

The Jersey..... SIERRAN

Vol. 36, No. 4

More than 23,000 Members in New Jersey

October-December 2007

Sierra Club Endorses State Legislative Candidates for November Elections

by Rich Isaac, our Political Chair (risaacx@aol.com)

On November 6th, the entire State Legislature, serving New Jersey's forty Districts, will be up for re-election - both the 40-member State Senate and the 80-member Assembly. (Each District sends one Senator and two Assemblypersons to Trenton.) Unusually, a dozen of the Senate seats are OPEN, as are 18 of the Assembly seats, making for many COMPETITIVE races. While the Chapter has won some recent legislative victories - most notably passage of the Global Warming Response Act (see story on p.5), many other environmental problems are in desperate need of legislative attention: uncontrolled sprawl, water quality, air quality, waste - so it's more important than ever for Sierra Club members to make their voices heard at the polls.

Over the Summer, Chapter volunteers received questionnaire-responses from many major-party candidates, examined the voting and sponsorship records (of incumbents), conducted interviews, huddled for discussions, and voted both in the

Allowing municipalities to impose **temporary moratoriums on development** - so that they can conduct build-out analyses, environmental resource inventories, vacant land inventories and abandoned building inventories.

Establishing a comprehensive **recycling system for electronic devices and components**, administered by the DEP.

Support for a **Smart Container Act** (not yet introduced) that would establish refundable deposits on all metal, glass, and plastic beverage containers up to 3 liters - to reduce New Jersey's litter.

Support for a **Comprehensive Sexuality Act** (not yet introduced) to protect the health of our young people and reduce the number of unplanned pregnancies.

Willingness to authorize the use of **eminent domain**, under restricted circumstances, to acquire lands for recreation and conservation -- provided lands are protective of drinking water sources.

SIERRA CLUB BALLOT

2007 Election of Officers of the New Jersey Chapter and its Groups and Sections

The Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) meets monthly (on Saturdays) for discussion of state and regional issues, to take policy positions (including legal action) and make political endorsements, hear reports from staff and volunteer issue coordinators, and consider other matters. It consists of nine members elected at large (just below!) for three-year terms, plus delegates from each of our 11 regional Groups. In addition to Groups, the Chapter loosely houses five specialty (optional) Sections: for Singles, Seniors, Young Sierrans, Students, and folk who provide Inner City Outings.

Chapter Ballot: Please vote for UP TO FIVE candidates for Chapter Executive Committee. (All are "Nominating Committee" candidates, i.e. none are "Petition" candidates.) The top three vote-getters will serve three-year terms and the next two will serve two-year terms (as we transition from two-year to three-year terms). (Those whose terms are expiring are Michel Cuillerier, Mike Herson, Rich Isaac, Bob Johnson and Jane Tousman.) 100-word candidate-statements are on page 2. PAIRS of boxes are to enable JOINT members to cast separate votes. Then please vote your GROUP ExCom ballot, below, and SECTION ballot(s) for sections in which you are active; then clip the ENTIRE ballot (retaining your address label, which will be obscured before counting!) and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Dec 1, to **Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton 08618.**

Vote for UP TO FIVE (Name order has been randomized.):

- Rich Isaac Laura Lynch
 Laura Bagwell Mike Herson
 Joan Denzer Jane Tousman
 Bob Johnson

Group and Section Ballots: Please vote only your own GROUP ExCom ballot, overleaf, and SECTION ballot(s) for sections in which you are active; then clip the ENTIRE ballot and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Dec 1, to **Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton 08618.** PAIRS of boxes are to enable two members of family member-

(ballot continued on pg. 2)

2007 LEGISLATIVE ENDORSEMENTS

Senate/Assem.				Senate/Assem.				Senate/Assem.			
Dist.	Assem.	Party	Candidate	Dist.	Assem.	Party	Candidate	Dist.	Assem.	Party	Candidate
01	A	D*	Nelson Albano	14	A	D*	Linda Greenstein	22	A	D*	Linda Stender
02	S	D	Jim Whelan	14	A	D	Wayne DeAngelo	23	S	R*	Leonard Lance
02	A	D	Blondell Spellman	15	S	D*	Shirley Turner	24	S	D	Ed Selby
03	A	D*	John Burzichelli	15	A	D*	Reed Gusciora	24	A	D	Toni Zimmer
03	A	D*	Douglas Fisher	15	A	D*	Bonnie Watson Coleman	24	A	D	Pat Walsh
06	S	D*	John Adler	16	S	R	Christopher "Kip" Bateman	27	A	D*	John F. McKeon
07	S	D	Richard Dennison	16	A	R*	Peter Biondi	31	A	D	L. Harvey Smith
07	A	D*	Herb Conaway	16	A	R	Denise Coyle	31	A	D	Anthony Chiappone
07	A	D*	Jack Conners	17	S	D*	Bob Smith	34	A	D*	Sheila Oliver
08	A	D	Christopher Fifis	17	A	D*	Upendra Chivukula	35	A	D*	Nelida "Nellie" Pou
08	A	D	Tracy Riley	18	S	D*	Barbara Buono	37	S	D*	Loretta Weinberg
09	S	R	Christopher Connors	18	A	D*	Peter Barnes, III	37	A	D*	Valerie Huttle
10	S	D	Britta Forsberg-Wenzel	18	A	D*	Patrick Diegnan, Jr.	37	A	D*	Gordon Johnson
10	A	R*	James Holzapfel	19	S	D*	Joseph Vitale	38	A	D*	Bob Gordon
10	A	R*	David Wolfe	19	A	D*	Joseph Vas	38	A	D*	Joan Voss
11	S	R	Sean Kean	19	A	D*	John Wisniewski	39	A	R*	John Rooney
12	S	D*	Ellen Karcher	20	S	D*	Raymond Lesniak	40	A	R*	David Russo
12	A	D*	Michael Panter	21	S	R*	Tom Kean, Jr.	40	A	R	Scott Rumana
12	A	D	Amy Mallet	21	A	R*	Jon Bramnick				
13	A	R*	Amy Handlin	21	A	R*	Eric Munoz, M.D.				

The Chapter officers also urge all New Jersey voters to vote YES on the BALLOT QUESTION (no number available as of press time) authorizing the issuance of \$200 million in bonds for open space, farmland and historic site preservation

* Incumbent
Highlighted races are those thought to be most competitive!

Chapter Political Committee and Chapter Executive Committee: to determine which candidates best meet our environmental standards. In particular, we considered the candidates' positions on the following legislative initiatives:

The Issues

Bills to expand the existing **Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)** Program, allowing municipalities to apply for program and planning funds.

Bills to require that State buildings be designed and managed in accordance with **green building ("LEED") standards**; and to add enhanced **energy saving construction** requirements to the Uniform Construction Code.

Amending the State Constitution to dedicate up to \$175 million annually from sales and use tax revenue for **open space, farmland, and historic preservation**, and to pay the debt on bonds issued by the Garden State Preservation Trust.

Fighting sprawl by **authorizing all municipalities to receive TDRs** from the Highlands Region and the New Jersey Pinelands, and **authorizing impact fees** from developers.

Support for a **Water Supply Preservation and Protection Fund**, administered by the DEP, for public land and development easements within the Highlands and Pinelands regions.

We also asked candidates to support **restoring DEP staffing levels, traffic performance objectives**, and initiatives to **promote public transit**.

Endorsed Candidates

It would be impossible in this space to provide particulars for each endorsed candidate. Club members (and other readers) are invited to direct questions to the Group Political Chair in your area, identified (by County) in the Group News section in this newsletter. In the box are listed the endorsed candidates by District. Please take particular notice of the races in **Districts 1, 2, 14, and 39**, which we think most likely to be close.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT! If you need to know your election District, more about the race in your District, or help us campaign for an endorsed candidate, please call Richard Isaac at (H) 973-716-0297.

Bear-Hunting in the News: A Plan That's Finally Bearable

By our Chapter staff: Jeff Tittel and Becca Glenn

Our Chapter strongly supports Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Lisa Jackson's bear management policy and is glad to see that it is continuing. We believe that the policy being put in place by the DEP is an important step toward a comprehensive bear management plan, because it focuses on education and non-lethal alternatives to hunting. We also are glad to see that the State has added \$800,000 to the budget for implementation of the plan. With or without a bear hunt in New Jersey,

there will be many aggressive bears, and a real management plan is needed to deal with them.

Education Is the Key

The most important component of a bear management plan is education. More than half a million New Jerseyans live in bear country; many lack experience with bears and do not know how to avoid

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ships to cast votes. Club rules require two more candidates than the number of openings; when an insufficient number of candidates is on offer, write-in slots are provided.

North Jersey Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO FIVE.

- Tricia Aspinwall Mary Ellen Shaw
 Mark Becker Greg Tondi
 Betsy Kohn
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Essex County Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO FIVE.

- Walter Goldenbaum Janine Schaeffer
 Linda M. Stiles Barbara Conover
 Chris Weis
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Loantaka Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO FOUR.

- Paul Sanderson Jeff Huppert
 Bob Johnson Eric Hausker
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Central Jersey Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO FOUR.

- Leona Fluck Malcolm McFarland
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Raritan Valley Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO FIVE.

- Dan Aronson Randy Gill
 Don McBride Sunil Somalwar
 Jane Tousman
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Jersey Shore Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO FOUR.

- Joe DeLuca Alan Roseman
 Faith Teitelbaum George Moffatt
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Ocean County Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO FOUR.

- A. Gregory Auriemma, Esq. Sandy Brown
 Joyce Isaza Helen Henderson
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

South Jersey Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO THREE.

- Tom Boghosian Dick Colby
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Young Sierrans (20s/30s) Section: Candidates for Section ExCom. Please vote for UP TO SEVEN.

- Diana Christine Eichholz Julie Garber
 William Sevchuk Jackie Enfield
 Steve Timmerman
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Statements by Candidates for Chapter Executive Committee

(name order has been randomized):

RICH ISAAC, Essex County Group (risaacx@aol.com):

A Club member since 1976, Rich has served as Chair and Political Chair of the North Jersey, Loantaka Group and Essex County Groups, and organized the Hudson-Meadowlands Group. Now serving as both the Chapter's Political Chair and its Group Effectiveness Chair, Rich was recently appointed to the Club's national Political Committee. For his efforts, he has received the Chapter's Political Action Award in 1992, its Outstanding Group Chairperson Award in 1994, and in 2000, an award for being Essex County Group Chair. Rich enjoys walking with his wife, son, and Frisky (his cocker spaniel) together in the woods.



LAURA BAGWELL, Jersey Shore Group (L.Bagwell3@verizon.net):

As a life member and a Political Chair for the last six years, I care deeply about the environment, and am active at the local level, participating in cleanups, serving on the Red Bank Environmental Commission, and a regional commissioner group that is working to reduce the use of pesticides in our parks, encourage the DEP to enforce environmental regulations, and recommend that towns attempt to reduce their carbon emissions. The Sierra Club has been and continues to be a vital and active organization; it would be an honor for me to serve at the Chapter level. Thank you.



JOAN DENZER, Central Jersey Group (JDenzer73@yahoo.com):

This is a worrisome and exciting time for environmentalists: worrisome because of the Bush Administration's attacks on our accomplishments; exciting because unprecedented membership growth clearly says that the citizens agree with our positions and concerns. Our Chapter, through the efforts of our hard-working staff and volunteers, has been successful in the last few years in furthering our goals of saving open space and keeping our air and water clean. As an ExCom member I would work to continue that success by using experience gained in positions on the state, regional and national levels. I would appreciate your vote.



BOB JOHNSON, Loantaka Group, (Robert.Johnson@comcast.net):

Member since 1993. Life Member, Issue Coordinator for Transportation, Loantaka Group Outreach Chair, NERCC Alternate, Singles Section Chair, Outing leader. Sprawl, driven by automobiles and trucks, is the most serious environmental issue facing New Jersey today. Transportation planning can significantly improve land use patterns and air quality. I continue to explore ways that environmentally efficient transportation (of people and goods) can improve the quality of life in New Jersey. I practice what I preach by bicycling to work and to Sierra Club meetings and functions. As a life-long Republican, I believe the environment should be a non-partisan issue and the Sierra Club should be reaching out to both political parties to promote our agenda. The Sierra Club is the best organization to spearhead positive environmental changes, and I am proud to be a part of it.



LAURA LYNCH, Central Jersey Group, (njsierraclub@gmail.com):

An active Sierra Club member since 1996, I have been Conservation Chair for the West Jersey and Central Jersey Groups, and continue as Conservation Chair for the NJ Chapter. I played an important role in stopping the Millstone Bypass and Route 92, I work with neighborhoods to ensure Green Acres and wetlands protection in central NJ, and I continue to represent the Club at local Planning Board and Township Council meetings. I also represent the Club's views in the Sustainable Lawrence project. In the NJ Chapter, I chair the Conservation Committee, send Action Alerts, and actively participate in decision-making at Chapter meetings.



MIKE HERSON, North Jersey Group, (MikeHerson@hotmail.com):

State Executive-Committee member and Co-Chair for the North Jersey Group; received Sierra Club's Outstanding Volunteer of the Year award for 2006. I have spoken on behalf of the Sierra Club on water-protection, land use, energy and environmental justice issues statewide. I've been working to save the Meadowlands since 1996. My prior experience as a Planning Board member and Environmental Committee Chair taught me how to fight inappropriate development projects. As Highlands Issues Coordinator, I am concerned about protecting the water sources in the Highlands that supply more than half the state's residents. I believe that every person deserves clean air, clean water, open space, parkland and a healthy environment.



JANE TOUSMAN, Raritan Valley Group, (JDTous@aol.com):

Jane is a devoted activist who helped save the Dismal Swamp with over 200 acres of wetlands and forests. She is a certified paralegal and a former President of the Edison Township Council. Efforts have gone into the saving of Roosevelt Long Term Care Facility from privatizing. It is now on the Federal and State Registers. She worked with a citizen group that successfully saved a Revolutionary War site from being developed by Walgreens. She is now an active member of the "Edison Open Space Committee." Currently on the ExCom, she represents the Chapter at Annual Meetings in California.



POPULATION ISSUES COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

A Window on Africa and the Nation of Mali

by Sandeep Bathala, guest columnist

The growing population in Mali of over 13 million people is exacerbating its environmental dilemmas such as deforestation and access to clean water. This poses a threat to future socioeconomic development and community health. With urbanization occurring so rapidly, providing potable water and sanitation services cannot keep up.



In February 2005, I was one of six representatives from Planned Parenthood of Southern New Jersey who traveled to Mali under the Global Partners program and visited the Malienne Association Pour la Promotion et la Protection de la Famille (AMPPF). We learned first-hand how the Global Gag Rule is affecting family planning services throughout the country. According to the Global Gag Rule, international family planning agencies may not receive U.S. funds if they provide abortion services, including counseling or referrals, or lobby to make or keep abortion legal in their own country, even with their own non-U.S. funds. Since AMPPF refused to sign onto the restriction, the agency has lost over \$1 million since 2001.

Some of the consequences include:

- The important work of the agency's education department was reduced. This included educating parents about the dangerous health consequences of female genital cutting (FGC). Ninety-two percent of women indicate they have or plan to have their daughters cut.

- Two trucks donated by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have been abandoned since our partner is financially unable to repair the vehicles used for delivery of services and supplies.

The Global Gag Rule will continue to have serious ramifications with the fertility rate in Mali rising to 6.7, and only 6% of women using a modern form of contraception.

We also saw the effects caused by financial cuts made to the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria. As a result, there is an increased need to divert money from prevention funds to treatment funds. A recent study indicated that 50% of women do not know how to protect themselves and 75% of young people do not think they are at risk for HIV/AIDS.

In September 2006, I was invited by Attie & Goldwater Productions; the Religious Consultation on Population, Reproductive Health and Ethics; and AMPPF to assist with the filming of a documentary on FGC in Mali. I visited a hospital that provided treatment for women who experience obstetric fistula. Obstetric fistula, a devastating childbirth injury caused by unrelieved obstructed labor, affects women and girls living in poverty in the developing world. As a result of their injuries, fistula sufferers leak urine, and sometimes feces, causing others to shun them. Most are relegated to the edges of society, unable to board a bus or share a meal. For those who can't access treatment, their suffering and isolation are life-long. But fistula is both preventable and treat-

(Continued on page 4)

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>

Please vote for CLUB OFFICERS using the ballot on this page...

Chair's Message The Democratic Congress

By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)



I was ecstatic when the Democrats captured control of both houses of Congress in 2006. Until then Bush had control of all three branches of the federal government and the impact upon the environment had been devastating. But now everything was going to change.

Well, maybe not everything. I recognized that Bush, with his regulatory powers and the support of the largely right-wing federal judiciary, would be able to continue to interpret federal environmental laws in a manner inconsistent with their original intent, and I recognized that with the threat of a Bush veto there would be little opportunity to enact new environmentally-friendly legislation. But at least we would be able to prevent additional harm from occurring at the legislative level until a new President took office in 2009.

But then, after the initial euphoria began to wear off, I started to have second thoughts. After all, wasn't it the Democrats from the corn-producing states who were largely responsible for foisting the ethanol scam upon the American public, and isn't it Senator Kennedy, a person for whom I have a great deal of respect, who continues to oppose wind power generation off Cape Cod because he believes the presence of barely visible windmills off the coast will somehow detract from his quality of life? Yet I continued to be optimistic.

But as time went on my optimism began to wane. Where was the Democratic response to the Bush anti-environmental policies, especially his refusal to acknowledge or effectively deal with the threat of global warming? When the Democrats finally did get around to putting together a legislative package dealing with energy and global warming it became clear that many of them, like their Republican predecessors, were more concerned with the short-term economic interests of their constituents than with the well-being, and ultimate survival, of the planet.

Democratic members of Congress from Michigan opposed updating fuel efficiency standards for automobiles and light trucks, Democrats from the corn producing states supported huge subsidies for corn producers and increased reliance on ethanol as a source of energy and Democrats from West Virginia continued to push for subsidies for the gasification of coal and the sequestration of the huge amounts of carbon dioxide that would be produced.

As I attempted to show in the last issue of this newsletter, ethanol is not the answer. The same can be said of coal gasification and carbon dioxide sequestration. The proposal is based entirely on speculation and, if approved, would not only substantially increase carbon dioxide emissions, but also promote further destruction of mountain tops and streams in Appalachia.

The Democratic Congress finally did piece together an energy bill, or I should

say two energy bills. Thomas L. Friedman, in his June 6 column in The New York Times, described the two bills that were then working their way through the Senate and the House as "the sum of all lobbies" (quoting Gal Luft of the Set America Free Coalition), "not the sum of our best ideas." Friedman, as usual, was directly on target. The two bills, while containing some positive provisions, are severely flawed and woefully inadequate. Nor is it likely that the Senate and House conferees will do anything to improve the situation.

The Democrats had their opportunity to make a statement, to stand up to the Bush administration and formulate a comprehensive yet realistic energy policy. Instead they put together a piecemeal package designed to placate members of their caucus and appeal to the general population. Friedman describes the process as "energy politics" not "energy policy."

And then there is the proposal by one of our Democratic legislators to prohibit states from enacting laws designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. California and New Jersey have passed such laws and a number of other states are considering doing the same. In light of the federal government's abdication of responsibility in this area it is essential that states be provided the latitude they need to try to breach the gap. Yet some members of Congress support legislation that would deny states the opportunity to impose requirements that are more restrictive than far weaker requirements under federal law. Representative John Dingell, the prime champion of the proposal and the powerful Democratic chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, has stated that his committee intends to take up such a proposal in the fall.

So where do we go from here? First, clearly, let's not give up on Congress. We need to keep putting pressure on our elected representatives to do the right thing.

But we also need a change in Washington at the executive level. Enormous power vests in the President of the United States. That power can be used as it is being used today to block meaningful reform, or it can be used to galvanize support within the country and within Congress for a realistic and comprehensive energy policy that rises above parochial concerns and deals effectively with the issues that face us today. That is why the upcoming presidential election is so important.

So if you have never been involved in a political campaign, this may be the time. So much hangs in the balance, not only in the environmental area but in so many other areas as well. We, the electorate, need to carefully evaluate the candidates and support and vote for a person who actually believes in protecting the environment and who is prepared to do something about it. The stakes could not be higher.

Volunteer Job Opportunities in New Jersey

As a **grass-roots** organization, most of the Club's power arises from **volunteer** efforts. Here are some Chapter (statewide) roles available to members. We'll train you and perhaps reimburse expenses. Please call Rich Isaac, Group Effectiveness Chair: 973-716-0297, or e-mail him: risaacx@aol.com.

Environmental Attorney - Helping review (and draft!) state environmental legislation.

Inner City Outings - Lead inner-city

children on weekend wilderness adventures.

Advertising Editor - Solicit ads for this Newsletter.

Office Assistant - Help operate the Chapter office in Trenton: answer the phone, direct queries, respond to member-requests, Xeroxing, filing, etc.

Group officers: See the Position Open! notices in the Group News section of this issue.

Editorial The Making of an Environmentalist

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



In June I attended a memorial service for Jim Cronin, an American acquaintance who lived in Britain, and whose unique passions and talents gained him achievements resulting in widespread recognition in the international environmental community. You may have seen some of his TV documentaries titled "Monkey Business."

In 1987 he founded the Ape Rescue Center, in the southern English County of Dorset, which provides a permanent home for (currently) about 160 primates, mostly chimps, orang-utans and gibbons but also monkeys, marmosets, macaques and lemurs -- recovered worldwide after illegal sale to exploitative circuses, beach photographers and laboratories. After veterinary attention and an adjustment period, almost all live out their lives in naturalistic groups in spacious wooded enclosures, designed with many places to climb and forage, and interact socially, but also 'private' space for each animal. The enterprise welcomes paying visitors, so there are glass panels, viewing towers, and plenty of adjacent play equipment for juvenile humans. Breeding was not the original aim, but artificial birth control has failed in many rehabilitated chimps, including some very old females, and opportunities have arisen to participate in breeding programs for endangered species. The website is www.monkeyworld.org.

Two lessons are worth mentioning here. The origin of Jim's environmentalism was described by his brother John (also a prominent environmentalist who studies marine pollution introduced by fish spawned in the PCB-contaminated Hudson River): at the age of three, behind his family home in Yonkers NY,

Jim daily encountered an organ grinder abusing a Capuchin monkey. From that time his future was clear. So the first lesson is that the passion starts young!

My own environmentalism probably has a similar vintage: at a similar age I vaguely remember being admonished to finish eating everything on my plate, by reference to "starving Armenians." It may not have happened at home (my parents denied ever using the ruse), but it happened somewhere, and ever since I have finished every grain of rice, and mopped up every drop of gravy. Still today at the supermarket I fret about wasteful packaging, and make my consumer choices to minimize trash, taking more than a year to fill one bag of household waste.

Jim Cronin's other lesson explains, I think, his success at building his organization, which employs 50 staff, raises considerable amounts of money, and operates educational programs including the natural zoo-park. Jim's talent was not academic - he dropped out of college. But he had the joint knacks of making friends easily (speakers described him as "everyone's best friend"), and of hustling. A rare combination, actually, perhaps owing to Irish-Italian parentage. He would take advantage of a radio talk-show appearance to announce the need for sponsorship of new facilities, or the need to celebrate a chimp's birthday. Judging from the fashion and style displayed by the 350 people attending his memorial service, his "best friendships" extended to the cream of society: many people were happy to have known him, and to have given generously.

I hope any Club members who read this editorial and recognize similar propensities in themselves will not waste them.

Announcing a Sierra Club Northeast Regional Workshop on DISMANTLING RACISM

9-11 November, in Greenwich RI.

Facilitated by the Club's Environmental Justice staff. Intended to promote an expansion of diversity within the Sierra Club.

For information, including the Club's Diversity Statement, please visit www.sierraclub.org/diversity

Training Seminars for Cool Cities Program in the Fall Quarter

The Aug. 13 issue of Newsweek reported that "well funded naysayers who still reject the overwhelming evidence of Climate Change" have confused the general public. A 2006 poll found that "64% of Americans thought there was considerable scientific disagreement on Climate Change"; only one-third thought planetary warming is "mainly caused by things people do."

We will not be able to reach the 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions necessary to avoid Climate Change unless the attitudes of our fellow citizens are drastically changed.

The Club's Cool Cities Program has that goal! We intend to motivate the public to approach elected officials to demand immediate and effective action.

So a series of Training Workshops has been organized — to train volunteers to approach communities and elected officials to face the reality of Climate Change. Please join us:

....if not us, who, if not now, when?...

October 6 - 10:30 am-2:30 pm
Franklin Township Public Library: 485 DeMott Lane, Somerset, 08873

For additional information or to reserve a seat: Email ictonyx@gmail.com, or call 732-371-9961

October 20 - 10am-2pm
Essex County Environmental Center, 621-B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, 07068

For additional information or to reserve a seat: Email mrobinson@parks.essex-countynj.org or call 973-228-8776

November 17 - 10am-2pm
Library of the Chatham, 214 Main Street, Chatham 07928

For additional information or to reserve a seat: Email stefcre@aol.com or call 973-627-4354

Cool Cities Corner

On July 10, Mayor Tim Chell and the Mantua Township (Gloucester County) Council signed on to the Mayor's Agreement on Climate Protection. Thanks go to Bill Freund of the West Jersey Group, who spearheaded the effort. Mantua Township will be reviewing their energy use as a first step in determining where they can update heating, cooling and lighting to more efficient equipment. They have recently completed a walking and biking pathway from the town center to the athletic fields to encourage residents to walk or bike in order to watch their children play. (Supplied by Gina Carola, Chair of our West Jersey Group.)

Ancient Forest Threatened by Jesuit School in West Orange

By Michel Cuillerier, Club member living in West Orange

In a world of challenges and questions pertaining to what is right and what is wrong, we look to our elected officials, church leaders and teachers to enlighten us and lead by example. We look to our educational institutions to be abreast of present-day issues that are confronting us every day.

One of these issues is Global Warming - a stark reality that behooves us to preserve as much forest as we can, to remove some of the carbon dioxide that our every-day activities add to the environment.

Scientists have just released a World Climate Assessment Study, sponsored by the United Nations, stating that Global Warming is caused partly by the deforestation of the planet. Trees recycle carbon dioxide into oxygen; loss of trees causes the sun's rays to be trapped in our atmosphere so that the temperature of the planet increases.

While scientists and our local elected officials encourage us to curtail our use of electricity, and promote the use of products that save energy, other institutions that are usually committed to educating students seem not to be committed to the same environmental goals.

Thus, it is disarming to discover a plan for clear-cutting of old-growth trees within the town of West Orange. I'm writing about the tract of land on Prospect Avenue where Seton Hall Prep wishes to remove several hundred mature trees to expand their practice fields. It seems incongruous that an educational institu-

tion would reverse the United Nations' Climate Assessment Study.

You might ask why such a small tract of undeveloped land is so important. All I can answer is that every time a little bit of green is removed from the planet it has a cumulative effect that can cause irreversible damage to the environment. Nothing lives in isolation - we are all connected; what we do here has consequences.

Seton Hall Prep should follow the example of our elected officials who are fighting for the preservation of forested areas, keeping development at a reasonable scale.

The parcel of land was once the estate of George McClellan, a Civil War general and Governor of New Jersey, who planted a small arboretum. There are several special trees not normally found in most forested areas. One would imagine the historical and cultural significance of this fact would interest Seton Hall to turn this opportunity into an outdoor living-learning experience.

The West Orange Zoning Board of Adjustment was scheduled to consider the plan on Aug 22, after this story went to press. Those curious to know the outcome are welcome to contact me. Anyone with concerns about the decision should feel free to contact Mayor John McKeon at 973-325-4100 or mayor@westorange.org.

Contact Michel Cuillerier at 973-297-5850 (w). Until recently he was Chapter Conservation Vice-Chair.

More pollution in Camden?

By Gina Carola, Chair of our West Jersey Group

A public hearing was held June 26 by the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority, to consider a proposal by St. Lawrence Cement to expand throughput of slag processing from 785,000 metric tons to 1,051,200 metric tons per year, to increase storage capacity, and to increase the height of several emission smokestacks. Emissions include particulates, mercury, lead, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide.

Many citizens from the already overburdened nearby communities of Waterfront South, Morgan Village, Fairview, and Centreville attended the hearing and voiced their objections to the additional burden of pollution to officials of the NJ DEP.

St. Lawrence Cement claims that even if they increase the amount of

slag that they process, they will be able to reduce pollution if they can build higher smokestacks. They claim the higher stacks will enable them to stay within the original parameters in their existing permit so therefore they are not really expanding their throughput.

The NJDEP has not yet ruled on the request to expand but environmental advocacy groups, NJ Sierra included, are keeping a close watch on the outcome.

This is an environmental justice issue, the hardest hit are the immediate neighbors, but pollution does not respect political boundaries, and when it comes to particulate matter and air quality, all of South Jersey suffers from these pollutants!

WINDOW ON AFRICA

(Continued from page 2)

able. On average, fistula repair surgery costs a mere \$300.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that one woman per every two Malian villages has this condition. UNFPA launched the imperative Global Campaign to End Fistula, yet the United States continues to withhold funds from UNFPA (approximately 13% of the fund's annual budget) based on false allegations of its support of forced sterilization/abortion in China. According to the UNFPA, there is a correlation between FGC and a form of obstetric fistula.

Actions You Can Take:

Sierra Club and One by One, a nonprofit organization committed to ending fistula, have partnered to protect women and the environment worldwide. By hosting a Green-Pink party and raising funds for fistula care, you unite two movements and help women with fistula find their voice to protect their health, their children's health and the earth. For more information about how you can host a Green-Pink party go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/population/greenpink/>

Currently there are two bills in Washington which can help Mali and other countries end poverty and improve healthcare. The **Global Poverty Act** (H.R. 1302) would direct the President and USAID to create and implement a comprehensive strategy to reduce poverty worldwide. Specifically, it would ensure that U.S. foreign policy



Mothers lead their daughters into the bush for cutting.

includes implementation of the Millennium Development Goals to alleviate poverty and promote long-term sustainable development, to improve people's lives and the health of our environment. The **Global Democracy Promotion Act** (S.1744/H.R.619) would remove the strings attached to family planning aid that limit how a healthcare provider can counsel a patient.

Contact your members of Congress and ask them to support these bills that will protect both people and the environment. To find out if your members are currently cosponsoring them, go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/legislative/tracker/> and click onto the

Global Poverty Act and the Global Democracy Promotion Act.

News Flash!

On October 17, millions of people around the world will stand up and speak out against poverty and inequality. Last year, more than 23 million people in 87 countries stood up and took action to remind world leaders of their promises to support the Millennium Development Goals. To find out more go to <http://standagainstopoverty.org/>. To organize your own event, contact Cassie Gardener at cassie.gardener@sierraclub.org.

Sandeep Bathala lives in New Jersey and is a consultant with Planned Parenthood of Southern New Jersey.

BEAR HUNTING

(Continued from page 1)

confrontations with them. People need to be taught that bears are wild animals that should be treated with respect and from a distance. Feeding bears as pets are fed is dangerous and will produce aggressive bear behavior, and aggressive bears will be destroyed under New Jersey policy - in other words, a fed bear is a dead bear.

There need to be warning signs to alert residents in bear-country to use appropriate caution. Such residents should be educated to bear-proof their property: removing bird feeders from decks, putting fences around compost piles, and protecting garbage, and they should learn what to do if a bear comes onto their property, including how to deal with any potential confrontation.

Garbage

The State should mandate bear-proof containers and locking dumpsters in bear-country. No garbage should be left out overnight. Garbage is food for bears, attracting more bears to an area, and educating them to be more aggressive.

Other important ways New Jersey can manage its bear population include:

- Protecting their habitat - Every year the State loses 8,000-10,000 acres of land in bear-country. The more we fracture habitat and put houses in the middle of the woods where bears live, the more conflict we will see between bears and humans.

- Bear-proofing important public areas - The State should work with towns and municipalities to put up fencing and take other steps to keep bears out of key areas, such as playgrounds.

- Working with farmers - The State needs to cooperate with the agricultural sector to provide small grants to farmers that allow them to bear-proof their properties and protect them from potential

damage. Some compensation for losses should also be included.

- Conservation officers - The State needs to hire more conservation officers and bear wardens to address bear complaints and educate the public on how to safely live in bear country.

- Non-lethal methods of dealing with conflicts between bears and humans - One of the most important programs that has been cut to the point of near elimination is bear-aversion therapy, which trains bears to be afraid of humans and, thus, to avoid them.

A Step in the Right Direction

This year's State budget includes \$800,000 to implement a bear management plan. The Sierra Club thinks this is a step in the right direction; however, we are not sure where and how that money will be spent. We believe that to truly implement the current plan would take at least an additional \$2 million per year. The State needs to have mailings to homes on living in bear-country, set up warning signs, hold educational programs in every community, expand non-lethal methods of dealing with bears, and hire more conservation officers and bear wardens.

The Club supports the State's policy of euthanizing aggressive bears. This policy is important because one problem bear could lead to dozens of complaints within one neighborhood. We do not believe that a bear hunt is an effective way to manage bears. Hunts take place in the middle of the forest, which is not where the more-aggressive bears are likely to be: hanging out behind someone's garage or under someone's deck.

Without funding and implementing a comprehensive bear management plan, New Jersey will be unbearable.

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.

CONSERVATION ECO-TIP

In Praise of Non-Motorized Lawnmowers

By our Chapter Conservation Chair, Laura Lynch

Call me a Luddite, an oddball, maybe even the laughing stock of the neighborhood: I started using a push-reel mower. Here's why:

Gasoline-powered lawnmowers emit more air pollution than cars do. Every hour that a lawnmower runs, the same amount of air pollution is released as a car driven 100 miles. The 20 million gasoline-powered mowers that are sold each year contribute 10% of mobile hydrocarbon emissions in the United States. They are the largest contributor for non-road hydrocarbon emissions. Plus, the dust that they kick up makes me sneeze.

Push-reel mowers snip grass the way a pair of scissors would. It's healthier for grass than tearing, which is what gasoline-powered mowers do. Reel mowers also spray the grass clippings evenly back onto the lawn, providing nutrients for better growth.

If you're using a push-reel mower for the first time, it helps to start with short grass; push-reels don't handle long grass very well. You might need to bring out the gasoline-powered mower for the first cut of the season. After that, your

grass will stay healthy if you cut less than a third of its length. In just a few months, I have noticed a difference: my neighbor's overzealous landscapers regularly mow into my yard. The grass on that side is short and browning. The grass on my side - the push-reel side - really is greener.

With my little push-reel mower, there's no pouring of gasoline, checking of oil, yanking of cords, wearing of earplugs, or swearing. I just wheel the little mower onto the grass and start cutting while I listen to the birds overhead. And when I'm finished, I don't startle my cats with gale-force sneezes.

For more than you ever wanted to know about push reel-mowers, go to http://www.peoplepoweredmachines.com/info/lawn_links.htm#benefits. To look at gasoline-powered mower pollution data, go to <http://www.mindfully.org/Air/Lawn-Mower-Pollution.htm> and <http://www.peoplepoweredmachines.com/faq-environment.htm>. For more information on sustainability, go to <http://sustainablelawrence.org>, an organization hereby thanked for permission to reprint this Eco-tip.

MEMBER SHOWCASE:

Eric Hausker, Providing Excellent Volunteer Service

By Meiling Chin, Political Chair of our Loantaka Group

For three years, volunteer Eric Hausker has been the chief cook and bottle-washer of fundraising activities on behalf of the Chapter's Loantaka Group. Since 2005, he has conducted three fundraising auctions that raised over \$1800. Eric contacted merchants and other vendors to explain the work of the Sierra Club, and ask for "auctionables." Anyone who has tried asking people for contributions knows this is not easy. In 2005, the first year of the auction, Eric was able to convince twelve benefactors to contribute theatre and concert tickets, gift certificates for merchandise, fair trade coffee, restaurant meals, and even dog grooming services. In the two subsequent auctions the list has grown, and some donors were happy to increase their donations as environmental consciousness has spread.



Photo credit: Meiling Chin

Eric designed a clever 'e-Commerce' mechanism, whereby the auction takes place completely by e-mail. A list of available items with enticing descriptions was e-mailed to our members on the Loantaka list-server. Winning bids were announced two weeks later, and the lucky winners received their gift certificates by snail mail.

The auction has been extremely successful due to Eric's personal commitment, energy and creativity. It seems easy, but we know this could only happen because of all the behind-the-scenes work by our Fundraising Chair.

"Eric is an outstanding volunteer coordinator who has single-handedly created and run this extraordinary fundraising campaign. We're very proud and grateful to have Eric on our ExCom team; he has raised the bar for what committed volunteers can do to help the environment. We commend Eric for his hard work, leadership and 'going the extra mile'," says Paul Sanderson, Chair of the Loantaka Group.

You Can Help: We urge members to patronize these merchants to thank them for their thoughtful support of our environmental activities. The following donors have assisted us three years in a row:

- The Westfield Symphony
- The Morristown Community Theater
- Sages Pages Bookstore, Madison
- The Office Bar & Grill, Summit
- Sterling Hallmark Gift Stores
- Ahrrre's Coffeeshop, Westfield
- Whole Foods, Millburn

New Jersey: Second State with Global Warming Legislation

By Jeff Tittel and Becca Glenn, our Chapter Staff

In June, New Jersey's Global Warming Response Act was passed by both houses of the Legislature and signed by Gov. Corzine. It mandates statewide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and an 80% reduction by 2050. It also includes an emissions portfolio standard and an efficiency portfolio standard.

We are thus committed to doing all we can to limit global warming and greenhouse gas emissions, short of a greenhouse pollution fee (carbon tax). The legislation should promote a cleaner, brighter future, with new high-tech jobs in emerging green industries.

Since the federal government has failed to address global warming, and

R.I.P: Shade Tree Commission

by Mike Herson, Group and Conservation Co-Chair of our North Jersey Group

It is with much sadness that the Oradell (Bergen County) Shade Tree Commission (STC) announced that it would be abolished by the Mayor and Council, effective June 1.

This ended a three-year battle in Oradell between the Commission and certain political elements in the town.

The Shade Tree Commission was dissolved despite a successful record of which the five volunteer Commissioners (Peg Andro, Lorraine Bogert, Andy Marulis, Kathleen Serocke and Paul Smith) are extremely proud. The Commission planted over 400 trees, inspected thousands of trees, reestablished Oradell as a "Tree City USA" after almost a 20-year lapse, contracted out hazardous tree removals, outsourced hundreds of stump removals, and reinstated the celebration of Arbor Day in the Oradell Public School.

Although staffed by volunteers, the Commission worked virtually full time for the Borough. It had a telephone line that recorded non-emergency requests, questions and concerns of the residents. It worked with sidewalk contractors to insure that the roots of Borough-owned trees were not arbitrarily cut so as to compromise the trees' health and structure. The STC instituted regular tree inspections with its outstanding and dedicated Consulting Arborist, Paul Cowie, a New Jersey Certified Tree Expert. During these regular inspections it was not uncommon for more than 50 trees to be evaluated in a given day, with all affected homeowners receiving written pre-notification. The professional evaluations were logged by the Commission and a written work list sent to the Department of Public Works.

In May the Shade Tree Commission completed its fourth town-wide street planting; an additional 83 trees of 11 different species were introduced. Prior to the formation of the STC the Borough's tree inventory consisted almost exclusively of Norway maples; this final planting brought over 30 species of trees to the streets of Oradell.

In addition to the street tree planting, in its final month the STC held three dedications of trees. On May 9th, it dedicated a red horse-chestnut to the founders of the Oradell Girl Scouts, replacing a horse-chestnut that had been donated by the Scouts to commemorate its founding in 1925, but had to be removed because of its unhealthy and hazardous condition.

On May 19th the STC dedicated "twin" Korean mountain-ashes to honor Councilwoman Betty Jane Corbett, who died of ovarian cancer in 1994. The trees were planted flanking Borough Hall, with Borough officials, dignitaries and friends of Betty Jane present. This dedication satisfied the dream of Ms. Corbett's twin, Barbara Corbett Dabrowski, to have the 14 years of public service by her sister formally memorialized in the Borough.

And, on May 25th, the Commission celebrated its final Arbor Day with the Oradell Public School's Fifth Grade Class. School Superintendent Jeffrey Mohre stated in a letter of thanks that, under the STC's leadership, "Oradell is not only a "Tree City USA", but an outdoor classroom for the children of our fine Borough."

Despite its accomplishments, the Oradell Shade Tree Commission found itself under assault as the subject of fabricated controversy. In Fall 2003, the town's newly formed political party, Put Oradell First (POF), made the individuals of the yet-to-be-formed Commission and

its Consulting Arborist the object of verbal personal attacks. In 2004 this party made abolition of the STC one of the main planks of its platform, accusing it of "running the town" - "As town leaders, we will take back control." In 2005 they promised to "abolish the tyrannical Shade Tree Commission." Thus, one of the first orders of business early in 2006 was the introduction of an unsuccessful resolution to abolish the Commission.

Subsequently there was a continued disinformation campaign by the Mayor and members of Council, who never made it clear to residents that the STC, in making decisions regarding Borough-owned trees, was merely performing the role that it was legally given. Throughout the three years of its existence, the POF governing body remained silent while members of the Commission and its consultant were called "tree huggers or "tree Nazis." The invective reached the level of absurdity last Summer with the filing of criminal charges against the STC Chair, Peg Andro, because the Commission would not allow a homeowner to cut the roots of a Borough shade tree.

Although the STC's mission was to protect the town's trees, Borough employees had never been instructed that only the STC was authorized to make non-emergency decisions regarding the public trees. During its tenure the STC was continuously (and increasingly) opposed by the Department of Public Works, whose employees are supposed to carry out the decisions of the STC regarding tree removals, pruning and other tree work.

Unfortunately, in the previous six months there had been an utter lack of attention to the removal of hazardous trees by the Department of Public Works. This forced the already "controversial" Shade Tree Commission to become increasingly vocal; many hazardous trees posed a danger to the public, and became a liability issue to the taxpayers.

A lack of respect by the town's new Borough Administrator escalated the conflict between the STC and the DPW. In contrast to the Borough's previous Administrator, the new Administrator appeared to give the DPW Superintendent carte blanche over trees. For example the DPW "authorized" the clearing of trees and other plant material in wetlands without DEP permits - an action that was vehemently objected to by the STC.

The Shade Tree Commission refused to authorize payment for this clearing of wetlands. In defiance, the payment monies were removed from the Commission's budget account. Although the Mayor and Council were notified, they did nothing to stop payment. The STC's Council Liaison, Donna Alonso, refused to sign the voucher, yet payment was made without her authorization.

STC members believe that what drove the vote to abolish it was an attempt to finally silence the Commissioners because they were whistle-blowers: publicizing the risk to public health and safety from hazardous trees, or the flagrant disregard of DEP regulations, or the issue of the possible misappropriation of funds by Borough employees.

The 5-1 vote leaves the Borough of Oradell without an independent entity dedicated to the protection of the Borough's resources, and paves the way for pay-to-play contractors. The lone vote against abolishing the Commission was cast by the STC's Liaison, Councilwoman Alonso.

(Note: Mike Herson is married to Peg Andro, one of the ousted STC members.)



since the United States emits more greenhouse gases than any other nation, and since the small window most scientists think we have to fix the problem is rapidly closing, state and local governments have had to take the lead on this issue.

New Jersey is especially vulnerable to a global warming-induced rise in sea level that will flood our coastal communities and

threaten our \$34 billion a year coastal tourism industry, to increasingly severe cycles of inland flooding and drought, and to a growing population of vegetation-eating and disease-carrying insects. So we have a particular responsibility to reduce global warming and perhaps offer a model for federal legislation. All New Jerseyans should be proud of the major step we have taken.



Group News

FROM
AROUND
THE
STATE

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

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

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

Northwest Jersey Group

(Sussex, Warren and Hunterdon Counties)

OFFICERS:

Chair, Political Chair: Christine Feoranzo cfeoranzo@gmail.com
Vice-Chair: Susan Rotter 973-347-8849 rotterls@mindspring.com
Conservation Chair: *Open Position!*
Secretary: *Open Position!*
Treasurer: Charles Kopp 973-770-7718 ccgkp@verizon.net
Publicity: *Open Position!*
Membership Chair: *Open Position!*
Outings & Events Chair: Pat Mangino 862-432-7552 pmangino@aol.com
Delegate to Chapt. ExCom: *Open Position!*
Cool Cities Delegate: *Open Position!*

Our Group is reorganizing. Dennis Miranda has stepped down as Chair due to other obligations. Dennis was a wealth of knowledge and an excellent resource. We thank him for the time he gave us.

Our Group will focus on the following goals:

Building a more active and vibrant Group. Scheduling more guest speakers and hosting more frequent outings that are related to the issues that concern our members and the general public.

Our Group will work to change the view our municipal governments have of us, so that we can help motivate the preservation of our region's wilderness.

These goals can not be achieved without the help and commitment of our members. We need to fill our open positions to build a new team. So please come out and meet with us during the next few months. If support does not develop by January, 2008, we will merge back into the North Jersey Group.

MEETINGS: For September through December our Group will meet on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month, at 7pm, at The Grist Mill Café, located in the Andover Post Office Shopping Plaza on Rte 206 (Rte 517 intersection) in Andover.

SPECIAL OUTING - ESPECIALLY FOR GROUP MEMBERS: On Oct 14 (Sun) we will tour the **Lakota Wolf Preserve** near Hainesburg, Warren Co. Meet at 3pm at the Preserve's souvenir shop. The picnic area will be available for our use. The tour will start promptly at 4pm with a 1-mile hike to the wolf area, or you can ride the shuttle. Rain date: Oct 21. Admission charge: \$15 Adult & \$7 children under 12. (No credit cards accepted.) More information on the preserve is available at <http://www.lakotawolf.com>. **Required RSVP** (and questions) to Pat Mangino (862-432-7552) by Oct 6. *Directions to preserve: From the east: I-80 to exit 4. From the west: I-80 to exit 4C. Then Rte 94 north to Hainesburg, left on Mt. Pleasant Rd 1.5 miles to Camp Taylor Campground.*

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
Outings Chair: Ellen Blumenkrantz eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Passaic Issues: Tricia Aspinwall taspinwall@hotmail.com
Political Chair: Greg Tondi gregt75@yahoo.com
Program Chair: *Open Position!*
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 date and location.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Begin at 7:30 pm; dates and locations indicated below. 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>

Oct 4 at the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, 113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood: **"Kilowatt Ours,"** a film about energy solutions that can help save on costs while reducing carbon emissions harmful to the environment and health. An informative and engaging film with helpful energy tips for homeowners and municipal officials alike.

Nov 8 at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood: **"Controlling Growth and Development,"** a Center for Civic Responsibility training for citizens who want to understand the ins and outs of planning boards and have an impact on their town's Master Plan.

CONSERVATION ISSUES. Below are updates on a few current and ongoing issues. For more information, please contact Mike, Tom, Betsy, or Tricia (see above).

1. Over 100 people urged the DEP at a hearing in August to deny applications for freshwater wetlands and stream encroachment permits to develop the 35-acre Soldier Hill site in Paramus, which contains wetlands and the headwaters of the Musquapsink Brook that flows into the Oradell Reservoir. A decision is expected by fall. Mark Distler and Ed Onorato at SaveParamusWetlands.com are to be highly commended for the great turnout and their leadership on this issue!

2. We oppose the plan to give Bergen County's Planner the authority to advance applications to the open space trust fund and add new projects after the advisory committee has completed its review and submitted recommendations to the Freeholders. In effect, the Planner will become the de facto gatekeeper to the trust fund, and this will undermine the independence of the citizen-based advisory committee, as well as the integrity of the application process. The county trust fund is in jeopardy of becoming politicized.

3. The campaign to save Deep Voll Ravine and woodlands in Wyckoff as a nature preserve gained the Freeholders' support in May. Open space advocates are now requesting a DEP public hearing on the developer's wetlands and stream encroachment permit applications. You can help too by writing: NJ DEP, Land Use Regulation Program, Attn: Bergen County Section Chief, PO Box 439, Trenton, New Jersey 08625. For more information: SaveTheRavine.org and FriendsOfWyckoff.org.

4. We continue to be vigilant about Latteri Park in Clifton; Marcal's emissions in Elmwood Park; the Ramapo Highlands on the NY/NJ border where huge housing projects are being proposed on watershed land; Hackensack River's vegetative riparian corridors, essential for habitat and flood control; and Van Buskirk Island, recognized in a NJ Audubon wildlife guide as a special natural resource site where the Eastern Towhee, Baltimore Oriole, Black-crowned Night Heron, and other migratory species have been seen.

BECOME A SIERRA CLUB VOLUNTEER! To find out how you can help us with conservation issues, political endorsements, outings, general meetings, Cool Cities Campaign, recycling, environmental justice or other issues, please contact Betsy or Mike (see above).

RECYCLE PRINTER CARTRIDGES! Please leave your used printer cartridges in the window box by the exit door at Whole Foods Market, 905 River Road in Edgewater (open 8am to 10pm every day). No remanufactured cartridges, please. Thank you for recycling and supporting the 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 Kopczynski 201-224-2641 Littlechops03@netzero.com

Meetings and news: Please contact any of the officers listed above.

Essex County Group

web-site: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/Essex/>. Or click from the NJ Chapter's website.

OFFICERS:

Chair: Walt Goldenbaum 973-925-8662 goldenb1@optonline.net
Vice Chair: Janine Schaeffer 973-432-2043 janinesch@comcast.net
Conserv,
Political Chair: Chris Weis 973-224-0474 CWeis11@cs.com
Conservation
Vice-chair: Linda M. Stiles 973-736-2224 birdlady07052@aol.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

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

"We have finally created social equity in New Jersey, because we have people in \$3 million condos living on top of toxic sites, not just working and poor people." Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director, in the New York Times, Monday, Oct. 02, 2006.

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.

Oct 9: "End of Suburbia" Video and Discussion. Join us in viewing a film discussing the declining supply of cheap energy in fossil fuels and its effects on society. It forces the audience to question the sustainability of life and the consequences of society's inaction about the oil crisis and the standard "American Dream." Support Local Energy Solutions with a suggested donation of \$10 per person.

Oct 20: 10am to 1:30 pm: Cool Cites Essex Training. Want to help curb global warming but don't know where to start? The Sierra Club-Essex County Group invites you to join them for an instructional session on the Cool Cities campaign, which aims to solve global warming issues through grassroots activism. This training will be half presentation and half working meeting, so bring a pad, pen, bag lunch, and enthusiasm. Register in advance by calling 973-228-8776.

Nov 13: Passaic River: 81 Miles of History. We present Philip Jaegar, who will follow the history of the Passaic River through seven counties, from Mendham to the Newark Bay. The focus will be on early mills, Glacial Lake Passaic, the first successful test of a submarine and the river's impact on history.

Dec 4: Nature, Wildlife and Landscapes of the Caribbean. We will present Jeff Sovelove, who will display his beautiful photos taken on cruises to Belize, Costa Rica, Grand Turk and other Caribbean islands. Some highlighted items in the photos are birds, reptiles and sloths.

Loantaka Group

(Morris and Union Counties, approximately)

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

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

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

To find out our activities, go to: <http://loantaka.njsierra.org>

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Meetings are held on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St., Chatham.

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

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

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

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

MEETING SCHEDULE:
 Oct 10: To be determined - please see our Website
 Nov 14: To be determined - please see our Website
 Dec 12: To be determined - please see our Website

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

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

Central Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:			
Chair:	Terry Stimpfel	609-918-1149	terystimb@hotmail.com
Vice Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Secretary:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Treasurer:	Bonnie Tillery	609-259-6438	blt44blt@verizon.net
Conservation			
Chair:	Rocky Swingle	609-587-7568	rockyswingle@optonline.net
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:	Terry Stimpfel	609-918-1149	terystimb@hotmail.com
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
	And Malcolm McFarland	609-448-8699	jmalcolmmcfarland@verizon.net

The Central Group's website is <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/central>.

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!

Oct 10: The Truth About Oyster Creek. Richard Webster, Esq. Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic and Eastern Environmental Law Center. Leslie Cifelli, Oyster Creek Generating Station, Exelon. Hear a presentation followed by a Q&A with the experts.

(Continued on page 8)

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GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

Richard draws on his physics and mechanical engineering background, to head the legal challenge by NJ environmental groups to re-licensing OC. Leslie is OC public relations spokesperson for Exelon in their application for a 20-year operating license.

Nov 14: Cool Cities - Too warm to be cool? Sierra Cool Cities campaign is a framework for organizations, groups and individuals to influence global warming starting locally. Presented by NJ Cool Cities Committee members & Terry Stimpfel.

Dec: No meeting. Enjoy the holidays.

OUTINGS: For information on Central Group Outings see the NJ Chapter Outings listed in this Sierran.

LOCAL ISSUES and ACTIONS the Central Group is currently addressing include: Klockner Woods (Hamilton Twp), Rte 33 Woods (Hamilton), NJ Turnpike Exits 6-8 Expansion, Camden & Amboy Rail-Trail (Washington, Hamilton Twps), Rte 33 By-pass (Hamilton, Washington Twps).

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

E-MAIL NOTICES: Please e-mail Terry (above) to receive up-to-the-minute Central Group meeting reminders and notices of local events. To receive NJ Sierra Chapter-wide Issue Alert messages, please e-mail Laura Lynch at njsierraclub@gmail.com.

Special Event: Nov. 9 (Sat): 9am-Noon. Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh Cleanup. Contact Warren Libensperger, 609-585-8845.

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties, approximately)

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

OFFICERS AND CONTACTS:

Chair:	Sandi Lowich		abstract46@aol.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, Webmaster:	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
At-large ExCom Member:	Dan Aronson		

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. We are also focusing on addressing global warming at the local level.

Calling All Volunteers: The Raritan Valley Group welcomes you to our activities. Currently, the positions of Vice-Chair, Outings Chair and Secretary are open. If you are interested in filling an open position, contact Sandi Lowich, the Group Chair.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held at 7:30 pm on the SECOND MONDAY of the month except for July and August. Meetings are held at the Unitarian Society of New Brunswick, 176 Tices Lane, East Brunswick. Take the Ryders Lane exit off Rte 1 towards East Brunswick. Make a left turn at the first four-way intersection onto Tices Lane, and the church is the second driveway on the right. The public is invited and refreshments are served. For further directions and information, visit our website.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

Oct 8: The Raritan River: Robert Spiegel and Dave Wheeler of the Edison Wetlands Association will give a power-point presentation on environmental threats to the Raritan River, conservation efforts, and the return of migratory birds to the river.

Nov 12: To be determined - please check the website.

Dec 10: Meet and Greet: Holiday get-together. Bring light food to share. Meet other Sierra Club members and enjoy a special presentation.

COOL CITIES TRAINING SESSION: Will be held at the Franklin Township Public Library, 485 DeMott Lane, Somerset, on Oct 6 from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. Email ictonyx@gmail.com for additional information.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Held at 7pm on the SECOND MONDAY of October, January, April and July (before the General Meetings and at the same location). All Sierra Club members are invited to attend.

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	faithtei@aol.com
Webmaster:	George Newsome		newsome1@pobox.com

Treasurer:	Pat Fuschetto	732-308-4588	fusche40@yahoo.com
Political Chair:	Laura Bagwell	732-741-8678	l.bagwell3@verizon.net
Outings Chair:	Mike Verange	908-902-0718	mjverange@aol.com
Membership Chair:	Alan Roseman	732-780-1308	aroseman@monmouth.com
Program Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Fund-raising Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Held at 8pm on the FOURTH MONDAY of each month - except in July, August and December - at a NEW location: the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse at 1475 West Front Street in Lincroft (please check the congregation's website for directions: <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.

Oct 22: Wild Alaska — Is It Really Protected? Some of the last remaining wild areas in this country are in Alaska — the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Tongass and Chugach National Forests, and the Western Arctic. Join us as **Julia Millan Shaw** of the Alaska Wilderness League explains some of the League's projects that advocate for wild Alaska, and presents a legislative update and some actions that we can take to support their work.

Nov 26: Design of Rain Gardens and Bio-retention Systems. Learn how to make your garden more rain water friendly, with **William H. Pearce**, P.E., Senior Environmental Engineer, New Jersey American Water, Lakewood.

Dec 2: 3pm. Holiday Party, held at a member's home. Call Dennis (732-970-4327) for location.

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-Chair,			
Outings:	Dawn Marie Johns	732-269-3729	sierraclubOC@hotmail.com
Conservation			
Chair:	Margit Meissner-Jackson	609-296-4367	sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com
Secretary-			
Treasurer:	Richard Washik	732-616-2775	r_washik@hotmail.com
Political Chair:	Nancy Brown	732-892-6089	
Publicity Chair:	Howard Schwartz	609-242-9304	hirschschwartz@comcast.net
Fund-Raising:	Joyce M. Isaza	732-920-9270	realtymstr@aol.com
Membership Chair:	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

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

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) usually on the FOURTH MONDAY at 7pm at the "Skywalk Cafe" in the Ocean County Administration Building, 129 Hooper Avenue (2nd Floor), Toms River. See our Website for directions. We've recently purchased a new computer projector and large screen, which has made our meetings even more dynamic, interactive and interesting.

ACTIVITIES & ISSUES: We recently celebrated our 2nd Anniversary as a Group! And 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 with special emphasis on the massive "over-development" of Jackson Township which will impact the drinking water for Brick, Pt Pleasant, Pt Pleasant Beach and Ram-Town (Howell). We're also involved in the campaigns to create a new park at "Anchor Reef" on Barnegat Bay and to stop "nitrogen pollution" of the Bay. We're also fighting to 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 all issues, membership outreach, tabling at local events, fund-raising, and a computer-based voter education program.

Oct 7 (Sun): A special event at the **Cattus Island Nature Festival** in Toms River. We'll be showing an NJN Film, "Turning the Tide" on wetlands issues and "tabling" throughout the day. A free canoe trip will also be available. Pre-registration is required for the trip. Volunteers needed.

Oct 13 (Sat): A special event at the **Pinelands Jamboree** at Wells Mills County Park. Give us a hand by volunteering for part of the day at our information table. In addition to the exhibits at the Jamboree, Dawn Marie Johns will be holding hikes during the day within the park.

Oct 20 (Sat): New date for our **Fall Hike**. Check our Website for details. Note our Outings Programs have become very popular. We've had folks from as far away as Australia participate! Special thanks to Outings Chair, Dawn Marie Johns for making the program a success. This will probably be our last outing till the Spring, so mark your calendar!

Nov 19 (Mon): Our next GENERAL MEETING with a **preview of the 2008 elections**. Main topic TBA.

Dec 14 (Fri): Our **3rd annual holiday party & silent auction** at the Skywalk Cafe in Toms River. If you missed this event last year, don't miss it this year which will be even better. Thanks to Joyce Isaza, our hard-working Fundraising Chair, we had dona-

tions from more than 50 Ocean County businesses. Many auction items, including 2 new donated kayaks sold for 50% of retail value. Feedback from our members was, "WOW!" Have some fun, find a bargain and help our Group raise much needed funds.

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!

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Gina Carola	856-848-8831	ginacee@verizon.net
Vice-Chair:	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@verizon.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:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Programs Chair:	Bill Freund	609-440-6228	wdf711@hotmail.com
Outings Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		

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

Oct 9: Nick Brown from Community Energy [Wind] will speak about the merits of wind energy.

Nov 13: A representative of NJ Board of Public Utilities will talk about the NJ Clean Energy Program.

Dec 11: Annual Pot Luck Holiday Party and Year-End Wrap-up. Bring a friend that has never attended a West Group meeting and bring your favorite munchie to share and join us as we review our environmental successes of 2007 and plan for the challenges that we will face in 2008 as we work to save the planet.

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

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:

Sept 20 (Thurs) 7pm: Atlantic County Friends of the Parks: Monthly meeting. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. Warren Fox Nature Center (WFNC*): 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. WFNC* (see above).

Oct 17 (Wed) 7pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Bi-monthly meeting, open to the public. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. WFNC* (see above).

Oct 18 (Thurs) 7pm: Friends of the Parks: Monthly meeting of Friends of the Parks, a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Parks System. A focal point is preservation of historic resources in the parks, along with advocacy for environmental attributes of parklands in fast-growing Atlantic County. All are welcome. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. WFNC* (see above).

Oct 23 (Tues) 7pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: Trustees' meeting, open to the public. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. WFNC* (see above).

Nov 14 (Wed) 6:30pm: Bi-monthly meeting of **Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries**. Meeting place: Gant Room, Millville Public Library, 210 Buck

Street. Cumberland County development issues are commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Renee Scagnelli (CU) at 856-305-3238 or DRScagnelli@comcast.net.

Nov 15 (Thurs) 7pm: Friends of the Parks: Monthly meeting. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. WFNC* (see above).

Nov 27 (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**, at a public (membership) session of the Watershed Association (an organization that once got its start as our Group Executive Committee!). For more information or to confirm, call Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. WFNC* (see above).

Dec 13 (Thurs) 6pm: Friends of the Parks: Monthly meeting of **Friends of the Parks and Pot-Luck Holiday Dinner**. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. WFNC* (see above).

Dec 19 (Wed), 7pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Bi-monthly meeting, open to the public. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. WFNC* (see above).

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

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Bob Johnson	robert.johnson@comcast.net
Outings Chairs:	Joyce Haddad	jkhaddad@juno.com
	Dave Ogens	Bandit29@aol.com
Conservation Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Treasurer:	Joyce White	joycewhite@netzero.net
Webpage designer:	Tom Miller	millertom@juno.com
Social Chair:	Joe Prebish	Joe.Prebish(at)kraft.com
Programs:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Publicity:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
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, 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 (except July/Aug) starting at 7pm with optional pizza, at the Chatham Library (214 Main St). Guest speakers at each meeting at 7:30 pm. \$5 donation at door and RSVP (required for pizza only) to [joycewhite\(at\)netzero.net](mailto:joycewhite(at)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.

Next meetings will be Oct 8, Nov 12, and Dec 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 also oriented toward singles.

(continued on page 10)

Become active in one of your Group's conservation campaigns! Attend a Group meeting! Meetings offer interesting speakers and topics, nice fellow-members, and usually food!

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

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," by which members learn about current environmental issues, and how they can be supported. Issues range from local to State to national.

Nancy Carringer is the founding Coordinator of this Section, but she is now leaving New Jersey. She leaves this message: *"I've enjoyed working with the Sierra Seniors and the FiftyPlus News. It has been fun watching membership grow (we reached 102 members in June. Now summer vacations have us holding steady at 99. Some members have been with us since we started back in '04)! I know many of you have not only participated in activities, but also been faithful participants in "action alerts." Thanks for getting involved.*

I have relocated to Massachusetts, and look forward to getting involved in the Massachusetts Chapter. Arline Zatz has volunteered to replace me. We will co-lead until she feels comfortable flying solo. Arline has been active in Sierra Club, as well as running her own group called "FunTravels." Her e-mail address is azatz@funtravels.com. Feel free to check in with her. And I hope you'll stay in touch with me 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
Ex-Com/YS National Rep. (CA)	Jackie Enfield	jackie@jackieenfield.com
Outings Chair:	Herbert Howie Southall	turbodude750@aim.com
Outings Co-Chair: (Central Jersey)	<i>Open Position!</i>	Please Contact Us!
Outings Co-Chair: (South Jersey)	<i>Open Position!</i>	Please Contact Us!

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.

- Sept 29 (Sat) 6 pm:** 20/30s Dinner & Game Night in Somerset County
Oct 5 (Fri) 6 pm: 20/30s Singles Mingles Happy Hour in Middlesex County
Oct 13 (Sat) 12 pm: 20/30s Hike at NJ Botanical Gardens Ringwood State Park
Oct 20 (Sat) 3 pm: 20/30s Walk at Jockey Hollow Morris County
Oct 27 (Sat): Wolf Tour at Lakota Preserve in Warren County Open to All Ages
Nov 2 (Fri) 6 PM: 20/30s Singles Mingle in Morris County
Nov 10 (Sat) 12 pm: 20/30s Hike at Harriman State Park, NY
Nov 17 (Sat) 7:30 pm: 20/30s Bowling in Somerset County, our # 1 most popular event in Somerset County!
Dec 1 (Sat) 8 pm: 20/30s Singles Dinner in Princeton & Live Band Music! Enjoy Christmas in Princeton!
Jan 26 (Sat) 2-3pm: Young Sierrans Committee Meeting, Bridgewater Library
Jan 26 (Sat) 3 pm: Public Lecture & Slide Show Presentation on Alaska Wilderness by Julia Shaw from the Alaskan Wilderness League in the Bridgewater Library with letter writing, and question & answer discussion session. This important Slideshow Presentation and Lecture are Open to All of Any Age. www.AlaskaWild.org
Jan 26 (Sat) 5:30 pm: Dinner at The Office Grill on route 22 in Somerset County. Open to all ages.
Jan 26 (Sat) 7:30 pm: Game Night at The Office Grill. Open to all ages. Last time we had 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.

To Autumn (John Keats, 1795-1821)

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness!
 Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
 Conspiring with him how to load and bless
 With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;
 To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
 And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
 To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
 With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
 And still more, later flowers for the bees,
 Until they think warm days will never cease,
 For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells. . .*



Outings

Learn more about your environment...

take a Sierra Club educational hike!

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

- Central Jersey:** Ken Mayberg kjmayberg@aol.com
Essex County: David Ogens 973-226-0748 (H)
 64 Elm Rd, Caldwell 07003
Hudson-Meadowlands: Vacant
Hunterdon: Susan Schirmer 908-996-7722 (H)
Jersey Shore: Mike Verange 908-732-8364 (H)
 1497 W Front St, Lincroft, NJ 07738
Loantaka: Joyce White 908-272-4478 (H)
joyce00201@yahoo.com
North Jersey: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417
eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Northwest Jersey: Pat Mangino, Pmangino@aol.com
Raritan Valley: Vacant
South Jersey: Tom Boghosian 609-625-0878 (H)
 4794 Andorea Drive, Mays Landing, 08330
boghosian1@verizon.net
West Jersey: Vacant
River Touring: Fred Tocce 908-453-2205 (H)
 Rd 1 Box 277, Washington, NJ 07882
Inner City Outings: Marty Cohen 201-670-8383 (H)
MartinCohen@verizon.net
Chapter Outings: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417
eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Outing Leaders: Please send January-March 2008 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before October 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 January-March 2008, trip write-ups by November 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 equip-

ment, 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.

