

The Jersey..... SIERRAN

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More than 23,000 Members in New Jersey

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REPORT FROM TRENTON

New Jersey Goes Under (Again)

By Chapter Director Jeff Tittel



The Club's New Jersey Chapter was saddened by the misfortune of all New Jerseyans affected by the April floods, but as the flood waters receded and the cleanup began, we were hard at work addressing the State's flood policies and programs. Nature may bring the rains, but our actions as human beings make flooding much worse.

New Jersey has experienced seven major floods since 1999, causing billions of dollars worth of damage, as well as loss of life. Scientists predict that global climate change will cause increased severity of storms; in addition, sea level will rise as the polar ice melts, permanently flooding coastal locations. New Jersey is heading into a crisis and must act now.

Already the most densely developed state, New Jersey continues to lose an area equal to 50 football fields to development every day. In 1996 over 40% of the land in our state was developed, and we may now be approaching 50%. New Jersey will be the first state that is fully built out. According to the U.S. Geological Survey's website, watersheds that are the least developed are least likely to flood, while those with the most development experience the most flooding.

During rain events soft soils, especially those in forests, can absorb up to three inches of rainfall. When trees are cut down and fields built on, instead of this water soaking into the ground and recharging our aquifers, it runs off as

contaminated storm water. For every newly-impermeable acre, an additional million gallons of storm water will run off for every three inches of rainfall. Since the first of the major floods in 1999, New Jersey has lost more than 180 thousand acres of land to development, including thousands of acres of wetlands. This loss of open space results in more severe flooding from less rainfall and sends billions of gallons of storm water barreling downstream toward our citizens, their homes, and their property.

Some of the most flood-prone towns in New Jersey are designated as growth areas in the State Plan. Examples include Bound Brook, Lincoln Park, Lodi, Manville, New Brunswick, Oakland, Pompton, Saddle River, Trenton, and Wayne, all of which, despite suffering flooding in April, are slated for yet more development.

New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) currently approves 99.97% of all applications for permits to fill in stream buffer areas, flood hazard areas, and wetlands, denying only 0.03%. Thus the amount of impervious surface increases relentlessly.

Man-made structures and flood control projects don't work. New Jersey wastes hundreds of millions of dollars on ineffective flood control measures, when it is much cheaper, safer, and better for the environment to simply remove people from harm's way. Construction of dikes and other stream channelization

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We Need YOU in Cool Cities as a New Recruit!!

By Stefano Crema (stefcre@aol.com), for the New Jersey Cool Cities Committee

In a recent article in the New York Times, Tom Friedman stated that, while "Green has hit Main Street - more Americans than ever now identify themselves as "greens" -- green has not gone very far down Main Street." Of late, the media have payed increasing attention to the impending effects of Climate Change, resulting from our excessive reliance on fossil fuels. Increasing security threats, connected with our heavy dependence on imported



oil, and potentially catastrophic effects of Global Warming, are starting to attract the attention of the American public. However, this same public seems to be at a loss on how to handle these imminent threats.

The Sierra Club Cool Cities program, based on the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement (USMCPA), is a great opportunity to fill this vacuum. Thanks to the unique organization of the Sierra Club with its widespread field ("grass-roots") organization, we have the opportunity to reach deep into American communities. The Cool Cities program wants to increase the awareness of the general public to the imminent problems of Global Warming, and show the way for immediate and decisive actions at both local and federal levels.

Active public involvement will:

- 1) Bolster the activities of environmentally conscious mayors who are ready to sign, or have already

signed, on to the USMCPA. Popular support will allow new investments and efficiency initiatives to undertake effective emission-reduction actions.

- 2) Convince mayors who are not aware of the consequences of Climate Change that this is an issue of importance to their communities, so that they will undertake amelioration and adaptation steps.
- 3) Prepare local communities for expanded federal legislation that will meet the goal of 60-80% emission-reduction by mid-century.

The list of NJ's 68 "Cool Cities" is at www.coolcities.us (click on New Jersey). Is your community there?

The signing of the USMCPA by individual mayors is only the first step of the program. The most difficult part is the timely and continuous implementation of actions that will allow the achievement of the goals stated in the Climate Protection Agreement. Since the target date is 2012, and the implementation of the Agreement is voluntary, an essential objective of the program is to maintain community pressure on local administrations through time and changes of elected officials.

To succeed, the Cool Cities program needs a motivated and well-organized base of volunteers. They will contact local institutions like houses of worship, schools, and civic and business organizations to discuss potential effects of Climate Change and ways to prevent its most destructive manifestations. The support of community leaders will then be used to convince local politicians to undertake emission-reduction initiatives: always with the incentives of increased efficiencies and lower costs.

The New Jersey Cool Cities Committee will provide training seminars for volunteers during the upcoming 12 months. The seminars will be co-sponsored by other organizations that will join us in the effort to develop a grass-roots movement. Together we will bring the US to a position of leadership in the global efforts to control Global Warming and Climate Change.

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New Jersey's Climate March: April 13-16

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@verizon.net)

Chanting "1, 2, 3, 4 - global warming out the door; 5, 6, 7, 8 - we cannot afford to wait," the intrepid NJ Climate Marchers braved sleet, snow and high winds to wind their way from The College of New Jersey to the steps of the State House in Trenton on the final leg of their four day effort. Rallies at Rutgers in New Brunswick, Princeton University, The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), and Trenton drew more than 500 participants (see www.njclimatemarch.org).

The beautiful weather on Friday and Saturday gave way to monsoon rains on Sunday, and yet they marched on. What an inspiration! Students carrying banners said they hoped that after drivers asked "What are those crazy people doing?"



Rally participants gathered on the NJ State House steps. Seated in foreground is rally organizer, Carlos Rymer.

they would see the messages -- "Don't Heat the Planet, Pass the Global Warming Response Act" and "NJ Climate March, A Walk to Conserve the Garden State" -- and think about the environmental challenges we all face with climate change. An estimated 10,000 vehicles saw these messages during the four-day period.

Over 2000 signatures were gathered on petitions to be delivered to NJ legislators in May when participants lobby for bills A3301 and S2114, the Global Warming Response Act. Senator Barbara Buono, one of the prime sponsors in the Senate, spoke to the gathering on the State House steps, saying she was encouraged by the momentum that was building to support reduction of greenhouse gas emissions 20% by 2020, and 80% by 2050.

Don Wheeler of the New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability noted that TCNJ's President just signed the American College and University President's Climate Commitment (www.presidentclimatecommitment.org). Institutions of higher learning are committing to reduce global warming and become carbon neutral because "colleges and universities must exercise leadership in their communities."



Senator Barbara Buono speaking at the Climate March rally in Trenton.

Jeff Tittel, Executive Director of the Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter, reminded the shivering audience of Tom Paine's words: "the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country," noting that the "winter warriors" in attendance were indeed committed to making a difference.

Those reading this article can make a difference, too. Contact your New Jersey Senate and Assembly representatives and insist they support the Global Warming Response Act (A3301/S2114). As the students said, we cannot afford to wait! ☺

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COOL CITIES CORNER

How Dangerous is the Mercury in Compact Fluorescent Light-bulbs (CFLs)?

By Faith Teitelbaum (faithtei@aol.com)

Our Cool Cities campaigners have heard "qualms" from Club members reluctant to replace incandescent bulbs with CFLs. Please be reminded, first, that nearly every home already has "ordinary" fluorescent bulbs, which contain many times more mercury than compact bulbs. We also eat fish, many species of which contain methyl-mercury, a toxic form much more dangerous than the elemental form used to coat the insides of light-bulbs. And many is the mercury-containing thermometer that has broken in American homes, each containing roughly 100 times more mercury than a CFL.

But a more convincing argument for switching to CFLs is that they reduce the total amount of mercury in the environment, and therefore in the food chain. Since the use of a CFL consumes

only a quarter of the electricity needed by an incandescent bulb, and since most of that electricity, in the Eastern States, comes from coal-fired power plants to the west (upwind!) of us, and since that burning of coal releases tons of mercury, annually, into the atmosphere, your exposure to mercury will actually be reduced for every light-bulb you switch.

If a bulb does break, the pieces should be swept, not vacuumed, into a zip-lock bag, the area wiped with a damp cloth, also then placed in the bag, and the area well ventilated (mercury evaporates!). The bag will be accepted by most Utility Authorities on Hazardous Waste Collection Days (along with burnt-out ordinary fluorescent bulbs). The same advice applies to a broken mercury thermometer. ♪

ECO-TIP FROM OUR CONSERVATION CHAIR

Caffeine with Conscience

Ecotip by Laura Lynch, Chapter Conservation Chair, reprinted with permission from ecotips.sustainablelawrence.org



It's January. Mornings are cold and dark. You need that cup of coffee. You really need it.

Did you know that with one cup of coffee you can help preserve bird habitat, keep family farms in business, and reduce the use of pesticides worldwide?

Most of our coffee comes from farms in Central and South America, where up until the mid-1970's, coffee was farmed under canopies of trees, where pesticides and fertilizers were rarely needed. Shade-grown coffee plantations provided habitat for migratory birds, many of which we would see in our New Jersey backyards.

Unfortunately, in the 1970's, farmers began to grow coffee in single-crop plantations in full sunlight in order to meet worldwide demand. While this method increases coffee production, it also requires intense use of pesticides and fertilizers. When forest canopies gave way to single-crop coffee plantations, migratory birds lost much of their tropical wintering territory. This habitat loss, biologists estimate, means 50% fewer neo-tropical migratory birds. With increased coffee supply, moreover, coffee prices dropped, and small family coffee farms were imperiled.

But you can help the birds, the soil,

and the farmers all at once. The next time you shop for coffee, you will find several options.

Coffee labeled as "Shade Grown" comes from coffee grown in forests, sometimes along with other crops. Shade-grown coffee farms not only provide habitat for neo-tropical birds; some of these plantations provide the last remaining habitat for certain migratory species.

Beans that are marked "Fair Trade" come from small farms that participate in programs which ensure that workers and farmers receive crop prices that keep them from starving.

"Organic" coffee beans are grown without the use of synthetic pesticides or fertilizers. Most organic coffee is also shade-grown. Because shade-grown beans mature more slowly, they tend to have a fuller, better taste than mass-produced beans.

You might pay a bit more for organic, shade-grown, or fair-trade coffee, but the price difference is insignificant for preserving family farms, bird habitat, and tropical ecosystems in general. Not only will your coffee taste better: while it clears the morning fog from your mind, it will clear your conscience too.

For more information on environmentally-friendly coffee, see the November/December 2005 issue of E Magazine: <http://www.emagazine.com/view/?2929>. ♪

COOL CITIES

(Continued from page 1)

The combined energy needs of developing and developed countries are obviously going to increase substantially in the next 50 years. This challenge must be satisfied without increasing the concentration of Greenhouse Gases in the atmosphere to a level that will result in long-lasting and destructive changes to the environment as we know it. Only the introduction of creative and effective new technologies will allow us to do so. The United States has a history of technical innovation, and vast educational and industrial capabilities, so should be the natural leader in this critical effort. Regrettably, so far, we have not claimed this position.

The Cool Cities program gives each of us the opportunity to play a part in

the development of a new vision for our country, by which the American lifestyle will be preserved and enhanced, through the development of technologies that will not only revitalize the economy but ease it into an innovation-based growth cycle similar to that of the 1990's.

Please, join us in this effort. Join the Cool Cities campaign.

Announcements of Cool Cities volunteer training sessions will be sent to the membership. Feel free to bring friends and other people interested in efforts to contain Global Warming.

For more information contact: Stefano Crema (stefcre@aol.com, 973-627-4354), or Faith Teitelbaum (faithtei@aol.com, 732-229-0553) ♪

POPULATION ISSUES COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

The Fate of the World

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@verizon.net)

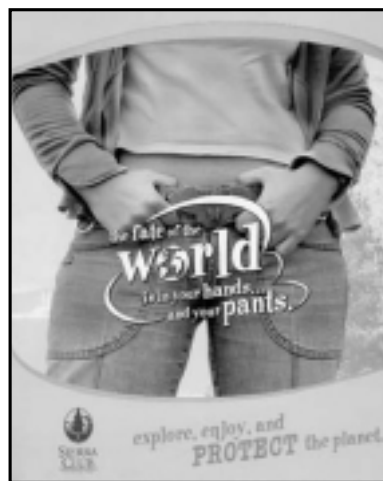
Ty Dawson's poise belies his 21 years as he stands before a large room full of people to talk about the Sierra Club's Campus Outreach Campaign, "The Fate of the World is in Your Hands...and Your Pants." Not as provocative as it might at first sound, this interactive program addresses limited drinking water supplies, shrinking forest resources, species extinctions, and what each of us as individuals can do to reduce human population impact on the planet.



Tulips and lilacs were in bloom, and a profusion of pink cherry blossoms circled the tidal basin. It was a warm and glorious spring weekend in Washington, D.C., yet more than 120 young people and adults had chosen to spend their time inside attending the One Voice Summit, learning from Ty and other presenters about the connections between population and saving the environment.

Ty is a junior at Ohio University and has travelled throughout that state and to campuses in nearby states talking with his peers about how responsible and educated choices in their personal lives can make a difference which will eventually lead to cleaner air and water, and reduced global warming pollution.

A long-time member of the Sierra Student Coalition (SSC), Ty was inspired to become more active by service visits to mountain-top removal sites used to



extract coal. Ty is committed to changing how Ohio produces and consumes energy, not only from a purely environmental standpoint, but from an environmental justice standpoint as well.

Ty and the students he partners with talk about the \$1.5 BILLION the federal government has spent on abstinence-until-marriage programs - programs that don't work - noting that the U.S. has the highest rate of teen pregnancy of all industrialized nations. He and others

went to Capitol Hill on the Monday following the Summit to lobby for the REAL Act (Responsible Education About Life Act - S972 /HR1653), introduced by our own Senator Frank Lautenberg, and Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Christopher Shays (R-CT).

The REAL Act will provide funding for comprehensive sexuality education to reduce adolescent pregnancy, and the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. To quote from the Senate bill, "More than eight out of ten Americans believe that young people should have information about abstinence and protecting themselves from unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases." In the U.S. there are "between 750,000 and 850,000 teen pregnancies each year." If sexuality education were to include discussion of con-



Ty Dawson, on left, is seen with Elvis Tillet, an advocate for reproductive health and rights in Belize, who also presented at the One Voice Summit.

traception, young people would be more likely to delay sexual activity and use contraceptives when they do become active. We also top all industrialized nations with the highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases. "In 2005, there were approximately 19,000,000 new cases of sexually transmitted diseases, almost half of them occurring in young people aged 15 to 24." As a nation we like to be first, but are these statistics something to be proud of?

The young people at the conference were motivated by Ty and other speakers to make a difference. But you don't have to travel to Washington DC to make your voice heard. Phone or write your representative now and ask him to sign on to the Responsible Education About Life Act, which will provide age-appropriate, medically accurate life skills about reproductive health and sexuality. Ignorance is not a virtue, whether in denying the existence of global warming or putting our heads in the sand and thinking all young people will abstain from sexual activity until they marry at the average age of 26. The fate of the world depends on your action.

To find out more about the Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program and the "Fate of the World" campus campaign, go to www.sierraclub.org/population/students. ♪

John Muir Orbits Earth!

Well, not exactly. But you'll come close as you fly through the life of the Sierra Club's founder via a ground-breaking mapping tool from Google Earth, that lets you explore the world in three dimensions, and zoom in! We've chosen ten places and events in Muir's life to highlight: including his birthplace in Scotland, his "Thousand Mile Walk to the Gulf," and his meeting at Yosemite's Glacier Point with Teddy Roosevelt. Here's the link: <http://www.sierraclub.org/muir/>

Resolutions Adopted by ExCom in March, April and May

We accepted the resignation of Ruth Prince as an ExCom member, and appointed George Denzer to replace her. George was the next-highest-vote-receiving candidate in the election held last Fall. (Apr)

A letter was authorized, to the Administrator of EPA Region 2, opposing the dumping of Delaware River dredge spoils in the Palmyra Cove Nature Park, Burlington County. (May)

Chair's Message

The Man Behind the Curtain

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



The self-proclaimed Wizard of Oz admonished Dorothy and her traveling companions to pay no attention to the man behind the curtain. Fortunately, Dorothy and her friends chose to ignore this admonition and, as a result, the tin man discovered that he did after all have a heart, the scarecrow learned that he did have a brain, the lion rediscovered his courage and Dorothy found her way back home to Kansas.

Today we are faced with a challenge equally as daunting as that faced by Dorothy - the threat of global warming. Clearly we need to reduce our consumption of fossil fuels. But how do we achieve this? The Wizard tells us that the answer lies in ethanol. Ethanol has become the poster child for a wide array of supporters, including elected representatives, governmental officials, members of the media and even some environmental groups. But who is the Wizard? Who is the man behind the curtain who is orchestrating this response to what is now universally accepted as a serious threat not only to mankind, but also to all the other species that inhabit the planet?

Let me suggest that the Wizard consists of Midwest corn producers and their elected representatives who stand to gain monetarily from the ethanol frenzy, as well as members of the Bush administration who are prepared to do all in their power to divert attention from measures (such as wind power, solar power and, above all, conservation) that might actually help to address the problem but that would not be well received by their friends in the petroleum industry.

So what's the problem with ethanol? Let's start with the fact that the production of corn-based ethanol, which because of government subsidies, tariffs and the need to transport the final product by truck or ship rather than through pipelines, is the only form of ethanol presently available in the United States, consumes significant amounts of fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are required to produce the fertilizers and pesticides that are used in growing the corn, to drive the farm equipment required to grow and harvest the corn, to transport the corn to processing centers, to convert the corn into ethanol and to transport the end product to its final destination.

While estimates vary (depending it seems upon who is employing the person preparing the estimate), it appears that the amount of energy consumed to produce ethanol is about the same as the amount of energy saved by substituting ethanol for gasoline, which means that there is no net savings and no reduction in harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

But even if the ethanol industry were to be able to reduce the amount of fossil fuels required to produce corn-based ethanol, other problems would persist. The production of corn is highly dependent upon the use of chemical fertilizers, and will become even more so as marginal lands, that cannot be productive without chemical enhancement, are converted to corn production. Emissions of nitrous oxide, a far more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide and a byproduct of nitrogen fertilizers used to grow the corn, are likely to offset any gains that the industry might otherwise be able to achieve.

And what about the health effects of substituting ethanol for gasoline? A recent study by Mark Jacobson of Stanford University suggests that substituting E85 (85% ethanol and 15% gasoline) for gasoline will have a significant detrimental impact upon public health, with an increase in ozone-related mortality, hospi-

talization and asthma of about 9 percent in Los Angeles and an increase of about 4 percent in the United States as a whole.

And where is the corn going to come from? According to Michael B. McElroy, professor of environmental sciences at Harvard University, over 73 million acres of land were harvested for corn in the United States in 2004, 23 percent of the nation's total cultivated land area. Paul Krugman, in a recent column in The New York Times, notes that researchers at the University of Minnesota estimate that converting the entire United States corn crop to ethanol would replace only 12 percent of our gasoline consumption. The same result could easily be achieved by using existing technology to improve automobile fuel efficiency.

The conversion of farmland, undeveloped areas and wildlife habitats to the production of corn for ethanol will have, and already is having, a disastrous effect upon the preservation of open space, the protection of threatened and endangered species, the conservation of water resources, the prevention of air and water quality degradation and the preservation of topsoil, a crucial resource that we are losing at an alarming rate as a result of modern-day corn producing practices.

And finally, let's consider what the effect will be, and already has been, on the poor and disadvantaged people of this planet of converting existing food crops, including corn, to the production of corn-based ethanol and other bio-fuels. Already the price of corn has increased significantly, the price having doubled in the past year alone, and this is only the beginning. David Pimentel, a professor at the Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, has said that "Abusing our precious croplands to grow corn for an energy-inefficient process that yields low-grade automobile fuel amounts to unsustainable, subsidized food burning." Or to put it more succinctly, we are depriving the world's poor of the food they need to survive so that we can feed our SUVs.

I've already gone on longer than I should and Dick Colby, the editor of this newsletter, may well have a few words with me, but let me say a word or two about non-corn-based ethanol and other bio-fuels.

Brazil, Malaysia and Indonesia are producing bio-fuels from sugarcane and palm oil. The results have been devastating, with massive deforestation and the extinction of countless species, including the destruction of crucial habitat for our closest cousin, the orangutan. In Malaysia alone, Friends of the Earth estimates that 87 percent of deforestation between 1985 and 2000 was caused by new palm oil plantations. There is little doubt that the rate of deforestation, and the resulting release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, will continue to increase as the demand for bio-fuels continues to grow.

But what about cellulosic ethanol? Despite what we are led to believe by the current administration and others, researchers have yet to come up with a process to produce cellulosic ethanol on a commercial basis. We will have to wait and see. But if and when the technological challenges are overcome, we will have to take a good hard look not only at the effectiveness of the new technology, but also at its impact upon the environment.

So despite what we are led to believe, ethanol is not the answer. Toto unmasked the Wizard and allowed Dorothy and her friends to fulfill their dreams. Now it's our turn to follow Toto's lead and unmask those who are intent on perpetuating the ethanol scam. ☺

Editorial

Flood Control in New Jersey - Or, Rather, the Lack of It

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



The mid-April nor'easter this year brought rains that caused many of New Jersey's rivers to flood nearby roads, homes, and other buildings, and revealed a lack of central planning that is inexcusable in a modern society.

The situation I observed alongside the Great Egg Harbor River, in four southern counties of the state, is probably representative of rivers in all other counties: the breaching of dozens of uncontrolled dams, both in tributaries and on the main stem of the River, some carrying county roads, some public and some private, in various states of repair, and under no organized hierarchy of management authority.

Read Jeff Tittel's commentary on p.1 of this issue. It's easy in hindsight to say that much damage would have been prevented if lakes held back by dams could have been lowered before the storm, providing a place for flood-waters to harmlessly accumulate. It's easier, without need for hindsight, to say that areas mapped as flood-prone should not contain houses, other buildings, or roads at grade.

I write this from my summer haunt in central England, in Britain's largest new town (Milton Keynes), which contains two north-south flood plains that traverse a city of 400,000 population (and rapidly growing). The flood plains contain grazing sheep and cows, a series of "balancing lakes," public parks, and roads that cross them on raised causeways. When flood-waters accumulate (once or twice in an average year), the animals (and people) are withdrawn to high ground, and the commuters on bicycles have to use the elevated roads instead of the now-flooded bike-paths. All spillways are centrally controlled, and no building has ever been flooded.

(Sunil Somalwar reminds us that Donaldson Park and Johnson Park, in New Brunswick, are good examples of

flood-plain parks, heavily used for recreation when they are not flooded.)

It seems obvious to me that New Jersey's dams need to be controlled comprehensively by watershed, and by agencies which have the authority, and the field staff, to comprehensively manipulate every spillway-gate in response to a weather alert. Perhaps the DEP is the proper agency, or perhaps some watersheds would be better managed at County-level, or by one of the four regional agencies (Pinelands, Highlands, Meadowlands, Delaware Basin). Even private dams must be subject to public control.

According to Jeff Tittel, our Chapter Director, the mapping of flood plains in New Jersey is highly problematic. Maps prepared in 1976 by the Army Corps of Engineers, showing the 100-year-storm's likely extent of flooding, and available on-line from FEMA's web-site, are seriously out of date, since new construction since then has vastly increased the amount of impervious surface, increasing the danger-areas, and there is no money either at federal or state level for updating the maps.

I find it abominable that federal (or any!) flood insurance should be available to owners of properties in flood plains. Any new construction that increases the "footprint" of a flood plain, and therefore the risk that existing buildings or streets will flood, should require compensation sufficient to provide appropriate remediation to existing property-owners, such as the cost of relocation to higher ground. There should be a clear message that ownership of property in flood plains is environmentally irresponsible. (The same is true of ocean-front properties, but that's another editorial!)

When public safety is in jeopardy, there is justification for intrusion by government. As in all zoning, the public good "trumps" the private good. ☺

Electricity worth \$1 results in FIVE times as much CO₂ as does \$1 worth of gasoline. (35 lbs. vs. 7 lbs)

This is why automakers prefer CO₂ emission controls on all sources to CAFE (miles per gallon) standards - which single out automakers. We should contain our dislike of Detroit if that is what it takes to curb coal. The falling American purchase power (which results in higher gasoline price) is likely to force better mileage on Detroit anyway, but coal is domestic and practically unlimited.

Bottom-line: enlist Detroit against coal.

(Credit: Sunil Somalwar)

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.

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 McCole). Mention this ad and 5% of your rental goes to your local Chapter.

REPORT FROM TRENTON

Congress and the Sierra Club Fight Back against President Bush's Power Line Scheme

By Jeff Tittel, our Chapter Director

On April 27, the Department of Energy (DOE) announced that, under the auspices of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, it would be designating a National Priority Corridor for electrical transmission lines that includes all twenty-one counties in New Jersey. This designation will allow the Federal Electric Regulatory Commission (FERC) to give power and transmission companies the right to build high-voltage power lines through any part of New Jersey, by eminent domain. The new power lines will cut swaths through the Highlands and Pinelands, crossing forests, farm fields, and wetlands.

Two new power lines have been proposed, one heading east from Pennsylvania and one coming north from West Virginia through Maryland. These lines would bring "dirty coal" power from the Midwest and South to New Jersey and other Northeastern States. When coal burns, it produces twice as much carbon dioxide per kilowatt as natural gas, and is a major cause of global warming. In addition, mountaintop coal mining has destroyed more than a million and a half acres of forested mountains in Appalachia, polluting rivers and eliminating legions of trees that mitigate global warming.

Furthermore, the proposed power lines have spawned proposals to build new coal-fired power plants here in the Garden State. This dirty coal power will undermine New Jersey's efforts to promote clean and renewable energy, as well as pouring toxic wastes such as nitrous oxide, sulfur dioxide, and mercury into our air and water. These chemicals will affect every citizen of the state, not just those living near the plants. After spewing from Midwestern coal plants and settling downwind in New Jersey, mercury, for example, climbs the food chain into fish, even in the middle of pristine lakes in the Highlands.

On May 3, the Club's national Executive Director Carl Pope appeared with Representatives Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), Frank Wolf (R-VA), Mike Arcuri (D-NY), John Hall (D-NY), and Chris Carney (D-PA), and officers of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and numerous other environmental and historic preservation groups, to oppose the corridor scheme. Representatives Wolf and Hinchey have introduced a bipartisan bill, HR-809, to repeal section 1221 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which grants DOE and FERC nearly limitless powers of eminent domain, and exempts them from key environmental laws in designating so-called "National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors." (No New Jersey congressman is yet a co-sponsor!)

According to Pope, "[Section 1221] usurps the right of state and local governments to deny access to certain lands and areas based on local interests and values. In addition, it runs roughshod over laws meant to protect environmentally and historically sensitive areas from development. It also trumps the rights of property owners in the corridors, allowing for their lands to be seized via eminent domain and transferred to private corporations. Above all, backers of this provision believe that energy companies should be allowed to construct power lines and pipelines anywhere they see fit in order to increase their own profits, regardless of what's in the public interest. I am pleased that a bipartisan group in the House has introduced legislation to repeal this authority."

I'll put it more succinctly: We need to stop these power lines from coming into New Jersey if we want to have clean, dependable, renewable energy. We should tell DOE and FERC to stay out of New Jersey. ☺

SPRAWL ISSUES COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The Struggle for an Extraordinary Site in Edison, Called the Sharma Land

By Jane Tousman (jdtous@aol.com), our Sprawl Issues Coordinator

This property of 27 acres is in the northern portion of Edison, Middlesex County. A hard-fought struggle has gone on for many years. 18 to 23 luxury homes are proposed. The fight to save the land as open space was initially lost in the courts, but then by what some people consider a "miracle" Kara Homes went bankrupt. The county appraised the land at \$8.5 M, an amount that is available from the Middlesex Open Space Fund. The Mayor authorized condemnation of the property for purchase as open space, but the Township Council reversed him. The matter went before the bankruptcy court on April 9: the Judge said that Edison could not condemn the land and authorized going forward with the sale to a developer.

Why is the site important and worth preserving as open space? Well, it is adjacent to the headwaters of the Robinson's Branch which connects to the Rahway River, which has flooded many times over the years. The headwaters sustain and nourish many of the streams of the area. If fully developed, the site would discharge storm-water into the adjacent Stevens Preserve, a property owned by the Natural Lands Trust. Isolated wet-

lands provide important functions to the watershed, including the storage of flood waters and the maintenance of stream flow. They provide natural areas for passive recreation, education and aesthetic enjoyment.

Water quality and water supply are critical in New Jersey. As we have seen in the past year, both in northern and southern parts of the State, "no water" equals "no development." The Middlesex County Water Quality Management Plan had to be amended to allow permits for development of the Sharma Land to be approved. The DEP was partially responsible for that happening.

Edison Township would have enjoyed through this acquisition a combined 100 acres of preserved property within the ecologically significant Raritan River headwater area. The loss of this very important land would be extremely sad because of the impact it will have not only on our lives but also on the lives of future generations. ☺



Gloucester County Signs on to Cool Cities

By Gina Carola, Chair of our West Jersey Group

On April 3rd, the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders, led by Freeholder Director Stephen Sweeney, pledged to do everything it could to curb the amount of greenhouse gases that the county produces. At a press conference at the county complex in Woodbury, NJ, Director Sweeney, along with freeholders Helene Reed and Joseph Brigandi Jr, signed onto the Mayor's Agreement on Global Warming. In attendance were Sierra Club Cool Cities activists Gina Carola and Bill Freund, who worked to bring the county on board.

Director Sweeney promised that the county will begin work on efforts to conserve energy by modernizing buildings for energy efficiency. The possibility of putting solar panels on the rooftops of county buildings is under review and the county is also looking into buying hybrid vehicles as replacements are made to the county's fleet. He also stated that we have made it too easy for people to get into their cars and go places and he now wants to make it easy for people to walk and take mass transit.

There will also be increased efforts to recycle. Gloucester County ranks second in the state in terms of recycling. According to Sweeney, 61 percent of the county's trash is recycled but he wants Gloucester County to be number one.

Freeholder Joseph Brigandi Jr. added that "Our actions today and in the future will encourage policies and practices that honor our earth. . . We need to be a leader to our children, our communities and to industry and show them that there is a greener and better way."

Freeholder Helene Reed commented that government needs to act now to make sure the climate is good for future generations because we cannot reconstruct it if we ruin it. "We have to make sure we take good care of what we have," Reed said.

County officials said trying to reduce greenhouse gases was worthwhile because it would save taxpayers money in the long run. ☺



Elk Township Recycle Bank Saves Residents Money

By Gina Carola, Chair of our West Jersey Group

In Elk Township, Gloucester County, everybody wins in the recycling game: the residents, the township budget and, most importantly, the Planet. That's because the Township has entered into an agreement with a company called RecycleBank to do curbside collection of recyclable waste and reward the residents with credits that can be used for discounts and coupons for services worth up to \$35 per month. Here is how it works.

Each household received a 95-gallon wheeled recycling container encoded

with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) barcode chip. Residents place all of their recyclable waste in this one container, no separation is necessary. Paper, newspapers, cardboard, glass, plastic, tin cans, aluminum, phone books, magazines and junk mail all go into the same container. As the recycling truck lifts the container to dump it into the truck, it is weighed, the RFID barcode is read and the resident's account is credited. The credits are redeemable at many local and national businesses. EVERYBODY WINS! ☺

Cleanwater Car Wash Fundraising Program

Supplied by David Yennior, our Recycling Issues Coordinator

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND RAISE MORE MONEY!!!

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and Car Wash Operators of New Jersey (CWONJ) have recently launched the Clean Water Fundraising Car Wash Program. This partnership allows charities and other non-profit organizations to sell car wash vouchers for washes at commercial car wash facilities to raise money, rather than hold fundraising car washes at schools and churches.

Participating car washes will provide charities and non-profit organizations with 50% off discounted car wash tickets that they can resell at face value. This is a situation where everybody wins! Charities and non-profit organizations raise money for their causes, NJDEP accomplishes its goal of protecting water quality, and car washes gain valuable exposure in the community.

PARKING LOT CAR WASHES POLLUTE OUR WATER

Did you know storm drains found along most streets and sidewalks are NOT connected to the sanitary sewer or to sewage treatment plants? When

fundraising car washes are held in parking lots, pollutants such as dirt, soap, and oil, generated from those car washes, run off the parking lots into storm drains. These pollutants flow untreated into our bays, lakes, rivers, and streams impacting water quality and the animals and plants that live in and around the water bodies.

HOW TO GET STARTED

Go to http://www.cleanwaternj.org/car_wash_list.pdf for a list of participating car washes. Find a car wash near you. Give the car wash owner a call, and they will provide you with car wash vouchers to sell. Then go out and sell, sell, sell!

If one car wash costs \$10, and:

- 10 members of your organization sell 10 tickets each, you earn \$500!!!
- 20 members of your organization sell 20 tickets each, you earn \$2,000!!!

People who buy the car wash vouchers can then go to the participating car wash anytime they want to redeem their voucher, get their car washed, and protect the environment.

For more information, log onto www.cleanwaternj.org or www.cwonj.org, or call Doug Karvelas at 609-888-2568. ☺

Introducing Becca Glenn, our Newest Member of Staff

The Chapter recently hired Becca Glenn to replace Crystal Snedden as Program Assistant, a job that includes managing our Trenton Office, helping our Director, Jeff Tittel, in a variety of duties in the corridors and hearing rooms of the State House, answering member queries, supporting the volunteer leaders, and managing her own favorite campaigns. Becca grew up in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and earned a bachelor's degree in sociology with a minor in international studies from Boston College in 2003. She went on to earn a master's degree in women's studies from Loyola University Chicago in 2004. Prior to arriving in Trenton, she worked as a domestic violence counselor in Lebanon, PA, and as a regional conservation organizer for the Sierra Club's national field office in Pittsburgh. She has spent time volunteering for the Harrisburg chapter of the National Organization for Women (of which she was president for over two years), PennPIRG, the Hershey Independent Progressives, and various political candidates.



friendly. I clearly remember that one of the things we did approve of was her choice of Palmolive dish soap because it said "biodegradable" on the back, and we told her she was not allowed to use any other kind.

2) What specific activities or campaigns are of most interest to you, as a Club staff member?

I have been working to protect open space since starting this position in early April, and am very excited to continue to do so. This has been of great concern in my hometown as well, and before coming to the Sierra Club I was involved in fighting a development project there. My other "top two" issue is global warming. So far I've been able to contribute to a lobby day for the Global Warming Response Act, which would mandate a statewide reduction of emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and I am currently working with the Sierra Club's national Global Warming and Energy Program to build support in New Jersey for federal legislation.

3) What successful (or unsuccessful) environmental activities or campaigns have you worked on in the past that were most interesting?

My job with the Sierra Club in Pittsburgh was a temporary position working only on the 2006 electoral campaign. We ran an independent campaign for three endorsed candidates - Jason Altire for US Congress, Bob Casey for US Senate, and Ed Rendell for Governor - and won all three. That was the first time any of the four staff members in that office had ever worked on a winning campaign! When we came in to work after the election we all had big goofy grins on our faces. ☺

1) What did you know about the Sierra Club that attracted you to work for it?

I can't remember first learning about the Sierra Club, so I must have known about it for a very long time. For most of that time, however, I associated it with the outings program. The environment in general has always been one of the issues that I'm very passionate about. After learning about the environment in elementary school, I came home and, with the help of my two little sisters, proceeded to go through everything in my mother's cabinets and scold her for the things that weren't environmentally

Pinelands Protections and Private Interests

By Lee Snyder

In April the Newark Star-Ledger published a series of articles defending the interests of Cranberry growers in New Jersey's Pinelands, who currently require the Pinelands Commission's permission for re-activation and operation of State-owned bogs that have been out-of-use for more than five years. The land in question is owned by the citizens of New Jersey, not by the agribusiness companies who want to use these State lands for profit.

There is good reason for the State to require that our (!) bogs be returned to their natural state - as in Pine Barrens,

not old-time bogs. The bogs are located in the Pinelands Preservation Zone: the CORE of the Pinelands that the Pinelands Act was most intended to protect.

Again, we are not talking about private property bogs, but State-owned wetlands. If the land protection regulations were to be subverted, we might next hear that the growers want to reactivate many older bogs throughout the Pinelands that have already reverted to their former 'natural' state. Those actions would only intensify the fragmentation of the remaining Pine Barrens. ☺

Nominations Sought for Chapter Executive Committee

Later this year members will have the opportunity to elect five members to the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom). A nominating committee, chaired by Sunil Somalwar and also including Bob Campbell and Paul Sanderson, has been elected by ExCom to prepare a slate of nominees. All Chapter members are invited to propose candidates. Members may also arrive directly onto the ballot by a petitioning process that requires the legible signatures of 15 Chapter members. To propose candidates, please notify Sunil (contact information is on p. 12 of this newsletter) by July 21.

The nominating committee will report the names of its nominees to ExCom by July 28th. Petition candidates must submit petitions (to Sunil) by August 10th. Ballots will be included in the October-December issue of this newsletter, and are to be returned to the Club's Trenton office by December 1st. They are traditionally counted at the Chapter's holiday party in December.

Under by-law revisions approved in last year's Chapter election, the three top vote-getters will serve three-year terms, and the other electees will serve two-year terms. ☺

Your Transportation Carbon Footprint

Interested in limiting planetary warming? Here are some recent comparisons, produced some by the US Department of Energy and some by activist Club members, of the various means of getting "transported":

	Average lb CO ₂ /passenger-mile:
Bicycle and walking	0
Bus	0.14
Intercity bus	0.20
Conventional rail	0.21
Commuter rail (electric)	0.31
High Speed Rail	0.11 - 0.26
Car	0.53 - 0.79
Airplane	0.62 - 0.88

(Data compiled from Club e-mail messages between energy activists.)

SAVE THE DATE

October 12 - 14, 2007

Sierra Club Northeast Regional Committee's FALL ENERGY CONFERENCE Camp Jewell, Colebrook, CT

Wind Power Presentations and Discussions - both on and off shore.
Are you concerned about your mountain tops/views/waters?
Come learn facts and be part of the discussions about wind energy.
Help develop a regional position for this form of energy.

For inquiries, contact: mary.anne.jaffe@sierraclub.org, 518-587-9166

See our website for latest updates:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/rcc/northeast/index.asp>



SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2007 A True Celebration of Earth-Friendly Living

Exhibitors, Workshops & Speakers on
Renewable Energy
Organic Farming • Music
Children's Activities

PENNSYLVANIA & sustainable living FESTIVAL

A two-day event sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Assoc.

Featuring:

"The Power of the Future is Renewable, not Nuclear"

A two-day program sponsored by the PA Sierra Club



www.paenergyfest.com

In March most members received our Chapter's annual fund-raising appeal. If you didn't respond, you still may, writing your check to New Jersey Sierra Club!

NEW JERSEY GOES UNDER

(Continued from page 1)

projects simply move storm water downstream faster, raising water levels in other areas, robbing Peter to pay Paul.

For example, the Oakland Flood Control Project, in Bergen and Passaic Counties, which has cost more than \$40 million, not only has not protected the people in Oakland, but has now moved the storm water downstream more quickly, causing record floods for the people in Pompton Lakes. A cheaper option would have been to buy out the 100 most flood-prone homes along the Ramapo River. In 1998 the Sierra Club estimated that the cost of the buyout would have been \$12 million - more than \$28 million less than what has been spent on the current unsuccessful program.

The Sierra Club also showed that the Bound Brook Flood Control Project, in Middlesex and Somerset Counties, as currently designed would have failed had it been in operation during Hurricane Floyd, and has only succeeded in making flooding worse in other towns along the Raritan River. The Club estimated that the 200 most flood-prone properties in Bound Brook could have been bought out for less than \$200 million, instead of spending over \$250 million for a flood control project that will not help Bound Brook, and will increase flooding in places like Manville and New Brunswick.

Since the 1970's more than a quarter million acres of land in the Raritan Basin have been lost to development. We cannot build flood-channels deep enough. We need to move people, not the water. The lessons of the Mississippi River and the New Orleans floods show that all man-made structures will be overcome by nature. Unless we take a holistic look at what causes flooding, and how to deal with it, the people of New Jersey will have to buy snorkels.

Our Recommendations for Reducing Flooding

1. Eliminate the Loophole for Redevelopment

Current redevelopment projects are exempt from New Jersey's storm-water and flood hazard rules. As we redevelop a state with as much development as New Jersey, we must not lose the chance to fix the problems of the past. Redevelopment should include retrofitting of storm water systems, and limiting impervious cover.

2. Update Maps of Flood Hazard Areas

Many of FEMA's flood-plain maps are thirty years old, and some parts of the State have never been mapped. Development since the maps were drawn has resulted in many people now living in flood-prone areas. There should be no development in unmapped areas or areas with out-dated maps. New maps should include coastal areas and show contours of shorelines expected from sea level rise due to global warming.

3. Eliminate Loopholes that Destroy Headwaters of Sensitive Streams

Most seriously, the State (the DEP) does not have jurisdiction to protect stream drainages smaller than 50 acres. However, it is just these drainage areas that are the most sensitive and crucial to protecting water quality. When high quality headwaters are lost, the rest of the stream suffers.

4. Restore Funding for Blue Acres

Reinstate and expand the Blue Acres program. Similar to Green Acres, and now similarly out of money, it enabled the State to acquire properties, remove structures, and restore flood plains to their natural state. The program would help residents who want to relocate out of flood plains.

5. Incorporate Hazard Planning

The State should incorporate hazard planning into all agencies of govern-

ment, such as to not spend resources or promote growth in areas that are subject to chronic flooding.

6. Expand Stream Buffers

This initiative would protect thousands of miles of NJ streams, enhance water quality, allow for aquifer recharge, provide open space, and protect homes from flooding. The DEP should re-propose the rule to expand buffers from 25-50 feet to at least 75-150 feet in areas that do not qualify for the 300-foot buffer around Category One streams. We should also add the 300 foot buffer around Category One streams to the stream encroachment rules in order to solidify them.

7. Develop Impervious Cover Limits

In order to address the chronic flooding that has occurred in New Jersey, the State needs to impose impervious cover limits in flood-prone watersheds. Impervious cover includes buildings, pavement, and lawns, which do not absorb storm water.

8. Limit Development in Flood Plains

Building in flood plains creates more flooding, increasing the risk to people's lives and properties. The increase in impervious cover eliminates recharge. Therefore stricter limits on new development should be immediately imposed. There should be zero net fill and no new structures in flood plains.

9. Implement Stricter Protections for Natural Stream Corridor Vegetation

Vegetative corridors filter pollution before it reaches a stream, and prevent flooding by absorbing storm-water. The current practice of mowing such corridors results in more runoff into streams, and more downstream pollution.

10. Implement Category One Stream Anti-degradation Requirements

Currently, the same regulations for permitting new development and stream-crossings apply everywhere in the State. We think stronger standards are warranted in the most sensitive environmental areas. The "Outstanding Basin" water designation should be strengthened to be the equivalent of Category One protection, and then adopted for the Delaware River basin above Trenton, and its tributaries.

11. No Development in Floodways

Ban all development in floodways, eliminating loopholes and exemptions.

12. Flood Mitigation

Develop basin-wide flood mitigation, that will lessen the impact of flooding on already existing neighborhoods. Develop non-structural mechanisms to help diminish the impact of flooding on these communities.

13. Water Management

We need to better manage our water resources on a regional basis, especially reservoirs, to mitigate flooding, help prevent drought, and maintain the ecological integrity of our rivers. We need to ensure that there is capacity in our reservoirs to hold floods, yet enough water to provide for drought. The Delaware River should be "managed" to prevent the salt-water line from moving up-river.

14. Regional Planning

We cannot manage water without managing land. We need to do a better job of preventing the development that results in more floods. Currently there is no regional planning entity for the Delaware River Basin. We believe the Delaware River Basin Commission should have land-use powers. We also believe that the four States that share the basin (Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania) need to cede such powers - to help prevent overdevelopment from causing more flooding. ♪



Group News

FROM
AROUND
THE
STATE

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

Northwest Jersey Group: Hunterdon, Sussex & Warren
North Jersey Group: Passaic & most of Bergen
Essex County Group: Essex
Hudson-Meadowlands Group: Hudson & SE Bergen
Loantaka Group: Morris & Union
Central Jersey Group: Mercer
Raritan Valley Group: Somerset & Middlesex
Jersey Shore Group: Monmouth
Ocean County Group: Ocean
West Jersey Group: Gloucester, Camden & Burlington
South Jersey Group: Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland & Salem

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

Northwest Jersey Group

(Sussex, Warren and Hunterdon Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Dennis Miranda	973-209-1814	go_native@earthlink.net
Vice-Chair:	Susan Rotter	973-347-8849	rotterls@mindspring.com
Treasurer & Secretary:	Charles Kopp	973-770-7718	cckgp@verizon.net
Political and Publicity:	Christine Feoranzo		cfeoranzo@gmail.com
Membership Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Special Events Chair:	Pat Mangino	862-432-7552	pmangino@aol.com
Delegate to			
Chapt. ExCom:	Christine Feoranzo		cfeoranzo@gmail.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 THIRD THURSDAY of each month at the Grist Mill Café, located in the Andover Post Office Shopping Plaza on Rte 206 (Rte 517 intersection) in Andover. For details, please contact Pat Mangino: 862-432-7552 or pmangino@aol.com. We feature guest speakers, plan hiking trips and address conservation issues.

North Jersey Group

(Passaic and Bergen Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:

Group Co-Chairs:	Betsy Kohn	201-461-4534	BetsyKohn@aol.com
and	Mike Herson	201-262-9472	mikeherson@hotmail.com
Conservation Co-Chairs:	Tom Thompson	201-848-1080	etrans743@aol.com
and	Mike Herson	201-262-9472	mikeherson@hotmail.com
Membership Chair:	Barbara Quigley		blvquigley@yahoo.com
Outings Chair:	Ellen Blumenkrantz		eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Passaic River Issues:	Tricia Aspinwall		taspinwall@hotmail.com
Political Chair:	Greg Tondi	201-935-7162	gregt75@yahoo.com
Program Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Secretary:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Treasurer:	Tom Thompson	201-848-1080	etrans743@aol.com
US Public Lands:	John Kashwick	201-660-8820	johnkashwick@optonline.net
Wildlife:	Mary Ellen Shaw	201-489-1588	
WEBSITE:	http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/North		

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Held at least four times a year. Please contact Betsy or Mike (see above) for dates and locations.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Begin at 7:30pm. For more information, call Betsy (see above) or sign up for e-mail notices of group activities at <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-NORTH-JERSEY-NEWS.html>

No general meetings in July and August.

Sept 6 at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood: Program TBA.

CONSERVATION ISSUES: (1) The severe flood in April has prompted us to stress, at every opportunity, the link between flooding and overdevelopment (impervious surfaces) in our region. This was the second 100-year flood in less than 10 years, and floodwaters at Van Buskirk Island in the Hackensack River were well over six feet deep, more than during the 1999 flood. (2) We are an official objector to the Bergen County Cross-Acceptance Plan, which perpetuates the status quo, lacks environmental safeguards and encourages too much development. (3) In the fight for environmental

Our Political Committee is currently interviewing candidates for the State Legislature, and would appreciate help! Contact your Group's Political Chair or the Chapter Political Chair, Rich Isaac.

justice, we lobbied Sen. Lautenberg for stronger EPA oversight of the Ford superfund toxic sludge site in Ringwood; and in testimony to the DEP, pressed for full compliance by Marcal's Elmwood Park plant with EPA and DEP air pollution regulations. (4) We're helping SaveParamusWetlands.org protect 35 acres of wetlands containing the headwaters of the Musquapsink Brook that feeds into Oradell Reservoir (serving over 750,000 people). (5) We've urged the Freeholders to support the resolution drafted by Wyckoff's open space advocates, calling for preservation of Deep Voll Ravine. (6) Ongoing issues include: saving Latteri Park in Clifton; protecting the Ramapo River watershed lands across the NY/NJ border from plans to build 2,000 housing units; and conserving the Hackensack River's vegetative riparian corridors that aid flood control and provide habitat. Note: Van Buskirk Island is cited in NJ Audubon's Meadowlands area wildlife guide as a special natural resource site where the Eastern Towhee, Baltimore Oriole, Black-crowned Night Heron, and other migratory species have been observed. To find out more about these issues or alert us to others, please contact Mike, Tom or Tricia (see above).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Help protect open space and wildlife or endorse pro-environment candidates to public office. Join the Cool Cities Campaign to promote new energy sources. Lead outings. Develop ideas for educational programs or fundraising. Work on issues of environmental justice, public transportation, or another of your own choosing. For more information about the many ways to help, please contact any group officer (see above).

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

Hudson-Meadowlands Group

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

OFFICERS:

Chair: Louise Taylor 201-886-9320 ltaylor2@nj.rr.com
Vice-Chr,
Conserv. Chr: Mike Selender 201-484-7277 mike_selender@mindspring.com
Treasurer: Charlotte Ermoian 201-224-4553 c.ermoian@att.net
Secretary: Connie Ftera 201-869-7950 cftera@earthlink.net
Political Chair: Melissa McCarthy 201-230-8365 mc.mel@verizon.net
Publicity: *Open Position!*
Parks: Rosemary Arena 201-861-6222 rosemaryarena@cs.com
ExCom Members: Gil Hawkins 201-944-5799 gilc3d2@aol.com
 and Donald Kopczyński 201-224-2641 Littlechops03@netzero.com

NEWS: On Saturday May 12, 2007 the Hudson-Meadowlands Group honored two community activists and an elected official for their efforts in creating the first public park in Guttenberg, NJ. Guttenberg, just a few square miles in area, is the nation's most densely populated municipality. Presentations were made to citizens Renea Pelayo and Lance Goulbourne for spearheading the effort, and to Mayor David Delle Donna of Guttenberg for his decision to have the town buy the land from the developer (who was ready to build). Thomas DeGuise, Hudson County Executive, who coordinated the funding, was also on hand, as well as numerous Guttenberg and North Bergen officials. The main speaker was Helen Manogue, Secretary of the Hudson River Waterfront Conservancy, who gave a history of the efforts to save public access to the waterfront, including the creation of the Hudson River Walkway.

The event also served as a kickoff for two related efforts: 1) to save another piece of land on the Hudson in North Bergen, the adjoining town, from high-rise development, and 2) to prevent the construction of an outsize apartment building proposed for a small space in the cliff next to the transcontinental natural gas pipeline serving New York City. (Plans apparently include digging out the earth around the pipeline, at least temporarily.)

Essex County Group

web-site: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/Essex/>. We are also accessible from the NJ Chapter web site.

OFFICERS:

Chair: Walt Goldenbaum 973-925-8662 goldenb1@optonline.net
Vice Chair,
Political Chair: Chris Weis 973-224-0474 CWeis11@cs.com
Publicity Chair: Walter Clarke 973-723-1642 walterclarke@verizon.net
Outings/Parks: Dave Ogens 973-226-0748 bandit29@aol.com
Treasurer, Fundraising: Linda M. Stiles 973-736-2224 birdlady07052@aol.com
Secretary: Lori Tanner 973-857-0519 ltan1@comcast.net
Event Coordinator: Walt Goldenbaum 973-925-8662 goldenb1@optonline.net
Membership: Barbara Conover 973-748-8054 bconifer022@comcast.net
West Orange Issues: Sally Malanga 973-736-7397 sally@eccobella.com
 Linda M. Stiles 973-736-2224 birdlady07052@aol.com
Member-At-Large: Janine Schaeffer 973-432-2043 janinesch@comcast.net

ACTIVITIES: Presently working with land conservation groups to preserve 120 acres atop the Second Watchung Mountain (known as the West Essex Highlands) in West Orange as open space. Building a Passaic River Display for the Environmental Center in Roseland. Working to preserve a five-acre 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: Held on the SECOND TUESDAY of every month at the Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland, 621-B Eagle Rock Ave (973-228-8776). Please confirm date and time with Walt Goldenbaum (see above), as meeting times can vary.

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

July 10, 7pm: Climate Change: What You Can Do. Please join us as Patrick Hossay, Richard Stockton College Professor, outlines the nature of climate change and what we can do to help address this crisis. Professor Hossay, an authority on sustainable development, will discuss "green" lifestyle choices as well as international, national and local initiatives that will help YOU make a difference.

Loantaka Group

(Morris and Union Counties, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Co-Chairs:	Chris Mills	973-377-1742	chrismills94@yahoo.com
and	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
Treasurer:	Joyce White		joyce00201@yahoo.com
Secretary:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Conservation Chairs:			
Morris County:	Chris Mills	973-377-1742	chrismills94@yahoo.com
Union County:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	hauskerr@aol.com
Cool Cities Chair:	Stefano Crema	973-627-4354	stefcre@aol.com
Political Chair:	Meiling Chin		chinmeiling@yahoo.com
Programs:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Education Coord:	Jeff Huppert	973-263-0344	jeffhup@optonline.net
Fundraising Chair:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	hauskerr@aol.com
Outreach & Events:	Bob Johnson	908-598-0656	robert.johnson@njsierra.org
Publicity Chair:	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
Membership:	Doug Williams	973-263-8404	dougjwilliams@verizon.net
Air Quality Coord:	Bob Campbell	908-273-5720	wrobc_sc@earthlink.net
Webmaster:	Bob Johnson	908-598-0656	robert.johnson@njsierra.org
Greenbrook:	Bob Muska	908-665-2296	rmuska@erols.com

To get involved, come to one of our Executive Committee Meetings (first Tuesday of the month) and get to know us. There are no obligations and there will be no pressure.

For our activities, visit: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka/>

To join our e-mailing list, go to: <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/nj-loantaka-news.html>

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Meetings are held on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St., Chatham. All members are welcome. We have open positions! To find out more, please contact Paul Sanderson.

GENERAL MEETINGS: are held on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at the Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St., Chatham. Come learn something new, and make some new friends. We welcome the chance to meet you and to intro-

(Continued on page 8)



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

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

duce ourselves. Please see the schedule, below, and join us! (DIRECTIONS: are posted on our website : <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka/>.)

MEETING SCHEDULE:

July and August - No General Meetings

Sept 12: To be determined

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

The Loantaka Group is working with concerned citizens and local environmental organizations to protect open space and wildlife habitat in Morris and Union Counties, and to safeguard the water resources on which we all depend. We are also organizing volunteers to help maintain and improve trails in the Morris and Union County Park Systems. In addition, the Group is actively involved in State-wide initiatives involving air quality, transportation, and environmental legislation. Volunteers are always welcome. Call Paul (908-233-2414), Chris (973-377-1742) or Bob Johnson (908-771-9676) for more information.

Third Annual Fundraiser for the Loantaka Group

The Group wishes to thank the following donors who provided "auctionables" for its current fundraising campaign. (***) three stars means that this donor has contributed to all three of our fundraisers.) Patronize them, please!

- \$70 gift certificate for a complete dog grooming. (North Jersey School of Dog Grooming, Chatham)
- Two \$25 gift certificates for lunch or catering order. (Bella Luna Gourmet Deli & Catering, Chatham)
- Two \$25 gift certificates. (Sages Pages Bookstore, Madison ***)
- \$25 gift certificate. (Best Little Luncheonette, Chatham)
- \$25 gift certificate. (The Office Bar & Grill, Summit ***)
- One performance pass for 4 people for any event, 2007-2008 season. (Morristown Community Theatre ***, box office: 973-539-8008)
- Two pair of complimentary tickets, any event, 2007-2008 season. (Colonial Symphony, Morristown; box office: 973-984-7400)
- \$20 gift certificate. (Ahrre's Coffee Roastery, Westfield ***)
- Two tickets to any event, 2007-2008. (Westfield Symphony Orchestra ***)
- Four \$25 gift certificates. (Sterling Hallmark Gift Shop: Chatham, Stirling, & Summit ***)
- Two \$50 gift certificate, with reusable shopping bag. (Whole Foods Supermarket, Millburn ***)

The auction was organized by Eric Hausker.

Central Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Terry Stimpfel	609-918-1149	terystimb@hotmail.com
Vice Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Treasurer:	Bonnie Tillery	609-259-6438	blt44blt@verizon.net
Conservation Chair:	Rocky Swingle	609-587-7568	rockyswingle@optonline.net
Programs Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Membership:	Terry Stimpfel	609-918-1149	terystimb@hotmail.com
Outings:	Ken Mayberg	609-443-9138	kjmayberg@aol.com
And	Leona Fluck	609-259-3734	Leona@pineypaddlers.com
Political Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Publicity:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Members at Large:	Harold Rapp	609-671-0435	HalRapp@aol.com
And	Leona Fluck	609-259-3734	Leona@pineypaddlers.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: All Sierra Club members are invited to attend and learn what's happening in Central. Meetings are held on the FIRST THURSDAY of the month at 7:30 pm. Please contact Terry (above) for details.

GENERAL MEETINGS: We meet at 7:30 pm on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month (except July & Aug) at the West Windsor Branch of the Mercer Co. Library System, 333 North Post Rd, Princeton Junction, corner of Clarksville & Old Post Rds. Meetings are free and open to all - members and public alike. Refreshments provided. Come join us, make new friends, learn and share conservation ideas!

July & Aug: No meetings

Sept 12: Program to be announced. Please visit the Central Group website in late summer: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/central>

SUMMER EVENTS:

Outings: Central has paddling outings scheduled for July 10, July 28, Aug 8, Sept 6, Sept 23, and Sept 30. For details please see the Chapter Outings Section below.

July 28 (Sat): CENTRAL'S SUMMER SOCIAL AND PADDLE at Mercer County Park. Come one and all to enjoy the day at this 2,500-acre park offering hiking, nature, walking and mountain biking trails, picnic facilities, and Mercer Lake used for the US Rowing World Trials. For a relaxing group paddle bring your canoe or kayak. Meet at the Mercer Lake Boat House Marina by 10am. See Chapter Outings below for more details. At Noon we'll begin the picnic at tables under the trees near the boathouse. Paddlers will join the picnic as they return. Please bring a food dish to share with others, and enjoy refreshments provided by Central. After lunch we'll walk, bike and such as folks choose. Park closes at 8pm.

Directions to Mercer County Park: From US Rte 1 at the Quakerbridge Mall, take Quakerbridge Rd. almost 2 1/2 miles and turn left onto Hughes Drive. Proceed on Hughes Drive for 1/2 mile to entrance of Mercer County Park on the left. Drive through the park and turn left at the sign for the Boat House. For updates please visit the Central Group website at <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/central>.

LOCAL ISSUES and ACTIONS the Central Group is currently addressing include: Klockner Woods (Hamilton Twp), Stop Wal-Mart (Lawrenceville), NJ Turnpike Exits 6-

8 Expansion, Camden & Amboy Rail Trail (Washington, Hamilton Twps), Rte 33 Bypass (Hamilton, Washington Twps).

HAVE A FEW HOURS? WILLING TO HELP? CONCERNED? WANT TO TAKE ACTION? Please contact Terry (above)

E-MAIL NOTICES and WEBSITE:

The Central Group's website at <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/central>. To receive last-minute Central Group meeting reminders, please e-mail Laura Lynch at njsierraclub@gmail.com. To receive NJ Chapter-wide issue alert messages, please e-mail Laura Lynch at njsierraclub@gmail.com. To receive timely notices of local events and concerns, please e-mail Terry (above).

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties, approximately)

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

OFFICERS AND CONTACTS:

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

ISSUES: We are fighting development along streams, wetlands, flood plains and steep slopes. We are pro-farmland preservation. Group members are involved in local issues, answering questions for concerned citizens regarding development and monitoring/reviewing all township/regional land use master plans in our area. This includes working to protect threatened and endangered species in these areas. Help us stop developers from buying sub-standard lots and obtaining permits and variances to construct new homes.

Calling All Volunteers: The Raritan Valley Group welcomes you to our activities. Currently, 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 EVERY OTHER MONTH (Sept, Nov, Jan, Mar, & May). Meetings are held at the Unitarian Society of New Brunswick, 176 Tices Lane, East Brunswick. The public is welcome. Take the Ryders Lane exit off Rte 1 towards East Brunswick for 1.2 mi. Make a left turn at the first four-way intersection onto Tices Lane, and the church is the second driveway on the right.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE: Please check with Group officers.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Held at 7pm on the FIRST THURSDAY of every other month beginning with September except for July and August at officer's homes. All Sierra Club members are invited to attend. Please contact the Group Chair for location.

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Dennis Anderson	732-970-4327	dennisaza@aol.com
	6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747		
Vice-Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Secretary:	Joe DeLuca	732-389-1835	joe-deluca@att.net
Conservation Chair:	Faith Teitelbaum	732-229-0553	faithte@aol.com
Webmaster:	George Newsome		newsome1@pobox.com
Treasurer:	Pat Fuschetto	732-308-4588	fusche40@yahoo.com
Political Chair:	Laura Bagwell	732-741-8678	l.bagwell3@verizon.net
Outings Chair:	Mike Verange	908-902-0718	mjverange@aol.com
Membership Chair:	Alan Roseman	732-780-1308	aroseman@monmouth.com
Program Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Fund-raising Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		

GENERAL MEETINGS:

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

Sept 24: Come and join the Cool Cities Campaign. Faith Teitelbaum will present strategies and tools for you to use as you think about approaching your mayor to sign on to the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and becoming a Cool City. This campaign has picked up momentum and we now have 42 cities in New Jersey and 453 in the US. We are making a difference! Come and join us.

Fall Yard Sale Fund-Raiser: Sept 8 (Sat), 9am-1pm, at 143 Eli Harmony Rd, So. Freehold, The group will hold its second fall fund-raising yard sale, along with 20 plus other homes on the same street. We need yard sale items to sell. If you have some to "donate", please call Alan Roseman at 732-780-1308 to make arrangements. Also, please check our website close to the event, as weather and the other houses involved may postpone it. (Eli Harmony Rd runs west from Jackson Mills Rd, and forms the SE border of Turkey Swamp County Park. The home is close to Exit 22 of I-195.)

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
Conserv'n Chr: Margit Meissner-Jackson 609-296-4367 sylviaj1910@yahoo.com
Scty-Treasurer: Richard Washik 732-616-2775 r_washik@hotmail.com
Political Chair: *Open Position!* Contact Greg Auriemma for information.
Publicity: Howard Schwartz 609-242-9304 hrschwartz@comcast.net
Fund-Raising: Joyce M. Isaza 732-920-9270 realtymstr@aol.com
ExCom Member: Sandy Brown 609-242-9304 sandybrown@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.

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.

July 21 (Sat): Our 2nd Annual BBQ-Fundraiser at Windward Beach in Brick from Noon to 4pm. Again, we'll have some good food, games and door prizes and you can take a "dip" to cool off if it's hot. Once again, "Chef Rick" will be manning the grill and "DJ John" will be cranking out the tunes. Tickets are \$20, \$10 for ages 6-10, and ages 5 and under are free. Food donations needed. For more information, contact Joyce Isaza, Fund-Raising Chair (see above).

Aug 18 (Sat): Join us for a hiking day-trip to the NJ Highlands and discover why this is such a special place we need to protect. Details TBA. For more information, contact Dawn Marie Johns, Outings Chair (see above).

Sept 3 (Mon): A "special event" with the "Festival of the Atlantic" orchestra, 7:30 pm. Volunteers needed to help. For more information, contact Joyce Isaza.

Sept 9 (Sun): A "special event" at the Island Beach State Park Plum Festival, 10am to 4pm. Volunteers needed to help. We've also tentatively scheduled a canoe and kayak tour of the sedge islands on the Barnegat Bay side of the park. Contact Joyce Isaza.

Sept 24 (Mon): Our General Meeting at 7pm at the "Skywalk Cafe" in downtown Toms River. Primary topic TBA.

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

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

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.

West Jersey Group does not meet in July or August. Please join us on a hike, paddling or other outing.

Sept 11: Dale Kanterman of Eastern Energy Services will speak about Alternative Energy Solutions.

South Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:

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

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

Current Issues: Two Cape May County campaigns to prevent the use of tropical rain-forest wood for rebuilding oceanfront boardwalks, in Ocean City and Wildwood, are being led by Georgina Shanley [shanleyg2001@yahoo.com]. Club officers and staff have been following closely the several studies seeking to determine sustainable water supply levels for southeastern New Jersey, with the hope that findings will be used by planners (such as those employed by the Pinelands Commission) who authorize development. Other hot issues include proposals to develop several large tracts of environmentally sensitive land in Millville, damage done to sand trails by ATVs, and inducements for public recycling.

Possibly Relevant Meetings:

July 11 (Wed), 6:30 pm: 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.

July 19 (Thurs), 7pm: Atlantic County Friends of the Parks: Monthly meeting of a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Park 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).

July 24 (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!). Our July event is scheduled to be outdoors to highlight a special area of the watershed. For more information or to confirm, call Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. Location TBA; please call.

Aug 4 (Sat), The Atlantic County Park at Estell Manor will host the Pinelands Folk Arts Festival on Saturday, 10am to 5pm. The event is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the Friends of the Parks, Inc. Crafts, demonstrations and entertainers, including folk and bluegrass bands, dance groups, and Native American and other cultural demonstrations. The Park is located at milepost 15 on Rte 50. Free parking. For more information, please contact Rich Hansen at 609-625-6291 or Julie Akers at 856-697-6114.

Aug 15 (Wed), 7pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Bi-monthly meeting, open to the public. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. Warren Fox Nature Center, Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor (milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50).

Aug 16 (Thurs), 7pm: Friends of the Parks: Monthly meeting of Atlantic County Friends of the Parks. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. Warren Fox Nature Center, Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor (milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50).

Sept 12 (Wed), 6:30 pm: 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.

Sept 15 (Sat), Atlantic County Environmental Conference, 8:30 am to 4pm, to be held at the Richard Stockton College of NJ, Pomona, NJ. For information call 609-343-2223

Sept 20 (Thurs), 7pm: Friends of the Parks: Monthly meeting of Atlantic County Friends of the Parks. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. Warren Fox Nature Center, Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor (milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50).

Sept 25 (Tues), 7pm: Members' Meeting of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association. 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).

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: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/Singles/>
 email: lvf77@msn.com (mention "Sierra Club" in your subject line)

The BEST way to be notified of upcoming events is to join our free listserv. Anyone

(Continued on page 10)

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

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

may subscribe by going to: <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-SINGLES-NEWS.html> and clicking on "Join or leave the list". You may subscribe and unsubscribe at will; directions on how to unsubscribe are at the bottom of each announcement. We recommend joining the listserv as some events are advertised only by email. If you prefer not to receive email, you may view an archive of all prior messages at <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-SINGLES-NEWS.html>.

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Bob Johnson	robert.johnson@comcast.net
Outings Chairs:	Joyce Haddad	jkhaddad@juno.com
	Dave Ogens	Bandit29@aol.com
Conservation Chair:	Open Position! Contact us! We need you!	
Treasurer:	Joyce White	joycewhite@netzero.net
Webpage designer:	Tom Miller	millertom@juno.com
Social Chair:	Joe Prebish	Joe.Prebish@kraft.com
Programs:	Open Position! Contact us! We need you!	
Publicity:	Open Position! Contact us! We need you	
Cool Cities Coordinator:	Terry Stimpfel	terystimb@hotmail.com
Membership:	Walter Goldenbaum	goldenb1@optonline.net

Volunteer Opportunities: We need volunteers in all areas of the state to run events. Volunteers needed for the positions of: hike leaders, Fundraising Chair/Co-Chairs, and members of all committees, including social event planners. Please attend an executive committee meeting or email any of the officers if you are interested. You may co-chair any position with a friend, if desired. We're happy to help you learn the ropes.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Casual pizza gathering, introduction to club issues and activities, and letter-writing. SECOND MONDAY of each month starting at 7pm with optional pizza, at the Chatham Library (214 Main St. For directions, see Loantaka Group News. Guest speakers at each meeting at 7:30 pm. \$5 donation at door and RSVP (required for pizza only) to joycewhite@netzero.net or 973-364-7573, ext. 3, by noon the day before. (Please leave name and specify plain or veggie-topping pizza.) Free (and no RSVP required) if you're not having pizza.

No meetings in July or August. Next meeting will be September 10. Guest speakers/films to be announced.

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

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

SOCIAL GATHERINGS:

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

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

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

Head Chair & Coordinator:	Diana Christine Eichholz	MistyAngel22@aol.com
Vice Chair:	William Sevchuk	wsevchuk@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair:	Steve Timmerman	skiingsteve@aol.com
Webmaster:	Julie Garber	journey7@optonline.net

Outings Chair:	Herbert Howie Southall	turbodude750@aim.com
Outings Co-Chair: (Central Jersey)	Open Position! Please Contact Us!	
Outings Co-Chair: (South Jersey)	Open Position! Please Contact Us!	
Ex-Com/New York Rep:	Christine Toth	chris_ann_t@yahoo.com
Ex-Com/YS National Rep. (CA)	Jackie Enfield	jackie@jackieenfield.com

We need Young Sierran Outing Leaders for all areas, but extra especially for the Central and South Jersey areas. We will help you step-by-step through the training process to properly lead hikes and outdoor activities. Reimbursement, insurance and guidance are provided under the Sierra Club's membership. If interested contact Young Sierran Coordinator Diana at MistyAngel22@aol.com or call 732-764-9073.

EVENTS: Volunteers for events throughout New Jersey wanted. Meet great people in your area! Publicity provided. Contact Diana at MistyAngel22@aol.com to RSVP or for more information on any of the events listed below.

July 7 (Sat): Giants Stadium Live Earth Concert for Climate Crisis Fundraiser.
July 14 (Sat) 10am: Singles Hike at NJ Botanical Gardens Ringwood State Park.
July 21 (Sat) 4pm: Summerfest Fireworks at Alba Vineyard in Milford
July 28 (Sat) 2-3pm: Young Sierrans Committee Meeting, Bridgewater Library
July 28 (Sat) 3:30 pm: Public Lecture on Highlands by Phil L'Hommedieu, Bridgewater Library with conversation continued afterwards at the Bridgewater Diner on Rte 22 for dinner. This important Slideshow Presentation and Lecture are Open to All of Any Age.
Aug 3 (Fri) 7pm: Live Outdoor Music at Beechwood Park in South Brunswick, NJ.
Aug 4 (Sat): Philadelphia, Franklin Institute Museum King Tut Exhibit - Open to all and any age Sierra Club Members. Though this event is being organized by the Young Sierrans, due to the rare and unique once-in-a-lifetime nature of this traveling exhibit we are inviting all Sierra Club members to get advance tickets to see this. Contact MistyAngel22@aol.com for more info.
Aug 11 (Sat) 10am: Singles Hike at NJ Botanical Gardens Ringwood State Park.
Aug 18 (Sat): Day at the Beach, Point Pleasant Beach
Aug 25 (Sat): Environmental Educational Young Sierrans Field Trip to Land Fill in Atlantic County with Dinner Meetup in Atlantic City for ECO recycling discussion & large Casino all-you-can-eat buffet.
Sept 8 (Sat) 10am: Singles Hike at Harriman State Park, NY.
Sept 15 (Sat) 6pm: End of Season Baseball Game, Music & Fireworks at Somerset Commerce Ball Park.
Sept 16 (Sun) 10am: Trail Hike at Kittatinny Valley State Park, NJ.
Sept 22 (Sat) 7:30 pm: Bowling at Strike N Spare in Green Brook, NJ. This is our # 1 most popular event in Somerset County and always a lot of fun!

All Events will be announced via The Young Sierrans E-Mail List Serve. To be put on it, send an e-mail to MistyAngel22@aol.com with subject heading "Young Sierrans E-Mail List" - or to subscribe directly go to <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-YOUNG-SIERRANS-NEWS.html>. Events for 20's only are available for those wanting to volunteer to host 20's only events. Young Sierran Event Volunteers always needed and welcomed.

Sierra Student Coalition

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

web site: <http://www.ssc.org/nj/>
 Contact Tejal Kuray; 732-770-2142; tejal.kuray@ssc.org for information.

Inner City Outings Section

(another Chapter-wide special interest activity)

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Marty Cohen	201-670-8383	martincohen@verizon.net
Treasurer:	Anne Dyjak	732-560-0953	annedyjak@verizon.net

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

ICO is currently looking for both additional outing leaders and for more youth service agencies, so if you would like to contribute your time to a great program or 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 and other outings, please contact us.



Outings

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

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

Central Jersey: Leona Fluck 609-259-3734
leona@pineypaddlers.com
Essex County: David Ogens 973-226-0748 (H)
 64 Elm Rd., 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
elblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Northwest Jersey: Pat Mangino, Pmangino@aol.com
Raritan Valley: Vacant
S Jersey: Tom Boghosian, boghosian1@verizon.net
 4794 Andorea Dr., Mays Landing, NJ 08330

West Jersey: Vacant
River Touring: Fred Tocce 908-453-2205 (H)
 Rd 1 Box 277, Washington, NJ 07882
Inner City Outings: Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H)
 NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd., Warren, NJ 07059
Chapter Outings: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417
elblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Outing Leaders: Please send October-December 2007 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before July 31. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it for the previous Sierran, due to the occasional lag in mailing. Also, please send outing rosters or sign-up sheets to the Chapter Office as soon as possible after each outing.

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

Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your October-December 2007, trip write-ups by August 3.

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

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

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

Unless registration is required, such as for weekend trips or river tours, or if you have a question about the outing, it is not necessary to contact the leader before the trip. Do not call to join a trip after the posted deadline

date. When phoning a leader, please honor his or her requested calling times and call 3 to 5 days before the outing. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) when writing to a leader. On popular trips, Sierra Club members will be given preference.

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

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

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

JULY

Jul 4 (Wed): Manasquan River Reservoir, Monmouth County (Special Interest: birds): 9am. Enjoy an easy 5-mile circular hike on one of the largest reservoirs in the area. We may observe water fowl. 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 GSP 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 4 (Wed): Kayak and Fireworks: 6pm. We will meet and paddle the Cooper River (Camden Co.) at a leisurely pace and then enjoy the fireworks display from our kayaks or the river bank. All levels of kayakers welcomed! No rentals available. We will have a bar-b-que after the paddle and during the fireworks. If you are not paddling and would like to join us for the picnic, contact leader. Please bring picnic-type food to share. Contact leader to confirm trip participation and meeting location: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evenings only, or pis1@cccnj.net

Jul 6 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co.) to the Bay: 9am. Learn about geo-caching as we locate caches and enjoy a summer trip on one of the most beautiful Pinelands streams. We paddle 12 miles from Dover Forge to Lanoka Harbor. Meet at Double Trouble Park Headquarters. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jul 7 (Sat): Black River Trail in Chester (Morris Co.): 9:30 am. This time we'll do something just slightly different from our usual winter hikes on this trail. We'll pick up the Blue Trail from Chubb Park and hike over to the Conifer Pass Trail, which is red, then continue our hike to Willowood Arboretum. Willowood has extensive gardens and should be beautiful this time of year. This is a moderate hike of about 8 miles from end to end. We will meet at Willowood Arboretum in Chester and shuttle over to Chubb Park where we will start the hike. We will be out before dark. Hiking boots recommended. Optional dinner afterwards at The Ole Mill Inn. Bring lunch or snack. Please call leader to make sure hike is still on: Leslie McGlynn, failte_629@verizon.net or 973-252-8122. Willowood is on Longview Road in Far Hills. Please do a mapquest to get directions.

Jul 8 (Sun): Singles Kayak Trip: 9am. Paddle the Batsto River (Burlington Co.), one of the most picturesque rivers in the Pines. Bring BBQ type food to share for our tailgate social after the paddle. Limited space, contact leader to reserve space. Meet at Bel-Haven Paddle Sport on Rte 543, Greenbank. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evenings only, or pis1@cccnj.net

Jul 10 (Tue): Paddle with the tide on the Crosswicks/Hamilton-Trenton-Bordertown Marsh, Burlington & Mercer Counties: 9:30 am. Native Americans thrived on these lands more than 10,000 years ago. See where Joseph Bonaparte's Bordertown estate, Point Breeze, was located on the bluffs above the Crosswicks. We'll stop for lunch at Roebing Park and grill hot dogs. Bring something to share at lunch. After lunch we'll walk to Spring Lake to see the swans. Geo-cachers are welcome!!! Please contact leaders to confirm. Meet at Bordertown Beach. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Jul 14 (Sat): Singles Hike, Dinner & Movie: 5pm. 6 miles, easy pace. We will hike Cooper River Park (Camden Co.), then have a picnic-style diner outdoors in the park and then watch an outdoor movie, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding". Meet at parking lot next to the Lobster Shack, Park Drive, Cooper River Park, (get there early) one block south of Rte 70, Merchantville. Bring picnic-type food to share, lawn chair/blanket to sit on. NC/NP. Contact leader for exact meeting location. Need a volunteer to help set up and stay with food during hike. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evenings only, or pis1@cccnj.net Inclement weather cancels.

Jul 19 (Thu): Canoe/Kayak with "Fortunato" on the Wading River, Burlington Co: 10am. This is a trip to enjoy with "your best friend" - so bring your paddlin' pooch!! We'll paddle 10 miles from Hawkins Bridge to Beaver Branch. There will be frequent stops with our "poochie paddlers." Rentals available from Pine Barrens Canoe Rental at www.pinebarrenscanoe.com. Please contact leaders to confirm trip participation: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jul 21 (Sat): Lewis Morris Park (Morris Co.): 10am. We will start at Sunrise Lake, then hike to the parking upper lot and back down to the lake using a combination of the Yellow and Red Trails. The pace will be moderate to slow one. See the Morris County Parks Commission website <http://www.morrisparks.net/asp-parks/Inmain.asp> for directions. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Meet in Sunrise Lake parking lot. Inclement weather cancels. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove, Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com.

Jul 28 (Sat): Singles Moonlight Hike, Burlington Co: 7:30 pm. 6 miles at moderate pace. Enjoy a moonlight hike, under the Buck moon, on sand roads as we listen to the sounds of the summer serenade. Meet in field behind Atsion Office on Rte 206, between Red Lion circle and Hammonton. Bring snack-type food to share at tailgate social after hike, and a chair or blanket. NC. Pets must be leashed at all times. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evenings only, or Pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Jul 28 (Sat): Paddle in Mercer Park: 10am. Bring your canoe or kayak for a relaxing paddle. Meet at the Mercer Lake Boat House Marina. After our morning paddle looking for turtles on the Lake and in Assunpink Creek, we'll have lunch in a picnic grove, then continue around the lake. Also trails for walking and hiking. There are geo-caches in the Park too. Please contact leaders to confirm. Meet at Bordertown Beach. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Jul 28 (Sat): Social Hike in Delaware Water Gap, Sussex & Warren Counties: 5pm. Non-Sierra Club members will be charged \$5, although you can join on the spot and avoid that. This is a singles-oriented activity; however, anyone who is adequately prepared is welcome. Late afternoon hike (prelude to full moon) at Blue Mountain Lakes. We will hike about 4 miles at moderate pace. Hiking boots are recommended and participants should be in good condition. Bring snack, 2 quarts of water, swimsuits & flashlights. The hike must end by 10pm when the area is closed to cars. Meet at the Blue Mountain Lakes parking area. Take Exit 12 on I-80. Drive into Blairstown on Rte 521 North. Turn left at the Rte 94 junction. Then, turn right at the traffic light (leave Rtes 94 and 521). Proceed up steep hill, make right at stop sign, then quick left onto County Road 602 [towards Millbrook, NOT Stillwater]. Take 602 for approximately 7 miles to Millbrook Village. Make right at Millbrook Village and go about 1.5 miles to the Blue Mountain Lakes sign. Turn right, travel a short distance and look for the parking area on the left. We will socialize at the Walpack Inn for dinner after the hike. Rain cancels. Leaders: Bob Johnson and Walt Goldenbaum. Swimming is not a scheduled part of this event. There is no lifeguard. The Sierra Club is not responsible for life saving. Swimming is at your own risk. Parents must supervise their children. Those who wish to carpool, please write to Robert.Johnson@comcast.net. Please note that the Club will not assume responsibility for carpools. The Club does not assign which cars participants ride in. The Club will only make participants aware of who needs, and who is offering, rides. The Sierra Club insurance policy does not cover drivers, vehicle owners, or passengers. RSVP is not necessary for this event. See you all there. However, if you feel the need, write to Robert.Johnson@comcast.net

Jul 29 (Sun): Canoeing/Kayaking skills refresher at Lake Oswego and Oswego River (Burlington Co.): 9am. Event leaders will share information about equipment, safety practices, self-rescue, paddling techniques and efficiencies. New and beginning paddlers are welcome. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Pine Barrens Canoe Rental, 609-726-1515, or www.pinebarrenscanoe.com. Please contact leaders to confirm your participation: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

AUGUST

Aug 1 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek, Ocean Co: 9am. Enjoy a summer paddle in the amber waters of Cedar Creek from Dover Forge into Lanoka Harbor and to Berkeley Park (12 miles). We'll be geo-caching too!! Meet at Double Trouble Park headquarters. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Aug 8 (Wed): Paddle with the tide on the Crosswicks/Hamilton-Trenton-Bordertown Marsh: 9am. From Bordertown to Anchor Thread Park in Hamilton Township (Mercer Co). Bring your lunch and beverages, which we'll eat at the Park and then return to Bordertown. Kayaks over 10ft are recommended for this 14-mile trip. Please contact leaders to confirm: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Aug 11 (Sat): Singles Meteor Shower and Anniversary Hike: 7:30 pm. 6 miles, moderate pace. Short hike and then watch the Perseid Meteor Shower, a solar system spectacular. Bring snack type food to share at tailgate social after hike, blanket or chair to sit on. NP/NC. Meet in field behind Atsion Office on Rte 206, Burlington Co, between Red Lion Circle and Hammonton. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evenings only. Or pis1@cccnj.net

Aug 11 (Sat): Appalachian Trail from Camp Mohican to Rattlesnake Swamp Trail to Catfish Pond, Warren Co: 9:30 am. Moderate hike of about 5 miles. Nice views along the ridge of the Kittatinny Mountains in the Delaware Water Gap. Swimming or boating in Catfish Pond on the way back (you must have your own boat). Hiking boots a must. Bring lunch and water. Directions: I-80 West to exit 12. Right onto Rte 521. Drive North on 521 until you come to Rte 94 (T-junction). Left onto Rte 94. Right at first traffic light. Stay straight, up-hill, and make right and sharp left. This is Rte 602. Stay on 602 and make left onto Gaiser Road, right onto Camp Rd. Follow Camp Rd all the way into the parking lot on your left. Please register for hike with Leslie McGlynn: 973-252-8122, or failte_629@verizon.net.

Aug 11 (Sat): Young Sierrans 20/30s Singles Hike at NJ Botanical Gardens, Ringwood State Park (Passaic Co.): 10am. Moderate Pace for approx. 2 hrs. Please wear good walking shoes and bring water. Meet hiking leader Howie Southall (turbodude750@aol.com) at NJBG in Parking Lot C. You can google NJBG Ringwood State Park. To sign up with the Young Sierrans 20/30s Section or for any additional information please contact Diana: MistyAngel22@aol.com, or 732-764-9073. Steady Rain Cancels.

Aug 12 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak The Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co.): 9am. Enjoy a long summer paddle on the "Egg"! We'll paddle 16+ miles from Penny Pot to Lake Lenape. Meet at the Harley Dawn Diner, Black Horse Pike (US Rte 322); arrive early for breakfast. Please contact leaders to confirm trip participation: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Aug 16 (Thu): Canoe/Kayak The Mullica River, Burlington & Atlantic Cos: 9am. We launch at the old Cotton Mill ruins at Atsion, which are on the south side of the Mullica, one-quarter mile off Rte 206. We paddle about 14 miles to Pleasant Mills. Please contact leaders to confirm trip, logistics and participation. This is a trip for experienced Pines paddlers. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Aug 18 (Sat): Pyramid Mountain, Morris Co: 10am. This will be a 4-5 mile loop hike past Tripod Rock, using a variety of trails. Hiking boots are a must! There is quite a bit of elevation change and significant climbing. See the Morris County Parks website: <http://www.morrisparks.net/asp-parks/pyrntmain.asp> for directions and info. Bring lots of water and lunch. Meet in the Visitor's Center parking lot. Inclement weather cancels. No pets please. Leaders: Jeffrey Sovelove, Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com, and Lee Ousley, Ousleycl@mindspring.net .

Aug 18 (Sat): Singles Sunset Kayak Trip (Burlington Co.): 4pm. Meet in the late afternoon, paddle the Mullica River and watch the sun set on the River. We will have a BBQ at the outfitters after the paddle, so please bring picnic-type food to share. Contact leader to reserve space. Meet at Bel-Haven Paddle Sport, Rte 543, 12 miles east of Hammonton. PFD's must be worn. NC/NP. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evenings only, or pis1@cccnj.net

Aug 19 (Sun): Island Pond Hike/Swim: 10am. Harriman State Park, Rockland County NY. 10-mile hike at a moderate pace with optional swim stop. Rocky trail with a few small hills. Hiking boots required, as well as packed lunch and lots of water. Group limited to 12 adults. Hikers must pre-register. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Aug 24 (Fri): Singles Moonlight Kayak Trip: 9:30 pm. Paddle the Mullica River (Burlington & Atlantic Cos.) under a full moon with a BBQ after the paddle. Some paddling experience required. Limited space, so contact leader to reserve space. Please bring picnic-type food to share after paddle. Meet at Bel-Haven Paddle Sport on Rte 542, 12 miles east of Hammonton. Bring flashlight and whistle. PFD's must be worn. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evenings only, or pis1@cccnj.net

Aug 25 (Sat): Singles Moonlight Hike, Burlington Co: 7:30 pm. 6 miles, moderate pace. Hike dirt roads lit by moonlight in the Pines. Bring swimwear, chair or blanket. Bring snack-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NP/NC. Meet at Lake Oswego parking lot on Lake Oswego Road, off Rte 563, 8 miles S. of Chatsworth. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evenings only, or pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels

Aug 25 (Sat): Mount Taurus, NY: 10am. Moderate 6 miles. A long uphill, but at a moderate pace and with spectacular views of the Hudson Valley. Take the Bear Mountain Bridge to Rte 9D, North 7 miles to Main St (Rte 301). Go left down Main street to the end to meet the group at the train station. Join with AMC. Leader John P. Jurasek, 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10pm), or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

Aug 26 (Sun): Harteshome Woods, Monmouth County: (Special interest: Recent History): 9am. Moderate 6-mile hike has elevation gains and a lot of scenery. Please bring drinks and snacks. Hiking shoes are suggested. Meet at the Rocky Point parking area. Take GSP to exit 117. Take Rte 36 toward Sandy Hook, approx. 10 miles to the Miller St exit. Go to the top of the hill, make a right. Parking area is straight ahead. Bad weather, including high heat index, cancels. Confirmation/questions please call Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718, or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

Aug 30 (Thu): Canoeing/Kayaking skills refresher at Lake Oswego and Oswego River (Burlington Co.): 9am. Event leaders will share information about equipment, safety practices, self-rescue, paddling techniques and efficiencies. New and beginning paddlers are welcome. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Pine Barrens Canoe Rental: 609-726-1515, or www.pinebarrenscanoe.com. Please contact leaders to confirm your participation: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

SEPTEMBER

Sep 6 (Wed): Canoe/kayak the Crosswicks Creek: 9am. Join us as we paddle the NECC headwaters of the Crosswicks Creek. We paddle from New Egypt (Ocean Co.) to takeout at the historic site of Walford in Monmouth County. Meet at Tootie's Family Restaurant, Main St, New Egypt - arrive early for breakfast! Contact Leona to confirm: Leona F, 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Sep 8 (Sat): Holmdel Park: 9am. How about a late summer forest ramble in Monmouth County? Enjoy a moderately fast 2.5-mile hike in 564-acre Holmdel Park, close to where you live, work, and play. Bring lunch & water for after-hike picnic. Hiking boots are not required. This is a great family hike. Take the GSP to exit 117A. Turn right off the ramp and head south on Lloyd Rd to first left on Line Rd. Go 3.1 miles on Line Rd to end. Right on Holmdel Rd for 1.1 miles until first light. Left on Roberts Rd for 0.5 miles. Take first left, then left into Holmdel Park, following signs for Hill Top. Please park in Lot 3, near tennis. Rainy weather cancels. Call: Jim Davoust, 203-214-9305, or davou@att.net (JS)

Sep 8 (Sat): Young Sierrans 20/30s Singles Hike at Harriman State Park, NY: 10am. Meet Leader, Howie Southall (turbodude750@aol.com) at the first parking lot. Moderate to fast-paced hike, approx. 3 hours 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. Rain & inclement weather cancels. After hike: Rodies Bar-N-Grill for food and drinks & often live entertainment. To sign up with the Young Sierrans 20/30s Section, or for any additional information, please contact Diana (MistyAngel22@aol.com, or 732-764-9073). I-87 exit 15A to 7 Lakes Drive, Sloatsberg NY. You can google Harriman State Park; click on the west entrance in Sloatsberg NY.

Sep 9 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek, Ocean Co: 10am. It's George's b'day!! We'll eat cake and paddle Cedar Creek from Ore Pond to Dudley Park (7 miles). If you have a GPS bring it to search for caches when we take our breaks. Please contact leaders to confirm trip participation. Meet at Double Trouble Park Headquarters. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Sep 15 (Sat): Paddle with your pooch on the Oswego River (Burlington Co.): 9am. Fortunato invites his "doggie cousins" to bring their owners on the "Jewel of the Pinelands". Meet at Lake Oswego and enjoy a 7-mile paddle on one of the most beautiful Pineland rivers. For rentals - Pine Barrens Canoe Rental at www.pinebarrenscanoe.com or 609-726-1515. Please call leaders to confirm trip participation: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Sep 15 (Sat): Patriots Path Stroll: 10am. Come take an easy stroll on Patriots Path in Morristown. This 3-5 mile stroll will start from the Speedwell Lake parking lot, 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 elevation gain. We will be strolling at a very moderate pace. Please bring plenty of water and a light snack. Great for beginners. Inclement weather cancels. Optional lunch afterwards. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove, Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com.

(continued on page 12)

Care for more Club involvement? You can sample (and subscribe to) several specialist Club electronic newsletters by logging on to: insider@sierraclub.org, currents@sierraclub.org, www.sierraclub.org/population, and www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming.



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Bagwell, George and Joan Denzer

Legislative Committee
Ken Johanson**, Dave Mattek, Joe Leist,
Carolyn Freeman, Bill Finnegan, Jeff Tittel

Litigation Oversight Committee
Ken Johanson**, Ruth Prince,
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Finance Committee
George Denzer**, Sunil Somalwar,
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Bob Johnson, Dennis Schvejda,
Laura Lynch

Facilities (office, meeting sites)
George Denzer**, Joan Denzer, Bob
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* Indicates Chapter-wide elected ExCom members.
** Indicates committee chair or co-chair

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

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

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

July 14 - at the Chatham Public Library (Morris Co.)

August 11 • September 8 at the New Brunswick Public Library

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

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

Sep 16 (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 County Rte 520 approx. 2 miles into Brookdale Community College, make first right to parking lot #2. Meet in the right back corner. Bad weather, including high heat index, cancels. Confirmation/questions please call Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718, or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

Sep 16 (Sun): Red Hook - Fairway Hike, New York City: 10am. 6-mile walk across the Brooklyn Bridge and on through Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens on the way to Red Hook. Stop for lunch and grocery shopping at the new Fairway, and hopefully dine outside at their waterfront picnic area. After lunch you may return to Manhattan directly on the Water Taxi or explore the Red Hook neighborhood before retracing our path to lower Manhattan. Meet on the west side of Park Row opposite the Brooklyn Bridge walkway entrance. Heavy Rain cancels. Leader: Mike Maurer, 201-395-9565, mike.maurer@mail.com NCA 10pm.

Sep 20 (Thu): Canoe/Kayak The Wading River (Burlington Co.): 10am. The Wading is one of the most popular streams in the Pinelands; but we'll have it to ourselves on a weekday. We'll paddle 10 miles from Hawkins Bridge to Beaver Branch. Rentals available from Pine Barrens Canoe Rental at www.pinebarrenscanoe.com. Please contact leaders to confirm trip participation: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)


Sep 22 (Sat): Four Birds Trail in the Fanny Highlands, Morris Co: 9:30 am. Moderately strenuous hike of about 6 miles on the ridge where we will see some nice views and then finish out on Green Pond Road. Directions: I-80 West to exit 37, Hibernia. Left at light (Green Pond Rd). Stay straight on Green Pond Rd about 15 minutes to the baseball field on your left, just before the RR tracks and Rte 23, New Foundland. Bring lunch or snack. Hiking boots and water are a must for this hike. Please call leader to make sure hike is still on: Leslie McGlynn, faite_629@verizon.net, or 973-252-8122.

Sep 23 (Sun): Paddle with the tide on the Crosswicks/Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh (border of Mercer and Burlington Cos): 11am. Celebrate the Autumnal Equinox with a beautiful trip on the Crosswicks where Native Americans thrived more than 10,000 years ago. We'll have a late lunch at Roebing Park and grill hot dogs. Bring something to share. After lunch we'll walk to Spring Lake to see the swans. Geo-cachers are welcome!!! Please contact leaders to confirm. Meet at Bordentown Beach. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com

Sep 28 (Fri): Singles Moonlight Kayak Trip: 6:30 pm. Paddle the Mullica River, bordering Burlington and Atlantic Counties, under a full moon with a BBQ after the paddle. Some paddling experience required. Open to all members. Limited space, so contact leader to reserve. Please bring picnic-type food to share after paddle. Meet at Bel-Haven Paddle Sport on Rte 542, 12 miles east of Hammonton. Bring flashlight and whistle. PFD's must be worn. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evenings only, or pist1@cccj.net

Sep 29 (Sat): Singles Moonlight Hike, Burlington Co: 7:30 pm. 6 miles, moderate pace. Hike dirt roads in the Pines under the Corn moon. Bring swimwear, chair or blanket. Bring snack-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NP/NC. Meet at Lake Oswego parking lot on Lake Oswego Rd, off Rte 563, 8 miles S. of Chatsworth. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evenings only, or pist1@cccj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Sep 30 (Sun): Canoe/kayak the D&R Canal, Hunterdon Co: 9am. It's the first fall trip of our D&R Canal series as we paddle from Bull Island to Firemens Eddy. We portage at Prallsville Mills and at Lambertville Lock, so bring your portage wheels! Please contact leaders to confirm. Option to dine in Lambertville after the trip. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com



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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. Advertised products and services carry no Club endorsement.

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