will provide basic barbeque & set-up to complement your food contributions. Walking paths, biking, sports, games. Bring food or beverage to share, plus fee: \$10 members, \$13 non-members - advance payment to PayPal - details to follow. RSVP required to ravenrock@att.net with name, member status and choice of contribution: appetizer, salad, entree, dessert or beverage. NO ALCOHOL allowed in County Parks. RSVP deadline: by July 17. E-mail is best or phone 973-364-7573, ext. 5. Later replies & drop-ins will include \$5 late fee. We need volunteers for planning and during event. Please sign up for our picnic committee by emailing Susan at soupys@att.net. We expect 200 people, and need volunteers to make this event a spectacular success!

Cool Cities Hot Events:

Celebrate the NJ Cool Cities Campaign and encourage the CC volunteers this summer at happy hours, beach parties and nature outings. Come share in the fun. Check the Singles listserv for details. Want to promote the Cool Cities goals but have limited free time? Contact Terry Stimpfel at terystimb@hotmail.com with your ideas and to learn about short duration assignments.

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 cultural, outdoors and even goofy events held throughout the state. So join with like-minded folk and even help the environment. To learn about upcoming events join the Singles listserv, check the Singles web page or phone the hotline 973-364-7573, option #6. For more information please contact Terry at terystimb@hotmail.com.

Consider volunteering with the Cool Cities Campaign. The message and method of empowering groups to manage carbon dioxide emissions are relevant for public and pri-

vate school systems, nonprofit community operations, etc. in New Jersey. Volunteers with diverse skills and contacts are important for environmental success. Sign on now.

50Plus Happy Hour: SECOND THURSDAY of each month from 5 to 7pm at the Westin Governor Morris Hotel. Enjoy live music, drink specials and free finger food. RSVP required. Join our listserv for further details.

SINGLES 30s/40s:

Friday HAPPY HOURS for Singles in their 30's & 40's. Please check website at www.Singles.NJSierra.org for exact dates and join the listserv. If you would like to volunteer to run a 30/40s event contact Diana at AngelButterfly37@aol.com for more information or leave a message at 973-364-7573 ext. 8. 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.

SINGLES 18-35:

Singles Events Available. Also, see "Young Sierrans," below. Volunteers Needed. Contact MistyAngel22@aol.com. Help Save ANWR, Protect Our American Heritage: www.AlaskaAction.org

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.

Young Sierrans

(A special interest section for Young Sierra Club Members ages 18-35 with socials and ECO chats along with discussions meant to connect and inform environmentally-minded individuals seeking to get involved with preserving the future. Many events open to all Young Sierrans regardless of marital status so whether you are single, dating, or married, please come join us!)

Young Sierran website: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/YoungSierrans/>.

YOUNG SIERRAN COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Leadership Chair:	Jackie Enfield
Conservation Chair:	Bill Sevchuk
Outreach/Membership Chair:	David Smith
Outings Chair:	Open Position! Contact us!
Event Coordinator:	Open Position!
Web Master:	Julie Garber
Publicity Chair:	Open Position!
Coordinator/Moderator:	Diana Christine Eichholz at MistyAngel22@aol.com

Young Sierran Phone Line: 973-364-7573, press # 1

Young, Strong & Ready for Adventure? Then We Need You - as Young Sierran Hikers and Outing Leaders! Contact Young Sierran Coordinator Diana at MistyAngel22@aol.com or call 973-364-7573 push option # 1 to RSVP or for more information on any of the events below, or if you are able to volunteer for Outings & are willing to go through the training process to lead hikes and other outdoor adventures.

MEETINGS: Fridays, monthly, 8:30 pm, in back community room of Panera Bread, 136 Nassau Street, Princeton, (next door to the Princeton Triumph Brewery). ECO (Environmental Concerns Overview) Chat Group with nightlife social afterwards. Contact MistyAngel22@aol.com or call 973-364-7573, push option # 1.

EVENTS: (Note: RSVPs are required for all events. E-mails are the easiest & most preferred contact method.)

Young Sierrans Volleyball: July, August till first week in September: every Sunday afternoon 3pm at Harvey's Shaklee Ranch, 107 Oldwick Rd, Whitehouse Station. \$3 per day. Rain cancels.

July 15 (Sat): Young Sierrans Day Trip to Point Pleasant Beach.

Aug 27 (Sun): Young Sierran Meeting, Lunch & Volleyball. 1pm Lunch Meeting at Frank's Pizza & Italian Restaurant, Shop Rite Plaza, Middle Brook Center, 601 Tea St & Rte 28, Bound Brook. 3pm Volleyball.

Sept 7 (Thurs): Young Sierran (21-39) Wine Tasting, The Verve Restaurant, 18 East Main Street, Raritan. \$15 includes wine tasting & finger foods.

Sept 24 (Sun): Young Sierran Trip to Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Sierra Student Coalition

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

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

Contact Tejal 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, Pennsylvania, 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:	Marty Cohen	201-670-8383	ico-north@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Treasurer:	Anne Dyjak	732-560-0953	annedyjak@verizon.net

Inner City Outings is a community outreach program, providing wilderness adventures for city youth of New Jersey. Volunteer certified outings leaders conduct outings (generally day-trips) on weekends. If you would like to experience the rewards of introducing inner-city youth to the wonders of nature, your involvement is encouraged and you are requested to contact us at the above e-mail addresses. To learn more, visit our webpage at <http://www.sierraclub.org/ico/newjersey/>.



Outings

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

Activist Outing Special: Four national "Wild Legacy Conservation" trips are offered this year for the first time, including one in Vermont:

Sept. 10 - 17. **Autumn Wanderings in Wild Vermont.** Come enjoy our mixture of moderate backpacking and trail maintenance in Vermont's proposed Glastonbury Mountain Wilderness. Early autumn colors and an exciting wilderness campaign enhance our two separate short "working" backpacks in the legendary Green Mountains, with leader Debbie Smith and Vermont activist John Harbison. Trip #06104A, cost \$595. For details, contact Vicky Hoover at 415-977-5527 or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org.

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

- Central Jersey:** Ken Mayberg
kjmayberg@aol.com
- Essex County:** David Ogens 973-226-7107 (H)
29 Hatfield Street, Caldwell, NJ 07003
- Hudson-Meadowlands:** Vacant
- Hunterdon:** Susan Schirmer 908-996-7722 (H)
- Jersey Shore:** Mike Verange 908-732-8364 (H)
1497 W Front St, Lincroft, NJ 07738
- Loantaka:** Joyce White 908-272-4478 (H)
joyce00201@yahoo.com
- North Jersey:** Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417
eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
- Northwest Jersey:** Pat Mangino, Pmangino@aol.com
- Raritan Valley:** Vacant
- South Jersey:** Tom Boghosian 609-272-9005 (H)
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 October-December 2006 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before August 7. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it for the previous Sierran, due to the occasional lag in mailing. Also, please send outing rosters or sign-up sheets to the Chapter Office as soon as possible after each outing.

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

Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your October-December 2006 trip write-ups by August 10.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JULY

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

Jul 7 (Fri): Singles Moonlight Kayak Trip on the Mullica River: 6:30 pm. BBQ after paddle. Some paddling experience required. Limited space, call leader to reserve space. Please bring picnic-type food to share after paddle. Meet at Bel Haven Canoe Rentals, on Rte 543, 12 miles east of Hammonton, Atlantic Co. Bring flashlight and whistle. PFD's must be worn. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve. pis1@cccnj.net

Jul 8 (Sat): Singles Moonlight Hike, Wharton State Forest: 7:30 pm. 6 miles at moderate pace. Enjoy a moonlight hike, under the Buck moon, on sand roads as we listen to the sounds of the summer serenade. Meet in field behind Atsion Office on Rte 206, between Red Lion circle and Hammonton, Burlington Co. Bring snack-type food to share at tailgate social after hike, and a chair or blanket. NC. Pets must be leashed at all times. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eve. Pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Jul 15 (Sat): Four Birds Trail in the Farny Highlands, Morris Co: 10am. I-80 west to exit 37 - Hibernia. Left at light. Stay straight on Green Pond Rd til you see a baseball field on your left. This is where the trail starts. Possibly 5-6 miles. Please register with Leslie at 973-252-8122 or failte_629@verizon.net

Jul 15 (Sat): Harriman State Park, NY: 9:15 am. Take advantage of the long daylight hours for this all-day hike. The pace will be moderate, but steady - with lunch and snack breaks. Optional swim, so bring your suit & towel. Optional stop at Kinchleys for great thin-crust pizza/beer. Wear hiking boots, bring lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 12 people. Heavy rain cancels. Contact Ellen at eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com or 201-784-8417 (N)

Jul 16(Sun): Singles Wissahickon Gorge Hike, Philadelphia: 8:30 am. 7 miles at moderate pace over hills. Hike the Gorge in summer 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 9:30am at Valley Green parking lot in Gorge. Bring plenty of water. Leader Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 eve pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Jul 16 (Sun) Jockey Hollow Grand Loop, Morris Co: 10am. We will do the Grand Loop at Jockey Hollow National Park in Morristown. See <http://www.nps.gov/morra/> for directions and information. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Please register in advance via e-mail at Hiker_Dood@Yahoo.com by the Friday before hike. Meet at the visitors' center. Steady rain cancels. Leader: Jeffrey L. Sovelove

Jul 22 (Sat): Minnewaska State Park, NY: 10am. New Paltz. Walk along Mossy Brook Trail to waterfall, out to Lake Awosting and back along Hamilton Carriageway with beautiful views. Optional dinner-stop in New Paltz. Wear hiking boots, bring lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 12 people. Heavy rain cancels. Contact Ellen at eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com or 201-784-8417. May be combined with June 18 hike for weekend trip. (N)

Jul 23 (Sun): Mohonk, NY: 10am. Rock Rift Crevices will challenge us with some light rock scrambling. We'll also hike along some carriageways to Eagle Cliff for some great views, and walk through the formal gardens. This is a full-day outing, with optional dinner-stop in New Paltz. Wear hiking boots, bring lunch, snacks and plenty of water. \$10 entrance fee. Hikers must pre-register. Group limited to 12 people. Heavy rain cancels. Contact Ellen at eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com or 201-784-8417. May be combined with June 17 Minnewaska hike for weekend trip. (N)

Jul 23 (Sun) Singles Kayak trip on the Batsto River: 9am. Paddle one of the most picturesque rivers in the Pines. Bring BBQ-type food to share for our tailgate social after paddle. Limited space, call leader to reserve a space. Meet at Bel-Haven Canoe Rental Rte 542, Greenbank, Burlington Co. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 or pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Jul 29 (Sat) Singles Hike in Cooper River Park, Camden, plus Dinner & Movie: 4:30 pm. 6 miles, easy pace. We will hike Cooper River Park, then have a picnic-style dinner outdoors in the park and then watch an outdoor movie. Meet at parking lot next to the Lobster Shack, Park Drive, Cooper River Park (get there early), one block south of Rte 70. Bring picnic-type food to share, lawn chair/blanket to sit on. NC/NP. Contact leader for exact meeting location. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve, pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

AUGUST

Aug 4 (Fri): Singles Moonlight Kayak Trip on the Mullica River: 6pm. Paddle the Mullica with a BBQ afterwards. Some paddling experience required. Limited space, call leader to reserve space. Please bring picnic-type food to share after paddle. Meet at Bel Haven Canoe Rentals, on Rte 543, 12 miles east of Hammonton, Atlantic Co. Bring flashlight and whistle. PFD's must be worn. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve. pis1@cccnj.net. Call to confirm trip.

Aug 5 (Sat): Singles Moonlight Hike in Penn State Forest, Burlington Co: 7:30 pm. 6 miles at moderate pace. Hike dirt roads lit by moonlight in the Pines. Bring swimwear, chair or blanket. Bring snack-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NP/NC. Meet at Lake Oswego parking lot on Lake Oswego Rd. Off Rte 563, 8 miles S. of Chatsworth. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve. pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Aug 6 (Sun): C 5 B Lewis Morris Park, Morris Co: 10am. We will start at Sunrise Lake parking lot, then hike to the upper parking lot and back down to the lake using a combination of the Yellow and Red trails. Option to extend if desired. The pace will be moderate-to-slow. See the Morris County Parks Commission website for directions. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Please register in advance via e-mail at Hiker_Dood@Yahoo.com by the Friday before hike. Steady rain cancels. Leader: Jeffrey L. Sovelove

Aug 6 (Sun): Harteshorne Woods, Monmouth Co: (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 at the Rocky Point parking area. Take GSP to exit 117. Take Rte 36 toward Sandy Hook approx. 11 miles. Just before bridge, make a right on Portland Rd. Follow this to top of hill. Parking area is on left. Bad weather, including high heat index, cancels. Confirmation/questions please call. Leader Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

Aug 12 (Sat): Whitesbog in Brendon Byrne State Forest, Evening Hike: 6pm. Possibly to a swimming hole (if water conditions allow). Meet at Whitesbog General store (<http://www.whitesbog.org/>): Left onto Whitesbog Rd off of Rte 530, south from Browns Mills. Moderate pace, 4-5 miles. Rain cancels. kjmayberg@aol.com 609-443-9138 (C)

Aug 12 (Sat): Singles Meteor Shower and Anniversary Hike, Wharton State Forest: 7:30 pm. 6 miles at moderate pace. Then watch the Perseid Meteor Shower, a solar system spectacular. Bring snack-type food to share at tailgate social after hike, blanket or chair to sit on. NP/NC. Meet in field behind Atsion Ranger Station on Rte 206, between Red Lion Circle and Hammonton, Burlington Co. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve. pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Aug 13 (Sun): Singles Kayak Trip on the Great Egg: 9am. Do the Great Egg Harbor River. We will have a pizza party afterwards, and a volleyball game. Call leader to reserve kayak, space is limited. PFD's must be worn. Meet at Palace Restaurant, Rte 322, Weymouth, Atlantic Co. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 eve. pis1@cccnj.net for additional information.

Aug 19 (Sat): Appalachian Trail from Camp Mohican to Rattlesnake Swamp Trail to Catfish Pond, Warren Co: 10am. Moderate hike of about 5 miles. Nice views along the ridge of the Kittatinny Mountains in the Delaware Water Gap. Swimming in Catfish Pond on the way back (there are bathrooms where you can change). Hiking boots a must. Bring lunch and water. Directions: I-80 west to exit 12. Right onto Rte 521 until you come to Rte 94 (can only go left or right). Left onto Rte. 94, right at first traffic light. Stay straight, up hill and make right and sharp left onto Rte 602. Stay on 602 and make left onto Gaisler Rd, right onto Camp Rd. Follow Camp Rd all the way into the parking lot on your left. Please register with Leslie McGlynn at 973-252-8122 or failte_629@verizon.net

Aug 19 (Sat): Cold Spring Foundry, NY: 10am. Easy 4 miles. We will visit the historic Cold Spring foundry and be treated to a presentation by professional storyteller Jonathan Kruk who will thrill us with history and mystery! Joint with AMC. Drive to the foot of Main St in Cold Spring NY by the railroad station. Leader: John P. Jurasek, 845-365-3618 (no calls after 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

Aug 19 (Sat): Island Pond Loop, Sloatsburg NY: 9:15 am. Moderate pace, full-day loop hike from Lake Skannati to Island Pond & back. Slight ups & downs. Bring lunch & lots of water. Group limit 12 people. Pre-registration required. Leader Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

Aug 20 (Sun): Singles Tube Float Trip, Delaware River, Pt Pleasant to New Hope, PA: 9:30 am. Repeat of last year's great trip. 4 lazy hours floating down the Delaware River. Bring lunch in a small cooler, we will eat in picnic area after float trip. Bring snack to eat on river. NO Alcohol on river! Bring change of clothes for optional tour of New Hope, afterwards. Call leader to reserve space. Meet at Bucks County River Country Outfitters, on Rte 413, Point Pleasant PA. Call leader for carpool information. NC/NP. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve. or pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather or low water levels cancel.

Aug 25-27 (Fri-Sun): Catskills Weekend, NY. Daily hikes. \$235 per person/dble. occ. includes 2 nights' lodging, and meals(2 dinners, 2 packed lunches,2 breakfasts). Thurs. and or Sun. night can be added for an addl. \$90/night per person/dble. occ, including 3 meals/day. We will hike each day from 8-12 miles at a moderate pace, with elevation ascent/descent about 1,500 ft. each day. All hikes have great viewpoints. Loop hike in North/South Lake area on Long Path with swim stop, point-to-point hikes in Blackhead Range (great local swim lake at end of hike), Windham High Peak, and Twin/Indian Head Mountains. Dinners out at nice restaurants, packed lunches. Lodging at www.thehotelvienna.com which is a chalet-style non-smoking small hotel with spacious rooms, private decks, private bathrooms. Limit 14 people. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417 email: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (N)

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

Sep 8 (Fri): Singles Moonlight Kayak Trip on the Mullica: 6pm. Paddle the Mullica River with a BBQ after paddle. Some paddling experience required. Limited space, call leader to reserve space. Please bring picnic-type food to share after paddle. Meet at Bel Haven Canoe Rentals, on Rte 543, 12 miles east of Hammonton, Atlantic Co. Bring flashlight and whistle. PFD's must be worn. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 eve. pis1@cccnj.net. Call to confirm trip.

Sep 9 (Sat): Singles Moonlight Hike in Penn State Forest, Burlington Co: 7:30 pm. 6 miles at moderate pace. Hike Pinelands dirt roads under the Corn Moon. Bring swimwear, chair or blanket. Bring snack-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NP/NC. Meet at Lake Oswego parking lot on Lake Oswego Rd. Off Rte 563, 8 miles S. of Chatsworth. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve. pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Sep 9 (Sat): C 3-5 C Patriots Path Stroll, Morristown: 10am. Come take an easy stroll on Patriots Path in Morristown. This 3-5-mile (or more, depending on the group) stroll will start from the Speedwell Lake parking lot: across the street from Historic Speedwell. See the Morris County Parks website for directions. The path is wide, partly paved, partly of crushed, stabilized gravel with very little elevation gain. Appropriate footwear required. Please bring plenty of water and a light snack. Great for beginners, and dog-friendly. Please register via e-mail at Hiker_Dood@Yahoo.com by the Friday before hike. Steady rain cancels. Leader: Jeffrey L. Sovelove.

Sep 10 (Sun): Baldplate Mt, Hopewell Twp, Mercer Co: 10am. 4 miles (hilly), moderate pace. Meet for carpool at canal entrance, Washington Crossing State Park, by lower parking lot (next to river). Bring picnic lunch. Rain cancels. kjmayberg@aol.com 609-443-9138 (C)

Sep 10 (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 Co. Rte 520 approx. 2 miles to Brookdale Community College (turn left); make first right to parking lot #2. Meet in the right back corner. Bad weather, including high heat index, cancels. Confirmation/questions please call. Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS).

Sep 16 (Sat): Singles Sunset Kayak Trip on the Mullica River: 3pm. Watch the sun set on the river. We will have a BBQ at the outfitters, bring picnic picnic-type food to share. Call leader to reserve space. Meet at Bel-

(continued on page 12)

"... or there may be 'tis cloudless night, and swaying beaches bear, the elven stars as jewells bright, amid their branching hair." - JRR Tolkien

