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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

ur 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.

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:

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)

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 nation-wide 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

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 landuse 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. \$\sigma\$

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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 CO_2 is emitted per kWh of electricity generated, this will save 2,276 lb of CO_2 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 neigh-

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 at \$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. 90

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

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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

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-thanproportional 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

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.

relatively more?)

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.



(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 use-

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

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. 90

Looking for a real wilderness vacation? Rent Canyon Creek Lodge

Canyon Creek Resort and Outdoor Education Centre

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.

uine!) 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. So

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 heros 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 they 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 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. So

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.)

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. 900

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. So

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 bot tles 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 (highdensity polyethylene, or HDPE), #4 (lowdensity 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. 90

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.

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 SEERrated 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 15minute 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 showerheads. 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. 90

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. 9~

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, weatherstripping, 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).



HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

Northwest Jersey Group: Hunterdon, Sussex & Warren

North Jersey Group: Passaic & most of Bergen

Essex County Group: Essex

Hudson-Meadowlands Group: Hudson & SE Bergen

Loantaka Group: Morris & Union Central Jersey Group: Mercer

Raritan Valley Group: Somerset & Middlesex

Jersey Shore Group: Monmouth Ocean County Group: Ocean

West Jersey Group: Gloucester, Camden & Burlington South Jersey Group: Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland & Salem

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

Northwest Jersey Group

(Sussex, Warren and Hunterdon Counties, approximately)

Pat Mangino

OFFICERS:

Chair: Vice-Chr, Mem'ship: Treasurer: Secretary: Political and Publicity:

Special Events Chair:

973-209-1814 Dennis Miranda Susan Rotter 973-347-8849 Charles Kopp 973-770-7718 Marie Springer Christine Feoranzo

ccgkp@aol.com 201-660-8880 aikidomarie@yahoo.com xijilia@earthlink.net 862-432-7552 pmangino@aol.com

dmmg@earthlink.net

rotterls@mindspring.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:

Betsv Kohn Mike Herson

201-461-4534 BetsyKohn@aol.com 201-262-9472 mikeherson@hotmail.com

Conservation

Co-Chairs: Tom Thompson Mike Herson and

201-848-1080 etrans743@aol.com 201-262-9472 mikeherson@hotmail.com

(continued on page 6)

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: Open Position!
Secretary: Open Position!

Treasurer:Tom Thompson201-848-1080etrans743@aol.comUS Public Lands:John Kashwick201-660-8820 johnkashwick@optonline.netWildlife:Mary Ellen Shaw201-489-1588MaryEllen.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 201-869-7950 cftera@earthlink.net Secretary: Connie Ftera Political Chair: Melissa McCarthy 201-230-8365 mc.mel@verizon.net 201-224-3542 leung-ibet@msn.com Publicity: **Betty Leung** Rosemary Arena Parks: 201-861-6222 rosemaryarena@cs.com $201\text{-}944\text{-}5799 \quad gilc3d2@aol.com$ **ExCom Members:** Gil Hawkins Donald Kopczynski 201-224-2641 Littlechops03@netzero.com and

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 Cuillerier	973-736-0913	schatzidog@earthlink.net
Political Co-Chairs:	Chris Weis	973-224-0474	CWeis11@cs.com
	Billi Schloss	973-467-8154	billi_s@yahoo.com
Media:	Walter Clarke	973-723-1642	walterclarke@verizon.net
Outings/Parks:	Dave Ogens	973-226-0748	bandit29@aol.com
Treasurer:	Linda M. Stiles	973-736-2224	birdlady07052@msn.com
Secretary:	Billi Schloss	973-467-8154	billi_s@yahoo.com
Fundraising:	Linda M. Stiles	973-736-2224	birdlady07052@msn.com
Event Coordinator:	Walt Goldenbaum	973-925-8662	goldenb1@optonline.net
Membership:	Maria K.de Wakefield	973-736-0913	schatzidog@earthlink.net
West Orange:	Sally Malanga	973-736-7397	sally@eccobella.com
	Linda M. Stiles	973-736-2224	birdladv07052@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 TUSDAYS, 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**.

<u>Loantaka Group</u>

(Morris and Union Counties, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Co-Chairs: 973-377-1742 ChrisMills94@yahoo.com Chris Mills paulmsanderson@aol.com Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 Treasurer: Joyce White joyce00201@yahoo.com Open Position! Secretary: Conservation Chairs: 973-377-1742 ChrisMills94@yahoo.com **Morris County:** Chris Mills **Union County:** Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 hauskerr@aol.com **Cool Cities Chair:** Stefano Crema 973-627-4354 stefcre@aol.com Political Chair: chinmeiling@yahoo.com Meiling Chin Open Position! Programs: **Education Coord:** Jeff Huppert 973-263-0344 jeffhup@optonline.net Fundraising Chair: 732-669-0719 hauskerr@aol.com Eric Hausker Outreach & Events: Bob Johnson 908-219-4658 robert.johnson@comcast.net Publicity Chair: Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442 johansons@comcast.net Doug Williams 973-263-8404 doog@optonline.net Membership: Air Quality Coord: 908-273-5720 wrobc_sc@earthlink.net **Bob Campbell** 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:

 $http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/nj\text{-}loantaka\text{-}news.html}$

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,

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:	Open Position!			
Conserv. Co-Chairs:	Rocky Swingle	609-587-7568	rockyswingle@optonline.net	
and	Laura Lynch	609-882-4642	njsierraclub@gmail.com	
Programs Chair:	Open Position!			
Membership Chair:	Terry Stimpfel	609-918-1149	terystimb@hotmail.com	
Outings Chair:	Ken Mayberg	609-443-9138	kjmayberg@aol.com	
Political Committee:	Open Position!			
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	
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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 climatefriendly 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:

<u> </u>					
Chair:	Don McBride	732-560-0369	dtmcbride@yahoo.com		
Vice-Chair:	Open Position!				
Conservation Chair:	Jane Tousman	908-561-5504	jdtous@aol.com		
Membership:	Sunil Somalwar	732-572-7721	sunil123@verizon.net		
Outings:	Open Position!				
Political Chair:	Randy Gill	732-525-2612	ragill@optonline.net		
Secretary:	Michael Ricketts	732-371-9961	ictonyx@gmail.com		
Treasurer, Webmast'r:	Don McBride	732-560-0369	dtmcbride@yahoo.com		
Publicity:	Open Position!				
Programs:	Open Position!				
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:

OFFICERS:			
Group Chair:	Dennis Anderson	(pending)	dennisaza@aol.com
	6 Maple Ave, Mata	awan NJ 07747	
Vice-Chair:	Open Positio	n!	
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:	Open Positio	n!	
Fund-raising Chair:	Open Positio	n!	

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)

Margrit Meissner-Jackson 609-296-4367 sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com Conserv'n Chr: Richard Washik 732-616-2775 Scty-Treasurer: r_washik@hotmail.com Open Position! Contact Greg Auriemma for information. Political Chair: Publicity: Howard Schwartz 609-242-9304 hrschwartz@comcast.net **Fund-Raising:** 732-920-9270 Joyce M. Isaza 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 Carola856-848-8831ginaceee@verizon.netVice-Chair:Frank ZinniSecretary:Ellen ZinniTreasurer:Trish Clements856-768-5639patri321@comcast.netPublicity Chair:Bud Kaliss856-428-8071budkaliss@earthlink.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 Ayalathunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.comMembership Chair:Mike Brown856-547-9221eyebrown@snip.netFundraising Chair:Reiss Tiffany856-829-6405r-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:

Tom Boghosian 609-625-0878 boghosian1@verizon.net Group, Outings Chair: 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 ikhaddad@iuno.com Joyce Haddad **Outings Chairs:** Dave Ogens Bandit29@aol.com Open Position! Conservation Chair: Please consider! Joyce White joycewhite@netzero.net Treasurer: Webpage designer: Tom Miller millertom@juno.com

Social Chair:Joe PrebishJoe.Prebish@kraft.comPrograms:Open Position!Please consider!Publicity:Open Position!Please consider!Cool Cities Coordinator:Terry Stimpfelterystimb@hotmail.comMembership:Walter Goldenbaumgoldenb1@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 listsery 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 Skiingsteve@aol.com Steve Timmerman **Conservation Chair:** Programs Chair: Open Position! Contact Us! We Need You! Outings Chair: Herbert Howie Southall turbodude750@aim.com Open Position! Contact Us! We Need You! Fundraiser Chair: Publicity Chair: Bill Sevchuk wsevchuk@yahoo.com Webmaster: Julie Garber surf-net@usa.net **Executive Committee:** enright_kelly@mac.com Kelly Enright **Executive Committee:** Jackie Enfield jackie@jackieenfield.com Diana Christine Eichholz Coordinator/Moderator: 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 ParkApr 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 Cohen201-670-8383martincohen@verizon.netTreasurer:Anne Dyjak732-560-0953annedyjak@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

Maybe you can't make a gift to protect the environment during your lifetime, but you can become a financial hero by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. You can even direct your gift to a special Club program or to the New Jersey Chapter.

For information about making a bequest to the New Jersey Chapter call George Denzer at 609-799-5839.





GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

Central Jersey: Ken Mayberg, kjmayberg@aol.com Essex County: David Ogens 973-226-7107 (H) 29 Hatfield Street, Caldwell, NJ 07003

Hudson-Meadowlands: Vacant Hunterdon: Susan Schirmer 908-996-7722 (H) Jersey Shore: Mike Verange 908-732-8364 (H)

1497 W Front St, Lincroft, NJ 07738 Loantaka: Joyce White 908-272-4478 (H) joyce00201@yahoo.com

North Jersey: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417 eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Northwest Jersey: Pat Mangino, Pmangino@aol.com Raritan Valley: Vacant

S Jersey: Tom Boghosian, boghosian1@verizon.net West Jersey: Vacant

River Touring: Fred Tocce 908-453-2205 (H) Rd 1 Box 277, Washington, NJ 07882

Inner City Outings: Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H) NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd., Warren, NJ 07059

Chapter Outings: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417 eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Outing Leaders: Please send July-September 2007 writeups to your Group Outings Coordinator before May 4. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it for the previous Sierran, due to the occasional lag in mailing. Also, please send outing rosters or sign-up sheets to the Chapter Office as soon as possible after each outing.

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

Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your July-September 2007, trip write-ups by May 8.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(C) Central Jersey

(L) - Loantaka (NW) - Northwest Jersey

(W) - West Jersey

(H) - Hudson

(IC) - Inner City Outings

(E) - Essex County

(JS) - Jersey Shore (N) - North Jersey

(S) - South Jersey (NJ) - NJ Chapter

(RV) - Raritan Valley

(RT) - River Touring (ACOC) - Atlantic Chapter

Outings Comm.

APRIL

Apr 1 (Sun): Social Hike in Watchung Reservation (Union Co.): 10am. We will hike about 7 miles of mixed terrain at a moderate pace. Highlights include great views, waterfalls, pine plantation and Deserted Village. Children 12 years or older and friendly dogs are welcome. Bring water and a picnic lunch and wear hiking boots. Meet at the Trailside Nature Center parking lot. For directions use Mapquest with the address of 452 New Providence Rd, Mountainside 07092, or call the Nature Center at 908-789-3670. Rain cancels. A \$3 fee will be charged to nonmembers. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Rain Cancels. For further information call 973-364-7573 press 2. Leaders: David Ogens. Bandit29@aol.com, Walter Goldenbaum, goldenb1@optonline.net (E)

Apr 7 (Sat): Fort Greene and Clinton Hill (Brooklyn NY): 10am. A 5-mile walk through the resurgent Fort Greene and Clinton Hill neighborhoods. Meet outside the lobby of the Williamsburgh Savings Bank (Hanson Place and Flatbush Ave) at 10:00 am. Stops will include the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Fort Greene Park, Pratt Institute and the neighborhood's spectacular mansions. Lunch at a local cafe along the way. Leader: Mike Maurer 201.395.9565 mike.maurer@mail.com.

Apr 7 (Sat): Singles Hike Wells Mills Park (Ocean Co.): 9am. 6 miles at moderate pace. Hike trails with Api / (3a), singles have were mine rank (Ocean Co.), 9ain. O lines at moderate pace, rinke trans with spectacular views of Atlantic white cedars, pitch pine and oak trees, even some hills! NC/NP. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social. Meet at parking lot at Home Depot on Rte 70 in Cherry Hill to carpool/caravan to site or meet at 10am at park parking lot, on Rte 532 3 miles east of Rte 72 Waretown, Ocean Twp. Ocean Co. NC/NP. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve. Or pis1@cccnj.net . Inclement weather cancels.

Apr 7 (Sat): Black River Trail/Patriots Path: 10:30 am. At Coopers Mill. 8-9-mile very scenic trail connects two tture centers in Morris County and follows the Black River. Rain will cancel. Limit 12 people. Must pre-register. Carpool can be set up from Parsippany. Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Apr 8 (Sun): Ramapo Reservation (Bergen Co.): 10:15 am. 9-mile moderate paced loop connects Ramapo Reservation to Ringwood State Park, passing 3 lakes and 2 great viewpoints. Bring lunch & lots of water. Rain will cancel. Limit 12 people. Opt. pizza/beer stop after hike. Must pre-register. Leader Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Apr 12 (Thu): Canoe/Kayak Neshaminy Creek (Bucks Co, PA): The Neshaminy Creek is one of Bucks County's natural wonders. We'll paddle from Dark Hollow Park to Tyler State Park through forested area of hardwoods of ash, hickory and maple - some from the 1700's. This stream is highly water-dependent. PA boating permits may be required. Contact leaders to confirm trip logistics, meeting time and participation. Leaders: George & Leona F 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com

Apr 14 (Sat): Young Sierrans 20/30s Singles Hike at Harriman State Park, NY: 11am. Meet Hiking Leader Howie Southall (mailto:turbodude750@aim.com) at the first parking lot. Fast paced hike, 3 to 4 hrs, including breaks as needed 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. Rain & inclement weather cancels. After hike, group goes to 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 (mailto:MistyAngel22@aol.com). Young Sierrans Phone Line 973-364-7573 ext. # 1. Harriman State Park - I-87 exit 15 A to Seven Lakes Drive, Sloatsberg, NY. You can Google Harriman State Park click on the west entrance in Sloatsberg N.Y.

Apr 14 (Sat): Singles Walking tour of Historic Philadelphia: 9:30 am. 4 miles, easy pace. Learn about the history of Colonial Philadelphia as we walk the streets of our forefathers and visit early buildings that played a key role in history. A fee will be charged for the renowned guide. After tour we will have lunch at a local eatery. NC/NP. Space is limited call to reserve a place by April 7th. Meet at Woodcrest Station PATCO Hi-Speed line, exit 31 off I-295, OR meet at 10am at the Bourse Building, 5th Street entrance. NC/NP. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve. Or pis1@cccnj.net . Inclement

Apr 14 (Sat): Clean-up at Essex County Environmental Center: 10am. Let's 'pitch in' and get the Center spruced-up for Earth Day. Tools, gloves & refreshments will be supplied. Directions: I-280 E or W to Exit 4A.

This will put you on Eisenhower Parkway. Make a Right at the first light onto Eagle Rock Ave. The Center is 1/2 mile on the left. Plenty of parking before the building. Leader: Ron Pate, KRBPESTCONTROL@verizon.net.

Apr 15 (Sun): Brookdale Community College/Thompson Park (Monmouth Co.): 9am. Moderate 6.5-mile hike that follows the Swimming River Reservoir. Please bring drinks and snacks. Hiking shoes are suggested. GSP Exit 109, head west on Monmouth County Rte 520 approx. 2 miles to Brookdale Community College make first right proceed to parking lot #2 Meet in the right back corner at 9am. Bad weather, cancels. Confirmation/questions please call. Leader Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange @aol.com (JS)

Apr 20 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the N. Branch Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co.): 10am. Burlington County is a leader in watershed preservation and we appreciate the work of Burlington County Parks in developing and maintaining this water trail. We'll paddle from the W. Rancocas Rd trailhead behind Burlington County Community College to Smithville (10 miles). This is a good trip for new or novice paddlers. Meet at the Vincentown Diner; by 10am or arrive early for breakfast. Please contact leaders to confirm trip. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com

April 20-22 (Fri-Sun): Lehigh Gorge SP, PA: 10am. Camp, hike, mountain bike this weekend. 6 miles, modstrenuous pace. Hike Mt. Pisgah Sat. with its beautiful views of Lehigh River, the town of Jim Thorpe and several waterfalls. Sunday hike, mountain bike or kayak on the lake or the Switchback trail along the river. Camping will be at group site at Mauch Chunk Lake SP. Meet at 10am both days at Park Office for activities. Great time to be in the Pocono Mountains! NP/NC. Contact leader for additional info and reservation. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593, eves. Or pis1@cccnj.net .

Apr 21 (Sat): Earth Day at the Essex County Environmental Center: 10am. Join us to promote the Sierra Club! We will have a table to provide information on the Club to the public and will also demonstrate Canoeing on the Passaic River. Directions: I-280 E or W to Exit 4A. This will put you on Eisenhower Parkway Make a Right at the first light onto Eagle Rock Ave. The Center is 1/2 mile on the left. Plenty of parking before the building. Leader:Walter Goldenbaum, goldenb1@optonline.net (E)

Apr 22 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co.) and have fun geo-coaching too: 10am. It's Earth Day weekend so we'll pickup trash as we paddle this pretty stream. If you're new to geocaching or interested in learning more about this hobby then this is the trip for you! There are several "cache" locations that we'll find together as we paddle 10 miles from Dover Forge to Dudley Park. Meet at 9am. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting logistics. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com

Apr 23 (Mon): 10am. Clayton Park Hike. 5 miles, easy/moderate pace. This rustic 421-acre site in Central New Jersey is located amidst the rolling farmland of western Monmouth County. The property is known for stately stands of red and white oak, beech, ash and birch trees. Bring lunch or option to join us at the Happy Apple Inn. I-195 to exit 11 (Imlaystown/Cox's Corner). Eastbound, turn right and follow to end; westbound, turn left and follow to end. Turn left onto Rte 526 and make immediate right onto Imlaystown-Davis Station Rd. Follow to Emley's Hill Rd., turn left. Follow to Park on left. Dogs are welcome! Leaders: Leona and George F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com

Apr 26 (Thur): Canoe/Kayak on the Crosswicks Creek/Hamilton Trenton Marsh (Mercer/Burlington Cos.): 9:30am. Enjoy a shuttleless 8-mile round trip on the northernmost tidal area on the Delaware River. We'll paddle from Bordentown Beach to Roebling Park, have lunch and hike to Spring Lake looking for early signs of spring. Meet at 9:30 am. Please contact leaders to confirm trip and your participation. Leaders: George & Leona F 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com

Apr 27-29 (Fri-Sun): Social Camping, Moonlight hike, Biking and campfire weekend (Burlington Co.): 10am Friday. 7 miles moderate pace hike on Friday. . You can do any one of the activities that you would like. Mountain bike Saturday morning or Hike under the Pink Full Moon on sand roads in the evening as we come back to a roaring fire on the beach by the lake. Enjoy Spring camping in the Pines. Camping is at group site both Friday and Saturday nights. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social. NC/NP. Meet at Group Campsite C, Bass River SF off Stage Rd, 6 miles W. of Tuckerton or 3 miles N. of New Gretna, Burl. Co. Contact leader for additional information: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve. or pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels

Apr 28 (Sat): Blauvelt Parks: Piermont-South Nyack (NY): 10:15 am. Strenuous 10 miles. Visit Rockland Cemetery, an old Nike base and an abandoned National Guard rifle range. 2 quarts water. Hiking boots. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural) by 10:15 am. LP out. Return via abandoned RR. Leader John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10pm) or jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

Apr 28 (Sat): Voorhees State Park (Hunterdon Co.): 9:30 am. Moderate 6.4 miles. We will be hiking on all 7 trails in this park and will need to walk on the road within the park to connect to one of the trails. Meet at 9:30 at the first parking lot on your right at the park entrance on Rte 513. There is an option to hike the Ken Lockwood Gorge afterwards. This 1.8 mile easy trail follows a very pretty stream with some rapids and rock formations. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Leslie McGlynn at 973-252-8122 or failte_629@verizon.net. Directions: From New York or north Jersey: Take I-78 west to exit 17, merge with Rte 31 north. At second traffic light, make a right onto 513 north through High Bridge. Follow signs to the park. From Pennsylvania and western New Jersey: Take I-78 east to exit 16, cross I-78 to traffic light. Proceed through traffic light. At stop sign turn left, merge onto Rte 31 north. At second light on Rte 31 north turn right on Rte 513 through High Bridge. Follow signs to park.

Apr 28 (Sat): Patriots Path Stroll (Morris Co.): 10am. Come take an easy stroll on Patriots Path in Morristown. This 3 - 5 mile stroll will start out from the Speedwell Lake parking lot at 10am across the street from Historic Speedwell. See the Morris County Parks website (http://www.morrisparks.org/) for directions. The path is wide, partly paved, partly crushed stabilized gravel with very little in the way of elevation gains. We strolling at a very moderate pace. Please bring plenty of water and a light snack. Great for beginners. No children, no pets please. Register in advance via email at Hiker_Dood@Yahoo.com by the Friday before hike. Inclement weather cancels. Optional lunch at Tiffany's afterwards. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove

Apr 28 (Sat): Wurtsboro Ridge hike (NY): 9:45 am. Strenuous 10-mile hike at moderate pace with several ascents/descents totaling 2,000 ft. elevation gain/loss. Hike takes about 7 hours including lunch and snack breaks. Great views. Car shuttle set up meets at 9:45 am in Wurtsboro. Hike starts 10:45am, finishes around 6pm. Optional dinner stop at Danny's in Wurtsboro after hike. Rain would cancel. Limit 12 people. Pre-registration required. L Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Apr 29 (Sun): Anthony Wayne area (Bergen Co.): 10am. A strenuous 10-mile hike ascending/descending 3 different mountains with fabulous views of the Hudson River, Bear Mountain and Harriman. Some rock scrambling. Total elevation gain/loss nearly 2,000 ft. Bring lunch & lots of water. Limit 12 people. Pre-registration required. L: Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Apr 29 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak The Delaware (Hunterdon Co.) and enjoy Shad Fest too: It's the 2007 Lambertville Shad Festival weekend. Last year we had fun paddling 8 miles on the Delaware River from Byrum into Lambertville, walking around town, checking out the arts & crafts, listening to music and enjoying BBQ at River Horse Brewery. Contact leaders to confirm trip, meeting time and logistics. Leaders: George & Leona F 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com

Apr 29 (Sun): Social Hike at Tulip Springs (Essex Co.): 10am. Hike 6-7 miles at a moderate pace in the South Mountain Reservation and see some of the many highlights this 2000-acre track has to offer including a 25-foot waterfall and a spectacular views of New York City and South Jersey. Children 12 years or older and friendly dogs are welcome. Bring water and light snack and wear hiking boots. After the hike there will be a optional lunch/hot chocolate at the local diner. Meet before 10 AM in the Tulip Springs parking lot just off Cherry lane that run between Northfield Avenue and South Orange Avenue in South Orange. A \$3 fee will be charged to onmembers. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Rain Cancels. For further information call (97 7573 press 2. Leaders: David Ogens. Bandit29@aol.com, Walter Goldenbaum, goldenb1@optonline.net (E)

MAY

May 1 (Tue): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co.) on May Day! 9am. May Day is a holiday of ancient origin and has traditionally been celebrated with merrymaking and festivities. Sounds like a good reason to paddle Cedar Creek from Dover Forge to Dudley Park! Join us for this 10-mile trip; we'll be geocaching along the way, so bring a trinket or two. Contact leaders to confirm trip and logistics. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com

May 2 (Wed): Singles Moonlight Hike (Burlington Co.): 7pm. 5 miles at moderate pace. A mid-week de-stressor hike. Join us as we hike sand roads lit by the Flower Full Moon and we get rid of the tensions of the work week. Meet at open field at Atsion Office, off Rte 206, between Hammonton and Rte 70. Bring snack type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NC/NP. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 or pis1@cccnj.net . Inclement weather cancels

May 5 (Sat) Canoe/Kayak The Wading River (Burlington Co.) on Cinco De Mayo, Ole!: 10am. We'll paddle 9 miles from Hawkins Bridge to Beaver Branch. This is a good trip for novice paddlers. We'll stop for lunch and salsa and chips at Godfrey Bridge. Sombreros optional. Rentals available from Pine Barrens Canoe Rental 609-726-1515 or www.pinebarrenscanoe.com Meet at 10 AM. Contact leaders to confirm participation. Leaders: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com

May 5 (Sat): Jockey Hollow Hike: 9:30 am. Retrace steps of 10,000 early Americans who engaged in the Revolutionary War in Morris County. We'll cover 2 miles on the well-marked Blue loop. Some hills. Bring hiking shoes, water, lunch. No pets. Rain cancels. Directions: I-78 west from GSP or Tpk then take Rte 24 west to end. Head south on I-287 for 3.7 miles to the Harter Rd exit. Go left at end of ramp and at stoplight turn left onto Mt. Kemble Road (Rte 202). Go for 1.8 miles (you'll pass AT&T) and slow down to turn right on Bailey Hollow Rd, going to its end. Final left onto Jockey Hollow Rd for 0.9 miles, which leads directly into park. Once inside, check signs and park in the New York Brigade area on left. Leader Jim Davoust, dayou@att.net. 203-214-9305.

May 5 (Sat): Clean-up/Hike in Watchung Reservation/Seeley's Pond (Union Co.): 10am. Please come out to help clean-up the Watchung Reservation! We will pick up light trash and then hike the hills & level terrain nearby as time permits. Hiking shoes are preferred and participants should be prepared for moderate activity. Bring lunch or snack, refreshments to be provided as well as bags and gloves. Meet at the Seeley Pond parking lot. Take I-78 West to exit 43 (New Providence/Berkeley Heights). At light, turn right onto McMane Avenue. Then turn right onto Glenside Ave. Drive about 1 mile or so and turn right onto Valley Road, then quick left onto New Providence Road. Meet at Seeley's Pond Picnic Area. OR Take I-78 East to exit 44, turn right at the light onto Glenside Avenue. Then follow directions above. Rain cancels. Leader:Joyce White at (908) 267-5253 or joyce@yahoo.com (L)

May 5-6 (Sat-Sun): Singles Camping weekend at Harriman State Park, NY: Saturday-Sunday meeting at 9:30 am. Spring weekend camping and hiking at Thendara Mountain Club on Lake Tiorati in Harriman State Park. Stay in the lodge, bunk-house or tent. We will hike part of the AT and local trails, kayak or swim in the lake. Cost includes Saturday meals and happy hour and Sunday meals. Showers and running water. Estimated cost is \$55.00. Pre- registration required by April 30th. Additional info, directions and car-pool info will be provided. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593, eves. Or pis1@cccnj.net .

May 6 (Sun): Join us for a Moderate Bike Ride on the Scenic D&R Canal near Princeton (Somerset/Mercer Cos.): (Start: Blackwells Mills Causeway): Ride on level, well graded path. We will go approx. 30 miles. Ride begins going west on the D&R canal towpath, passing Griggstown canal lock, into Princeton and passing Lake Carnegie, then turning around to return on same path. Most all of ride shaded. We will stop at half-way point. Bring plenty of water and a snack with your bike. HELMETS are required! Children 12 years and older are welcome. Terrain is flat, but you should be in good physical shape since we will be going at a steady pace. Optional dinner at a local eatery after. Heavy rain cancels. DIRECTIONS: From North: Take I-287 South to Rte 206 South. Go 7.5 miles to Rte 514-Amwell Rd (not New Amwell Rd). Go left onto Rte 514 East 3.0 miles to light at Rte 533. Go right on 533 South 2.0 miles to Blackwells Mills Road. Go left and across bridge approx 1/8 mi to pkg area on right (overflow pkg available within 1/8 mi. in either direction). From South: Rte 206 north to 609/533 Bridgepoint Road. Go right and follow signs for Rte 533 north. Go 5.8 miles on 533 north to Blackwells Mills Road. Go right and across bridge approx 1/8 mile to pkg area on right. Leaders Walter Goldenbaum, goldenb1@optonline.net Bruce at wynbruce@aol.com or 973 696 1809

May 6 (Sun): Johnsontown Circle/Harriman State Park (NY): 10am. 8-mile moderately paced hike out along the Blue Disc and back on the White Bar. Possible stops Claudius Smith Den and/or a lake. Limit 12 people. Pre-registration required. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz. CL Joe Bonner 848-525-1749 hikerman4169@vahoo.com.

May 9 (Wed): 10am. MERCER COUNTY PARK HIKE. 5 miles, easy/moderate pace. Bring lunch. A pretty hike along Lake Mercer; some black top trails and some small woods trails. We will meet at the West Picnic area (parking and facilities). Dogs are welcome! Leaders: Leona and George F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com

May 12 (Sat): Young Sierrans 20/30s Singles Hike at Harriman State Park, NY: 11am. Meet Hiking Leader Howie Southall (mailto:turbodude750@aim.com) at the first parking lot. Fast paced hike, 3 to 4 hrs including breaks as needed 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. Rain & inclement weather cancels. After hike group goes to 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 (mailto:MistyAngel22@aol.com). Young Sierrans Phone Line 973-364-7573 ext. # 1. Harriman State Park - 1-87 exit 15 A to 7 Lakes Drive, Sloatsberg, NY. You can Google Harriman State Park: click on the west entrance in Sloatsberg NY.

May 12 (Sat): Singles Flatwater Kayak Introductory Training (Burlington Co.): 8:30 am. A certified ACA instructor will be on hand to share information about paddling techniques, safety and equipment. Come out and learn about this ever-growing popular sport. Learn how to handle a flatwater kayak or improve your skills, great for beginners. Call leader to reserve space. After a brief lake-training we will paddle on the Wading River. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after trip. NC/NP. Meet at Bel-Haven Paddle Sports on Rte 542, 12 miles E. of Hammonton. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eves. or pis1@cccnj.net.

May 12 (Sat): Lambertville/Delaware Canal (Hunterdon Co.): 10:30 am. Full day outing (11-12 miles) that includes easy 3-4 mile walk along trails in NJ Conservation Preserve land near Lambertville, 1 hour guided tour of historic Lambertville (\$5 fee), picnic lunch on the river and several miles on canal paths and Bowman Hill Wildflower Preserve. Car shuttle required 10:30 am start. Est. Finish at 5:30-6pm Optional dinner after hike in Lambertville. Limit 12 people. Pre-registration required. L: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417 eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

May 13 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak on the Crosswicks Creek/Hamilton Trenton Marsh (Burlington/Mercer Cos.): 10:30 am. Enjoy Mother's Day with the OCSJ paddling and hiking and socializing. The Marsh is the northernmost tidal area on the Delaware River. We'll paddle from Bordentown Beach to Roebling Park, grill hot dogs for lunch and hike to Spring Lake to look for the mute swans. Bring something to share. Please contact leaders to confirm trip and your participation. Leaders: George & Leona F 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com

May 18 (Fri) Canoe/Kayak the Mullica River (Atlantic/Burlington Cos.): 9am. May is a beautiful time of year on the Mullica to enjoy the aquatic flowering plants of the NJ Pinelands. This is a long trip to Pleasant Mills and for experienced Pines paddlers. Please contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting logistics. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com

May 19 (Sat): Beaver Brook Trail, Farny Highlands (Morris Co.): 9:30 am. This is a moderately strenuous hike of 7 miles. This trail offers some nice views and signs of iron mining along the way and then ascends to a beaver colony. There is some climbing and rocky footing, so hiking boots are highly recommended. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Berkshire Valley Road. I-80 to Rte 15 North. Right on Berkshire Valley Rd. Parking lot on left. We will then shuttle over to Saffin Pond Parking lot on Weldon Road and will start the hike from there. This is not a beginner hike. No early outs. We will be out before dark. Please call leader to make sure hike is still on. Leslie McGlynn at failte_629@verizon.net or 973-252-8122 (h) 862-219-3386 (c).

May 20 (Sun): Canoe Trip on the Passaic River (Essex/Morris Cos.): 9am. Canoe 4 hours at a steady pace observing the wildlife and natural settings. This is not for beginners. Bring water, picnic lunch and comfortable clothes. Meet at Canoe garage next to the Environmental Center on Eagle Rock Ave in Roseland, ½ mile west of the intersection of Eisenhower Pkwy and Eagle Rock Ave. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. A limited number of canoes are available at \$15 per seat. (\$20 for non-members). Older children are welcome and can sit in the middle. Rain cancels. For further information call 973-364-7573 press 2. Leaders: David Ogens. Bandit29@aol.com, Walter Goldenbaum, goldenb1@optonline.net (E)

May 19 (Sat): Maurice River (Cumberland Co.) Paddle, BBQ and Bonfire: 2pm. Do a late afternoon paddle on the Wild and Scenic Maurice River. This is a pristine river with undisturbed banks, beaches and wildlife sightings. Then enjoy a BBQ and sit around a bonfire lingering into the evening at a private nearby home. You must register with leaders. Kayak rentals are available. Meet at Al & Sam's Canoe Rental on Rte 47, Delsea Drive, 2 miles S of Rte 40. Bring picnic type food to share at BBQ after trip. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eves. or pis1@cccnj.net Inclement weather cancels.

May 20 (Sun): Beginner Hike at South Mountain Reservation (Essex Co.): 9:30am. Join us for this introductory spring hike. We'll cover 2.5 miles on a woodsy figure-eight path, and make a stop at Hemlock falls. Bring hiking shoes, water, lunch. Rain cancels. Directions: 1-78 west to exit 50B, Millburn direction, taking Vauxhall Rd. Left at 2nd Exxon, right on Wyoming, just after Whole Foods Market. Proceed 2 miles to stoplight, left on Rte 510 for 1.6 mi, right on Brookside Drive for 0.4 mi to Tulip Springs lot. Once in park, continue toward right. Leader Jim Davoust, davou@att.net, 203-214-9305.

May 20 (Sun): Southern Allaire State Park (Monmouth Co.): (Special Interest: Geology): 9am. 4.5 mile moderate hike is in the northern fringes of the Pine Barrens. Bring drink and snack. Hiking shoes preferred. Meet at the large dirt parking lot on the right, off Hospital Rd., in Wall Township. Take GPS to exit 98, turn right on to Allenwood Rd. At "T" intersection (Ramhorn Rd) turn right. Make next left (Hospital Rd.) the parking area is approximately 1 mile on the right. Bad Weather Cancels Confirmation/Questions call Leader Mike Verange 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

May 25-28 (Pri-Mon): Memorial Day Camping Weekend at Ricketts Glenn (PA): 10am, Fri: 8 miles, mod-strenuous. Hike 9 spectacular waterfalls or kayak on the lake, and campout in the deep woods at Ricketts Glenn SP. Call leader to reserve camping space by May 15th. Or meet Saturday at 10am at trai-head to hike portion at Ricketts Glenn SF, Rte 487, exit 35 off 1-80 PA Tnpk Call leader for additional info, carpool info and directions. NC/NP. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eves. Or pis1@cccnj.net.

May 26-30 (Sat-Wed): Camping in Cape May: Everyone had such a great time last year that we are doing it again this year. We'll be at the southern-most point in New Jersey "where nature smiles for 30 miles. Victorian Cape May has so much to offer, beautiful Victorian homes, a bird observatory and a bird sanctuary, the Cape May Lighthouse, a state park for hiking, the beaches and let's not forget the Cape May diamonds. Must have your own camping gear, and meals, except for one night when we have a potluck dinner and everyone brings something to share for dinner. I can supply dishes, cutlery, pots, and cups. Bicycles are a plus, as Cape May has easy flat roads and driving will be horrendous during our stay there due to the holiday. Canoes/kayaks are optional. If you are interested in joining us for fun and lots of laughs, please call to reserve your site at the Depot Travel Park, one mile from the Victorian town of Cape May. Their number is 609-884-2533. The rate is \$35.00 a night and a \$40.00 check must be sent to the park office within two weeks after your reservation is made. Credit cards are not accepted. The website is www.thedepottravelpark.com. I have reserved site #120. To look at the site map, go into the sites tab. Please confirm your participation after making your reservation by contacting Leslie McGlynn at 973-252-8122 or failte_629@verizon.net.

JUNE

Jun 1 (Fri): Sunset Paddle on the Crosswicks Creek/Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh: 2:30 pm. The Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh is the northern-most freshwater tidal area on the Delaware. This is a 14-

mile shuttleless trip on the Crosswicks Creek Canoe Trail. We paddle with the tide from Bordentown to Anchor Thread Park in Groveville. Bring your dinner to eat in the park. We return with the tide as the sun sets on the Marsh; maybe we'll see the "strawberry" moon too. Meet at Bordentown Beach, at end of Park St, Bordentown. Please contact leaders to confirm trip participation. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com

Jun 2 (Sat): Social Hike in Jenny Jump State Forest (Warren Co.): 10:30 am. We will hike about 5 miles of hills & level terrain at a moderate pace. Highlights include panoramic vistas of the Highlands. Hiking boots are preferred and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & 2 quarts of water. Meet at the state park office parking lot. Take I-80 West to Exit 12 (Rte 521 - Hope) From the off ramp go left on 521(under I-80) for 1.2 miles. Turn left at the light in Hope (there is only one). Then take the first right turn on Great Meadows-Hope Road. Travel 2.4 miles to Fair View Road. Turn left on Far View Road for 1.7 miles to the park office entrance on right (turn right at the Jenny Jump State Forest sign). Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce White, 908-267-5253 or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com. (L)

Jun 2 (Sat): Singles Full Moon Hike (Burlington Co.): 7:30 pm. Hike the first of the two Blue Moons of June at Whitesbog Village as we follow old cranberry bog roads and listen to the evening (frog) serenade. Bring snack type food to share at tailgate social after the hike. Meet at parking lot at Whitesbog Village: from Rte 70 E. take Rte 530 N, go 1 mile, turn right onto Whitesbog Road, and then left into village parking lot. NC. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eves. or pis1@cccnj.net . Inclement weather cancels.

Jun 2 (Sat): 10am. History Walk - Central Jersey Regional Greenway/Greenbelt. History abounds in Mercer and Monmouth Counties. Join us for a walk through Allentown to Heritage Park and learn about the Crossroads of the American Revolution and importance of the Regional Greenway/Greenbelt and preservation efforts. Meet at La Piazza Ristorante, 11 Church Street, Allentown. Enjoy a casual lunch after the walk and then cross Main St for homemade ice cream at Swal Dairy!! Leaders: Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com

Jun 3 (Sun): Social Bike Ride (Hunterdon Co.): 10am. We will bike 30 miles from Frenchtown to Lambertville with a 45-minute lunch break in Lambertville and swimming in Bulls Island on the way back using the D&R Canal tow-path. Suited for mountain and hybrid-type bikes. Bring water and snack for ride and a bathing suit. Terrain is flat but you should be in good physical shape since we will be going at a steady pace. Meet at the Frenchtown parking lot off Rte 12 just before the bridge to Penn. A \$3 fee will be charged to non-members. Helmets are required and all participants must sign a liability waiver. Rain cancels. For further information call 973-364-7573 press 2. Leaders: David Ogens. Bandit29@aol.com, Walter Goldenbaum, goldenb1@optonline.net (E)

Jun 9 (Sat): Young Sierrans 20/30s Singles Hike at Harriman State Park, NY: 11 am. Meet at the first parking lot. Fast paced hike, 3 to 4 hrs, including breaks as needed 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. Rain & inclement weather cancels. After hike group goes to 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 (mailto:MistyAngel22@aol.com). Young Sierrans Phone Line 973-364-7573 ext. # 1. Harriman State Park - 1-87 exit 15 A 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.

June 9 (Sat): Singles Sunset hike and Stare Gazing (Burlington Co.): 4:45pm. 6 miles at moderate pace. Hike between two rivers as we watch the sun set over the pines. Return to a tailgate social and then view Saturn, Venus and far off galaxies with Willingboro Astronomical Society. NC/NP. Meet at the northern parking lot for Batsto Village, Rte 542, 8 miles east of Hammonton. Please bring picnic type food to share at the tailgate. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eves .or pis1@cccnj.net . Inclement weather cancels.

Jun 13 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co.): 9am. Enjoy an always-spectacular paddle in the ambercolored waters of Cedar Creek from Dover Forge to Dudley Park (10 miles). Please contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting logistics. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com

Jun 16 (Sat): Sterling Forest (NY) Fire Tower Ramble: 10am. Option to extend if the group desires. This is a moderately strenuous hike with a considerable amount of climbing. Bring water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. No children, no pets. Meet at the Visitors Center. See the Sterling Forest website for information and directions: http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/info.asp?parkID=81. Register by the Friday before hike via e-mail at Hiker_Dood@Yahoo.com. Inclement weather cancels.

Jun 16 (Sat): Susquehanna River (PA) kayak trip: 9am. We will join a local Canoe/kayaking Club for this joint trip down the picturesque Susquehanna River. The river is mostly "slow and majestic" as we pass the historic Rockville Bridge: the longest stone arch bridge in the world, popular for photography buffs. We'll paddle by an island that's the ONLY one on this area of the Susquehanna that is the chosen nesting site for Snowy Egrets and Black-Crowned Herons – last year we were treated to great views of nests, fledglings, etc. There are many islands large and small in this stretch – we'll wind our way through them on our way to the take out point at the mouth of the Conodoguinet River. We'll have paddled close to downtown Harrisburg, with views of the capitol building, reputably one of the most beautiful in the country. Meet at the Crown Plaza Hotel, rear parking lot, on Rte 70 in Cherry Hill to caravan down to the put-in point. NC/NP. Contact leader to confirm your participation and other logistical information. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eves. or pis1@cccnj.net.

Jun 16 (Sat): Pine Meadow Lake Loop/Harriman State Park (NY): 10am. Nine-mile moderately paced hike with great views to Pine Meadow and back along the brook. Bring lunch and lots of water. Limit 12 people. Pre-registration required. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz. CL Joe Bonner 848-525-1749 hikerman4169@yahoo.com.

Jun 17 (Sun): Island Pond Loop/Harriman State Park (NY): 10am. Moderately paced 10-12 mile full day loop hike from Lake Skannati to Island Pond & back. Slight ups & downs. Bring lunch & lots of water. Group limit 12 people. Pre-registration required. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com.

June 17 (Sun): Singles Seashore Hike, Island Beach State Park (Ocean Co.): 1pm. Hike 7 miles of sandy beach along the ocean's edge as we enjoy the quite serenity before the crowds arrive. Catch the early rays of summer and smell the delicious briny air as we watch the sun set over the bay. Meet at parking lot A-7, look for OCSJ sign. Bring picnic/BBQ-type food to share at tailgate social after the hike. Come early and enjoy the sun, surf and sand. Take Rte 70 E. to Rte 37 E. to Rte 35 S. NC/NP. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eves. Or pis1@cccnj.net . Inclement weather cancels.

Jun 17 (Sun): Farny Highlands (Morris Co.), Father's Day: 10am. Moderately-paced, 7-mile hike. Leader: Pete Beck, 201-274-4471. Use Fisherman's Parking area at Splitrock Reservoir. Directions: From I-80 take exit #37 (Rockaway/Hilbernia). Go north on Greenpond road (Rte 513) towards Hilbernia. At about 6.5 miles turn right, at the Marcella Firehouse sign, onto Upper Hilbernia Rd. At the "T" intersection go left onto Split Rock Rd (do NOT follow the NO OUTLET sign). The road turns to dirt — keep going past the dam to the parking area on the left. Time: Please arrive at 9:30 am. Two hours' hiking before lunch; then two hours back. The terrain has moderate ups and downs. Mostly likely we will hike the Four Birds Trail (white blazes) north of Splitrock road in Farny State Park. For more trail & area information, select Farny from the menu: http://www.purdes.com/njhiking/ Also the town of Mountain Lakes has a trail map for the Four Birds Trail on the town's web site.

Jun 17 (Sun): Clayton Park, Upper Freehold Twp: (Special Interest: History): 9am. Moderate 6-mile hike in one of the Monmouth County Park System's best kept secrets. Moderate elevation gains. Hiking shoes not required. Bring snack and drink. Meet at the Wawa store near the intersection of County Road 537 and I-195 in Upper Freehold Township. Bad Weather Cancels. Confirmation/ Questions call Leader: Mike Verange: 908-902-0718, or mjverange@ aol.com (JS)

Jun 21 (Thur): Canoe/Kayak the Mullica River on the Summer Solstice: 9am. A beautiful time of year to enjoy the aquatic flowering plants of the NJ Pinelands. This is a long trip to Pleasant Mills, for experienced paddlers. Please contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting logistics. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com

Jun 22-24 (Fri-Sun): Janes Island (MD, Eastern Shore) Kayaking Weekend: 9am. Kayak, camp and bike on the Chesapeake Bay at Janes Island State Park, a Chesapeake Bay Gateway, one of over 100 special places to experience the Chesapeake Bay. We will be kayaking both days on the many sheltered water trails around the Island and Little Annemessex River. We will be camping at Janes Island SP in one of the camping loops; limited numbers of cabins are available. Saturday night will include an optional visit to Christfield for an all-you-can-eat crab fest, blue claw and soft shell. Biking will also be available around the many flat roads on the island and adjacent mainland. Contact leaders ASAP to reserve a spot and obtain camping information, as this trip will fill quickly. Make campsite reservations directly with State Park after contacting leader for number and group area. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eves. or pis1@cccnj.net

Jun 23 (Sat): Hyde Park Trail, Hyde Park, NY: 9:30am. A moderate 5-mile trail alongside the Hudson River, passing the Vanderbilt and FDR mansions. No early outs. We will be out before dark. Meet in the parking lot of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Museum on Rte 9 in Hyde Park, for shuttle over to the Hyde Park Train Station/Riverfront Park on West Market Street. There is an optional 2.1-miles round trip to the Val-Kill Mansion which goes through the Scenic Hudson Land Trust and is a very pretty trail. Please call leader to make sure hike is still on: Leslie McGlynn: failte_629@verizon.net or 973-252-8122 (h) 862-219-3386 (c).

Jun 23 (Sat): Ringwood State Park (Passaic Co.). Skyline Manor, NJ Botanical Gardens: 10:30am. Moderately-paced hike of about 10-12 miles from the gardens over Pierson Ridge to Bear Swamp Lake. Bring lunch, snacks & lots of water. Group limit 12 people. Pre-registration required. Leader Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com.

Jun 24 (Sun): Delaware Water Gap (Warren Co.)/Sunfish Pond: 10am. 10-12-mile moderately paced hike. Initial long climb up to Mount Tammany; then descend to Dunfield Creek trail & loop to Sunfish Pond. Back on the AT. Bring lunch, snacks & lots of water. Group limit 12 people. Pre-registration required. Expect to finish around 6pm. Opt. dinner stop after hike. L: Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com.

(continued on page 12)



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Environmental Justice Zoe Kellman (201) 321-4578 zoeks@verizon.net

Forestry Issues

Nancy Ćarringer (732) 438-8688

Global Warming / Cool Cities Faith Teitelbaum (732-229-0553)

Highlands Issues

Mike Herson (see left column)

Marine Issues Greg Auriemma (see left column)

Passaic River Basin Issues Michel Cuillerier (see left column)

Pinelands Issues

M.Gallaway@comcast.net

Lee Snyder (see left column) PPA Liaison: Mike Gallaway

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Sprawl Issues Jane Tousman (see left column)

Tiger Conservation Issues Sunil Somalwar (see left column)

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Utah Issues John Kashwick (201) 660-8820

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

* Indicates Chapter-wide elected ExCom members.

** Indicates committee chair or co-chair

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> **Chapter Director: Jeff Tittel** Jeff.Tittel@SierraClub.org

Program Assistant Crystal Snedden 609-656-7612 Crystal.Snedden@SierraClub.org

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

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

All members are welcome to attend these monthly statewide policy deliberations, held on SECOND SATURDAYS. 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

Jun 24 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Crosswicks Creek (Ocean/Monmouth/Burlington Cos.): 9:30 am. This is Juli 24 (Sun). Callockayak the Closswicks Creek (Ocean) Molimolim, Bullington Cos.). 9.30 all: 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.ccdcgreenway.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.

IULY

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 mjverange @ 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: 187 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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Dick Colby (dick.colby@stockton.edu)

Karen Brown (karonna@yahoo.com)Designer Editorial Board: George and Joan Denzer, Rich Isaac, Ken Johanson, Laura Lynch, Chris Mills, Ruth Prince, Paul Sanderson, Sunil Somalwar,

Bonnie Tillery and Jeff Tittel. The Jersey Sierran appears in January, April, July and October. The deadline for copy is on the 10th of the month, two months before appearance. Members are cordially invited to propose articles, essays,

letters, poetry and artwork.
(Group/Section News columns are prepared by Group/Section Chairs; Outings are vetted by the Chapter Outings Chair, Ellen Blumenkrantz.)

Opinions, unless otherwise attributed, are of the writer only

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Thank you to all who contributed to this issue! This newsletter is produced mostly by volunteers.

Members please send address changes: To address.changes@sierraclub.org, or Sierra Club Membership 85 Second St, 2nd Floor San Francisco CA 94105, or 415-977-5653, and NJ Sierra Club, 145 Hanover St.

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