

The Jersey..... SIERRAN

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More than 23,000 Members in New Jersey

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Losing the Race for Open Space

By Crystal Snedden, Program Assistant

New Jersey voters deserve praise for their approval of Ballot Question #2 on the November, 2006, ballot. We may now begin to address a serious backlog of needed repairs in our state parks, and provide some care for local and county open space. New Jersey is a national leader in preserving open space, historic sites and farmland. Through our Green Acres and Farmland Programs, we have preserved over 350,000 acres in the last 10 years. Precious wetlands and wildlife habitats have been rescued from sprawl development, and communities enjoy natural areas instead of parking garages. Unfortunately, however, a majority of communities in New Jersey still lack the recreational and natural areas needed to provide a high quality of life.

Intense development pressure is causing a loss of close to 50 acres a day, according to a Rutgers University study. The funding provided by the November referendum will not address this issue. A park system requires three budgets: for acquisition, maintenance, and operation. Ballot Question #2 will fund maintenance and operations, but not completely, nor will it fund any acquisition. In the past, The Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT) has funded open space acquisition through the Green Acres and Farmland Preservation Programs. GSPT will run out of money in 2007! So unless we renew and strengthen the GSPT, we will be unable to create any new recreational areas or preserve any more natural or historic areas.

It is important that the GSPT be not only renewed, but strengthened. We would like it to include a mechanism to fund operations, maintenance, and stewardship, in addition to capital projects, at

both state and locally-owned sites. To illustrate the need, despite a 33% increase in the state's open space lands in the last decade, the Division of Parks and Forestry's staff has fallen by a third, from 550 to 418, over the same period. The renewal of the GSPT must include funds to support the work of these conservation officers, naturalists, and foresters to provide basic stewardship, including trail creation and wildlife habitat restoration.

Furthermore, the Garden State Preservation Trust must be strengthened to ensure funding equity for urban communities. To date, the GSPT has failed to support our urban areas. Creating and maintaining urban parks, natural areas and historic sites is a critical component of any urban revitalization strategy. As the need to prevent global warming by conserving energy redirects population growth back into urban areas, the importance of urban open space will increase — for enhancing property values, increasing revenue from property taxes and additional retail and tourism activity, and attracting new industries and skilled workers.

For these reasons, we urge constitutionally dedicated funding for open space acquisition and parks operations at the local and state levels through the renewal and strengthening of the GSPT: we should raise \$225 million a year for acquisition, \$100 million a year for other capital projects and \$56 million a year for operations, with equity for all communities. These numbers represent only a fraction of the actual need. Tell your legislators to put the GSPT on the ballot for 2007 - by visiting <http://actionnetwork.org/campaign/GSPT>. You may e-mail me (Crystal.Snedden@SierraClub.org) for more information. ☺

Post-Election Analysis

By Richard Isaac, Chapter Political Chair (risaacx@aol.com)

The winners in November's "mid-term" elections were not only the Democrats, but also the Environment! As Cathy Duvall, Sierra Club Political Director, noted, "Voters elected a greener U.S. House, a greener U.S. Senate and several greener governors, and they gave a green light to move in the direction of a new energy future. Green candidates were elected at every level of government and in every region in the country."

Here in New Jersey, our Club helped elect Sen. Bob Menendez (shown with Ken Johanson, Crystal Snedden and Jeff Tittel) to his first full term in the Senate, and I'm confident that he'll continue to produce an outstanding environmental record. In his victory speech on election night, he singled out the environmental organizations for their support as key to his re-election. The defeat of his opponent, Tom Kean Jr, is in a sense also a win for the environment, since he will return to the State Senate and probably continue to vote "correctly" on most of our issues.

Nationally, the Club had many Congressional successes - winning majorities in both Houses, and defeating some of the most anti-environmental legislators (such as California Congressman Pombo). Two gubernatorial races deserve special mention for their use of energy as a decisive issue: Bill Ritter, new governor of Colorado, capitalized on his state's unique homegrown blend of wind and solar energy. And Ted Strickland, the new governor of Ohio,

rode into office on a strategy to offer incentives to green manufacturers to create a regulatory environment that will attract new capital and new businesses to the state.

There were no changes in New Jersey's 13-member House delegation, due to the gerrymandering of this state's



congressional districts. Because, in the re-districting of 2000, both Democrats and Republicans agreed on a map that made each district secure, they can all weather almost any kind of

storm. To illustrate the extent of our gerrymandering, consider that in 2004 the statewide Democrat - Republican vote-percentages were 53.2% - 46.8%, respectively. In 2006, those numbers were 63.7% - 36.3%. Yet the results were the same (7 Democratic seats - 6 Republican seats = 53.8% - 46.2%. You'd think we were now entitled to 8 Democratic seats - 5 Republican seats = 61.5% - 38.5%)! Well, we almost got it: our closest race was that of endorsed Assemblywoman Linda Stender, who challenged Congressman Mike Ferguson in the 7th District, losing by only two percentage points.

State races this year

Looking forward to the next election cycle, in 2007 the entire State Legislature will be up for election, which will provide a great opportunity to focus on our statewide issues. On to the next round of candidates' questionnaires, interviews and endorsements! ☺

Sierra Club Appreciation Day

By our Chapter Director, Jeff Tittel

The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club hosted its annual donor recognition party and awards reception on Sunday, November 19, 2006, at an old farmhouse in the rolling hills north of Princeton. The event was as much a pro-

file in courage as it was a day of appreciation, since the awards sought to honor leaders with a strong environmental conscience who are not afraid to put politics second.

(continued on page 4)

Results of the Fall election of Chapter Officers:

Congratulations to the following four Club members elected at-large to the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) for two-year terms:

Ken Johanson • Ruth Prince • Lee Snyder • Bonnie Tillery

The Bylaw change was approved: future electees will serve three-year terms.

Election follow-up: Monmouth County

Sierra Club Thinks Globally, Endorses Locally

By Laura Bagwell, Political Chair of our Jersey Shore Group

Here in Monmouth County, we are fortunate to have superb environmental leaders such as the Honorable Frank Pallone in Congress and Ellen Karcher and Michael Panter in the State Senate and Assembly, respectively. They allow us to rest easy at night. There are also great local politicians working tirelessly for their towns, but who may not always get the attention and grass roots activism that comes with the Sierra Club's endorsement. Well, in 2006 the Jersey Shore Group became involved with a local race when we endorsed Brian Unger for Long Branch City Council — and he won!

The endorsement decision was easy, as he has spent most of his adult life vol-

unteering for many environmental organizations, fighting for the protection of coasts, preserving open space and protecting wildlife. Although known for his strong advocacy for public beach access, he has worked with Sierra Club volunteers in opposing a damaging development project in Oceanport.

The Sierra Club raised three issues as important for Long Branch: joining our Cool Cities campaign to curb carbon dioxide emissions, fighting eminent domain abuse, and revitalizing the city's environmental commission.

Five candidates were running for one open seat on Council, so no one was certain how the vote would turn

out. Our volunteers held a press conference announcing the endorsement, did phone banking and distributed literature for Unger's campaign. Our efforts did not go unappreciated, as he personally called on election night to let us know that he had won and to thank us for our support and work. We are very happy that a strong environmental advocate has been elected to office. This helps bridge the gap between politics and grass roots environmental organizations, and we hope to build on this victory to make effective changes at the local level; it is where most great environmental leaders get their start. ☺

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Essex County Group BALLOT:

Because of a procedural error in the ballot printed in the previous issue of this Newsletter, the election of officers for Essex ExCom is repeated below. If you reside within Essex County, please detach on the dotted line, including the mailing label on the reverse side, and mail to **Essex Ballot, NJ Sierra Club, 145 West Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618**, to arrive by Jan 31. PAIRS of boxes are provided for FAMILY members, so that two people can vote. Information about candidates may be available from Group officers listed in the Group News section of this Newsletter.

Candidates for Essex County Group Executive Committee: Vote for **four**, maximum. Name order has been randomized.

- Walter Clarke
(nominating committee candidate)
- Maria de Wakefield (petition candidate)
- Dave Ogens
(nominating committee candidate)
- Lori Tanner
(nominating committee candidate)
- Sally Malanga
(nominating committee candidate)
- Billi Schloss
(nominating committee candidate)

Candidates have provided the following statements:

Walter Clarke: I want to join the ExCom leadership to create a more community active club. I'll draw upon my background in Advertising and Graphics to increase awareness, membership and public outreach for the club with the goal of instituting environmentally sound grass roots change.

Maria de Wakefield: I am a petition candidate because I am sincerely committed to making a difference in the environment. I have been an open space and park advocate since 1998. The following quote says it all: "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Dave Ogens: As an ExCom member and Outings Chair for ten years, I organized dozens of hikes, canoe and bicycle trips. I have recruited other hike leaders to provide more outings for everyone. I also work with the County Executive and the Environmental Center to make sure Sierra Club policies are incorporated.

POPULATION ISSUES COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Sierra Club Environmental Alliance Award - The honor of a lifetime

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@verizon.net)

In September, I had the honor of traveling to San Francisco to accept Sierra Club's Environmental Alliance Award, one of 24 annual awards presented by the Club. This particular award is given to individual Club members who have accomplished environmental goals by working with non-Sierra Club constituencies. It was humbling to be in the company of other award winners: a young woman in Washington State who helped persuade her college to get 20 percent of its energy from renewable sources; a man in Kentucky who has traveled to 15 states educating people about destructive mountaintop removal



Bonnie (in the middle), in San Francisco with Annette Souder (former Director of the Club's Global Population and Environment Program), and Joan Jones Holtz (population activist in the Club's Angeles Chapter).

mining; and others of equal dedication and resolve. During the awards ceremony, I thought about all of the individuals and groups who helped to make the contraceptive equity victory in December 2005 a reality here in New Jersey, and accepted the award on their behalf as well.

The highlight of the evening was the keynote speaker, Bill McKibben, the author of *The End of Nature* (published in 1989, it was the first book for a general audience on global warming) and other books that highlight the environmental challenges we face and some of the actions we can take to turn these challenges into victories. McKibben, who by choice is the father of one child (see his book *Maybe One: A Personal and Environmental Argument for Single-Child Families*), talked about the greatest challenge the world faces today - global warming.



Bill McKibben, speaking at the Sierra Club's annual award ceremony, San Francisco, September, 2006

Surprisingly, he noted that the worst thing about fossil fuels is that they have allowed us to be independent from each other. We are primates who need a community. We sit in front of our TVs and are bombarded with the message "You are the most important thing in the universe." This hyper-individualism has made us an unhappy society, always wanting more "stuff" - bigger cars, bigger houses - in an effort to find happiness. He believes that happiness in the U.S. peaked in the 50's and has since steadily decreased due to loss of community. I found this insight particularly interesting having traveled to Madagascar, one of the poorest countries in the world, where people had so little yet seemed so happy. Was their sense of community the reason?

McKibben talked about the work of Jim Hansen and his colleagues whose findings show we have ten years to change or we will have a drastically different planet. The planet is setting the pace and we are going to have to run as fast as we can to catch up. If the Greenland Ice Sheet melts, the oceans will rise 60 feet. To stop global warming there must be an immediate 70% reduction in world-wide use of fossil fuels. Yet, McKibben noted, the bipartisan effort to do nothing on global warming has been impressive.

How, McKibben wondered, could we look in the eyes of young people and tell

them we are going to leave them a planet grossly degraded from the one we grew up in?

Over Labor Day weekend, McKibben led a walk across Vermont to show the deep concern people have about global warming - to send a message to representatives in Washington that real action must be taken. He likened this walk to the Civil Rights marches in the '60s.

Over the course of five days his hopes were raised as more and more people joined the trek, culminating in people running for national office signing a pledge to reintroduce the Jeffords-Waxman legislation calling for "85 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2050, the rapid phase-in of 40-mile-per-gallon cars, and a national plan to get 20 percent of our power from renewables by 2020."

(To read more about the walk go to: <http://www.grist.org/comments/dispatches/2006/08/30/mckibben/index4.html>.)

McKibben suggested some actions we can all take to help. Just because it's always summer somewhere does not mean we should be eating strawberries in December. We need to go back to eating locally and seasonally.

He was encouraged that farmer's markets continue to pop up everywhere (see the "Eat Well" article in the Nov/Dec 2006 issue of Sierra Magazine at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/200611/tenways.asp>). He praised the Sierra Club for bringing people together and helping give a sense of community. And, he noted

that we should continue to press our Representatives to take real actions to fight global warming.

Taking Action Locally: During my presentations and outreach I make the connection between the challenges of global warming and global population growth, while focusing on solutions. Population and global warming are closely linked. As populations increase, the demand for resources increases, particularly in the United States. With 5% of the world's population, we consume 25% of the world's resources, and are the biggest global warming polluter.

We must not only reduce our own consumption and advocate for renewable energy, but also invest in voluntary family planning and reproductive health programs. One of the most effective ways to slow population growth is to invest in family planning programs-at home and around the world. Meeting the basic needs for family planning and reproductive health services today is essential to improving our environmental future.

To find out more about the connection between population and global warming go to: http://www.sierraclub.org/population/factsheets/pop_and_globalwarming.asp.

Please consider the National Sierra Club outing described in the box at left, which will benefit the Club's Population and Environment Program. ☺

ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Update: Campaign to Block VX Nerve Gas Disposal in NJ

By Gina Carola (ginaceee@verizon.net), our Delaware Issues Coordinator

Thanks to three members of New Jersey's congressional delegation, the U.S. Army's plan to bring the deadly VX nerve agent to South Jersey for treatment is on hold. (See Jul-Sept 2006 issue of the Sierran for details on this project) Congressmen Rob Andrews, D-Haddon Heights, Jim Saxton, R-Mount Holly, and Frank LoBiondo, R-Ventnor have prevailed in their efforts to attach an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that will delay the transport of the VX nerve agent until the Congressional General Accounting Office has had a chance to study the proposal. The GAO is a bipartisan, investigative arm of Congress.

The proposal by the Army calls for the nerve agent to be transported from Newport, Indiana, to DuPont's Chambers Works in Deepwater, where it would be further treated, then dumped into the Delaware River.

Although an earlier study by the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control found no unacceptable risks to the environment or to human health, Congressman Andrews asserted that there are too many risks and too many unanswered questions about this project. He firmly

stated that bringing the nerve agent to NJ to dump into the river is unacceptable. Congressman LoBiondo stated that there are still too many unanswered questions about the project.

Congressman Saxton said that the delegation understands that the nerve agent must be disposed of, and they all recognize the responsibility that the US has under international treaties. However, he feels there are better ways to do this. Governor Corzine has praised the delegation's efforts and urged that NJ not be a dumping ground for the Army.

Please contact these Congressmen and thank them for once again standing up for New Jersey.

Rep. Robert E. Andrews, First District: (2439 Rayburn Bldg, Washington DC 20515-3001. Phone (202) 225-6501).

Rep. Frank LoBiondo, Second District: (225 Cannon Bldg, Washington DC 20515. Phone (202) 225-6572).

Rep. Jim Saxton, Third District: (2217 Rayburn Office Bldg, Washington DC 20515. Phone (202) 225-4765 or (609) 292-6000).

Channel Islands National Park, California: "Whales, Pinnipeds, & Wildflowers"

Four-day, four-island cruises, costing \$775, on **April 13-16, May 4-7, and July 20-23**: visiting San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz & Anacapa Islands. Or, five-day, five-island cruises are planned for **August 25-29** and **September 15-19**, costing \$925, and including tiny Santa Barbara Island as well.

Departing from Santa Barbara, CA, aboard the 68' twin-diesel Truth. Price includes assigned bunk, all meals, snacks and beverages, and the services of a ranger/naturalist who will lead hikes and help identify flowers, other wildlife, & remnants of the rich culture left behind by the Chumash people. Proceeds will benefit the Sierra Club's Global Population & the Environment Program.

Activities include hiking, kayaking, swimming, snorkeling, beach-combing, or just relaxing at sea. In spring the islands are ablaze with wildflowers. The pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary churn with colorful fish & sea lions.

Each island offers special charm: San Miguel for white, sandy beaches and elephant seals; Santa Rosa for its rare Torrey Pine forest; Santa Cruz for high mountains, deep valleys and the famous Painted Cave, Anacapa for a brown pelican rookery, steep cliffs, picturesque lighthouse and excellent snorkeling. Tiny Santa Barbara Island delights visitors with a friendly colony of sea lions.

To make a reservation send \$100, payable to Sierra Club, to leader Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. (626-443-0706; or jholtzhl@aol.com). For island scenes try website: <http://www.truthaquatics.com/hiking.htm>.

Resolutions Adopted by ExCom in September-November

We initiated possible legal action to protect the Highlands: retaining the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic to oppose exemptions to the Highlands Act, including the Route 206 widening (Sept).

We completed this year's political endorsements with the endorsement of US Senator Bob Menendez's campaign for re-election (Sept), and of three candidates in local races: Brian Unger for town Council in Long Branch (Monmouth County), and Valerie Bardin and Mary Hogan for town Council in Edgewater (Bergen County) (Oct). [All later won their contests.]

Chapter officers voted support for the Lawrence Township (Mercer County) Living Wage Coalition (Sept).

We initiated yet another possible lawsuit, at the NJ Supreme Court (appeal) level, joining the Hamilton Township (Mercer County) Planning Board and Save Hamilton Open Space in challenging construction of a shopping center (Sept).

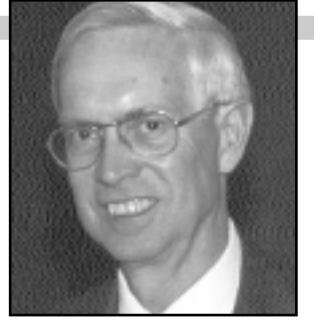
Legal action was authorized in an effort to defend New Jersey's moratorium on the harvesting of horseshoe crabs in and along Delaware Bay. (Oct)

Construction of a middle school in Latteri Park, Clifton (Passaic County), a Green Acres-listed property, was opposed on grounds of open-space loss, violation of the city's Master Plan, location in a flood plain, and the availability of other, more appropriate, sites. (Nov)

An additional legal action was authorized to pressure the DEP to grant C-1 stream protection to the Toms River, Great Egg Harbor River, Salem River, Cedar Creek, and Oldmans Creek (Ocean, Atlantic, Salem and Gloucester Counties). (Nov)

Note: 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. ☺

Chair's Message Beef, It's What's For Dinner



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

After I graduated from law school and began my first real job, my favorite spot for lunch was a small neighborhood luncheonette that had the best bacon cheeseburgers. I can still remember how tasty they were. But my days of bacon cheeseburgers are a thing of the past. I'm not sure just what caused me to change my eating habits. Perhaps it was my growing awareness of the inhumane conditions under which much of our nation's livestock is raised. Or perhaps it was the admonition I received from my doctor that I needed to reduce my cholesterol level if I hoped to avoid serious health problems. Most likely it was a combination of the two.

Our friends in the medical community have been telling us for some time that a diet high in saturated fats can be lethal. More recently information documenting the conditions under which much of the nation's livestock is raised, including the confinement of poultry and hogs in pens and cages with no room to move about, is beginning to have an impact on some segments of our society. The bottom line is that much of the meat that feeds this nation is produced under inhumane conditions and is contributing to serious, and in many cases life-threatening, medical conditions.

But what about the environment? Modern-day factory farms, referred to in the industry as "concentrated animal feeding operations" or "CAFOs," produce vast amounts of liquid waste, waste that is stored in so-called "lagoons" (not to be confused with the lagoon in Brooke Shields' *The Blue Lagoon*, although some would argue this point). When the lagoons rupture, which does occur from time to time, vast amounts of liquid waste end up in the soil and in nearby streams. The effect on wildlife and natural systems is devastating.

Animal waste from these operations also emit ammonia into the air which, when combined with elements already present in the atmosphere, contribute to smog and acid rain. The Chesapeake Bay, once a thriving marine habitat, in recent years has

experienced an alarming loss of life. The culprit, it turns out, is ammonia from massive chicken farms operating nearby.

But pollution generated by CAFOs is only part of the problem. Our nation's addiction to grain-fed beef poses serious threats to our food supply, our water resources and our remaining open spaces. According to Michael F. Jacobson, author of *Six Arguments for a Greener Diet*, over 200 million acres of land in this country are devoted to producing feed and pasture for livestock. Cultivation of feed crops in turn requires 181 million pounds of pesticides, 22 billion pounds of fertilizer and 17 trillion gallons of irrigation water per year, resulting in reduced air and water quality, damage to the soil and the depletion of natural aquifers.

So what can we do about the problem? Some of my friends have chosen to follow a vegetarian or, in some cases, a vegan diet. I admire them for their conviction and their willingness to follow through on what they believe in. But those of us who are not prepared to make such a commitment can still make a difference. We can cut back on our consumption of meat, we can try to eliminate certain types of meat, such as grain-fed beef, from our diets, we can patronize stores that feature meat raised under more humane conditions and not in polluting CAFOs, we can purchase eggs from free roaming hens, rather than CAFO-raised hens that are confined to cages so small that they cannot flap their wings, and we can avoid purchasing seafood that the Monterey Bay Aquarium has identified on its website as seafood to avoid because the species is in serious decline or because the conditions under which it is raised pose a threat to the environment. These are just a few of many options to consider.

But whatever steps we choose to take, our actions will not only help to protect the environment, they will help to promote the humane treatment of farm animals, improve our health and hopefully extend our lives. How can we go wrong? ☺

YOU HAVE MORE TO GIVE THAN YOU KNOW
 Maybe you can't make a gift to protect the environment during your lifetime, but you can become a financial hero by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. You can even direct your gift to a special Club program or to the New Jersey Chapter.
For information about making a bequest to the New Jersey Chapter call George Denzer at 609-799-5839.

Editorial A Swinging Electorate?



photo: James Mendelsohn

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

The editorial I wrote a year ago, after the election that brought Gov. Corzine into office, noted a general swing (British term) of 4.5% towards the Democrats, between 2003 and 2005 and in each Assembly District, with exceptions that "proved the rule." I hope you will be curious to see whether the same effect was visible in the results in New Jersey's 13 Congressional Districts on Nov. 7.

The table below shows an average swing of 2.9% towards the Democrats, between 2004 and 2006. There were much larger swings of 6% in CDs 3, 7, 11 and 12. Rich Isaac has explained (on p.1 of this newsletter) why even large swings are unlikely to have much effect on New Jersey's Congressional balance. It's interesting that our substantial efforts for challenger Linda Stender in CD-7 produced the same swing as was accomplished (without our effort) in CDs 3, 11, and 12. (With 48% of the vote, she almost succeeded in ousting Mike Ferguson!) A major factor to account for differences between swings is probably campaign expenditures; the data for 2006 isn't available yet. Another factor may be

turnout, always much higher in presidential election years (2004). The data also show a swing to the Democrats in 2000, accompanying President Bush's win over Al Gore (in New Jersey, Gore beat Bush with 58% of the presidential vote), and smaller reverse swings in 2002 and 2004. The "incumbency" factor also affects swings, with trends toward incumbents with increasing seniority.

Our other challenger-endorsement was of Paul Aronsohn in CD-5, where the swing was 2% in Paul's favor, but not nearly enough to overtake incumbent Scott Garrett's 56% of the vote.

Not shown in the table are the swings associated with votes for US Senate, which are more complex because of short incumbencies. The 53% of the vote received by Bob Menendez in 2006 was exactly average for the six Senate contests since 1990; the range was 52 to 55% for Democrats Bradley, Torricelli, Corzine and Lautenberg.

So yes, it's interesting (at least for me) to contemplate how the data swing. I leave it to others to compare New Jersey with other states, and better explain the various trends. ☺

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Canyon Creek Resort and Outdoor Education Centre

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Congressional			Congressional Voting Data for New Jersey												
District	Cook PVJ	Counties	Incumbent Congressman	1996 Result	% Turnout	1998 Result	% Turnout	2000 Result	% Turnout	2002 Result	% Turnout	2004 Result	% Turnout	2006 Result	
1	D+15	Camden, northern Gloucester *	Robert Andrews (D, since 1990)	78% D	71	76% D	37	78% D	66	78% D	45	75% D	71	(100% D)*	
2	D+6	Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Salem *	Frank LoBiondo (R, 1994)	39% D	72	32% D	41	32% D	68	29% D	48	33% D	70	35% D	
3	D+5	most of Burlington & Ocean *	Jim Saxton (R, 1984)	34% D	74	36% D	43	42% D	72	34% D	49	35% D	76	41% D	
4	D+2	parts of Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean	Chris Smith (R, 1980)	35% D	73	36% D	42	36% D	68	33% D	47	32% D	74	33% D	
5	R+4	Warren, northern Bergen, Passaic, Sussex	Scott Garrett (R, 2002)	26% D	76	34% D*	47	32% D*	75	39% D*	54	42% D	78	44% D	
6	D+14	most of Middlesex & Monmouth *	Frank Pallone (D, 1988)	63% D	69	59% D	41	69% D	62	68% D	42	68% D	68	69% D	
7	R+1	most of Hunterdon & Somerset, some Union *	Mike Ferguson (R, 2000)	43% D	75	46% D	44	49% D*	72	41% D	52	42% D	77	48% D	
8	D+12	northern Essex, southern Passaic	William Pascrell, Jr (D, 1996)	52% D	70	64% D*	42	69% D	65	69% D	43	71% D	70	71% D	
9	D+15	most of Bergen, northern Hudson *	Steven Rothman (D, 1996)	57% D	74	66% D*	46	69% D	71	70% D	47	68% D	72	71% D	
10	D+34	much of Essex, Hudson & Union	Donald Payne (D, 1988)	85% D	63	88% D	37	88% D	56	84% D	35	79% D	62	(100% D)*	
11	R+6	Morris, western Essex *	Rodney Frelinghuysen (R, 1994)	32% D	76	30% D	40	30% D	72	27% D	50	31% D	76	37% D	
12	D+8	pieces of Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth *	Rush Holt (D, 1998)	48% D	75	52% D*	47	50% D	72	62% D	48	60% D	74	66% D	
13	D+24	most of Hudson, bits of Essex, Middlesex, Union	open (formerly Bob Menendez, 1992)	82% D	64	83% D	33	81% D	58	81% D	35	77% D	59	78% D	
				Swings:		av: -0.6%		av: +2.0%		av: -1.4%		av: -0.2%		av: +2.9%	
				Clinton (D) Pres.				GW Bush (R) Pres.				GW Bush (R) Pres.			

Cook Partisan Voting Index: district's percentage divergence from the (50%) national presidential vote in 2000.
 Numerical data from Rutgers' NJ Legislative District Data Books and NJ Legislative Manuals, 2004 Almanac of American Politics, www.cnn.com/election/2006; * = not used in averaging

Is there an environmental issue that we're MISSING? If so, please call or write to Club officers.

The Problem of Compacted Soils on Development Sites

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

As New Jersey's towns seek to protect their trees, they should also seek to protect their soil. As builders clear cut the land to develop with a plan to re-vegetate later, the heavy machinery they use for the clearing compacts and disturbs the soil to such a degree that it may never perform like natural soil again. According to state soil experts, 80% of total soil compaction can occur the first time a heavy weight is applied to the ground.

Once the soil is compacted, it no longer contains the air pockets or pore spaces that enable it to hold water and pass rainwater down through the ground to recharge the water table. Compacted soil is also more difficult to grow things in. Once the soil is packed down, more rainwater ponds on the surface causing much more surface runoff and local flooding.

The use of bulldozers and other heavy machinery to totally clear-cut an entire site not only kills the trees, but it also "kills" the



soil. Many stormwater basins that were supposed to allow rainwater to recharge the water table to compensate for the new pavement do not work because the soils in the basin were packed down like pavement by heavy machines when they were constructed.

If you look at the history of the Pinelands, almost all the forests were cut down many times mostly by hand, without being clear-cut by heavy machines, and the forests quickly grew back and the soils remained largely undisturbed. So even though the trees were cut, the essential character of the Pinelands grew again from the pristine soils.

Today, if we can require that a percentage of trees be preserved on development sites, we might also be able to protect the adjacent soils from being compacted and ruined. Municipal ordinances might also be modified to require set-aside of some natural areas that would be off-limits to tree cutting and soil compaction. ☞

"Mutts" Cartoonist Patrick McDonnell celebrated at Chapter's annual Appreciation Day

By Bonnie Tillery and Sunil Somalwar

The Sierra Club's mission is to "explore, enjoy and protect the planet." "Explore and enjoy" aren't so hard, but protecting the planet is a huge challenge. And sometimes our messages can get quite heavy as we tackle issues like global warming and habitat destruction - so heavy that people sometimes tune us out. That is why we felt it important to honor Patrick McDonnell, the creator of the cartoon strip **Mutts**, for getting the environmental message out to the general public in such a way that they listen! **Mutts** is syndicated in 700 newspapers in more than 20 countries. Through his cartoon characters that are loved by both children and adults,

McDonnell tackles environmental issues as diverse as habitat loss, deforestation, vanishing species, global warming, factory farming, over-population and excess consumption. Characters such as Earl, Mooch, and Shtinky, gently portrayed by his pen, speak out so effectively on issues that affect our environment.

One cause close to McDonnell's heart (and pen) is the vanishing wild tiger. The Sierra Club is generally not active in

direct international conservation, but the New Jersey Chapter is unusual in running a separately-financed project called Saving Wild Tigers - to help protect the highly endangered wild tiger of India and Bangladesh, and its habitat and prey. It so happens that there is a lot of expertise in the metropolitan New York City area on wild tiger conservation and we have been very successful over the last 7-8 years in raising resources and sponsoring excellent muddy-boots projects in the tiger habitat in Asia. We have supported direct conservation projects as well as community-based conservation efforts in the areas surrounding the tiger's habitat. Help with family planning is one aspect of this conservation effort. (Our website is <http://saving-wildtigers.org>.) On behalf of the NJ Chapter and Saving Wild Tigers, we were very happy to recognize Patrick McDonnell, a New Jersey native, for his contributions to conservation awareness and present him with an award and a limited edition tiger-print called "QuietFire" by the award-winning artist Joseph Hautman. ☞



McDonnell receives his award from Sunil Somalwar.

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APPRECIATION DAY

(Continued from page 1)

Jeanne M. Fox was honored for a long history of environmental accomplishments. As acting DEP Commissioner, EPA Regional Administrator, and now President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU), she has protected the environment in the face of political pressure. A prime example is her long opposition to filling in wetlands for construction of Rte 92 across Middlesex County. This obstinacy angered labor unions, thus keeping her from becoming the DEP Commissioner under former Gov. McGreevy. She also took on her own party to limit Cranbury permits in the Pinelands, and she led the fight to clean up the toxic PCBs and other chemicals in the Hudson River. As President of the BPU, Jeanne has pushed for renewable and alternative energy. Her current leadership in setting a goal of 20% renewable electricity by 2020 will move New Jersey toward a clean energy future. She has also helped consumers by requiring developers to pay for utility improvements in some communities.

State Senator Robert J. Martin (R, 26th District: mostly Morris County) was recognized for leadership in passing New Jersey's Highlands Act. In a district smack in the middle of the Highlands, this was no easy task. Senator Martin has repeatedly stood up to special interests and local pressure. He has also been influential in upholding Pinelands protections. His was the deciding vote in opposing five bad appointments to the Pinelands Commission which were put forward by his own party; thus enabling the next administration to appoint five great Commissioners. Senator Martin also helped write our first Transfer of Development Rights Bill and has been an expert in helping to reform land use law.

The Chapter's Volunteer of the Year Award went to Mike Herson for his successful efforts in North Jersey. Mike

chaired the Oradell Environmental Commission and was a member of its Planning Board. He is currently a member

of the Highlands Commission, serves on the Chapter's Executive Committee, is co-Chair of our North Jersey Group, and is our Highlands Issues Coordinator. [See our interview of him on page 5, opposite.] Mike has led countless fights to preserve open space and protect the environment for all of New Jersey. Some current efforts are to halt smokestack emissions of Marcal Paper, Inc, in Ellwood Park, and to save Latteri Park in Clifton from development. He is our "Jeff Tittel of the North."

For the award to "Mutts" cartoonist Patrick McDonnell, see the separate article on this page by Bonnie Tillery and Sunil Somalwar.

Honored guests included Assemblyman John F. McKeon (R, 26th District: mostly Morris County) and Assemblywoman Linda R. Greenstein (D, 14th District: mostly Middlesex County). As a member of the Assembly Environmental Committee, Assemblyman McKeon helped shepherd through the legislature just about every piece of environmental legislation in the past three years, including Clean Car, the Highlands Act, and the parks funding referendum that was approved by the voters last November. His current efforts are to reform site remediation standards and to promote regulations requiring the recycling of electronic wastes.

Assemblywoman Greenstein has led efforts to solve the problems of toxic pollution, utilizing public hearings to formulate much-needed legislation to bring about remediation of such "brownfield" sites as WR Grace, Mercer Rubber, and Ford Motor.

Special thanks go out to Joan and George Denzer, who for many years have made the local arrangements for the party, including organizing the tasteful array of cheeses, wines, hors d'oeuvres, crudites and deserts. ☞



Jeanne Fox with Ken Johanson and Jeff Tittel. Photo credit for all Appreciation Day photos: Meiling Chin.



State Senator Robert J. Martin with Jeff Tittel and Ken Johanson.



Mike Herson receiving his volunteer award from Ken Johanson.



Assemblywoman Linda R. Greenstein and Assemblyman John F. McKeon.



Laura Bagwell and Lee Snyder enjoy the party.

Interesting political website:

www.sefora.org, according to an article in the Sept 28, 2006 New York Times, is the moniker of an organization formed by scientists to elect politicians "who respect evidence and understand the importance of using scientific and engineering advice in making public policy." Motivation reportedly came from the Bush Administration's positions on climate change and other issues.

Global Warming Tidbit

(supplied by Sunil Somalwar, our energy expert)

According to a Univ. of Chicago study (published in Earth Interactions):

If you get 35% of your calories from animal sources (vs. a vegan diet), your global warming emissions equal the difference between owning a Chevy Suburban and a Toyota Camry.

If you get 50% of your calories from animal sources (Atkins diet, presumably), then it is Suburban vs Prius.

(Hence, if you don't want to switch from your Camry to a Prius, reduce animal source intake by 15 percentage points.)

Of course, the land and water (habitat) impacts of a meat-heavy diet are far more significant and not accounted for here.

Meet our ExCom: Mike Herson answers some Questions!

Mike lives in Oradell, and is Co-Chair of our North Jersey Group, Highlands Issues Coordinator, delegate to the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and activist engaged in many conservation battles in Bergen and adjoining counties, as you are about to discover! He was awarded our "Volunteer of the Year" award on Appreciation Day. (See story on p.4.)

1. How/why (and when) did you get involved in the Sierra Club?

I live in central Bergen County, near the Hackensack River and the Oradell Reservoir. We have lots of development, but relatively little public open space. Just over ten years ago, I led a fight against a "consortium" of developers who wanted to build a 60,000 sq foot supermarket, strip mall and condos on Van Buskirk Island in the Hackensack River, the site of the Hackensack Water Company's abandoned structures. The 15-acre island is an oasis for Black-crowned Night Herons, Eastern Towhees, Great Egrets, salamanders and foxes to name just a few species. The defunct water treatment plant had closed down and developers wanted to cover almost every inch of the island with impervious surface, even though it was in the 100-year flood plain and subject to sudden flash flooding.

Someone told me I should reach out to the Sierra Club. I made a presentation to the North Jersey Group, which then passed a resolution recommending our plan that the site be preserved as a County Park. The town meetings were dramatic, attracting 700 people; the Mayor tried to silence us and stop me from presenting the park proposal. The County Executive urged the town to listen. More than a dozen different development schemes for condos, restaurants, book stores, a water treatment museum with condos, etc. were proposed. In the end our proposal for a peaceful passive park with access to the river won out and was endorsed by the town and later by the County Executive.

Just three years later the island was totally submerged by a dangerous flash flood. If condos had been built there, lives might have been lost. Not long after that, the Mayor was arrested, forced to resign his office, and disbarred. So I joined the Sierra Club.

2. What Club activities are most memorable?

Not long ago, I would have said that helping to save the beautiful 82-acre Camp Todd in the Highlands was my most memorable moment.

But recently, I went to the area in Ringwood where the Ford Motor Company had dumped toxic waste throughout the woods, near streams and

near people's houses. Almost twenty years previously, the EPA had informed the community, mostly members of the Ramapough Indian Tribe, that the waste had been cleaned up. But, tragically, it turned out that many tons of toxics had been left behind, exposing a whole generation of kids to arsenic, lead and other chemicals. The site is the only superfund site in the country to be re-listed on the superfund's National Priorities List. In testimony to the EPA, I and others expressed our outrage about such an environmental injustice. It's just shameful and it breaks your heart.

3. What Sierra Club "projects" are you engaged in currently?

The 50-year-old Latteri Park in the City of Clifton might be bulldozed and replaced by a new school. Clifton has approximately 2% open space — far, far below national standards. The 7.5-acre park serves a large ethnically and racially diverse community, and is used for soccer, basketball and baseball. The Planning Board objected to the proposed school because it was inconsistent with the Master Plan and could cause offsite flooding. Voters statewide overwhelmingly supported urban parks in the last election, but the State might allow this vital urban park to be destroyed instead of finding an alternate site for a school building. Parkland should be protected in perpetuity. We are working with local citizens along with the NJ Conservation Foundation and Environment New Jersey to save this urban park.

The Marcal paper factory, in Ellwood Park, has repeatedly violated the terms of its air pollution permit, with numerous NOVs (Notices of Violation). Most recently, they asked for a significant modification of their Title 5 permit, which the Sierra Club opposed because it would enable them to postpone smokestack-testing requirements. There are reports of lung problems in the area. The DEP should require better monitoring, and has not asked Marcal for full disclosure of their chemical releases. By not testing the smokestacks, Marcal cannot learn what they are emitting to the surrounding area. "Don't ask, don't tell" is not a good policy for air pollution.

More than half of the people of New Jersey get drinking water from the Highlands, roughly 5.2 million people. The Highlands is a beautiful area with mountains, farms, small towns, an abundance of nature and vast area of precious habitat. It is also in the crosshairs for developers who promise a short-



term benefit of more tax ratables, and who leave towns holding the bag of higher expenses for more utilities and services. (Just ask people in Bergen County, where there is plenty of development and people complaining about their taxes!) If you want to debunk the "ratables myth" that more

development lowers your property taxes, just look around Bergen County. As Highlands Issues Coordinator for the Chapter, I am trying to help protect the Highlands and its water for future generations. I want people to realize that the Highlands is NOT YET SAVED. While a Regional Master Plan is being formulated, the Highlands are still suffering a death by a thousand cuts, with many projects being rushed through the pipeline and hundreds of exemptions granted for more development. Clean water is not only important for our health, it is also critical for our state's economy and competitiveness.

I'm very concerned with global warming and the future. I'm representing the Sierra Club on the Meadowlands Renewable Energy Task Force. I have been involved in trying to save the wetlands in the Meadowlands for more than a decade. The Task Force goal is to significantly cut carbon emissions in the Meadowlands with Co-Gen CHP, photovoltaic solar arrays and possibly wind power. Energy efficiency, though often overlooked, offers the best return on investment. When it comes to Climate Change, everyone can make a difference by thinking globally and acting locally.

4. How has the Sierra Club changed your life?

I've had the opportunity to work with great people who are smart and dedicated to making the world a better place. I have learned a lot from Jeff Tittel, former staffer Dennis Schvejda and Betsy Kohn. Betsy has been a wonderful mentor to me; we are Co-Chairs of the North Jersey Group. Our motto is "We do stuff" as it seems like we are constantly doing battle to save open space and natural resources throughout Bergen and Passaic. We can point to successes like stopping the Mahwah Truck Weigh Station and saving Mahrapo Farm. Our Group's Executive Committee is loaded with bright and talented people; two are accounting/finance types like myself (one is a councilman, the other an expert birder), a former school teacher, a writer, an environmental commission chair, a GIS specialist, a scientist and a conservation chair with twenty five years of experience. Two of them sit on national Sierra Club commit-

tees, one for national parks, the other for wildlife and endangered species. It's a pleasure working with them.

I grew up in the Bronx, and, when I was little, our local park was a strip of land less than an acre in size that was mostly covered by blacktop. It was near an extremely busy intersection and was shaded by the tracks of the elevated train known as the 3rd Avenue El. Later we moved north exactly three train stops, to where the 3rd Avenue El was right outside the window of our 4th floor walk up. The neighborhood wasn't much better, but there was a park nearby: not just any park, but Bronx Park. Suddenly, I had access to a park that was 865 times bigger (I can't help it, I'm a numbers guy). The park had a forested wetlands and a waterfall instead of blacktop. I could walk to the Bronx Botanical Gardens and I learned about plants and trees. My brother and I were in that park all the time.

That park meant a lot to me and taught me an appreciation for nature and parkland that has stayed with me. Kids need parks. The Sierra Club gives me an opportunity to help protect open space and nature for future generations.

5. Describe your particular role in the Chapter.

Betsy Kohn and I share duties as Co-Chairs of the North Jersey Group and we help each other. I am the Highlands Issues Coordinator as I mentioned. Last year I was elected to an at-large position on the Chapter Executive Committee, which is Sierra-speak for the State's Board of Directors. After years of attending meetings as a non-voting member, I now vote on matters like resolutions, political endorsements and bylaws.

At Chapter meetings I try to leverage my knowledge, especially my past municipal experience as a planning board member, environmental committee chair and stormwater coordinator, to ask questions and try to be a resource for the Club's other members and groups.

6. What advice might you have for a new Club member contemplating activism?

The long answer is that everyone has talents and abilities and many hands make light work. You can help, it's worthwhile and worth trying. I recently met a teacher who told me that she wanted to get involved but didn't think that she could contribute much. I told her that she shouldn't worry; her experience of speaking in front of large tough-to-please groups (i.e. kids in school) makes her well equipped for speaking at public meetings. I also said that she should not rush into things and do what is comfortable for her.

The short answer is Just Do It. The environment needs your help. ☺

LETTER "FROM" THE EDITOR

Are we on a merry-go-round?

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

(I have a bit of space to fill, and thought this Newsletter's Editorial Board members would "allow" the following "alarmist" ideas in the rubric of a "letter." They can be rather strict about what I may say in my editorials! I think the ideas in my last paragraph are at least interesting, and I haven't seen them published anywhere else. I speak only for myself.)

An ethical dilemma sometimes posed to astronomers starts with the hypothetical discovery of an asteroid bound

unstoppably on a collision course that would destroy the Earth. Should the astronomers issue a warning?

That's how I think about global warming due to greenhouse gas emissions. I conclude, after viewing Al Gore's film, "An Inconvenient Truth," that a 20% world-wide reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2020 or 2050, or even a mind-boggling 50% reduction, won't be enough to prevent complete melting of the polar icecaps in our children's lifetime, 70-foot sea-level rise that will drown coastal cities around the globe,

cessation of the Gulf Stream, and substantial alteration of the rainfall patterns that determine agricultural conditions. Much of the World's population will starve to death (just as much of East Africa's population is starving today, and tens of millions of Russian citizens starved during the Stalinist era).

Might it be time for scientists to go silent?

The good news, for biologists such as myself, is that a hot climatological cycle lasting millions of years might be just the thing to render *Homo sapi-*

ens extinct, restore jungles to their Jurassic splendor, sediment new layers of coal and petroleum, decompose all plastics, glass and metals back to their elemental precursors, and allow all radioactive waste to decay to stable isotopes. No doubt another "sapient" species would evolve in due course, perhaps with more environmental sense. (I can guess what you're thinking: no, there doesn't seem to be any fossil evidence for an "intelligent," climate-altering, and self-destroying species before us!) ☺

New additions to the Chapter's website (<http://newjersey.sierraclub.org>) include a statement from our Political Committee, and our "Bill Table": legislative proposals on which we have passed judgement.

What the November 2006 Election Means for Alaska

By Julia Millan Shaw (Julia@alaskawild.org), our Alaska Issues Liaison

I'm happy to report that the tide of change that has just hit DC will bring progress and exciting new opportunities to the Sierra Club's Alaska campaigns.

The Democrats have reclaimed control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. From an environmental perspective, these changes should be incredibly positive. We expect soon to find ourselves with more friends chairing the committees that consider bad legislation for Arctic drilling and clearcutting in Alaska's Tongass National Forest.

With a friendlier political climate, Alaska advocates will start moving away from the defensive posture we've been forced into over the past six years. Without constant legislative threats, we will be able to pursue legislation in the 110th Congress that will permanently protect the Arctic National Wildlife

Refuge (ANWR), the Tongass, Teshekpuk Lake, and other wild places.

Please take advantage of the fresh start in Congress to act now for Alaska! Contact your representative and senators. Congratulate them on their victories. Enlist their renewed support for preserving the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Tongass, and urge an end to leasing in the special areas of the Western Arctic. Remind them that Alaska's wilderness has no party affiliation.

Note: On Tuesday, March 20, on the west lawn of the Capitol Building in Washington DC, there will be a rally and lobby organization in defense of the Arctic Refuge. Please contact Julia (at the e-mail address below) for more information.

Julia is a Field Staff member of the Alaska Wilderness League (www.AlaskaWild.org; 215-985-2733).

Cool Cities Campaign: Mayor Scarpelli Urges Local Action on Global Warming

from a Press Release issued by the Mayor

At a Coastal Mayors Forum sponsored by Monmouth University's Urban Coast Institute, Brick Township (Ocean County) Mayor Joseph C. Scarpelli urged fellow mayors and other local leaders to take action within their own communities to fight global warming. "Mayors set the standard in the communities and we have to be the leaders on global warming," said Mayor Scarpelli.

The Coastal Forum, convened by Congressman Frank Pallone in Spring, 2006, highlighted the impacts of global warming on coastal communities. The Forum featured scientific presentations on global warming and its effects on sea level rise by Dr. Jon Miller of Stevens Institute of Technology and Dr. Stewart Farrell of Richard Stockton College. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Assistant Commissioner Mark Mauriello and Mayor Kenneth Pringle of Belmar also made presentations about the role of state and local governments in addressing coastal issues and global warming.

"Coastal communities are the first ones to feel the impact of global warming," said Mayor Scarpelli.

"Over the next 30 years, if global warming is not aggressively addressed, the New Jersey coast risks permanent inundation as sea levels rise. In coming years, we will experience episodic flooding, beach erosion, and increased saltwater intrusion to low lying areas. This will have a wide impact on society, the economy, and our natural resources that includes; property and infrastructure damage, loss of coastal wetlands and beaches, declines in coastal bird and wildlife populations, and contamination of groundwater supplies. Beach replenishment and structural devices, like sea walls, are a cost-effective short-term solution. But, permanent protection of the coastline will become more costly and difficult as the effects of global warming increase."

Brick Township has partnered with the New Jersey Environmental Federation and the Sierra Club in devising the Brick Township Green Initiative that includes the following:

- Signing on to the Mayor's Climate Control Agreement, pledging to reduce greenhouse emissions from five to seven percent below 1990 levels within seven years.

- Requesting an energy audit from the Board of Public Utilities to assess our energy usage and spotlight conservation projects.

- Purchasing only Energy Star equipment and appliances for city use.

- Using green cleaning products in municipal buildings to reduce levels of volatile organic chemical emissions through evaporation.

- Establishing pesticide-free playground areas with brochures for parents explaining the ill effects of pesticides to children and the environment.

- Passing municipal diesel emissions initiatives.

- Converting municipal fleets to hybrids or vehicles that use alternative fuels considering that one gallon of gas burned yields 20 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.

- Educating staff to turn off lights and computers when not in use.

- Installing solar power in municipal buildings.

- Planting trees and indigenous species.

- Educating the public through forums and school programs.

- Using high-technology lighting in municipal buildings.

- Adopting and enforcing land use initiatives to reduce urban sprawl (over 1100 acres preserved as open space).

- Making energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements.

- Involving the children. In Brick Township, the Green Schools Program trained teams of teachers and staff to develop energy education and conservation activities. In one year, the six schools saved 152,815 KWH (kilowatt hours) of electricity, and 1876 therms of natural gas, for a combined savings of over \$20,000. This reduced the school system's greenhouse gas emissions by 215,418 pounds of carbon dioxide.

With 52 miles of waterfront property, Brick Township has the largest waterfront in Ocean County. Mayor Scarpelli, who has participated in many conferences on alternative energy and global warming, is the only Ocean County mayor to have adopted the principles of the Kyoto Protocol. "Our local actions have global implications," he said. "We must ensure that our local actions have positive and not negative global results."

Note: Mayor Scarpelli was honored at the Chapter's Fall, 2005, Appreciation Day ceremony with our highest Award for a municipal official. ♪

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.)



Group News

FROM AROUND THE STATE

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

Northwest Jersey Group: Hunterdon, Sussex & Warren
North Jersey Group: Passaic & most of Bergen
Essex County Group: Essex
Hudson-Meadowlands Group: Hudson & SE Bergen
Loantaka Group: Morris & Union
Central Jersey Group: Mercer
Raritan Valley Group: Somerset & Middlesex
Jersey Shore Group: Monmouth
Ocean County Group: 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'ship:	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 Ch. 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 Co-Chairs:	Betsy Kohn	201-461-4534	BetsyKohn@aol.com
and	Mike Herson	201-262-9472	mikeherson@hotmail.com
Conservation Co-Chairs:	Tom Thompson	201-848-1080	etrans743@aol.com
and	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:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Secretary:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Treasurer:	Tom Thompson	201-848-1080	etrans743@aol.com
US Public Lands:	John Kashwick	201-660-8820	johnkashwick@optonline.net
Wildlife:	Mary Ellen Shaw	201-489-1588	MaryEllen.Shaw@pseg.com

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

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

Our Political Committee is developing a questionnaire for state candidates, and would appreciate help!

GENERAL MEETINGS. Begin at 7:30 pm; dates and locations below. To be sure the meeting is on as planned, please contact Betsy (see above).

Jan 11: Paramus Public Library, E-116 Century Road, Paramus. **"We are the Sierra Club,"** an introduction by group activists to the Club's conservation issues, outings and volunteer opportunities in northern NJ.

Feb 12: Louis Bay 2nd Public Library, 345 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne. **"Kilowatt Ours" (film).** Discover energy solutions that can save hundreds, even thousands, of dollars annually.

Mar 15: Pequannock Public Library, 477 Newark-Pompton Tpke. Pequannock. Presentation about the state of **Highlands forests and drinking water** by environmental scientist and forester Ron Farr of the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE. Join us at Buehler Cultural Center, North Haledon, to discuss local issues. Contact Mike (see above) for meeting dates.

ISSUES: (1) We are working with Elmwood Park residents to ensure that air pollution regulations are complied with by Marcal, which has not fulfilled the conditions of its air pollution control permit. (2) In Clifton, a city of 80,000 and only two per cent open space, we're helping residents save the 50-year-old Latteri Park from the bulldozer. (3) SaveParamusWetlands.com concerns a development threat to 35 acres containing important wetlands - the headwaters of the Musquapsink Brook that feeds into the Oradell Reservoir, a drinking water source for 750,000 people. (4) The Ramapo River Coalition, of which we are a part, is challenging plans to build a total of 2,000 housing units on watershed land across the border in NY. (5) Van Buskirk Island on the Hackensack River is identified in NJ Audubon's "Birding and Wildlife Trail Guide, Meadowlands and More" as a special nature resource site where the Eastern Towhee, Baltimore Oriole, Black-crowned Night Heron and other species have been observed. The guide features a photo of a Great Egret and Black-crowned Night Heron by the island's waterfall. To find out more about these issues or alert us to others, please contact Mike, Tom or Tricia (see above).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES! Help us protect open space and wildlife, elect conservation candidates, lead hikes, table at events, or research an issue like public transit or recycling. Join the Cool Cities Campaign. To find out more about the many ways to be involved, contact a group officer (above).

CARTRIDGE RECYCLING: Please bring your used printer cartridges to Whole Foods Market, 905 River Road in Edgewater, NJ; open 8am to 10pm every day. Leave them in the window box by the exit door. No remanufactured cartridges, please. Thanks for recycling!

Hudson-Meadowlands Group

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

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Louise Taylor	201-886-9320	ltaylor2@nj.rr.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

Group members: Please "vote" the Group ExCom BALLOT on p.2 of this Newsletter.

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
	and	Walt Goldenbaum	973-925-8662 goldenb1@optonline.net
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	walterclarke@verizon.net
Outings/Parks:	Dave Ogens	973-226-0748	bandit29@aol.com
Treasurer:	Linda M. Stiles	973-736-2224	birdlady07052@msn.com
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@comcast.net

ACTIVITIES: Presently working with land conservation groups to preserve 120 acres atop the second Watchung Mountain in West Orange for Open Space. Building a Passaic River Display for the Environmental Center in Roseland. Working towards saving a major forested tract in West Orange (known as the West Essex Highlands), 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.

Jan 11 (Thurs), 7pm: GreenFaith: Interfaith Partners in Action for the Earth. Reverend Fletcher Harper is an Episcopal priest, and Executive Director of GreenFaith, an interfaith environmental coalition based in New Jersey. GreenFaith has provided education about the teachings on the environment of the world's great religions, helping religious facilities to green their operations, and engage people of faith in advocating for environmental justice. Rev. Harper will speak about the moral and spiritual basis for environmental stewardship and justice. Discussion to follow. Snacks and refreshments included. For more information call 973-228-8776.

Feb 13 (Tues), 7pm: Birds of the Passaic River Valley. NJ Audubon Society Associate Naturalist David Hall will present a fascinating program on **local birds**. Mr. Hall is a resident of Essex County, experienced biologist, and field trip leader to several NJ Audubon birding adventure groups. He has spent almost 30 years exploring the birdlife along the Essex/Morris border, including participating in nesting surveys and bird counts. He and his son are responsible for installing bird boxes along the trails in Hatfield Swamp. View a slide show presentation on the local birds and wildlife found in Essex County, and become informed about current threats to wildlife along the Passaic River. Discussion to follow. Snacks and refreshments included. For more information call 973-228-8776.

Mar 13 (Tues), 7pm: Sustainable Energy. Please join us in an evening's discussion, led by Jeff Huppert, a retired environmental science teacher and Sierra activist from Parsippany. Sustainable energy is only fifty years away, if we start now! Mr. Huppert will be presenting a program based on the concepts in Thom Hartmann's book "Last Days of Ancient Sunlight." The program examines the history of energy use in the USA from wood, to coal, and to petroleum and natural gas. The very real problems of changing to alternative energy sources will be examined. Snacks and refreshments included. For more information call 973-228-8776.

Loantaka Group

(Morris and Union Counties, approximately)

There is a new website address for the Loantaka group:
<http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka/>

OFFICERS:

Group Co-Chairs:	Chris Mills	973-377-1742	ChrisMills@sierraactivist.org
	and	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com

(Continued on page 8)

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GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

Treasurer:	Joyce White		joyce00201@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Open Position!		
Conservation Chairs:			
Morris County:	Chris Mills	973-377-1742	ChrisMills@sierraactivist.org
Union County:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	hauskerr@aol.com
Cool Cities Chair:	Stefano Crema	973-627-4354	stefcre@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:			
Publicity Chair:	Bob Johnson	908-598-0656	robert.johnson@njsierra.org
Membership:	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
Air Quality	Doug Williams	973-263-8404	doog@optonline.net
Coordinator:	Bob Campbell	908-273-5720	wrobc_sc@earthlink.net
Webmaster:	Melissa Goss		
Greenbrook:	Bob Muska	908-665-2296	rmuska@erols.com

If you might be interested in getting involved, come to one of our Executive Committee Meetings on the first Tuesday of the month and get to know us. There are no obligations and there will be no pressure.

To learn about our activities, go to: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka/>.

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. All members are welcome at Executive Committee meetings. Right now, we have open positions on it! If you would like to find out more, please contact Paul Sanderson.

GENERAL MEETINGS: are held on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at the Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St., Chatham.

Come learn something new and make some new friends. We'd welcome the chance to meet you and to introduce ourselves. Please see the schedule, below, and join us!

DIRECTIONS: Directions are posted on our website : <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka/>.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Jan 10, 2007: Mary Penney, of the Delaware & Raritan Greenway Land Trust, will provide a wonderful power-point presentation about the Trust's partnership with Mexico and Guatemala to **preserve forests** in our (NJ) Sourlands, and in the Yucatán Peninsula of Mexico and forests extending into Guatemala. D&R Greenway, recognized by the State of New Jersey as a leader in preserving the land and biodiversity of the Sourland Mountains, has formed a partnership with Amigos de Calakmul, a land trust in Mexico that protects the tropical forest surrounding the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve in the Yucatán. The presentation will emphasize the importance of forests both as breeding and winter habitat for migratory birds.

Feb 14: Topic to be determined. Please check our web-site close to the meeting date.

Mar 14: Topic to be determined. Please check our web-site close to the meeting date.

Activities: (Consult our website (<http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka/>) 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:	Terry Stimpfel		terystimb@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Conserv. Co-Chairs:	Rocky Swingle	609-587-7568	rockyswingle@optonline.net
	and Laura Lynch	609-882-4642	laura@sierraactivist.org
Membership Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Programs Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Publicity Coordinator:	Caroline Kulesza		caroline_kulesza@yahoo.com
Political Committee:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
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.

Jan 10, 2007: Tom Knutson is an expert on climate change and extreme weather. He will give a slide presentation on the **impact of global warming on heat waves, hurricanes and drought.**

Feb 14: Mary Penney will present a program about the D&R Greenway Land Trust partnership with Mexico and Guatemala — to **preserve forests** in our Sourlands and in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico and forests extending into Guatemala.

Mar 14: Panel discussion of **municipal programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions**, including Gray Russell, Environmental Coordinator for Montclair.

Special event: Mar 24 (Saturday), 9am to Noon: Clean-up at the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh. Meet at the Spring Lake parking area. Directions to the Marsh: From South Broad Street in Hamilton (near the border with Trenton), turn south onto Sewell Avenue and follow to the end. Turn left on the dirt road into Roebbling Park and down the hill to Spring Lake.

Apr 11: Patrick Hossay, Professor at Richard Stockton College and community conservation and eco-development researcher and consultant — will speak on **building climate-friendly municipal policies.**

EMAIL 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: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/RaritanValley/>

OFFICERS AND CONTACTS:

Chair:	Don McBride	732-560-0369	dtmcbride@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Conservation Chair:	Jane Tousman	908-561-5504	jdtous@aol.com
Membership:	Sunil Somalwar	732-572-7721	svsomalwar@sierraactivist.org
Outings:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Political Chair:	Randy Gill	732-525-2612	ragill@optonline.net
Secretary:	Michael Ricketts	732-371-9961	ictonyx@gmail.com
Treasurer, Webmast'r:	Don McBride	732-560-0369	dtmcbride@yahoo.com
Publicity:	Sandi Lowich		abstract46@aol.com
Programs:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Chapter Delegate:	Sunil Somalwar	732-572-7721	svsomalwar@sierraactivist.org

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:

Jan. 17: The Economics of Immigration

February 21: Global Warming

March 21: TBA; check web site: newjersey.sierraclub.org/RaritanValley/

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:	<i>Open position!</i>		
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 refresh-

ments. For additional directions or information, please contact Dennis Anderson or Faith Teitelbaum (see list of officers, above), or visit our web site.

Jan 22, 2007: Professor Alan Robock, Rutgers University, will give a talk on **global warming**. Although regional patterns are not as well understood as the global picture, he will discuss possible impacts on people in New Jersey and Northeast US.

Feb 26: Mary Penney, of the Delaware & Raritan Greenway Land Trust, will describe the partnership she has spearheaded with Mexico and Guatemala to **preserve forests** in NJ's Sourland Mountains and in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico and forests extending into Guatemala.

Mar 26: Assemblywoman Amy Handlin will share with us her experiences as an **environmental legislator in the State Government**.

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

Website: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean

OFFICERS:

Chair:	A. Gregory Auriemma, Esq.	732-451-9220	sierraclubOC@aol.com
Vice-Chair,			
Outings:	Dawn Marie Johns	732-269-3729	sierraclubOC@hotmail.com
Conservation			
Chair:	Margrit Meissner-Jackson	609-296-4367	sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com
Secretary-			
Treasurer:	Richard Washik	732-616-2775	r_washik@hotmail.com
Political Chair:	<i>Open position!</i> Contact Greg Auriemma for information.		
Publicity:	Howard Schwartz	609-242-9304	hschwartz@comcast.net
Fund-Raising:	Joyce M. Isaza	732-920-9270	realtymstr@aol.com
ExCom			
Member:	Sandy Brown	609-242-9304	sandybrown@comcast.net
Delegate to Chapter	ExCom: Position rotates among Group ExCom members.		
Webmaster:	Rick Washik (see above)		

Note: Dawn Marie Johns and Sandy Brown maintain the membership.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Generally held monthly on the SECOND MONDAY of each month at the home of one of our ExCom members. Contact Greg or Howard for more information.

GENERAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS: Meetings are generally held bi-monthly (i.e. in alternate months) on the FOURTH MONDAY of the month at 7pm at the "Skywalk Cafeteria" in the Ocean County Administration Building, 129 Hooper Avenue (2nd Floor), Toms River. See our Web Site (below) for directions. Note: We've recently purchased a new computer projector and large screen, which will make our meetings even more dynamic, interactive and interesting.

Jan 10, 2007 (Wed!), 6:30 pm: We'll be participating in a "**Community Dialogue**" symposium on "**Global Warming**" sponsored by our friends at the League Of Women Voters. Faith Teitelbaum, the Chapter's Global Warming issues coordinator, and Greg Auriemma, Ocean Group Chair, will be participating, along with Brick Mayor Joseph Scarpelli. All members are welcome to attend.

Jan 22 (Mon), 7pm: Start the New Year right by coming to our first General Meeting of the year. Primary topic will be **wilderness issues with a special focus on Alaska**. We'll also be having a wild Alaska salmon bake! So bring your appetites.

Feb: (details TBA) Our first annual **Environmental Film Festival** at the Ocean County Library in Toms River.

Mar 20 (Tues!): Tentative **bus trip to Washington, DC** to join other activists across the country in support of Alaskan wilderness.

Mar 24 (Sat!), 7pm: A special event with our friends at the **Garden State Philharmonic Orchestra** — at Ocean County College in Toms River. Volunteer to help out and enjoy a great concert.

Mar 26 (Mon): Our General Meeting at the "Skywalk Cafeteria". Primary topic will be **protecting local streams and open space**.

Check out our new website! With thanks to "Web Master Rick." Log on to: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/Ocean for updated information on our Group.

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.

We've also targeted critical local open space, sprawl, and air and water quality issues in Brick, Stafford, Lacey and Jackson Townships. Help us defend both the Toms River and Cedar Creek against more development and protect Ocean County's newest park in Lacey against "Big Box" money's demand for new roads. Volunteers are needed to help with these issues, membership outreach, tabling at local events, fund-raising, and a computer-based voter education program.

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Gina Carola	856-848-8831	ginacee@verizon.net
Vice-Chair:	Wayne Zanni	856-728-4507	wzanni@earthlink.net
Secretary:	<i>Open position!</i>		

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	609-636-1389	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:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Programs Chair:	Bill Freund		
Outings Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		

GENERAL MEETINGS: are held at 7:30 pm on the SECOND TUESDAY of each month, at the Unitarian Church, 401 N. Kings Highway (Rte 41), Cherry Hill (located between Rte 70 and the convergence of Rtes 38 and 73, just north of a traffic light at Chapel Avenue). Handicap accessible parking and entrance in rear of building.

Jan 9, 2007: Charles Harrison, author, "Tending the Garden State", presents a history and current analysis of the **farming situation in NJ**. (It's a Rutgers-affiliated publication.)

Feb 13: Eastern Energy Services will present **Alternative Energy Options for NJ**.

Mar 13: Susan Craft, Executive Director of NJ's **Farmland Preservation Program**, will talk about the program in the South Jersey region.

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:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Pol. Chair, Calendars:	Dick Colby	609-965-4453	dick.colby@stockton.edu
Membership Chair:	Gary Roman	609-625-3438	
Secretary/Treasurer:	Julie Akers	856-697-3479	akers@gowebway.com

The central conservation issue, for which the Group was founded in the 1970s, continues to be protection of the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continues to consume the energies of those few officers who remain active — both within the Sierra Club and in two other organizations that have "spun off" from the South Jersey Group. Very few of our local members seem interested in the meetings we've scheduled in the past few years; 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:

Jan 10, 2007 (Wed), 6:30pm: Bi-monthly meeting of **Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries** (CU). Meeting place: Gant Room, Millville Public Library, 210 Buck Street. Cumberland County development issues are usually discussed, including updates on the Holly Farm and the Airport Race Track. Contact Renee Scagnelli (CU) at 856-305-3238 or DRScagnelli@comcast.net.

Jan 18 (Thurs), 7pm: Atlantic County Friends of the Parks: Monthly meeting of a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Parks system. A focal point is preservation of historic resources in the parks, along with advocacy for environmental attributes of parklands in fast-growing Atlantic county. All are welcome. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. Warren Fox Nature Center, Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor (milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50).

Feb 3 (Sat), all day: **Cumberland County Winter Eagle Festival:** Annual winter raptor festival with exhibits, speakers, presentations and guided tours (sponsors include Citizens United). Contact Renee Scagnelli at 856-305-3238 or DRScagnelli@comcast.net.

Feb 15 (Thurs), 7pm: **Friends of the Parks:** Monthly meeting of Atlantic County Friends of the Parks. We'll be planning the 2nd Annual Pinelands Folk Arts Festival. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. Warren Fox Nature Center, Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor (milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50).

Feb 21 (Wed), 7pm: **Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council:** Bi-monthly 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).

Mar 14 (Wed), 6:30pm: Bi-monthly meeting of **Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries** (CU). Meeting place: Gant Room, Millville Public Library, 210 Buck Street. Cumberland County development issues are usually discussed, including updates on the Holly Farm and the Airport Race Track. Contact Renee Scagnelli (CU) at 856-305-3238 or DRScagnelli@comcast.net.

Mar 15 (Thurs), 7pm: **Friends of the Parks:** Monthly meeting of Atlantic County Friends of the Parks. Join in planning the 2nd Annual Pinelands Folk Arts Festival. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. Warren Fox Nature Center, Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor (milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50).

Mar 27 (Tues), 7pm: Annual Members' Meeting of the **Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association**. An opportunity to catch up on conservation planning for the Great Egg Harbor Wild and Scenic River, by an organization that got its start (in the mid-1970's) 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).

(continued on page 10)

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:	<i>Open Position!</i>	Contact us! We need you!
Treasurer:	Joyce White	joycewhite@netzero.net
Webpage designer:	Tom Miller	millertom@juno.com
Social Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>	Contact us! We need you!
Programs:	<i>Open Position!</i>	Contact us! We need you!
Publicity:	Lynn Forrest	lvf77(at)msn.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.

Upcoming meetings are January 8, February 12, and March 12. Guest speakers/films to be announced.

Directions to the Chatham Library: From I-287 take Rte 24 East to Exit 8 (Summit Ave). Turn left at the top of the ramp and then left again so you go back onto Rte 24 headed West. Take exit 7A for Chatham and bear right onto Rte 124 (Main St). Follow Main St. through 2 lights. The Library is on the right about 1/2 block past the 2nd light. From GSP take I-78 West to Rte 24 West. Take exit 7A for Chatham and follow above directions.

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.

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.

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.

Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

(A chapter-wide special interest section which offers a monthly calendar of activities and events, including hikes, clean ups, social gatherings, and other functions which might be of interest to those members over fifty)

The mission of this section is to support Sierra Club goals, and to promote activism through letter writing, phone calls, and other active support for environmental issues.

We work through a "ListServe" to learn about current environmental topics, and how those issues can be supported. Topics range from local issues to items of regional and national concern.

For further information, or to join the ListServe, please contact Nancy Carringer at ncarringer@yahoo.com

Young Sierrans

(A special interest section for Young Sierra Club Members in their 20's & 30's 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 web site: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/YoungSierrans/>.

YOUNG SIERRAN COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Leadership Chair:	Jackie Enfield	jackie@jackieenfield.com
Vice Chair:	Diana Christine Eichholz	MistyAngel22@aol.com
Conservation Co-Chairs:	Bill Sevchuk	wsevchuk@earthlink.net
	and Steve Timmerman	Skiingsteve@aol.com
Programs & Social Chair:	Christine Toth	chris_ann_t@yahoo.com
Outings Chair:	Herbert Howie Southall	turbodude750@aim.com
Publicity Chair:	Kelly Enright	enright_kelly@mac.com
Webmaster:	Julie Garber	surf-net@usa.net

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

Young Sierran positions available include Membership Chair, Secretary, Treasurer & others! Volunteer event leaders are needed throughout New Jersey. We need Young Sierran Hikers and Outing Leaders! Must be willing to go through the training process to lead hikes and other outdoor activities. We also need Young Sierrans knowledgeable with computers to help out with various tasks. If interested contact Young Sierran Coordinator Diana at MistyAngel22@aol.com or call 973-364-7573 push option # 1.

MEETINGS: Monthly Young Sierran Meetings can be made available on rotating basis currently in Princeton, Bridgewater, New Brunswick or Montclair areas.

EVENTS: (Note: RSVPs are required for all events. E-mail is the easiest and most preferred contact method.) Contact Diana at MistyAngel22@aol.com to RSVP or for more information on any of the events below.

Monthly Young Sierran Bowling, Hikes & Environmental Programs and Projects to be announced.

All Events will be announced via The Young Sierrans E-Mail List Serve. To be put on The Young Sierrans List Serve please send an e-mail to MistyAngel22@aol.com. Events for 20's only are available for those wanting to volunteer to host 20's-only events. Young Sierran Event Volunteers always needed and welcomed.

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.

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!

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: Marty Cohen 201-670-8383 ico-north@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Chapter Outings: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417 eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Outing Leaders: Please send April-June 2007 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before February 3. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it for the previous Sierran, due to the occasional lag in mailing. Also, please send outing rosters or sign-up sheets to the Chapter Office as soon as possible after each outing.

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

Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your April-June 2007, trip write-ups by February 6.

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 safe-

