

The Jersey..... SIERRAN

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More than 23,000 Members in New Jersey

April-June 2007

ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Sierra Club Endorses Adoption of a Smart Container Act for New Jersey

By David Yennior, Recycling Issues Coordinator

Our Chapter's Legislative, Political, and Conservation Committees have endorsed the adoption of a **Smart Container Act (SCA)** for New Jersey, using bar code technology, and incorporating a refundable deposit and redemption program for all personal beverage containers up to 3 liters. In spite of current mandatory recycling in NJ, only 30% of beverage containers are recycled; 70% of our containers go to landfills or incinerators. The state wastes an equivalent of 54 million gallons in gasoline energy every year in un-recycled aluminum cans alone.



Nationally, "the Sierra Club endorses the principle that all soft drink and beer containers should be refillable and returnable for a mandatory minimum deposit." [It was intended that the mandatory deposit be applied at all levels of distribution back to the manufacturer.] Adopted by the Board of Directors, May 4-5, 1974

"The Sierra Club enthusiastically supports the passage of minimum deposit legislation nationwide, and opposes passage of the currently proposed "litter tax" approach to the beverage container litter problem." *Adopted by the Board of Directors, February 3-4, 1979*

Bottled Water's Environmental Impact

The *per capita* consumption of bottled water in the US has increased from 1.6 gallons in 1976 to 28.3 gallons in 2006: a 1,769% increase. Americans spend \$10.9 billion a year on 25 billion single-serving plastic water bottles, our second-most popular beverage. Only 17% are recycled, so 83% of one-way bottled water containers goes into the waste stream: trash cans, roadsides, parks, lakes, streams, beaches, oceans, and eventually landfills or incinerators.

Pat Franklin of the Container Recycling Institute writes that "more than 60 million plastic bottles end up in landfills and incinerators every day - a total of about 22 billion last year. Six times as many plastic water bottles were thrown away in 2004, compared with 1997. From sea to shining sea, plastic water bottles are clogging the streams that feed into America's rivers. The bottles that are not contained by fallen trees and other debris along our inland waterways are floating out into the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans."

Since most bottled water is consumed away from home: in parks, offices, or while driving a car, where there's no

(continued on page)

The SCA would provide that 75% of the projected \$50 million of unclaimed deposits would be used for administration and environmental projects, including land preservation, litter clean ups, and riverside, beach, and park beautification, while 25% would be refunded to redemption centers and retailers to cover handling costs.

The eleven states that have deposits (NY, DE, CT, VT, MA, ME, HI, CA, MI, IA, and OR) recycle as many containers as the other 39 states combined. Michigan's deposit container recycling rate is 97.3%. According to the Container Recycling Institute, "the 11 states that require small, refundable deposits on water bottles and other beverage containers recycle 490 beverage containers per capita annually, compared to 191 containers *per capita* in the other 39 states."

Our Club staff and officers are currently seeking legislators who will sponsor our proposal. We are also reaching out to other environmental and public interest groups for their support.

Sierra Club Conservation Policies on Beverage Containers:

Chapter Reorganizes its Priorities and its Leadership

On January 13th, at the Hamilton Twp Library (Mercer Co.), in an afternoon of debate and discussion attended by 26 Chapter officers from our 11 New Jersey groups and four sections, priorities were set for issues to be pursued in 2007, and the leadership structure, as presented on p. 12 of this newsletter, was revised slightly.

Of most significance was the agreement that **energy and global warming** should rise to the top of our list of issue-priorities. Initiatives include our **Cool Cities Campaign** for municipalities and counties in New Jersey, state legislation requiring the **reduction of greenhouse gas emissions** to below 1990 levels by 2020, promoting **energy efficiency** and **alternate sources of electricity, transportation** measures, and consideration of imposing a **tax on carbon emissions**. Of course we will work collaboratively with many other groups.

Second place as an issue priority now goes to **open space preservation**, and includes the effort to obtain a renewal of **funds for Green Acres** purchases, sup-

port for effective implementation of the **Highlands Act**, and support for a variety of **land use initiatives** to limit sprawl development.

Also high on the priority list: **recycling legislation**: support for a current measure for electronic wastes, and for yet-to-appear legislation to require refundable deposits on beverage containers.

Other Chapter priorities include support for **comprehensive sex education** in schools (as urged by Bonnie Tillery, our population issues coordinator, and many other officers), strengthened **clean water regulations**, and renewed support for **proper site remediation** of contaminated sites.

Members who wish to contribute to these campaigns are invited to contact the appropriate officers listed on p.12 of this newsletter.

Changes to the Leader roster include appointment of **Sunil Somalwar** as **Chapter Vice-Chair**, and addition of Laura Bagwell to the Personnel Committee. A **Cool Cities** task force will be led by **Faith Teitelbaum**. ☺

Join the New Jersey Climate March, April 13-16

Recognizing the urgent need to curb global warming, students from throughout New Jersey will march on Trenton to demand action. Based on the successful march led by Bill McKibben last Labor Day weekend in Vermont, the New Jersey Climate March will begin on Friday, April 13, at Rutgers-New Brunswick and head to Princeton University. After rallying in Princeton on April 14, the March will move to The College of New Jersey on April 15, to join students from Rider University and other concerned citizens. On Monday, April 16, the final rally will be held at the State House in Trenton, where supporters will call on Governor Corzine and the NJ Legislature to push for a climate-neutral New Jersey, by passing the Stender-Buono Global Warming Response Act

(A3301/S2114), requiring mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions. Once enacted, the law will require a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions below current levels by 2020.

The New Jersey Climate March is being coordinated with a nationwide effort that same weekend. "Step It Up 2007" is a major national action calling on the U.S. Congress to "Cut Carbon 80% by 2050." For more information go to www.stepitup2007.org.

You don't have to be a student to participate. All concerned residents are urged to join for an hour, a day, or the weekend. As Bill McKibben says, "Being right is only half the battle, being loud helps, too." For more information, and to sign the petition to legislators, go to www.NJClimateMarch.org.

Early Political Endorsements of Legislative Heroes

By Rich Isaac, Chapter Political Chair

The Sierra Club New Jersey Chapter has given early endorsement for the following candidates seeking re-election to the State Senate and Assembly in 2007:

Tom Kean, Jr. (Senate, R, 21st District - Union, Morris, Somerset, Essex))

Loretta Weinberg (Senate, D, 37th District - Bergen)

Linda Greenstein (Assembly, D, 14th District - Middlesex, Mercer)

Reed Gusciora (Assembly, D, 15th District - Mercer)

Bonnie Watson Coleman (Assembly, D, 15th District)

Linda Stender (Assembly, D, 22nd District - Union, Middlesex, Somerset)

Bob Gordon (Assembly, D, 38th District - Bergen)

These candidates are honored by the Club for their record of environmental leadership over the last several years and their prime sponsorship of 22 legislative bills currently before the state Legislature - bills that encompass the core of our legislative agenda: curbing global warming, renewing the Green Acres Program, reforming CAFRA, installing various land-use safeguards, supporting recycling and family planning, and motivating property tax reform.

Loretta Weinberg's endorsement is of particular importance to the Club because she is being challenged in the June Primary Election, and we will do everything we can to help her get re-elected.

Club members are urged to contact members of the Political Committee (see the Group News section of this newsletter for their names and addresses) to learn more about the issues, and about how they can participate in the process by which many other endorsements will be made before the June Primary and November General Elections, and about how they can participate in the campaigns of endorsed candidates.

If anyone has questions or suggestions about our early endorsements and/or our political program, please feel free to contact me, at: (H) 973-716-0297; risaacx@aol.com. ☺

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COOL CITIES CAMPAIGN REPORT:

You can make a difference in your own home right now, and save money!

By Faith Teitelbaum(faithtei@aol.com)

A compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) can save about 77 watts of electricity (100W incandescent vs. 23W CFL), so changing 15 regular light bulbs to compact fluorescent bulbs represents a 1,155-Watt difference. If your lights are on for 1460 hours/yr (that's a high end average of 4 hours/day), you will save 1686 kWh.

If you pay 13 cents for each kWh (as I do), you will save \$218 a year on your electric bill. Assuming the 15 bulbs cost \$2 each, that's a cost of \$30, and they last for seven years. So in seven years you've experienced a cost savings of \$1,527. Not bad for a thirty-dollar investment.

If a national average of 1.35 pounds of CO₂ is emitted per kWh of electricity generated, this will save 2,276 lb of CO₂ per year. That is more than 1 ton! So not only are you saving money, you're saving our planet!

Isn't it amazing how little we have to

do to make a big difference? So what are you waiting for? Go out and get those light bulbs!

Furthermore, if everyone did this in New Jersey's average town of 6,000 homes, the town would save 6,000 times 2,276 lb. = 6,194 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

And if all 566 municipalities in NJ did likewise, the savings would be 3.5 million tons — if we consider the grid as a whole.

This is just one of the ways we can all help save the environment. To find out what more you can do, join your local Cool Cities campaign. E-mail me or Stefano Crema (Stefcre@aol.com) to get the name of your local point of contact.

(My numbers were supplied by two experts from the Union of Concerned Scientists: Donald MacKenzie (Clean Vehicles Program) and Jeff Deyette (Clean Energy Program).) ♪

No VX Nerve Agent for New Jersey First Environmental Victory for 2007

By Gina Carola, our Delaware River Issues Coordinator

On January 5, DuPont of Deepwater NJ announced that the company was no longer pursuing the award of a contract from the U.S. Army to dispose of VX nerve gas hydrolysate, a by-product of the process of destroying stockpiles that are currently stored in Newport, Indiana. In announcing the decision, a DuPont spokesperson noted that the lengthy, arduous approval process and public opposition brought them to the conclusion that it would be in the best interests of New Jersey and DuPont not to proceed.

This victory did not come easily. Three years ago, when DuPont and the Army reached an agreement to ship the VX nerve agent from Indiana across sev-

eral states to New Jersey for treatment, our Sierra Club Chapter joined with Delaware Riverkeeper, Green Delaware and Concerned Indiana Residents, and other groups, to defeat the project. Congressman Rob Andrews, D- NJ 1st Congressional District, was the first elected official to jump in to help the opposition and defend NJ's environment and the health of the Delaware River eco-system. Congressmen Saxton and LoBiondo soon joined forces along with then-Senator Corzine. Our extreme gratitude goes out to these elected officials and to all who wrote a letter, made a phone call, attended a hearing or kept their friends and neighbors informed. ♪

Thanks for Your Support!

From Ken Johanson, Chapter Chair

This past year, as in prior years, members and friends of the New Jersey Chapter provided the Chapter with the financial support we depend upon to carry out our ambitious agenda. To all who helped us out in 2006, please accept my most sincere thanks. And for those who may not yet have contributed to the New Jersey Chapter but who have been thinking about making a contribution, perhaps my Message from the Chair on page 3 of this issue will help to convince you that the Chapter is worthy of your support. The New Jersey Chapter is making a difference, but we cannot do it without the financial support of our members and friends.

Here are the names of those members and friends who contributed \$100 or more to the Chapter during 2006. If your name was inadvertently left off the list, please let me know and I will correct the oversight. Also, if your contribution was received after the close of the year it is not reflected below but will be included in next year's listing. And, as always, please be assured that we are deeply appreciative of all contributions to the New Jersey Chapter, regardless of the amount.

Benefactors (\$1000 and above)

Richard H. Colby
The Environmental Endowment of New Jersey
The Ettinger Foundation
The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
Ken and Wynn Johanson
Sunil and Dorothy Somalwar

Patrons (\$500 to \$999)

Anonymous
Dennis and Carol Anderson
Michael Protzel
Ellen Wales

Partners (\$250 to \$499)

Rollin A. Bush
Stephan De Micco and Jeanne Fox
James G. Gilbert
Cornelius Grondin, Jr.
Victor Lindner
Grace Sinden

Supporters (\$100 to \$249)

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Jeffrey Abramson
Mary Anne Adams
Joan Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Atkinson
Margaret H. Babcock
Carroll W. Barclay
Kirk R. Barrett
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Mr. and Mrs. Allan Williams
John Wilmot
Bert Wohl
Eric Wokas
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wolfe
Murray Zeisel

POPULATION ISSUES COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Reducing Poverty's Toll on the Poor and on the Environment

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@verizon.net)

"Lasting peace cannot be achieved unless large population groups find ways in which to break out of poverty." With those words, the Nobel Peace Prize Committee awarded Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank its 2007 Prize for three decades of work giving micro-credit loans that bring a better quality of life to the poorest of the poor in Bangladesh. "The Grameen Bank model has been duplicated in more than 100 countries, from Uganda to Malaysia to Chicago's South Side," notes a recent Washington Post article.



Upset by the poverty he saw around him, Yunus started Grameen Bank (Grameen means "rural" or "village" in the Bengali language) to loan as little as \$9, without collateral, so poor people could start small businesses such as selling candy or toys, buying cellular phones and charging for calls, or purchasing weaving materials. Yunus found that women were the best risk; they now make up 97% of the 6.83 million borrowers. This was ground-breaking action for this Muslim-dominated country where rural women are often not allowed to touch money or work outside the home. As a guide, the Bank published "16 Decisions" for borrowers to follow. A sample of these includes discipline, unity, courage and hard work; repair houses; grow vegetables; educate children; and keep families small.

The link between lower fertility and reduced poverty has long been recognized. Thomas Merrick, in a Guttmacher Institute report, writes "...a slower rate of population growth, combined with sound and equitable economic development and the reduction of gender inequality, appears increasingly likely to achieve (the) goal (of poverty reduction)."

Women themselves recognize the link between family size and being able to provide food and education for their children, and they desperately seek family planning assistance. I have seen this

first hand in countries such as Ecuador and Madagascar. The Independent UK news, citing a report from Parliament, noted that, "The earth's population will approach an unsustainable total of 10.5 billion unless contraception is put back at the top of the agenda for international efforts to alleviate global poverty...World leaders (need) to put the contraceptive pill and the condom at the centre of their efforts to alleviate global poverty, tackle starvation and even help to avert global warming."

Poverty doesn't just take a toll on the poor, it also takes a toll on the environment. In many poverty-stricken areas of the world forests are stripped to provide fuel for cooking. In Africa hunters go into the bush and kill all manner of species to provide "bush meat." As forests decline, so does soil fertility. Tree roots no longer hold the soil in place and desertification creeps slowly over the land. Habitat is destroyed and rivers dry up as the trees that brought shelter and rain are cut down.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: The Bush/Cheney administration has once again proposed a budget that will reduce funding for family planning here at home and abroad. Please contact your representatives to let them know this is not acceptable. Representatives Albio Sires, Rush Holt and Steve Rothman have signed on to the Global Democracy Promotion Act (HR 619) that would ensure women and families around the world have access to family planning education and services and the ability to choose the number and spacing of their children. This leads to healthier and smaller families and reduces stress on the planet's natural resources. Senators Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez have signed on to The Prevention First Act (S 21) which will expand access to preventive reproductive health care services and education programs. Please thank these representatives who stepped forward for women, families and the environment, and contact those who have not to urge them to become co-sponsors of these important bills. ♪

Editorial

The Environmental Relevance of Tax Reform

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

In a footer in the previous issue of this newsletter, I asked Club members to offer "environmental spin" on property tax reform in New Jersey. Looks like I'm the only one to take up my invitation!

Tax policy has two purposes: to fund the state budget and to change the behavior of those who wish to minimize their tax payments. (Anyone who doubts the latter purpose should consider the rationale for the "sin" taxes on cigarettes and alcohol.) Let's look at the sources of tax revenue in New Jersey.

There are four big ones: personal income, spending (sales tax), business income, and property. The first three fund state government, and the latter funds local schools, municipalities and counties. We can ask how equitable each of these taxes is for the various "sectors" of New Jersey society, such as working people of low income, and retired people.

Using data from the NJ Legislative Manual (2006; found near the reference desk of most academic and public libraries), we learn that the 2006 tax burden was distributed as follows:

Income tax:	\$10.3 billion
Sales tax:	\$6.85 billion
(not charged on groceries or clothing)	
Corporate tax:	\$2.4 billion
Property tax:	\$17.3 billion in 2003 (latest year provided).
Other (minor): \$0.09 billion from alcoholic beverages	
	\$0.63 billion from cigarettes
	\$0.47 billion from a tax on insurance premiums
	\$0.6 billion on gasoline and diesel fuel
	\$0.43 billion from realty-transfer
	\$0.5 billion from inheritance tax
	\$0.54 billion from casino taxes
	\$0.81 billion from the New Jersey Lottery (net)
	\$0.64 billion from five other minor taxes.

Much could be said about this distribution, but I'll restrain myself! The three "biggies" are clearly property tax, income tax and sales tax. We should consider how "fair" the distribution is: poor people probably pay proportionally less-than-average income tax (since income tax is progressive), higher-than-proportional sales tax, and perhaps a proper proportion of property tax (included in rents). Retired people probably (on average) pay disproportionately high property tax and low income tax. Anyone can presumably do what I do: pay virtually no sales tax by eating in and practicing a minimalist lifestyle. (I'm not prepared to comment here on whether I think corporations should pay relatively more?)

It's interesting to compare the property tax revenues above with the amount gambled:

\$4.86 billion at casinos,
\$2.27 billion on the State Lottery, and
\$1.04 billion at racetracks.

The most "environmentally sensitive" tax is that on property, because the value of property tends to be inverse to good environmental stewardship: The most highly taxed residential property is that in sprawl suburbs, which deprives the state of the most natural habitat, produces the most transportation pollution, and "costs" the environment most in the pollution that results from heating and air conditioning larger interior volumes.



Photo: James Mendelsohn

(By "pollution" I include carbon dioxide emissions associated not only with automobiles, but also with electrical power derived from fossil fuels. Sprawl homes also consume disproportionate amounts of water, and pollute the environment with lawn chemicals.) So one way to motivate people into more centralized and clustered (and environmentally responsible) lifestyles would be to increase property taxes, such as by making them progressive.

Many environmentalists urge an increase in the gasoline tax or, more comprehensively, a carbon tax on all energy uses that are based on combustible fuels. I think it would be a hard tax to apply fairly, with so many New Jerseyans who would have extreme difficulty living without their cars. But the handwriting is or will be on the wall, as sea-level rises (in the form of sea-level indicator-marks), to prompt all suburban New Jerseyans to relocate to denser communities on higher ground.

Let's consider the "environmental motivations" that might be accomplished through tax policy. Our Chapter energy expert, Rutgers Prof. Sunil Somalwar, lists the five most important personal behavior-alterations that would protect the planet, ranked quantitatively:

1. Avoid car-commuting, either by living close to the work-place or using mass transit.
 2. Eat as low on the food chain as possible.
 3. Live within your means; save as much as possible; contribute to charities.
 4. Live in only one, compact, home, avoiding unnecessary possessions.
 5. Buy energy-efficient cars, appliances and light-bulbs, stretching out their useful lives.
- To this list I would dare to add:
6. Since over-population is a severe world (and New Jersey) environmental problem, bear fewer (if any) children.
 7. Reduce water consumption by use of cisterns and low-flow devices.
 8. Practice recycling of metals, glass, papers and plastics, and adjust purchasing to minimize packaging waste.

To apply this list to tax policy, please consider lines 7-11 on New Jersey's income tax Form 1040, which offer exemptions to old, blind and disabled people, and people with dependents and with kids in college. Why not extend this list to reward some of the behaviors listed above, and why not increase the value of such behaviors by applying not just a dollar exemption amount to line 29 of NJ-1040, but a percentage reduction in tax, or even a progressive percentage reduction?

Better still, I suggest, would be to roll both property and income taxes, and some of the minor taxes, into a single comprehensive tax that considers (by means of a complex formula) income, property, other assets, charity, public service, environmental behavior (lifestyle, miles driven, fuel efficiency, home insulation), etc. Adoption of such a policy would require the funding of schools and local government by a formulaic return of money from Trenton to the municipalities.

(I'm reminded of the "Single Tax" Movement of the late 19th Century, espoused by Henry George (in the book *Progress and Poverty*, 1879), in which property (real estate) was considered the single determinant of wealth, and therefore proposed as the single basis for taxation. The concept is still with us: of all assets, why should property be the only one taxed?)

No doubt such comprehensive (gen-

Chair's Message

Six Reasons to Keep on Giving

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



I recently proposed six reasons why we all need to keep on fighting. I received some favorable feedback to the column, as well as some less than favorable (to put it mildly) feedback. But it worked. Six weeks after my column appeared the pro-Bush anti-environmentalists suffered a stunning defeat and lost control of both the House and the Senate. Okay, so maybe this would have happened even without our help, but as they say in the New York State lottery commercials: "Hey, you never know."

But the battle isn't over - it's just beginning. So here are six reasons why, if we hope to win that battle, we not only need to keep on fighting, we also need to keep on giving:

First, we're doing good stuff. I described some of our recent successes in my "Keep on Fighting" column. I won't repeat them here, but the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club has had some impressive victories and we are making a difference.

Second, we're going to continue to do good stuff. The Chapter has adopted a challenging, but we think realistic, agenda for 2007. Agenda items include the reauthorization of the bankrupt Green Acres open space program, the adoption of a master plan that carries out the mandates of the Highlands Act, the continuation of our highly effective Cool Cities campaign, the adoption of energy efficiency and alternative energy legislative and regulatory initiatives, and the enactment of electronic waste and container recycling legislation.

Third, we are actively involved in the political process. If we hope to effect meaningful change at the state and national levels, we need to elect state legislators, congressmen and senators who share our views and our concerns. The New Jersey Chapter, under the able leadership of our Political Chair, Rich Isaac, plays an active role in this process. We send candidates detailed questionnaires, review candidate responses and conduct endorsement interviews. Only those candidates who have convinced us that they share our values and are prepared to pursue our agenda earn our endorsement.

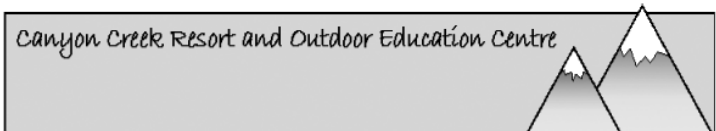
Fourth, we have a very effective staff. Jeff Tittel, our Chapter Director, is totally

committed to the Sierra Club and the environmental movement. I continue to be impressed, not only with his depth of knowledge on environmental issues, but also with his uncanny ability to know just what needs to be done to achieve the desired result. Clearly, we are very fortunate to have Jeff as a member of our staff. Our second staff member, Crystal Snedden, while a relative newcomer to the organization, like Jeff is totally committed to the Sierra Club and the environmental movement and is prepared to do whatever it takes to get the job done.

Fifth, we rely heavily upon an impressive group of volunteers. Jeff and Crystal do an incredible job but they are, after all, human. The Chapter would not be as effective as it is without the expertise, hard work and commitment of our many volunteers. These are the folks who show up at planning board meetings after a full day of work to oppose environmentally damaging development proposals, who work with our Chapter Political Chair, Rich Isaac, to interview and evaluate candidates for public office, who analyze and take positions on bills that are introduced in the New Jersey Legislature, who organize outings for inner city children, who contribute to and publish our Chapter newsletter, who compose and distribute action alerts, and who are responsible for our annual fundraising campaigns. We couldn't do it without their commitment and support.

And sixth, we can't do it without your help. Because of our heavy reliance on volunteer involvement and the commitment of our small but very effective staff, we are able to provide our members and supporters with maximum bang for their bucks. But we do need the bucks. If you are a member of the Sierra Club or have donated in the past, you probably have received or soon will be receiving our annual fundraising letter requesting your financial support for the New Jersey Chapter. As committed environmentalists we urge you to recycle that letter, but not before you write out a check to the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club. This is a great organization, we're doing great things, and we need your support. ☺

Looking for a real wilderness vacation? Rent Canyon Creek Lodge



In the mountains near Smithers, British Columbia. Easily accessible by air, road, or rail, yet located in a true wilderness setting. Designed for groups and families, the Lodge accommodates up to 10 with 5 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Canoe, kayak, raft, bike, hike, fish, ski, or view the abundant local wildlife. Also great for retreats, seminars, courses or club outings. Like your own private wilderness area, but with all the comforts of home. We can connect you to local guides and instructors. Visit www.canyoncreekbritishcolumbia.com, email info@canyoncreekbritishcolumbia.com or call 250-847-4349 (Roger McColm). Mention this ad and 5% of your rental goes to your local Chapter.

une!) tax reform would be too politically sensitive to be left to politicians! It would require the wisdom expected from the most respected members of our society: perhaps a panel of judges skilled in arbitration.

Of course, a responsible commentary on tax policy should solve New Jersey's deficit problem. Easy for me to say: require tax revenues to equal budget outlay, by allowing the overall rate of income (and other) tax to float each year, so as to

balance the budget. I was interested to discover that, when reassessment in my town last year resulted in many residents having to pay an extra \$1000 in property tax, there were virtually no complaints. I suspect most New Jerseyans would be able and willing to pay increased taxes. As I like to tell my friends: observing all the misery elsewhere in the world, the privilege of living in our comfortable society is worth every penny we pay in taxes, and MORE. ☺

Resolutions Adopted by ExCom in January and February

We agreed on a set of **issue priorities** for 2007, with top priority going to measures to combat **global warming**. (See story on p.1. The complete list is on the Chapter website.) (Jan)

We resolved to oppose construction of a **Rte 33 bypass** in Mercer County, near Washington Town Center, that would disrupt wetlands and other environmentally sensitive land. (Jan)

We agreed to send a letter of opposition to the **deepening of the Delaware River**. (Jan)

Early endorsements were voted to

reward some of our incumbent environmental heroes in the state Legislature. (See article by Rich Isaac on p. 1.) (Feb)

Support was voted to urge the federal Environmental Protection Agency to allow New Jersey to impose stricter-than-federal limitations on **emissions of mercury** from coal-fired power plants. (Feb)

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.

GLOBAL WARMING ISSUE REPORT:

Elk Township Coolest Place to Live in Gloucester County

Supplied by Gina Carola, Chair of our West Jersey Group

On December 19, 2006, Elk Township became the first municipality in Gloucester County to sign on to the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. [See the description of the Mayors' Climate Agreement in the article describing the Club's Cool Cities Campaign in the July-September issue of *The Jersey Sierran*.] Outgoing Mayor Bill Rainey signed the agreement at 2006's last township working meeting and in doing so joined hundreds of other cities and towns across the country that have committed to taking the fight against global warming to the local level. The challenge has now gone out to the rest of the county to get on board and meet or exceed the effort that Elk Township is making.

Although the township formally signed on only a few months ago, Councilman Victor Morella had been hard at work for two years to bring green energy to Elk Township. Morella had already installed solar panels on his barn roof; now he wanted to help his community by putting solar panels on the municipal building. Another part of the effort was replacement of the 20-year-old lighting system in the buildings and the parking lot with new, energy-efficient lights along with new, more efficient heating and air conditioning.

The roof of the municipal building is now sporting a 6kW solar array, which supplies a large portion of the electricity used by the building. Although there was room on the roof for an additional 12kW, the township did not want the system to cost the tax-payers any money up front. A 6kW system provided the best value (i.e. the best rebates and shortest pay-back given all the renovation of the heating, cooling and lighting systems). So, besides the benefit of reduced greenhouse emissions, the project will pay for itself in as little as ten years. After that, the township will need to buy very little electricity. In the future, additional panels can be added.

In addition to solar panels, the township has moved forward on six of the other target goals of the Mayors' Agreement. Here are the goals and what the township is doing to meet or exceed each of them:

- Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space and create compact, walkable urban communities. The Township is aggressively preserving farmland and open space.

- Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commuter trip reduction program, incentives for car pooling and public transit. The Township is pursuing state grants to maintain existing trails and to build new ones.

- Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances - such as new heating, air conditioning and lighting systems.

- Increase recycle rates in city operations and in the community. The Township has started a project called Recycle Bank. (More in a future issue of *The Jersey Sierran*.)

- Maintain healthy urban forests, promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO2. The Township's newly-formed Environmental Commission is developing a tree ordinance.

- Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution. The Township recently held a workshop at which residents learned about their new solar energy project and met representatives from solar companies. Residents were encouraged to install their own solar panels and to take advantage of other energy-efficient technologies.

Councilman Morella has generously offered to talk with anyone about the Elk Township project. He would be happy to meet with officials in other towns, as well as with homeowners who want to make their own green energy. He already has done all the research, so others can benefit from the work that he has done. For more information, contact him at v.c.m@comcast.net.

Councilman Morella, along with Council members Terry Ratzell (the new mayor), Don Brovero (Council Liaison to the Environmental Commission), Phil Barbaro and former Mayor Rainey are to be commended for this extraordinary effort to be the first governing body in Gloucester County to launch their community into the 21st century with energy efficiency and energy independence. Congratulations to the residents of Elk Township for electing such responsible public servants. ☺

Bird-Glass Collisions

Supplied by our energy expert, Sunil Somalwar

There is an excellent article by James McCommons on the bird-glass collision problem in the Jan-Feb 2007 issue of the magazine *Wildlife Conservation*. It publicizes the lifetime work of Dan Klem, an ornithology professor at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA, in understanding this slaughter of avian life. Birds can either see what is on the other side of a window, or mistake reflection for the outdoors. One in every two collisions results in a fatality. Scavengers generally dispose of the bird bodies very quickly, so the extent of the problem is underestimated. Fatalities are highest in winter, when birds come to backyard feeders. Here are some things you can do:

- 1) Although it may seem counterintuitive, place birdfeeders very close to windows - within 12 inches. Birds focus on the seed and avoid the window. Collisions during takeoff are less harmful due to lesser speed. When feeders are

placed 10 feet away or further, the mortality goes up dramatically.

- 2) Mount mosquito net screening 3-4 inches away from windows.

- 3) Closely spaced vertical blinds or bamboo stripping inside your windows will reduce the danger. Hawk silhouettes and owl decoys don't work unless the silhouettes are 2-4 inches apart and cover most of the window.

- 4) Remove houseplants and Christmas trees from inside window areas as they imitate the outdoors. The same is true of shrubbery and foundation planting, outside. Keep in mind that shrubbery reflected in windows fools the birds. (Go take a look at your windows from outside at different times of the day.)

- 5) Cover your windows with cloth strips, paper, strings of beads or mobiles. The key here is visual density: objects must be separated by four inches or less. ☺

National Club Election Coming This Spring

Supplied by the Club's Chief Inspector of Election, Marvin Baker

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. In March, those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive national Sierra Club ballots. Included will be information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is

both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your Group and Chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club's election website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2007> election. This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choices and cast your votes. You will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark. A growing number of members find the user-friendly Internet voting option to be very convenient as well as saving postage. ☺

What's in a Bottle of Water?

Eco-tip by Laura Lynch, Chapter Conservation Chair, reprinted with permission from ecotips.sustainablelawrence.org. Reprinted from the Lawrence Ledger.

The ads are everywhere, imploring you to taste the purity of water from a far-off land. Gee, if it comes in a bottle with a picture of a waterfall on it, the water must be much cleaner than our municipal tap water, right? Nope.

According to several studies, bottled water is not likely to be any safer or healthier than tap water. In fact, regulations for municipal water purity are much stricter than those for bottled water. Many bottled water companies use municipal tap water as their source, with perhaps a bit of extra filtration and a few minerals thrown in. One study determined that some bottled water has more bacteria in it than tap water does.

How much are we being charged for this tap water in a pretty wrapper? We are being charged up to 1,000 times more than we pay for municipal water, and anywhere from 250 to 1,000 times more than for a gallon of gasoline.

But the rip-off doesn't stop there. Each plastic bottle has been made from non-renewable fossil fuels, which means that each bottle is a little packet of global warming. To make matters worse, those packets have to be shipped to us, sometimes refrigerated, burning more fossil fuels and creating more air pollution along the way. Most plastic bottles

don't even get recycled; instead, they are forever buried in landfills or tossed to the side of the road to become part of our plastic landscape.

So, bottled water really isn't the pure, healthy deal we were promised. What can we do instead? We can carry our clean tap water with us in reusable bottles for a fraction of the cost. Glass and stainless steel containers are always options, but the sturdiest, lightest choices are plastics. The safest are #2 (high-density polyethylene, or HDPE), #4 (low-density polyethylene, or LDPE), and #5 (polypropylene, or PP). Polycarbonate bottles (#7) can leach estrogen mimics when washed with heavy detergents, and single-use #1 bottles can release carcinogens as they break down, so stay away from those. You can find out what kind of plastic a bottle is made from by looking for the number on the bottom of the container. ☺

Sources:

Olson, Elizabeth. "Water in Tap Beats Bottled, Group Says." *New York Times*, 6 May 2001. Standage, Tom. "Bad to the Last Drop." *New York Times*, 1 August 2005. Whittelsey, Frances Cera. "Hazards of Hydration" *Sierra*, November/December 2003.

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.)

Reducing Home Power Consumption, Reducing Pollution

by Former Maryland State Senator Gerald W. Winegrad - condensed from an article in the Maryland Chapter's newsletter

The impending 10% increase in the cost of electricity [in New Jersey] gives added impetus for consumers to cut back on electrical energy use. For Sierra Club members and all concerned with the environment, energy conservation is important.

Here are some tips for energy conservation in the home:

\$571 Powers 1,730 Square Feet: Our 1988 two-story home in Annapolis has 1,730 sq. ft. of space. It is all-electric, heated and cooled by a heat pump. Our total electricity cost for this past year was \$571, for a total of 7,099 kWh. (The U.S. average cost for home energy use is about \$1,900 a year.) So how do we do it without the installation of solar panels or a wood stove?

First, more than 50% of electrical energy in the home is for heating and cooling. When our old heat pump was dying, we replaced it with a high SEER-rated Energy Star model. We regularly change furnace filters. We run the heat pump only when necessary: rarely

between Labor Day and mid-November, and between mid-April and July. In cold weather we wear sweaters and keep the drapes and shades open during the day to allow the sun in, closing them at night. In warmer weather we close the drapes and shades during the day, leave all windows open, and use fans where we cook, eat, and sleep, turned on only when we are present in that room. We use plastic register covers to direct air-flow away from the drapes and into the room.

Our thermostat is set at 60-62 deg, except when we have guests. Our a/c is never set lower than 80. We have replaced energy-inefficient windows and sliding doors. When away for three days or more, we turn off all lights, the hot water heater, all clocks, DVD players, etc., and never leave the a/c on. When away in mid-winter we keep the house temperature at 50 to prevent freezing.

Energy Saver Switches: Our electric company offers energy-saver switches

for central air conditioners and water heaters. During periods of high demand for electricity, a radio signal activates them to cycle the units on and off in 15-minute intervals. I have never been made uncomfortable, and it saves us \$15 a month, typically \$60 annually. It costs nothing to hook-up.

Insulation: Every house needs to be properly insulated and to have cracks sealed. Good attic insulation, good windows, storm doors, and electrical socket insulators are all important. We rarely turn on the kitchen or bathroom air ventilators as they waste a lot of heat or a/c. I close the fireplace flue damper in winter and open it in summer. We rarely use the fireplace.

Choosing and Using Major Appliances: The hot water heater is the next major user of energy. I have a thermal blanket on ours, insulation around the pipes, and the water temperature set at 120 deg. I installed flow restrictors on all faucets and water conservation shower-

heads. We have an Energy Star high-efficiency refrigerator/freezer and always keep the lowest temperature settings necessary. We try not to leave the doors open very long and keep the coils clean from dust accumulation. We also replaced our old dishwasher with an Energy Star high-efficiency model, and use it only with full loads. We also replaced our dryer with a more efficient model and use it only with full loads, cleaning the lint filter after each use. We use only cold water in the washing machine.

We have replaced nearly all lighting with compact fluorescent bulbs. Home computers now use 9-10% of all the energy in a home. I turn mine off when not in use and also turn off the power bar to which it is connected.

We recycle more than 75% of our household waste, including yard waste. I average only 6,000 miles a year in my used fuel-efficient vehicle, and carpool and use public transit. ♪

SMART CONTAINER ACT

(Continued from page 1)

convenient recycling, using a reusable water bottle with filtered water becomes an ecologically sound alternative to one-way, throwaway water bottles. Many large retail outlets and camping supply stores carry colorful, durable plastic bottles that can be reused again and again. Walgreens, for instance, sells reusable bottles for as little as \$3.

Only Maine, California and Hawaii include water bottles in their container deposit programs. New York is expected to pass a new Bigger Better Bottle Bill in 2007 to expand deposits to include water bottles.

The Smart Container Act for NJ would include water, juice and sports drinks, and could be a model bill for the entire United States. Several other states considering deposit bills include West Virginia, Maryland, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Illinois.

While we're making progress so far, we need more help to pass the Smart Container act. If you are tired of seeing bottles and cans in our forests, wetlands, and streets and would like to help us, please contact me at: dyennior@msn.com, or at: (H) 973-844-1384. ♪



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

A Conservation Victory in Jersey City

On Feb 15, Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy and State DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson announced that Jersey City's former Reservoir 3, located in the Heights section of the City, will be preserved as open space. The site had been threatened with conversion to a school, housing, a baseball field, a parking garage, a mini-mall, and a host of other options. The debate has been ongoing since Reservoir 3 ended its functions as one of the city's water sources in 1992.

SAVE THE DATE

Sierra Club's Northeast Regional Committee

Cool Cities Training, June 1 - 3, 2007

Hulbert Outdoor Educational Center, Fairlee, VT

Learn how to be a trainer -- to assist other volunteers in getting communities/universities/other entities to take the pledge for the Mayors' Initiative to achieve the Kyoto Protocol's guidelines!

For inquiries, contact: mary.anne.jaffe@sierraclub.org, 518-587-9166, and see our website for latest updates: <http://www.sierraclub.org/rcc/northeast/index.asp>

News from the Chapter's former Conservation Program Coordinator, Kelly McNicholas:

Kelly now serves citizens of Niger, Central Africa, as a member of the US Peace Corps. She invites us to read about her adventures, and view her photographs, on her blog: <http://kellystoriesofafrica.blogspot.com>

Energy Tidbit - from Sunil Somalwar: Visit www.pseg.com/energykit to buy a highly subsidized energy kit. Contains low-flow showerhead, faucet aerators, weather-stripping, sealant tape and draft stoppers, all for \$5.

Sierra Club Activist Outings Highlight Adventure and Advocacy

The Sierra Club national outings program features several special trips each year that inform and train participants with respect to specific conservation issues. Of the seven activist trips for 2007, here's a description of the closest one, in West Virginia.

**Wild and Wonderful West Virginia, May 18-25. Learn about the push to establish new wilderness in the scenic

Monongahela National Forest as you tour this lovely area, in the height of spring with leader Joan Saxe and local activists Mary Wimmer and Beth Little. Day hikes accent this van-touring trip. (Trip #07190A, \$625)

Some partial scholarships available for qualified activists. Contact Vicky Hoover (vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org) (415-977-5527).

Northwest Jersey Group

(Sussex, Warren and Hunterdon Counties, approximately)

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	cckgp@aol.com
Secretary:	Marie Springer	201-660-8880	aikidomarie@yahoo.com
Political and Publicity:	Christine Feoranzo		xijilia@earthlink.net
Special Events Chair:	Pat Mangino	862-432-7552	pmangino@aol.com

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	ctrans743@aol.com
and	Mike Herson	201-262-9472	mikeherson@hotmail.com

(continued on page 6)

Expect soon to receive our "March Window" annual request for Chapter donations. Please do with it as Ken Johanson requests in the last paragraph of his Message on p.3.

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 5)

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/North>

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

GENERAL MEETINGS. Begin at 7:30 pm. Please check the web site or call Betsy (above) in advance to make sure the meetings are on as scheduled.

Apr 12 (location to be arranged): "Green Night." Join us to discuss national and local conservation issues and how we, individually and as a group, can make a difference.

May 10 at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Avenue: Program TBA.

Jun 14: Location and program to be arranged.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE. Join us at 7:30 pm at Buehler Cultural Center, North Haledon, to discuss local issues. For meeting dates, contact Mike (see above).

ISSUES: (1) Clifton voters, in a December referendum, rejected plans to bulldoze the 50-year-old Latteri Park to use it as a site for a new middle school. Congratulations to the concerned citizens of "Clifton Cares" who fought long and hard to save these valued 7.5 acres of open space! (2) Along with Elmwood Park residents, we remain vigilant to make sure that Marcal complies with DEP and EPA regulations and fulfills its air pollution control permit obligations. (3) SaveParamusWetlands.com is working to protect 35 acres of wetlands that contain the headwaters of the Musquapsink Brook that feeds into the Oradell Reservoir (serving over 750,000 residents). (4) Plans for large-scale housing development (totaling 2,000 units) on the undisturbed lands in the Ramapo River watershed just north of the NJ/NY border will double populations in western Ramapo and Tuxedo, increase traffic to nightmare levels, degrade regional water supplies, and destroy habitat. (5) Van Buskirk Island on the Hackensack River is recognized in NJ Audubon's recent field guide for the Meadowlands region as a "special nature resource site" where the Eastern Towhee, Baltimore Oriole, Black-crowned Night Heron, and other migratory species have been observed. The DEP recently affirmed the value of this riparian habitat. (6) On Long Hill Road in Oakland, 83 acres containing Category One streams, forested wetlands and steep slopes of 15 to 35 per cent grades are threatened by plans to build 209 condos and townhouses. To find out more about these issues or alert us to others, please contact Mike, Tom or Tricia (see 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!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS! Help us protect open space and wildlife, lead outings, elect conservation candidates, research issues, and more. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact a group officer (above).

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, successful (!) preservation efforts for Reservoir #3 and the Harsimus Stem (6th Street) Embankment in Jersey City and working to ensure that the Grand Cove Marina tract in Edgewater is preserved as a park rather than a ferry terminal.

Essex County Group

web site: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/Essex/>

OFFICERS:

Co-Chairs:	Dave Ogens	973-226-0748	bandit29@aol.com
	and Walt Goldenbaum	973-925-8662	goldenb1@optonline.net
Conservation Chair:	Michel Cuillierier	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 (known as the West Essex Highlands) 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, 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: Our regular meetings 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.

Apr 10: Bonnie Tillery, Chapter Population Issues Coordinator, will be our guest for a talk on her recent **adventures in Madagascar**.

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	ChrisMills94@yahoo.com
	and Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
Treasurer:	Joyce White		joyce00201@yahoo.com
Secretary:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Conservation Chairs:			
Morris County:	Chris Mills	973-377-1742	ChrisMills94@yahoo.com
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:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Education Coord:	Jeff Huppert	973-263-0344	jeffhup@optonline.net
Fundraising Chair:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	hauskerr@aol.com
Outreach & Events:	Bob Johnson	908-219-4658	robert.johnson@comcast.net
Publicity Chair:	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
Membership:	Doug Williams	973-263-8404	doog@optonline.net
Air Quality Coord:	Bob Campbell	908-273-5720	wrobc_sc@earthlink.net
Webmaster:	Bob Johnson	908-219-4658	robert.johnson@comcast.net
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. **Directions** are posted on our website : <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka/>.

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!

MEETING SCHEDULE:

April 11: Phil L'Hommedieu will do a presentation on the **Highlands**, including slides. Come and hear about the progress being made in the effort to save the NJ Highlands from sprawl and development.

May 9: The General Meeting will be held at the Morris County Outdoor Education Center at Southern Boulevard in Chatham Twp. The meeting will start at the usual time of 7:30 pm and will comprise a **guided tour through the swamp**, with discussion of the plants and animals found there.

June 13: Jeff Huppert will present **The End of Suburbia**, a movie and discussion about post-World War II suburbia and all of its promises and problems. It is a timely issue that especially affects all of us in densely packed New Jersey."

ACTIVITIES: (Consult our website (<http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka/>) for more information.)

April 22: We will participate in a **Morris County Earth Day** event called Wild NJ — in Lewis Morris Park. The Loantaka Group will have an inter-active booth and will participate in canoeing activities. See our web-site for more information.

May 5: 9:45am: The Loantaka Group will conduct its **annual clean-up/hike** in the Watchung Reservation. Meet in the parking lot at Seeley's Pond and spend approximately two hours collecting trash in the Reservation and along nearby roads. Afterwards we will hike the hills, plains and valleys of the Reservation. Bring lunch or a snack and wear your hiking boots. Directions: Take I-78 West to exit 43 (New Providence/Berkeley Heights), at light turn right onto McMane Ave, then right at first light onto Glenside Ave. Drive approx 1 mile and turn right onto Valley Road, quick left onto New Providence Road, then right into parking lot. From I-78 East: exit 44, turn right at light onto Glenside Ave and follow the above directions. Rain cancels. Leader is Joyce White: 908-267-5253,

Our Political Committee will soon be interviewing candidates, and would appreciate help! Contact your Group Political Chair.

or joyce@yahoo.com. See our web-site for more information.

June 2: 9am: The Loantaka Group will **remove invasive species from Lewis Morris Park**, followed by a hike on the Yellow Trail (which we maintain!). Meet in the parking lot on Rte 24 by the lake in Lewis Morris Park. Long-sleeve shirts and pants are recommended for the "removal," and tee-shirt and shorts for the hike. See our web-site 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	609-918-1149 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 njsierraclub@gmail.com
Programs Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Membership Chair:	Terry Stimpfel	609-918-1149 terystimb@hotmail.com
Outings Chair:	Ken Mayberg	609-443-9138 kjmayberg@aol.com
Political Committee:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Publicity Coordinator:	Caroline Kulesza	caroline_kulesza@yahoo.com
Forest Issues Coord:	Nancy Carringer	732-438-8688 ncarringer@yahoo.com
Member at Large:	Harold Rapp	609-671-0435 HalRapp@aol.com
Member at Large:	Bonnie Tillery	609-259-6438 blt44blt@verizon.net

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 (above) for location. All Sierra members are invited to attend and learn what's happening in Central.

GENERAL MEETINGS: We meet on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month (except July & Aug) 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 Rds. Our meetings are free and open to all members and the public. Refreshments provided. Come join us, make new friends, learn and share conservation ideas!

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

May 9: "Escape from Affluenza" Reduce and cut loose; or affluence need not be the enemy. Come for an idea swap following this entertaining DVD; bring your friends too. Also get a progress update on the NJ recycling/bottle bill.

June 13: Green Night Party - Welcome summer, new members and non-members alike. Party while writing letters to State legislators, candidates and editors prior to fall election. Bring your special outdoor photo, sketch or painting of a greater Mercer scene to display during the meeting. Special bonus Gordon Christie, nature photographer, returns. Refreshments, raffle and more. Come party!

E-MAIL NOTICES and WEBSITE:

Visit the Central Group website at <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/central>.

To receive last minute Group meeting reminders, please e-mail Laura Lynch (above).

To receive NJ Chapter-wide issue alert messages, please e-mail Laura Lynch (above).

NEW: To receive timely notices of local events and concerns, please e-mail Terry Stimpfel (above).

CENTRAL EVENTS:

Saturday, Apr 14: National Day of **Climate Action** (Step It Up 2007). Check Central Group website for details.

Mon., Apr 16: NJ Climate March. 2pm Rally at Trenton Statehouse in support of Global Warming Response Act. Legislators and environmental leaders to speak. Rally marks close of students' four day climate march, see njclimatemarch.org. For meeting and carpooling info, contact Terry Stimpfel (above).

Sat., Apr 23: Clayton Park. Hike among stately stands of red and white oak, beech, ash and birch in western Monmouth. For carpooling and details contact Leona & George F. (609) 259-3734. Leona@pineypaddlers.com (easy/mod).

Sat., Apr 28: Assunpink Wildlife Management Area. 10am Hike: modest pace/distance. Bring water and snack. Meet at Post Office on Rte 571 in Roosevelt Boro, Monmouth Co. east of Washington Twp. Leader: Ken Mayberg (above).

Sat., May 5: Walk the Grounds at Duke Farms. Rte 206 South, Hillsboro (1.5 mi. from train). Walk several splendid outdoor trails at former Doris Duke estate. Small entrance fee in advance. For carpooling and details contact Ken Mayberg (above). RSVP by April 28th (easy).

Sat., June 2: HISTORY meets CONSERVATION - Walk, lunch and discuss the Crossroads of the Am. Revolution, the Greenbelt and preservation challenges in Washington Twp. Meet La Piazza Ristorante. **Walk through Allentown and Heritage Park.** Then continue discussions over casual lunch and homemade ice cream. For details contact Leaders: Leona and George F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. Mercer and Monmouth Co.

LOCAL ISSUES and ACTIONS the Central Group is currently addressing include:

Klockner Woods - Hamilton Twp; Stop Wal-Mart - Lawrenceville; Open Space - Hamilton; NJ Turnpike Exits 6-8 Expansion; Camden & Amboy rail trail - Washington Twp / Hamilton; Rte 33 By-pass - Hamilton / Washington Twp. Willing to help out for a few hours? Have a concern? Want to take action? Please contact Caroline or Terry (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	sunil123@verizon.net
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, Webmaster:	Don McBride	732-560-0369	dtmcbride@yahoo.com
Publicity:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Programs:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Chapter Delegate:	Sunil Somalwar	732-572-7721	sunil123@verizon.net

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, several positions are open (see above). If you are interested in filling an open position, contact Don McBride, 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: 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://newjersey.sierraclub.org/jerseyshore/>

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Dennis Anderson (pending)	dennisaza@aol.com
	6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747	
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	newsome1@pobox.com
Treasurer:	Pat Fuschetto	732-308-4588 fusche40@yahoo.com
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:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Fund-raising Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>	

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Held at 8pm on the FOURTH MONDAY of each month - except in July, August and December - at a NEW location: the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse at 1475 West Front Street in Lincroft (please check the congregation's website for directions, at <http://www.uucmc.org/where-we-are.htm>). Come early to socialize and enjoy refreshments. For additional directions or information, please contact Dennis Anderson or Faith Teitelbaum (see list of officers, above), or visit our web site.

Apr 23: Michael Pellettieri, member of the **Friends of Natco Lake**. Using slides, Mike will tell us how a grass roots crowd in Hazlet, saved 166 acres of wetlands. They even got matching Green Acres funds, and beat out opponents for lake front property that straddled Rte 35 in a highly developed area.

May 21: Mike Herson will speak on the **Highlands of Northern New Jersey**. He will describe, what is there, what has been protected, what still needs protecting and where we stand. Mike is the Sierra Club's grass roots point man in protecting the Highlands.

June 25: Kathy Woodward, past president and board member of the **Friends of the Great Swamp** will show a video and talk about the Great Swamp with an emphasis on the wilderness area which has 3 endangered species among the hundreds of species of birds, Fox, deer, muskrat, turtles, fish, frogs and a wide variety of wildflowers and plants. (See <http://friendsofgreatswamp.org>, <http://www.njskylands.com/odswamp.htm>, <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/greatswamp/>, and <http://www.greatswamp.org/>).

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 contact Dennis Anderson.

Ocean County Group

Website: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean

OFFICERS:

Chair:	A. Gregory Auriemma, Esq.	732-451-9220	sierraclubOC@aol.com
Vice-Chr, Outings:	Dawn Marie Johns	732-269-3729	sierraclubOC@hotmail.com

(Continued on page 8)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

Conserv'n Chr: Margrit Meissner-Jackson 609-296-4367 sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com
Scty-Treasurer: Richard Washik 732-616-2775 r_washik@hotmail.com
Political Chair: *Open Position!* Contact Greg Auriemma for information.
Publicity: Howard Schwartz 609-242-9304 hrschwartz@comcast.net
Fund-Raising: Joyce M. Isaza 732-920-9270 realtymstr@aol.com
ExCom Member: Sandy Brown 609-242-9304 sandylbrown@comcast.net
ExCom Member: Jocelyn Isaza 732-581-0130 nightingale77nj@yahoo.com
ExCom Member: Helen Henderson 908-278-9807 hhlaceyrailtrail@msn.com
Membership: Dawn Marie Johns and Sandy Brown (see above)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Generally held on the SECOND MONDAY of each month at the home of one of our ExCom members.

GENERAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS: Meetings are held bi-monthly (i.e. in alternate months) on the FOURTH MONDAY 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.

Apr 21 (Sat): Earth Day Clean-Up on the Toms River. Also, Earth Day festivities in conjunction with the Point Pleasant Environmental Commission. Volunteers needed for both events.

May 21 (Mon): General Meeting at the "Skywalk Cafe." Primary topic will be **global warming and climate change**.

Jun 3 (Sun): "Barnegat Bay Day" Special Event in Island Heights.

Jun 10 (Sun): Projected date for a Special Event at the **Pt Pleasant Street Fair**.

Jun 23 (Sat): Tentative date for "Paddle For Protection II" a **canoe trip along the Toms River** to highlight the need for special C-1 protection for this special river.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about our activities and events, please visit our WEBSITE: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean. Special thanks go to our Web-Master, Rick Washik!

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: <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzev1ujt/>

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Gina Carola 856-848-8831 ginacece@verizon.net
Vice-Chair: Frank Zinni
Secretary: Ellen Zinni
Treasurer: Trish Clements 856-768-5639 patri321@comcast.net
Publicity Chair: Bud Kaliss 856-428-8071 budkaliss@earthlink.net
Political Chair: Wayne Zanni 856-728-4507 wzanni@earthlink.net
Pinelands Rep: Lee Snyder pinelands1@hotmail.com
Greenways Coord's: Frank and Ellen Zinni
Conservation Chair: Stacey Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Membership Chair: Mike Brown 856-547-9221 eyebrown@snip.net
Fundraising Chair: Reiss Tiffany 856-829-6405 r-ctiffany@comcast.net
Smart Growth Chair: *Open position!*
Programs Chair: Bill Freund
Outings Chair: *Open position!*
Marine Issues: Craig Liska

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.

April 10: Katie Caffee, NJ Rancocas Watershed Ambassador, will speak about **Protection of Riparian Zones** adjacent to the creek.

May 8: Dean Polk of Rutgers Extension Service will speak about **Pest Control - Chemical vs. Natural**.

June 12: Rich Bizub of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance will speak about **Water Management in the Pinelands**.

South Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:

Group, Outings Chair: Tom Boghosian 609-625-0878 boghosian1@verizon.net
Vice-Chair: Sally Nunn 609-704-1790 nunsal41@comcast.net
Conservation Chair: *Open Position!*
Pol. Chair, Calendars: Dick Colby 609-965-4453 dick.colby@stockton.edu
Membership Chair: Gary Roman 609-625-3438
Secretary/Treasurer: Julie Akers 856-697-3479 akers@gowebway.com

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

Current Issues: Club officers and staff have been following closely the several studies seeking to determine sustainable water supply levels for southeastern New Jersey, with the hope that findings will be used by planners (such as those employed by the Pinelands Commission) who authorize development. Other hot issues include proposals to develop several large tracts of environmentally sensitive land in Millville, damage done to sand trails by ATVs, and inducements for public recycling.

Possibly Relevant Meetings:

Mar 24 (Sat): Cool Cities Training, ACUA's recycling center, Egg Harbor Twp: Learn how to work with your community leaders and join other towns and cities which have taken the first steps toward climate friendly practices. This one-day seminar on grassroots action will feature speakers from the DEP, the Green Building Council, the alternative energy industry, and many others. The event is open to everyone and free. But space is limited, so please rsvp to Michele Bellinger, mbellinger@acua.com

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).

Apr 19 (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).

Apr 22 (Sun), 10-4 rain or shine: Atlantic County Utilities Authority **Earth Day** at the ACUA Environmental Park, 6700 Delilah Road in Egg Harbor Township. As always, the majority of the attractions, exhibits and shows are free, allowing families to enjoy the day while learning about the environment. This year's environmental theme is Sustainability - What can you do to help stop Global Warming? Call 609 272-6950 for more info.

May 9 (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 commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Renee Scagnelli (CU) at 856-305-3238 or DRScagnelli@comcast.net.

May 17 (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).

May 22 (Tues), 7pm: 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).

Jun 21 (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).

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: newjersey.sierraclub.org/singles/

e-mail: 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: *Open Position!* Please consider!
Treasurer: Joyce White joycewhite@netzero.net
Webpage designer: Tom Miller millertom@juno.com

Social Chair: Joe Prebish Joe.Prebish@kraft.com
Programs: *Open Position!* Please consider!
Publicity: *Open Position!* Please consider!
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, see Loantaka Group News. 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.

Upcoming meetings will take place on **April 9, May 14, and June 11.** Guest speakers/films to be announced. No meetings in July or August.

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.

Consider volunteering with the Cool Cities Campaign. The message and method of empowering groups to manage carbon dioxide emissions are relevant for public and private school systems, nonprofit community operations, etc. in New Jersey. Volunteers with diverse skills and contacts are important for environmental success. Sign on now. 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 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: Christine Toth chris_ann_t@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair: Steve Timmerman Skiingsteve@aol.com
Programs Chair: *Open Position!* Contact Us! We Need You!
Outings Chair: Herbert Howie Southall turbodude750@aim.com
Fundraiser Chair: *Open Position!* Contact Us! We Need You!
Publicity Chair: Bill Sevchuk wsevchuk@yahoo.com
Webmaster: Julie Garber surf-net@usa.net
Executive Committee: Kelly Enright enright_kelly@mac.com
Executive Committee: Jackie Enfield jackie@jackieenfield.com
Coordinator/Moderator: Diana Christine Eichholz MistyAngel22@aol.com

Volunteer event leaders are needed throughout New Jersey. We need Young Sierran Hikers and Outing Leaders! We will help you step-by-step 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 732-764-9073.

MEETINGS: Monthly Young Sierran Meetings can be made available on rotating basis currently in Princeton, Bridgewater, New Brunswick or Montclair areas. If you would like Young Sierran Meetings or Events in your area please contact Diana at MistyAngel22@aol.com or call 732-764-9073 and we will start you up!

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.

Apr 14 (Sat) 11am: Singles Hike at Harriman State Park
Apr 21 (Sat): New York National Museum of History & Comedy Night

May 11 (Fri): Happy Hour & Spider-Man 3 Movie in Somerset County
May 12 (Sat) 11am: Singles Hike at Harriman State Park
May 19 (Sat) 2pm: Young Sierrans Committee Meeting in Somerset County
Jun 3 (Sat) 6pm: Young Sierrans Picnic & Baseball Game in Somerset County
Jun 9 (Sat) 11am: Singles Hike at Harriman State Park

We also have coming up monthly bowling which is our # 1 most popular event in Somerset County & is always a lot of fun! As well as Princeton Triumph Brewery Night Life & Music, Young Sierrans Picnic and many other events!

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 or to subscribe directly go to <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-YOUNG-SIERRANS-NEWS.html> . 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 martincohen@verizon.net
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) mostly 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 ico-north@newjersey.sierraclub.org or the above e-mail addresses. To learn more, visit our webpage at <http://www.sierraclub.org/ico/newjersey/>.

ICO's current focus is on recruiting more youth service agencies, so if you know of a PAL, Boys and Girls Club, after school program, etc. in north or central Jersey who might want us to take their children on hikes, please contact us.

YOU HAVE MORE TO GIVE THAN YOU KNOW
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For information about making a bequest to the New Jersey Chapter call George Denzer at 609-799-5839.

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* Indicates Chapter-wide elected ExCom members.
** Indicates committee chair or co-chair

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

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

All members are welcome to attend these monthly statewide policy deliberations, held on SECOND SATURDAYS. Details, including agendas and travel instructions, are available from Ken Johanson, the Chapter Chair. (Best confirm!)

April 7 • May 12 - both at the Hamilton Twp Library (Mercer County)

June 9 - at the New Brunswick Public Library

Conservation and/or Political Committee meetings start at 10am. Lunch is shared at noon. The main meeting starts at 1pm. We sometimes continue discussions informally over dinner at a nearby restaurant, at 5pm.

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

Jun 24 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Crosswicks Creek (Ocean/Monmouth/Burlington Cos.): 9:30 am. This is a very special day - join us as we paddle the NECC headwaters with members of the Crosswicks Creek/Doctors Creek Greenway Group. www.ccdgreenway.org The trip will begin in New Egypt; we'll float along secluded beech forests, enjoy the quiet of Monmouth farms and end at the historic site of Walnford. We'll have a guided tour of the 1774 Waln home, an operating 19th century gristmill, and the farm buildings along the creek. Meet at Tootie's Family Restaurant, Main St, New Egypt - arrive early for breakfast!! Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com

Jun 29 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak The Delaware River in Hunterdon Co: The Delaware River is the longest undammed river on the east coast. So, start your 4th of July vacation with a river trip from Kingwood Access, Frenchtown to Lambertville Marina (15 miles). Please call to confirm participation, meeting time and logistics. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com


Jun 30 (Sat): Singles Moonlight Hike, Campfire and Campout, Burlington Co: 7:30 pm. 6 miles, moderate pace. Join us for the second blue moon of June as we hike sand roads lit by moon light and come back to a roaring fire. Overnight camping is available, contact leader for reservation. Bring picnic type food to share at the tailgate social after the hike, firewood and a chair to sit on. Meet at Goshen Pond campsites, from Rte 206 take Atsion Rd. 1.5 miles to Goshen Pond campsite sign, turn onto dirt road and follow to campsites. NC/NP. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eves. Or pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

JULY

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

Jul 14 (Sat): Young Sierrans 20/30s Singles Hike in Harriman State Park, NY: 11am. Meet at the first parking lot. Fast paced hike, 3 to 4 hrs long, including breaks to enjoy the many scenic overlooks. Wear good hiking shoes due to rough terrain, and bring plenty of water in backpack with food or power bar. Inclement weather cancels. Afterwards: Rodies Bar-N-Grill for food and drinks & often live entertainment. To sign up with the Young Sierrans 20/30s group or for any additional information please contact Diana at MistyAngel22@aol.com. Young Sierrans Phone Line: 973-364-7573 ext. # 1. Harriman State Park: I-87 exit 15A to 7 Lakes Drive, Sloatsberg, NY. You can google Harriman State Park: click on the west entrance in Sloatsberg NY. Leader: Howie Southall: turbodude750@aim.com.

Aug 31-Sep 3 (Fri-Mon): Labor Day Weekend Camping near the Tanglewood Jazz Festival (MA): Cherry Plain State Park (NY) was highly recommended for camping near the fest. There is hiking, boating, swimming and much more in addition to the jazz fest where you can see and hear your favorite jazz musicians. Please go to "Reserve America" website to reserve your site. The cost is \$57. There are only ten tent sites in this campground, so you need to reserve now. Please confirm with trip leader to be included with the general itinerary of the weekend: Leslie McGlynn: failte_629@verizon.net, or 973-252-8122 (h) 862-219-3386 (c).



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Opinions, unless otherwise attributed, are of the writer only. Advertised products and services carry no Club endorsement.

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue!
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