

The Jersey..... SIERRAN

Vol. 37, No. 1 Roughly 23,000 Members in New Jersey January-March 2008

New Jersey Election Results – 2007

By Rich Isaac, Chapter Political Chair

Ballot Question for Open Space

Clearly the most important result of the 2007 election was the passage of Ballot Question #3, which authorized the State to issue \$200 million in bonds for open space, farmland, blue acres, and historic site preservation. In a low-turnout election with organized and well-financed opposition to all ballot measures, Ballot Question #3 was the only ballot question requiring funding that passed, and it did so with 54 percent of the vote. The passage of this stop-gap measure allows the State's Green Acres program to continue for one year while the new legislature works to establish a long-term, stable source of funding to preserve New Jersey's remaining open space.



well positioning our Chapter in our advocacy of the environment. While we generally did well in Senate races, we regret incumbent Sen. Karcher's loss in the 12th Legislative District to challenger Assemblywoman Jennifer Beck. We will miss Ms. Karcher, who had a

strong environmental record, but congratulate Ms. Beck on her victory, and look forward to establishing a good working relationship with her.

Shortly after the election the Senate Republicans selected Sen. Tom Kean, Jr. as their new Minority Leader, replacing Sen. Leonard Lance, an outstanding environmentalist and an invaluable friend. However, Sen. Kean is just as strong an environmentalist; he helped us pass clean car legislation and other key bills. We are glad to see another strong friend holding that position.

On the other side of the aisle, the

Senate Democrats replaced retiring Sen. Bernard Kenny, Jr. with Sen. Stephen Sweeney, who has been helpful with some statewide issues in the past, and who has been particularly helpful with issues in Gloucester County where he has just stepped down as Freeholder Director.

Assembly Races

Thirty-four of the forty-one Club-endorsed State Assembly candidates won, an 83% success rate. In legislative districts with close elections, we were glad to see wins by incumbents Herb Conaway and Jack Conners in LD-7, Linda Greenstein and Wayne DeAngelo in LD-14, and John Rooney and Charlotte Vandervalk in LD-39. With over 42 percent of the 80-member Assembly now comprised of Club-endorsed legislators, we will continue to have strong, credible supporters for a variety of our environmental issues.

More Women Legislators

Women picked up nine seats in the

State Assembly, and two seats in the State Senate. In just four years, New Jersey's national ranking for women legislators has gone from 43rd to 15th, a major improvement.

New Jersey Clean Elections Program

Established in 2007, New Jersey's Clean Elections Program is a voluntary, experimental, full public campaign-financing program for candidates seeking election in three State Senate and Assembly districts. The three districts selected last November were the 14th, 24th and 37th, of which only one, the 14th (Mercer Co), is "competitive." The results were muddled: providing public funding certainly had no impact whatsoever in Republican LD-24, nor in Democratic LD-37. In LD-14, organized outside lobbying exposed a possible loophole in the program, calling into question whether it will eventually be expanded throughout the state.

2007 ELECTION OUTCOMES

Ballot Question #3 (\$200 million for open space): Won (54% voting yes)

Legislative Endorsements:

	Senate	Assembly
Wins	14	34
Losses	4	7

Senate/					Senate/					Senate/				
Dist.	Assem.	Party	Candidate	+ = Win	Dist.	Assem.	Party	Candidate	+ = Win	Dist.	Assem.	Party	Candidate	+ = Win
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	+	24	A	D	John F. McKeon	+
07	S	D	Richard Dennison	-	16	A	R*	Peter Biondi	+	27	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	+	31	A	D	Sheila Oliver	+
08	A	D	Christopher Fifis	-	17	A	D*	Upendra Chivukula	+	34	A	D*	Nelida "Nellie" Pou	+
08	A	D	Tracy Riley	+	18	S	D*	Barbara Buono	+	35	A	D*	Loretta Weinberg	+
09	S	R	Christopher Connors	-	18	A	D*	Peter Barnes, III	+	37	S	D*	Valerie Huttie	+
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	+	37	A	D*	Bob Gordon	+
10	A	R*	David Wolfe	+	19	A	D*	Joseph Vas	+	38	S	D*	Joan Voss	+
11	S	R	Sean Kean	+	19	A	D*	John Wisniewski	+	38	A	D*	John Rooney	+
12	S	D*	Ellen Karcher	-	20	S	D*	Raymond Lesniak	+	39	A	R*	Charlotte Vandervalk	+
12	A	D*	Michael Panter	-	21	S	R*	Tom Kean, Jr.	+	39	A	R*	David Russo	+
12	A	D	Amy Mallet	-	21	A	R*	Jon Bramnick	+	40	A	R*	Scott Rumana	+
13	A	R*	Amy Handlin	+	21	A	R*	Eric Munoz, M.D.	+	40	A	R		

* Incumbent

The Answers Are Blowing in the Wind

By Jeff Tittel and Becca Glenn, our Chapter staff

On October 3rd the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) voted to move forward with offshore, electricity-generating wind turbines in New Jersey, by inviting proposals from manufacturers for a \$4 million pilot project. The Sierra Club applauded this action by the BPU, citing the importance of wind for the state's energy future. We have to do this if we are serious about dealing with global warming.

The BPU has adopted a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requiring that utilities produce 6.5% of their electricity from renewable sources by May 31, 2009 - one of the strongest standards in the nation. In addition, the recently passed Global Warming Response Act mandates a reduction of greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by 2020. If New Jersey is to meet these goals, the state must go forward with development of offshore wind.

Without offshore wind, the Global Warming Response Act is just a lot of hot air. The RPS and the Global Warming Response Act were huge steps forward for New Jersey, but now we need to make sure that they are fully implemented. We can't do that without wind.

According to a study released in mid-October by Monmouth University's Urban Coast and Polling Institutes, Jersey shore residents agree with us. The survey of residents of coastal communities in Monmouth, Ocean, Atlantic, and Cape May Counties, as well as the neighboring counties in New York and on the Delmarva Peninsula, found that 39% named beach erosion/sea rise as the single most important environmental issue affecting their local coast. 57% supported the siting of wind farms nearby, even if the turbines would be visible

from the shoreline, and 71% supported such installations if they would be located beyond the horizon. [Full survey report available at <http://www.monmouth.edu/polling/>.]

New Jersey cannot wait for the results of the Department of Environmental Protection's baseline studies to begin the process of reviewing proposals for an offshore wind facility. We need to go forward with offshore wind development now. Reviewing these proposals will not interfere with the DEP's ongoing research - in fact, it will enhance the baseline studies by providing, through the proposals, additional data on what sites have the most advantageous weather patterns, fewest environmental features, and available transmission systems. The BPU's decision was the right one for the environment and the right one for New Jersey's future.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Two Group Ballots	2
Bottle Recycling Legislation in NJ.....	2
Population Issues: Power of One	2
Chair's Message: Two Lives.....	3
Editorial: Ballot Question 3	3
Our ExCom's Resolutions.....	3
Cool Cities Corner: Mayor Profeta....	4
Appreciation Day Festivities	4
Conservation Eco-Tip:	
Water Heating.....	5
Nuclear Power Update.....	5
Hybrid Car Update	5
Tiger Conservation News	5
Group and Section News.....	6-10
Outings: January-March	10-12
Leader List, Meetings,	
Membership Form.....	12

Sierra Club Ballot

Election of Officers, for 2008, of the New Jersey Chapter's Groups

Group Ballots: Please vote only YOUR Group's ExCom ballot, if it is below; then clip it and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Feb 1, to **Sierra Club Group Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton 08618**. PAIRs of boxes are to enable two members of family memberships 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.

Hudson-Meadowlands Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. For 2-year terms. Please vote for UP TO FIVE.

- Louise Taylor Connie Ftera
 Helen Manogue Brane Zivkovic
 Rosemary Arena
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

For 1-year terms. Please vote for UP TO FOUR.

- Donald Kopczynski Melissa McCarthy
 Gil Hawkins Mirjana Zivkovic
 Mike Selender Scotte Perry

West Jersey Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO TWO.

- Gina Carola Write in: _____
 Trish Clements Write in: _____

ISSUES COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Bottle Recycling Legislation Introduced

By David Yennior, Recycling Issues Coordinator

The Smart Container Act, A-4483, was submitted in the New Jersey Assembly on Nov 8, 2007 by prime sponsor Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri-Huttel (D-37th LD, Bergen). The Bergen Record and WCBS-TV have publicized it, and it is getting much attention, according to Rocco Mazza, Asw Huttel's Chief of Staff.

The Bill would require a 10¢ deposit on all personal beverage containers, and would establish a redemption process for the State of NJ. The bill was modeled primarily after Michigan's statute, which also imposes 10¢ deposits, but includes aspects from some of the ten other bottle bill states. As in Michigan the Smart Container Act will direct 75% of the unclaimed deposits to environmental projects.

A-4483 will become model legislation for other states, hopefully doubling recycling rates, reclaiming precious natural resources, reducing recyclables going into landfills/incinerators, reducing global warming, and reducing litter in our waterways, and on our beaches and roadsides.

Getting this Bill passed by the Legislature will be a tremendous political challenge, as the retailers' associations and beverage industry will almost certainly invest millions of dollars to oppose it. However, the industry must adapt to become part of the solution, and municipalities will save tax dollars by being relieved of a considerable portion of their recycling responsibilities.

People and institutions are resistant to

change, but with dismal recycling rates in New Jersey, and a budget crisis looming, and the prospect of Global Warming, new strategies must be enacted. It is undeniable that deposit programs work extremely well in the eleven other bottle bill states: New York, California, Michigan, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, Maine, Delaware, Iowa, Oregon and Hawaii.

I thank the many people who have supported this effort, especially the leadership of the Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter. Rob Stuart, the former head of NJ-Public Interest Research Group, coined the Bill's title. Al Dubois, Clifton's recycling coordinator, and staff of the Container Recycling Institute have been invaluable.

Finally, special thanks go to Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri-Huttel [see the Appreciation Day story on p.4] for her leadership role and for making New Jersey's Smart Container Act possible. The Bill will now need a sponsor in the NJ Senate, as well as co-sponsors.

Please stay posted for further communications about strategy to get this important legislation passed and signed into law. A broad coalition will be required. Expect soon to see a website covering the Bill's progress.

Please alert me to any press coverage of A-4483 that you see. We need everyone's help to make the Smart Container Act a reality in New Jersey. Please let us know what you can do and pass along any suggestions that you may have.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park (California) — Six Fundraising Cruises Offered in 2008, benefiting the Club's Population Program

February 9-11: 3 islands, \$475.
 April 4-7, May 2-5, July 18-21: 4 islands, \$775.
 August 23-27, September 13-17: 5 islands, \$925.

Come explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Islands National Park. These islands are home to a wide variety of plant, animal and bird life, and the surrounding waters churn with colorful fish, seals, and sea lions. All islands have rugged shorelines dotted with sea caves. In spring the islands are ablaze with wildflowers. In summer the pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary will entice swimmers, snorkelers and kayakers. Each island offers special charm: San Miguel for white sandy beaches and a congregation of elephant seals; Santa Rosa for its rare stand of Torrey Pines; Santa Cruz for high mountains, deep valleys and the famous Painted Cave; Anacapa for a brown pelican rookery, picturesque lighthouse, and excellent snorkeling waters; tiny Santa Barbara Island for a friendly colony of sea lions who swim with snorkelers and follow kayakers. Visitors will marvel at remains of the rich culture left behind by the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years.

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara, CA, aboard the twin diesel "Truth." Fee includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages and the services of a ranger/naturalist who will lead hikes and point out items of interest. Proceeds will benefit Sierra Club's Global Population & the Environment Program. To make a reservation send a \$100 check, payable to Sierra Club, to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For questions contact her at 626-443-0706 or jholtzhl@aol.com.

POPULATION ISSUES COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

The Power of One Person

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@verizon.net)

A picture of the elegant Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City flashed up on the screen, and I wondered what that had to do with poor women in Africa who suffer with obstetric fistula. As it turned out, it was the site of the last fistula hospital in this country, which closed in 1895.

Heidi Breeze-Harris was speaking about why she co-founded and is the executive director of One-by-One, an organization dedicated to ending obstetric fistula. She first heard about this problem when she herself was pregnant. She had access to some of the best medical care; but women in developing countries were in labor for 3, 4 even 6 days with horrible outcomes. What could she do to help them? Her compassion led her to action. She is determined that a medical problem eradicated here in the 19th century should not exist anywhere in the world in the 21st century.

Obstetric fistula is an injury caused by prolonged labor. The child cannot get through the small birth canal often because of the young age of the mother (sometimes 12 or younger), or poor nutrition, or too many pregnancies in too short a time. The child's head presses on the mother's tissues, causing them to die and leaving a hole. Usually the child is stillborn. If the mother survives (and many don't) she will leak urine and feces uncontrollably. Because of the smell she is ostracized from her community. This is what women with obstetric fistula experience, and it is with great joy that after surgery (at a cost of as little as \$300) they can go back to their villages and associate with other people.

In May, 2007, Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) introduced H.R. 2114, "Repairing Young Women's Lives Around the World Act." This would provide a contribution of \$34M to the United Nations Population Fund for the express purpose of "prevention, treatment, and repair of obstetric fistula." Of the 20 co-sponsors, not one is from New Jersey. You can be the power of one person by contacting your Representative and urging him to sign on to H.R. 2114. For more information, go to www.fightfistula.org. The Sierra Club has joined with One-by-One to help eradicate this problem and you can learn more about how to help—by hosting a Pink-Green Party—at www.sierraclub.org/population.

Another person moved to action: "Since the human race began, women have delivered for society. It is now time for the world to deliver for women." So quoted the indefatigable Jane Roberts from an article in *The Lancet* (10/12/07). Jane is the co-founder of 34 Million Friends, started because of her



Jane Roberts of 34 Million Friends answering questions at one of her 11 New Jersey presentations in October.

outrage when the Bush/Cheney Administration defunded the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and her belief that Americans cared enough that 34 million of them would donate \$1 to make up for this loss. Her mission is to spread the word that what happens to women matters, and her ambitious agenda in New Jersey was to give eleven talks in five days.

To quote from the 34 Million Friends web site: "UNFPA helps the most vulnerable women in the world plan their families, give birth safely, and protect themselves from HIV/AIDS. It promotes the rights of women by encouraging equal access to food, education, and healthcare. UNFPA works worldwide to eliminate gender-based violence including female genital cutting and rape used as a weapon of war."

Noting that "media is everything," Jane is thinking big in order to make a difference and bring attention to the health and education challenges girls and women face. As an example, she mentioned a BBC film crew that brought attention to the lack of personnel, facilities and supplies in Chad where a doctor was quoted as saying, "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired of not having the means to care for these women." Not only did the hospital get what was needed, but the country's health administration saw change as well. With the help of a Packard Grant, Jane and a documentary film maker are working to produce a film she hopes will do for women's health issues worldwide what "An Inconvenient Truth" did to raise awareness of global warming.

In 1940 there were 3 billion people; today there are 6.6 billion; and in 2050 it is estimated there will be 9.1 billion. Jane noted that there is a worldwide shortage of family planning supplies which will not help this "environmental and humanitarian disaster" in the making. To find out more, go to www.34millionfriends.org.

Why should we as environmentalists be concerned about these issues? When women are educated and have family planning resources, they have their first child later, they space their children farther apart, and they have fewer children. This is not only healthy for the women and their families but, with fewer demands placed on natural resources, it is healthy for the environment. I heard over and over again at the programs I attended that no matter what we do to curb global warming, if we don't address population growth through education of women and girls and access to voluntary family planning, it will all be for nothing.

Heidi Breeze-Harris and Jane Roberts: everyday women who stood up and said "I will make a difference."

THE SIERRA CLUB'S NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE'S (NERC) SPRING CONFERENCE

PROPOSED DATE: MARCH 15, 2008

"Training the Trainers:"

Global warming & energy efficiency • Lobby training, recruitment, media
How Congress works • Role-playing

Possibly in New Haven (rail access, central location).
New members always welcome!

Contact: Bob Johnson, robert.johnson@comcast.net

Resolutions Adopted by ExCom in September, October and November

We authorized a lawsuit joining Elmwood Park's (Bergen County) Environmental Committee utilizing Eastern Environmental Law Clinic as our attorney, on a pro bono basis, in **litigation against Marcal Corp.** for its air pollution and environmental justice violations. (Sept)

We resolved to preserve **Deep Voll Ravine and Woodlands in Wyckoff (Bergen County)** where 11 McMansions are scheduled to be built. (Sept)

We voted to support a new proposed **Sierra Club population policy** which would replace a conglomeration of policies in place over the years starting in the 1960s, many of which are outdated in language and intent. In part, the new policy is based on goals set at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994, in which the Sierra Club participated. The new policy is broad enough that various issues can be worked on without the

policy becoming dated. (Sept)

We opposed the proposed **NJ Turnpike Interchange 6 to 9 Widening Program** because it would not reduce traffic congestion, would induce development, would destroy hundreds of acres of open space, and would not encourage alternate transportation nor trip reduction. Furthermore, it is not compatible with New Jersey's stated goal of reducing global warming emissions by 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. (Oct)

Princeton Nurseries Property: We urged preservation of this 2700-acre site straddling Monmouth, Mercer and Burlington Counties, which contains fossils and the headwaters of several streams including Crosswicks Creek. (Nov)

We voted to join a lawsuit opposing national legislation that would permit expedited condemnation of public and private property, anywhere in New Jersey, for **construction of power lines.** (Nov)

Chair's Message Two Lives



By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)

Nelson C. Doland, Jr. died on November 24, 2005 at the age of 87. Waldemar Wastallo, Jr. died on September 2, 2005 at the age of 80.

Nelson and Walter, as they were known to their friends, could not have been more different. Nelson was a successful attorney. He practiced law in Boonton for 63 years and still maintained his practice at the time of his death. He was the municipal attorney for Boonton from 1950 to 1970 and judge of the municipal court from 1970 to 1973. He also was a member and trustee of the Rockaway Valley United Methodist Church and a 25-year member of the Boonton-Montville Lions Club.

Walter was a quiet and unassuming man. During the 60's and 70's he worked for the United States Government as a mechanical engineer testing components for military aircraft. He authored a number of technical reports, some of which are still available on the web. Following his retirement he returned to the family homestead, tending the crops and leading a simple life.

But maybe Nelson and Walter were not as different as one might think. I never had an opportunity to meet either man, and I doubt very much that they ever got to meet each other, but I think they would have gotten along very well if they had.

Nelson and Walter both believed in supporting worthwhile causes. Nelson was a community activist and served on the board of Saint Claire's Hospital for many years and Walter, while reticent to take on a more public role, provided generous support to a number of nonprofit organizations during his lifetime.

But Nelson and Walter shared another passion. They both cared deeply about the environment and preserving open space. In 1998 Nelson deeded a portion of his farm to the Morris County Farm Preservation Trust, and Walter was a member of the John Muir Society and a consistent contributor to the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club. Nelson and Walter both loved nature, and they both did what they could during their lifetimes to support the environmental movement.

But their support of the environmental movement did not stop at their deaths. Both Nelson and Walter made provision for the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club in their wills, thereby assuring that their efforts to support the environmental movement during their lifetimes would continue long after their deaths.

I am deeply honored and very appreciative of Nelson and Walter's commitment to our mission and their trust in our stewardship. I am also saddened that I never had a chance to thank them while they were alive.

But from what I have learned about Nelson and Walter after their deaths, I don't think that either of them would be looking for thanks from me or from anyone else in the New Jersey Chapter. What they would be looking for would be a commitment from us to get the job done, to use their gifts to further the environmental cause in a productive and cost-effective manner. On behalf of the New Jersey Chapter, I hereby make that commitment. And thanks Nelson and Walter for your belief in the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club and your unwavering support of our mission to protect and preserve our natural environment.

Editorial Perspective on Ballot Question 3



photo: James Mandelsohn

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

The disparity in the results of New Jersey's four ballot questions in November poses a challenge to the political scientist (which I'm not). But I'm curious and eager to test the following hypotheses to explain why Question 3 ("open space") passed easily (54-46%) and Question 2 ("stem cell research") did not (47-53%).

- (1) Is there a difference between urban, suburban and rural counties?
- (2) Does the difference reflect political party preference?
- (3) Might newspaper endorsements have played a role?
- (4) Is median wealth (income) a factor?
- (5) Might a high percentage of college graduates make a difference?
- (6) Is ethnicity a factor?
- (7) How about religion?
- (8) Did higher voter turnout tend to favor open space or stem cells?
- (9) Did Sierra Club campaign efforts make much of a difference?

The data are in the spreadsheet, below. I'd be happy to send anyone my original, in Excel format, which has color-shadings that facilitate the discovery of correlations by "eyeballing."

(1) Population Density (Urban/Suburban/Rural): Rural counties voted no on both questions except for Salem, which may have been influenced by its local newspaper. The two most urban counties, Essex and Hudson, strongly supported both. Union County, third most urban, supported both, but less strongly.

(2) Political party registration (R-D): Democratic counties went yes on both ballot questions except for Middlesex, possibly influenced by the local newspaper. Republican counties clearly went no on both.

(3) Endorsements: Atlantic, Camden, Hudson, Mercer, Morris, and Union generally voted consistent with newspaper recommendations. Essex, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren counties were generally inconsistent with newspaper recommendations. In counties where the local newspapers offered "split" recommendations, Cumberland and Salem voted consistently with those recommendations, whereas Burlington voted inconsistently. The mixed outcome for this "endorsement" hypothesis suggests a relatively small effect.

(4) High family income: little correla-

tion: Bergen supported both ballot questions. Hunterdon, Morris supported neither; Monmouth and Somerset mixed. Low family income: little correlation. Let's reject this hypothesis!

(5) Education level: Counties with more college graduates (Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset) seemed less supportive of both questions. But some low-graduate counties (Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Ocean, Warren) were also unsupportive.

(6) Ethnic effect? The two most Black and Hispanic counties, Essex and Hudson, went overwhelmingly supportive of both ballot questions. The four least Black and Hispanic counties, Hunterdon, Ocean, Sussex and Warren, went negative on both questions. Ethnicity does seem to make a difference!

(7) Religious effect? The five most Catholic counties (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Union) all supported open space, and all except Middlesex supported stem cells. The least Catholic county, Salem, voted up on open space and down on stem cells. Many of the most religious counties (=50% religious) were supportive of stem cells, but not all. The religious effect, if any, seems small.

(8) I was unable to find data on turnout. (Jeff Tittel, our Chapter Director, is highly respected for his analyses of ways that turnout affects election outcomes.)

It's interesting that Middlesex County, home of Rutgers University - and therefore with the most to gain from stem cells, voted it down.

(9) A major determinant of voter-behavior is widely said to be campaign spending: on mailers, lawn signs, radio and TV spots, and phone calls. There was a "Keep it Green" coalition of environmental organizations that supported BQ-3, and an organized opposition that included builders and possibly fiscal conservatives, but I haven't seen estimates of how much money was spent, and how it was targeted. The Club's Ocean County Group distributed more than 140,000 flyers: not enough to turn Ocean County around, or to raise the difference between the open space vote and the stem cell vote to 10 or more percentage points. The spreadsheet identifies 8 counties in which that difference did extend to 10 or more percentage points.

Of course voting behavior is generally complex, just as people are complex, with a plethora of factors typically in play. My take is that population density, political party affiliation, and ethnicity seem to be the most important determinants in motivating the environmental behavior that was observed on Nov 6. I'd welcome more discussion.

Factors possibly affecting voting behavior on NJ Ballot Questions 2&3, 6 Nov 07												
	BQ-3		BQ-2		± 10-point disparity (BQ2-BQ3)	Urban/Suburban/Rural Pop. Density (people/sqMi)	Party Registration (%D-R)	Local Newspaper	Median Family Income	% College Graduates	%Black- Hispanic	Religion %Cath-Prot
Data (footnote)	1	2	1	2								
Statewide	8,724,560	54-46	47-53			1178	23-18			34%	14-15	
County												
Atlantic	271,620	45-55	38-62	✓	464	Suburban	21-23	Press of ACy	2N-3N	\$61,000	24% 16-14	30-14
Bergen	904,037	56-44	54-46		3860	Suburban	21-20	Bergen Record	27-3Y	\$90,000	43% 5-13	55-14
Burlington	450,627	60-40	49-51	✓	960	Suburban	21-21	Burl Co Times	2Y-3N	\$60,000	33% 15-5	27-16
Camden	517,001	64-36	53-47	✓	2325	Suburban	29-11	Courier-Post	2Y-3Y	\$63,000	28% 19-11	37-16
Cape May	97,724	49-51	35-65	✓	383	Rural	14-39	Press of ACy	2Y-3Y	\$60,000	26% Not Available	29-15
Cumberland	154,823	50-50	35-65	✓	316	Rural	19-16	Daily Journal	2N-3Y	\$53,000	16% 16-23	25-23
Essex	786,147	61-39	61-39		6224	Urban	39-10	Star-Ledger	2N-3N	\$62,000	31% 41-18	40-18
Gloucester	282,031	64-36	47-53	✓	869	Suburban	28-16	Courier-Post	2Y-3Y	\$77,000	25% 10-3	30-16
Hudson	601,146	65-35	66-34		12872	Urban	43-8	Courier-Post	2Y-3Y	\$47,000	31% 14-41	59-8
Hunterdon	130,783	49-51	39-61	✓	304	Rural	12-36	Courier News	2Y-3Y	\$106,000	51% 1-3	25-18
Mercer	357,606	60-40	53-47		1627	Suburban	25-13	Trenton Times	2Y-3Y	\$81,000	38% 19-12	35-19
Middlesex	786,971	53-47	48-52		2541	Suburban	28-11	Home News Trib	2N-3N	\$60,000	30% 9-16	40-11
Monmouth	635,285	52-48	43-57		1346	Suburban	16-19	Asbury Park Pr	27-3Y	\$92,000	39% 7-7	36-15
Morris	493,160	49-51	44-56		1051	Suburban	14-33	Home News Trib	2N-3N	\$101,000	49% 3-10	41-13
Ocean	562,335	44-56	35-65		883	Suburban	14-23	Asbury Park Pr	27-3Y	\$65,000	23% 3-8	30-10
Passaic	497,093	54-46	49-51		2683	Suburban	20-17	Bergen Record	27-3Y	\$59,000	24% 12-34	37-12
Salem	66,595	63-37	42-58	✓	197	Rural	23-18	Daily Journal	2N-3Y	\$62,000	19% 15-NA	14-24
Somerset	324,188	50-50	44-56		1064	Suburban	14-24	Courier News	2Y-3Y	\$106,000	52% 9-11	36-15
Sussex	153,384	46-54	37-63		294	Rural	10-34	Courier News	2Y-3Y	\$67,000	32% 2-5	27-13
Union	631,088	53-47	50-50		5141	Urban	33-14	Star-Ledger	2N-3N	\$77,000	33% 22-24	53-17
Warren	110,919	47-53	35-64	✓	309	Rural	16-32	Courier News	2Y-3Y	\$75,000	25% 2-6	30-20

1. New Jersey Municipal Data Book, 2007 (Information Publications, Woodside CA)
 2. Fitzgerald's Legislative Manual: State of New Jersey (Skinder-Strauss Associates)
 3. Churches and Church Membership in the United States 1990 (Glenmary Research Center, Atlanta GA)

COOL CITIES CORNER:**New Jersey Environmental Leaders:
Fred Profeta, Mayor Of Maplewood***Interviewed by Stefano Crema on Oct 26, 2007*

Maplewood is a community of 24,000 people with a broad spectrum of income and ethnic mix. The government of the town is composed of a five-member Council which elects the mayor. The incumbent, Fred Profeta, has taken advantage of the legacy of environmental awareness of his community to push Maplewood to the forefront of the movement to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions and improve energy efficiency. His work has recently been recognized at the Global Warming & Energy Solution Conference, in New Hampshire, where he was given one of the 2007 Climate Champion Awards.

A long-term activist in social and environmental causes, Mayor Profeta believes that the problem of Global Warming and Climate Change will be resolved only through grass-roots action. Fred thinks that the level of awareness of the New Jersey public is generally high and the acceptance of the recently approved Global Warming Response Act will be good. However, people are not yet sufficiently alarmed by Global Warming. He believes that some of the skeptics who oppose decisive action in this area do not necessarily doubt the scientific evidence but are more worried about the cost of implementing such initiatives. They do not yet understand that in the end going green will result in cost savings and the development of new technologies with high paying jobs. Maplewood has already moved from talk to action. Besides the existing jitney program which eliminates the use of about 300 cars per day, the town has improved its recycling program by allowing commingling, has completed an energy audit of the municipal building, has built the first LEED-certified police station in New Jersey with solar panels on the roof (\$30-50,000 savings/yr), and has committed to reduce GHG emissions 20% by 2015, ahead of state mandates.

For this mayor, education starts at home. And home is the municipal building. One of the tasks of the town administrator is to clearly communicate to the entire staff the decisions of the Town Council on green initiatives. Maplewood is also planning to hire an energy efficiency expert to train its other employees, and to be available to surrounding municipalities. His efforts for a broader involvement of the community were expanded this year with the first Maplewood Green Day Fair, distribution of Fight Global Warming lawn signs, launch of a Choice Campaign where the town residents pledge to substitute five incandescent with compact fluorescent bulbs in their homes and businesses, and the enactment of an Environmental Action Plan. This asks residents to implement personal initiatives from changing to local food to eating less meat, from pledging to buy new cars with a better fuel economy than the present ones (at least 7 miles) to auditing their homes and signing up for green electricity.



Knowledge is power. Aware that full schedules and limited resources, in many cases, prevent mayors from becoming fully informed on how to undertake cost- and emission-reduction initiatives, Mayor Profeta is working with the Committee for a Green Future, of which he is a Co-Chair, to develop a series of toolkits with clear and simple instructions on how to develop green initiatives. These packages will be available to any municipality in New Jersey. The Committee is also going to establish criteria that have to be met by any municipality wishing to declare itself "green." Fred believes that State and/or private funds should be used to encourage these efforts. His proposal is that some of the income obtained by New Jersey from the auction of carbon credits to power companies under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative agreement should be dedicated to this goal. He also would use income from carbon offsets voluntarily purchased by companies or individuals to reduce their carbon footprints.

Mayor Profeta has thought long and hard on how to blend development with sustainability. He strongly believes that continuous economic development is needed for New Jersey municipalities which are strongly dependent on property taxes. However, development must be done the smart way. We need to preserve open spaces and stop the development of farmland. We need to redevelop the cities, reuse areas that have already been paved over, and build green buildings using local materials. Development should proceed in a way that brings jobs and housing closer together to reduce the amount of commuting. One way by which the state could help would be to eliminate the present waiver that permits rich communities to pay poorer ones to take over their share of low cost housing. This has the effect of separating the homes of many low-income workers from their jobs, forcing environmentally unhealthy commutes on them.

While Fred believes it is not going to be an easy fight, his vision for the future is sunny. He trusts that we will be able to meet the challenge of Global Warming and beat it. He does not think that government mandates alone will do it. A grass-roots involvement by the public is essential. Government however, has a duty to rally the troops to the task ahead. We need the same leadership that aroused the country to face the challenge of World War II and win the race to the moon. The power of American ingenuity and the flexibility of the American industrial system, combined with the political will of the nation, will allow the United States to succeed. His optimism is not limited to America. He believes that the leaders of the developing nations will take strong actions to control their emissions. His main concern is that, if we wait too long to move, we might not be able to remedy the damage wrought by Global Warming.

Appreciation Day Awards

November 11th was a brilliant day on Princeton Ridge, as Chapter officers, benefactors and award-winners gathered for the Chapter's annual Appreciation Day bash—to enjoy conversation, fine wines, select cheeses, other delicacies, soft music, and even, eventually, dancing to some not-so-soft music.

Special awards went to college students Carlos Rymmer, Brittany Hopkins and Andrew Mathe, who organized and led the NJ Climate March, April 13-16, 2007. Rallies were held at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, at Princeton University, and at The College of New Jersey, each then proceeding to march on Trenton to lobby for the Global Warming Response Act—which eventually passed both houses and was signed into law by Governor Corzine.

Assembly-woman Valerie Vainieri-Huttle (D, LD-37, Bergen Co) was recognized for her prime sponsorship of a bill to introduce Beverage Container Recycling to New Jersey as well as her

prime sponsorship of the landmark Global Warming Response Act.

DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson was recognized for helping to advance the Club's agenda and working to protect the State's natural environment.

The Chapter's "Volunteer of the Year" award went to Greg Auriemma, organizer and Chair of our new Ocean County Group, and delegate to the Club's Atlantic Coast Ecoregion working group, which is pressing for protection for endangered North Atlantic Right Whales. Greg's Group distributed more than 140,000 circulars in support of the 2007 Ballot Question #3.

The affair was organized, advertised, cooked for, set up and cleaned up by the remarkable Denzer family, Joan and George, with a precision that made their hefty work look easy.

As can be seen in the photographs, taken by Meiling Chin and Wynn Johanson of our Loantaka Group, everyone had a good time.



Climate March awardees Brittany Hopkins and Andrew Mathe with Ken Johanson



Asw. Valerie Huttle, between Ken Johanson and Jeff Tittel



DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson with Barbara Walsh and Betsy Kohn



Greg Auriemma is honored



Mary Ann Hipp, Betsy Kohn, Peggy Andro, Mike Herson and John Hipp



Meiling Chin and Joan Woolery



Bob Campbell, Jeff Liebman and Jeff Tittel



A. Farmanfarmaian, Barbara and Dr. Donald Louria



Sunil Somalwar



Dr. Donald Louria with Jeff and Anita Liebman

**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 Alternatives to Conventional Water Heating Methods

By our Chapter Conservation Chair, Laura Lynch. (Her weekly eco-tips can be found at www.sustainablelawrence.org, which we thank for permission to reprint.)

There are alternate and more energy-efficient ways to heat water. According to Energy Star, the government rating system for energy-efficient appliances, a typical household uses most of its water for showering (37%). Next comes the washing machine (26%), followed by the dishwasher (14%), the bathtub (12%) and sinks (11%). What is the most energy-efficient way to heat all this water?

Most of us have storage tanks for our hot water. 20 to 80 gallons are kept warm at all times by a gas or electric heater. Even when we don't need it, there is warm water available. The most efficient storage heaters can save 10 to 20% more energy compared to inefficient tanks. While storage tank heating systems are the cheapest to buy and install, they waste the most energy, and cost us more in the long run by heating water when we don't need it. Such energy loss is called "standby loss."

One alternative to storage tanks is "demand" water heaters, or "tankless" systems. These are small boxes with a coil inside. Water circulates through this heating coil only when hot water is needed.

While tankless systems can save 45 to 60% more energy than inefficient storage tanks, demand systems don't easily provide a small trickle of hot water, and it takes a bit longer for the hot water to reach the tap. However, if the proper heater size is chosen, we can have an unlimited supply of hot water with no standby loss.

Tankless systems are easier to repair than storage systems are. If a storage tank breaks, the whole unit must be replaced. On-demand water heaters have replaceable parts. They also take up much less space than storage tanks do. However, few



plumbers are yet willing to install them, as the systems often need modifications to gas lines (they need less gas overall, but more at once). They also cost more to install, but in the end, they save money and energy through high efficiency.

Heat pumps are used to heat air for homes in the winter. But they can also be used to heat water. Heat pumps transfer energy from surrounding air to heat water. They can be 65% more efficient than standard storage tank water heaters, but they're optimal in warm climates where houses need to be cooled for a long time. New Jersey doesn't yet fit that description (but give global warming some time and it might).

For those using solar power, there is the option to heat water through home solar panels as well. Operating costs can be reduced up to 90%, with energy savings to match. Solar water heaters rely on a renewable resource, which is a goal of sustainability. However, users should have a backup system for cloudy days.

If one likes to tinker, there are systems available that capture heat from dishwasher and washing machine wastewater.

When shopping for a water heater, look for the Energy Factor (EF) rating. This is a number that takes into account the operating costs, energy required, and heat loss from the system. The higher the number, the more efficient the heater.

Finally, follow these three easy-to-do right-now steps to use your hot water more efficiently: (1) lower your water-heating temperature, (2) insulate your tank and pipes and (3) reduce your overall water use.

For more information on sustainability, including some valuable links to websites on water-heating, visit ecotips.sustainablelawrence.org.

Update on the Re-Licensing of Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Station (Ocean Co)

By Janet Tauro (jtauro@comcast.net)

At this crucial juncture in the debate over the re-licensing of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station, the last thing the public needs is a bunch of high profile political insiders masquerading as an environmental group issuing reports on New Jersey's energy future.

The New Jersey Affordable, Clean Reliable Energy Coalition, NJ ACRE, which Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club, aptly nicknamed "FAKER," is AmerGen's latest public relations effort to sway public opinion toward the continued operation, until 2009, of the corroding nuclear plant. AmerGen, the owners of Oyster Creek, put together the group, which includes the mayor of Lacey Township, to drum up support for re-licensing.

Their debut coincides with a report from the federal Office of Inspector General, which issued a scathing assessment of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's review of AmerGen's re-licensing application. The OIG inspectors found that the NRC did not fully evaluate AmerGen's application, stating that major portions did not get "meaningful" review. In some instances, the NRC "cut and pasted" portions of the AmerGen application into its evaluation. This OIG report affirms what NRC critics have consistently stated: the agency is a rubber stamp for the nuclear industry and has lost sight of its mission to safeguard the public.

NJ ACRE's appearance on the nuclear scene also comes at a time when our coalition, Stop The Re-licensing of Oyster Creek (STROC), has gained steam in the legal system. The coalition, which is comprised of six environmental and citizen's groups, made history in September in a precedent-setting hearing before the Atomic Safety Licensing Board to bring to light structural safety issues regarding the plant. With legal representation by the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic, the coalition targeted extensive corrosion of the drywell, the steel structure that surrounds the reactor and shields the public from radiation.

Most recently, AmerGen could have decided to spend their quite considerable bank account in a variety of ways to improve safety and reduce environmental impact. Cooling towers would minimize destruction to Barnegat Bay. A concrete airplane-proof shell over the fuel pools holding 4000 tons of radioactive waste sitting 70 feet in the air would decrease the threat of terrorism dramatically.

Instead, AmerGen is putting its money into the formation of a bogus environmental group that is designed to lure the public's attention away from safety issues and scare us into believing that Oyster Creek's closure would hurt the region economically.

Their latest antic is a study by Bates White, whose mission is to "optimize bottom line results" for its clients. In other words, make money for AmerGen's stockholders.

The study completely ignores the financial consequences that would result from safety failures at the plant, particularly from the fragility of the corroding drywell.

This study also failed to consider any of the requirements set forth by the state Board of Public Utilities' Office of Clean Energy. The state requires that 22.5% of New Jersey's energy needs be met by renewable energy systems by the year 2021. Of that requirement, two percent must come from solar power. The BPU estimates that 1,800 megawatts of

power could come from solar by 2021. That amount of solar would be triple Oyster Creek's output.

The study also failed to consider the wind farm project the state has authorized off the New Jersey coast, as well the considerable efforts by environmental groups, non-profits, and grassroots organizations to address climate change. These groups are pounding the pavement and meeting with community organizations and local elected officials to work out energy solutions such as community solar farms.

- Consider the Sierra Club volunteers who are educating elected officials to implement climate change initiatives through the Cool Cities Program.

- Consider elected officials in Colts Neck, Pine Beach, Belmar, Red Bank, Jackson, Chatham, Irvington, Montclair, Neptune, Burlington County, Cape May County, and East Windsor, partnering with the New Jersey Environmental Federation to go green from anti-idling ordinances, to the way they clean their buildings and light them.

- Consider the League of Women Voters' volunteers who underwent extensive training to learn how to guide elected officials to apply energy savings initiatives into town government.

- Consider the Brick and Toms River school districts which together saved 2.3 million kilowatts of electricity, 38,000 therms of gas, and over \$300,000 in costs by participating in a Green Schools Program sponsored by the non-profit Global Learning Network. By learning simple conservation practices, the districts saved 1,530 metric tons of carbon emissions from release into the atmosphere.

- Consider the communities that have enlisted in the BPU's Clean Power Community Partnership and are tackling global warming on a local level through conservation and making renewable energy choices. They include; Belmar, Long Branch, Red Bank, Hoboken, Basking Ridge, Maplewood, Trenton, Cape May City, Montclair, Orange, Hudson County, Rowan University, Lindenwood, Middlesex County, Summit, West Orange, Atlantic City Utilities Authority, South Orange, Morristown, and the Atlantic County Utilities Authority.

- Consider the giant sculptures of brightly painted fluorescent light-bulbs that have been placed in high traffic spots in West Orange to heighten the public's awareness about conservation.

- Consider Belmar officials who have mandated energy conservation initiatives in the town's building codes.

- Consider that Monmouth University was lauded by the BPU for green practices and conservation programs devised by students and put into effect on campus.

These are just a few examples of energy initiatives being taken by our communities, that would reduce the demand for electricity. This is how global warming needs to be addressed. New Jersey residents deserve an energy future that is safe, cutting edge, and does not depend upon an aging, rusting dinosaur of a nuclear reactor whose time is so obviously up.

(Janet's group, GRAMMES (Grandmothers, Mothers, and More for Energy Safety) is allied with the Sierra Club in pending litigation over the renewal of the license to operate the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station for another 20 years.)

Of Hybrids and Global Warming

From our energy expert, Sunil Somalwar (Sunil123@verizon.net)

1) Economics of hybrids:

The Wall Street Journal for 29th October has a table listing how long it takes to recoup the extra price of the hybrid version of a car model.

Saturn (hybrid vs. non-hybrid): 5 yrs
Ford Escape: 3 yrs
Honda Civic: 5 yrs
Toyota (Corolla vs. Prius): 18 yrs
Toyota Camry: 12 yrs
Toyota Highlander: 11 yrs
Lexus: 2 yrs

They assumed 15,000 miles/year and \$2.80/gal. What the table really tells us is the price premium for the hybrid

model. For example, the Lexus hybrid is only \$500 more expensive than the non-hybrid, but a Prius costs \$7000 more than a Corolla.

2) What people think:

Between Mar 2006 and April 2007, the number of Americans who think that global warming is the world's biggest problem has doubled from 16% to 33% BUT the percentage of people who

a) are willing to pay higher energy taxes is stuck around 20-30%, and
b) want the government to require more efficient cars, appliances or buildings, has dropped from 40's to 30's.

Issue Coordinator's Report

Award for Tiger Conservation

From our Tiger Coordinator, Sunil Somalwar (Sunil123@verizon.net)

Dr. Ullas Karanth received this year's J. Paul Getty award for his leadership in the field of conservation science. Dr. Karanth is probably the world's most important tiger conservationist / scientist. Our Tiger Program (saving-wildtigers.org) works closely with him. In collaboration with his group, we are currently exploring ways to help voluntarily relocate people from core tiger habitat in India.

Dr. Karanth will use his \$200,000

award to establish fellowships for students pursuing master's, doctoral and post-doctoral degrees in wildlife conservation at the National Centre for Biological Sciences in Bangalore.

You may recall that the NJ Chapter played a significant role in his getting the Sierra Club's Earthcare award a couple of years ago.

(Our tiger conservation activities are separately funded by donors all over the world.)



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!*

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

Our Group has reorganized: We are focusing 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 is working 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.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of EVERY month, at 7pm, at the Grist Mill Café, located in the Andover Post Office Shopping Plaza on Rte 206 (Rte 517 intersection) in Andover. Phone: 973-786-6400.

Please visit our website for details on what we have planned each month:
<http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/northwest/>

North Jersey Group

(Bergen and Passaic 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
Political Alternate: Phoebe Gistrak p-mg@att.net
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://litr's> eral meetings, Cool Cities Campaign, recycling, environmental justice or other issues, please contact Betsy or Mike (see above).

Jan 17: at the Paramus Public Library, E-116 Century Road, Paramus: "We Are The Sierra Club," an introduction to Club activities, conservation issues and volunteer opportunities in northern New Jersey, with group activists.

Feb 14: Location and program TBA.

Mar 13: Location and program TBA.

CONSERVATION ISSUES: Below are some issue updates. To find out more or alert us to others, please contact Mike, Tom, Betsy, or Tricia (see above).

(1) Congratulations to SaveParamusWetlands.com for moving a step closer toward permanently preserving 35 acres containing wetlands and the headwaters of the C1 Musquapsink Brook that flows into the Oradell Reservoir! A month after the August hearing, the DEP denied the developer's application for freshwater wetlands and stream encroachment permits.

(2) Large-scale housing projects threaten the Ramapo River and watershed just over the NY/NJ border where the sole source aquifer provides drinking water for NJ and Rockland County residents. The first phase of the proposed 1,195-unit Tuxedo Reserve — 105 houses on the rocky slopes between Sloatsburg and Tuxedo Park — is now before the Tuxedo Planning Board.

(3) In Mahwah, the citizen group STOP opposes the Pilot Travel Centers plan for a truck stop on Route 17, just 50 feet from the High School and not far from other schools. The Pilot project raises serious concerns about children's exposure to diesel emissions and more pollution in the Ramapo River watershed.

(4) We continue to be concerned about Clifton's Latteri Park, Elmwood Park's air quality as bankrupt Marcal reorganizes under new ownership, Hackensack River vegetative riparian corridors, essential for flood control and habitat, and Van Buskirk Island where the Eastern Towhee, Baltimore Oriole, Black-crowned Night Heron, and other migratory species have been sighted.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS! To find out how you can help with issues, outings, meetings, Cool Cities Campaign, recycling, environmental justice, transportation, and more, 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, 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, Ridgely, Edgewater, Cliffside Park and Fairview)

OFFICERS:

Chair: Louise Taylor 201-886-9320 ltaylor2@nj.rr.com
Vice-Chair: Helen Manogue 201-963-3511
Secretary: Connie Ftera 201-869-7950 cftera@earthlink.net
Treasurer: Brane Zivkovic 201-758-0398 brane@nyu.edu
Conservation Chair: *Open position!*
Political Chair: Brane Zivkovic 201-758-0398 brane@nyu.edu
Publicity: *Open position!*
Parks Chair: Rosemary Arena 201-861-6222 drrosemary@verizon.net
Cool Cities Chair: Helen Manogue 201-963-3511
Singles Chair: Marlene Rost 201-766-8982 MARRO@optonline.net
Outings Chair: Scottie Perry 201-320-1758 scottieperry@optonline.net
Palisades Landmark Status Committee:
Chair: Rosemary Arena 201-861-6222 drrosemary@verizon.net
Vice Chair: David Kronick 201-869-6218 jktejas@aol.com
Group ExCom Members:
 Gil Hawkins 201-944-5799 gilc3d2@aol.com
 Donald Kopczynski 201-224-2641 Littlechops03@netzero.com
 Melissa McCarthy 201-324-3964 mcmel@verizon.net
 Mike Selender 201-484-7277 mike_selender@mindspring.com

Meetings: The Hudson-Meadowlands Group holds four General Meetings per year. Please contact Louise Taylor for information about the next meeting.

We distributed about 1200 flyers and 1000+ hand cards in support of Ballot Question #3, bumper stickers and posters, and put up a carefully-targeted smattering of lawn-signs, both in N. Bergen and in Hoboken. Hudson County had the highest "Yes" vote in the state. We think we had at least something to do with that.

We are working hard to save open space on the Hudson River shore, and to protect the New Jersey Palisades south of the George Washington Bridge from further destruction. We need your help. Please contact Louise Taylor to volunteer.

Essex County Group

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

OFFICERS:

Chair: Walt Goldenbaum 973-925-8662 goldenb1@optonline.net
Vice Chair: Janine Schaeffer 973-432-2043 janinesch@comcast.net
Conserv, Pol Chair: Chris Weis 973-224-0474 CWeis11@cs.com
Conserv. Vice-Chair: Linda M. Stiles 973-736-2224 birdlady07052@aol.com
Publicity Chair: Walter Clarke 973-723-1642 walterclarke2@optonline.net
Outings/Parks: Dave Ogens 973-226-0748 bandit29@aol.com
Treas, 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 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

**2008 is an election year for the entire House of Representatives (and US President).
 Our Political Committee would welcome help with interviewing candidates and deciding on endorsements.**

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.

Feb 5: "Who Killed the Electric Car?" 7 to 9 pm. The Sierra Club Essex Group invites you to view this thought-provoking film about the downfall of the electric car industry. A lively discussion will follow. Free and open to the public.

Jan 8: Get Involved in an **Essex County Bio Blitz**, 7 to 9 pm. Volunteers needed to help launch the first ever Bioblitz of the South Mountain Reservation! The Rahway River Association will present information on how to conduct and participate in a 24-hour effort to sample & identify flora and fauna in Essex County's 2047-acre South Mountain Reservation. Our Bio Blitz is planned over a 24-hour period starting at 5pm on June 20 and concluding at 5pm on June 21. For more information please telephone 973-228-8776. Free and open to the public.

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

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: on our Website : <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka/>.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Jan 9 - Mountaintop Removal: A program about the mountaintop removal method of coal mining in West Virginia will be presented. Other groups who have seen this program have said this is a must-see presentation.

Feb 13 - Alaska: Julia Shaw of the Alaska Wilderness League will give a presentation of environmental issues in Alaska.

Mar 12 - Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness: A campaign is underway to designate Utah's redrock canyonlands as a national wilderness. A slideshow presentation on the Utah wilderness will be followed by questions and discussion.

Advance notice: May 14 - Organic Gardening - Organic Gardening and its low impact on the Environment: Come out to hear Jonathan Jeans who has been gardening organically in NJ for more than 35 years. Organic gardening in the backyard is beneficial to the environment as it adds no chemicals to the landscape, encourages wildlife and creates a safe place for humans to spend time in - while adding many healthful treats to the dinner table and welcome sights for the eyes and sounds for the ears.

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
Conserv'n Chair:	Rocky Swingle	609-587-7568	rockyswingle@optonline.net
Membership:	Terry Stimpfel	609-918-1149	terystimb@hotmail.com
Outings:	Leona Fluck	609-259-3734	Leona@pineypaddlers.com
Political Chair:	Terry Stimpfel	609-918-1149	terystimb@hotmail.com
Publicity:	Ruth Ann Mitchell		
Members at Large:	Harold Rapp	609-671-0435	HalRapp@aol.com
	Leona Fluck	609-259-3734	Leona@pineypaddlers.com
	Malcolm McFarland	609-448-8699	jmalcolmmcfarland@verizon.net
	Ruth Ann Mitchell		

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

GENERAL MEETINGS: Our general meetings are free and open to all - members and public alike. Come join us, make new friends, enjoy refreshments and share conservation ideas! Please see our website for meeting locations, directions, maps and last minute inclement weather announcements.

Jan 8: No meeting. Enjoy the holidays.

Feb 13 (Wed): What is the connection between **Population and Global Warming**, and what can we do about it? Former Vice President Al Gore, speaking on global warming at the National SC Summit in San Francisco on Sept. 9, 2005, talked about the "collision between our civilization and the earth," with a quadrupled population of our planet in the past century, and called for us to take responsibility for the environmental consequences. Bonnie Tillery, Chapter Population Issues Coordinator & member of the Club's National Global Population and the Environment Program Committee will give a slide presentation showing this link. Discussion to follow. 7:30 pm at West Windsor Branch of the Mercer Co. Library System, 333 North Post Rd, Princeton Junction, corner of Clarksville & Old Post Roads.

Mar 8 (Sat): Roebbling Park Spruce-up and Lunch at Mastoris: 9am. Enjoy a "Walk in the Park" while supporting the spring trash pick-up at Spring Lake - Roebbling Park (end of *Continued on page 8*)

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GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

Sewell Ave., Hamilton). Joint with Mercer Co Parks and D&R Greenway Land Trust. Bring working gloves. Dress appropriately, may be muddy. From 12:15 - 1:30 pm, enjoy a very casual meal at Mastoris Restaurant & Diner, Rte 130 & 206, Bordentown. Get an update on the progress of the NJ Recycling Bill. Families Invited. Contact Leona and George Fluck: Leona@pineypaddlers.com or Terry at 609-918-1149 terystimb@hotmail.com. See Outings section and website for additional information.

OUTINGS: For more information on Central Group Outings see our website and the Chapter Outings List in this Sierran.

Feb 25 (Mon): D&R Canal State Park Hike (Princeton - Mercer Co.)

Mar 17 (Mon): Canoe/Kayak The Crosswicks Creek/Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh.

SOME LOCAL ISSUES and ACTIONS the Central Group is currently addressing include: Princeton Nursery (Mercer and Monmouth Co.), Klockner Woods (Hamilton Twp), Rte 33 Woods (Hamilton), NJ Turnpike Exits 6-8 Expansion, and Rte 33 By-pass (Hamilton, Washington Twps).

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

Please e-mail Terry to receive up-to-the-minute Central Group meeting reminders and notices of local events. And please e-mail Laura Lynch at njsierraclub@gmail.com to receive NJ Sierra Chapter-wide Issue Alert messages.

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 sunil123@verizon.net
Outings:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Political Chair:	Randy Gill	732-525-2612 ragill@optonline.net
Secretary:	Michael Ricketts	732-371-9961 ictonyx@gmail.com
Treasurer, Webmaster:	Don McBride	732-560-0369 dtmcbride@yahoo.com
Publicity:	Sandi Lowich	abstract46@aol.com
Programs:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Chapter Delegate:	Sunil Somalwar	732-572-7721 sunil123@verizon.net
At-large ExCom:	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 Programs Chair 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:

Unavailable at press time. Please contact officers above, or website.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Held at 7pm on the SECOND MONDAY of 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://NewJersey.SierraClub.org/JerseyShore/>

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.

Jan 28: Pete Bacinski, head of Sandy Hook Audubon, will treat us to a **bird's eye view of the region**.

Feb 25: Richard Webster, Esq. Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic. "**Can Nuclear Power be part of the Solution?**"

Mar 24: Amy Goldsmith, State Director of NJ Environmental Federation (NJEF), will speak on the **Clean Communities program** that she is encouraging municipalities to adopt.

GROUP EXCOM meetings are held at 6pm before each Group Meeting, at Luigi's Restaurant, nearby.

Ocean County Group

Website: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean

OFFICERS:

Chair:	A. Gregory Auriemma, Esq.	732-451-9220	sierraclubOC@aol.com
Vice-Chr, Outings:	Dawn Marie Johns	732-269-3729	sierraclubOC@hotmail.com
Conserv'n Chair:	Margit Meissner-Jackson	609-296-4367	sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com
Secretary-Treas:	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 Chr:	Sandy Brown	609-242-9304	sandylbrown@comcast.net
ExCom Member:	Jocelyn Isaza	732-581-0130	nightingale77nj@yahoo.com
ExCom Member:	Helen Henderson	908-278-9807	hhlaceyrailtrail@msn.com

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.

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!

Jan 28 (Mon): All our welcome for our first GENERAL MEETING of the New Year will be held at the "SKYWALK CAFE" in TOMS RIVER! We will recap the events and issues covered in 2007 and discuss the events and issues planned for the year ahead. Main topic TBA.

Feb (Sat): Join us for our **first outing of the New Year**. This will be a "Special Event" as we take an "ECO TOUR" of the Barnegat Bay at the Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. Pack a lunch and bring your binoculars, as we will see lots of waterfowl. For more details and the date of the event, please contact Dawn Marie Johns, our Outings Chair.

Mar 26 (Mon): GENERAL MEETING held at 7pm at the "SKYWALK CAFE" in Toms River. Our main topic TBA

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Gina Carola	856-848-8831	ginaceee@verizon.net
Vice-Chair:	Frank Zinni		
Secretary:	Ellen Zinni		
Treasurer:	Trish Clements	856-768-5639	patri321@comcast.net
Publicity Chair:	Bud Kaliss	856-428-8071	budkaliss@earthlink.net
Political Chair:	Wayne Zanni	856-728-4507	wzanni@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.

Jan 8: Nick Charles Harrison, journalist from Woodstown will lead a panel discussion on "TDR vs. NJ Home Rule" in the context of his soon to be published article in the APA monthly Bulletin.

Feb 12: Robert Melvin, planner with Melvin-Kernan, Planners of Thoroughfare will discuss his **townscape design for the Woolwich TDR** off Rte 322.

March 11: Jackie Feinberg of the Utah Wilderness Coalition will present a multi-media slide show of the beautiful **Utah Redrock Wilderness** and lead a discussion of the Utah wilderness campaign. Learn how you can help urge Congress to designate 9.5 million acres of public lands as wilderness.

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 rainforest 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:

Jan 8 (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.

Jan 17 (Thurs) 7pm: Atlantic County 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. Warren Fox Nature Center (WFNC*): Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor: Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 3 miles south of Mays Landing.

Jan 28 (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).

Feb 20 (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).

Feb 21 (Thurs) 7pm: Friends of the Parks: Monthly meeting. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. WFNC* (see above).

Feb 25 (Tues) 7pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: Trustees’ meeting, open to the public. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. WFNC* (see above).

March 12 (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.

Mar 20 (Thurs) 7pm: Friends of the Parks: Monthly meeting. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. WFNC* (see above).

Mar 25 (Tues) 7pm: Annual Members’ Meeting of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association. 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>	Contact us! We need you!
Treasurer:	Joyce White	joycewhite@netzero.net
Webpage designer:	Tom Miller	millertom@juno.com
Social Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>	Contact us! We need you!
Programs:	<i>Open Position!</i>	Contact us! We need you!
Publicity:	<i>Open Position!</i>	Contact us! We need you!
Cool Cities Coordinator:	Terry Stimpfel	terystimb@hotmail.com
Membership:	Walter Goldenbaum	goldenb1@optonline.net

Volunteer Opportunities: We need volunteers in all areas of the state to run events. Volunteers needed for the positions of: hike leaders, 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 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.

Jan 14, Feb 11, & Mar 10 – speakers 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.

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 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 preserv-

(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)

ing 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
Northern Jersey YS Rep.	Jim DeSantis	green@hobokengreendrinks.com
Outings Chair North:	Donna Morgan	
Outings Chair Central:	<i>Open Position!</i>	Please Contact Us!
Outings Chair South:	<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.

Jan 11 (Fri) 6pm: 20/30s Singles Mingle in Morristown Café Calaloo
Jan 27 (Sun) 2pm: 20/30s Sunday Social Game Day & Pizza in Somerset County
Feb 1 (Fri) 6pm: 20/30s Singles Mingle Happy Hour in Bergen County with Nightclub Dancing
Feb 9 (Sat) 6pm: 20/30s Social Dinner in Somerset County
Feb 23 (Sat) 7:30 pm: 20/30s Rock N Roll Bowling in Somerset County
Feb 28 (Thurs) 7pm: Hoboken Greendrinks Happy Hour Social
Mar 1 (Sat) 6pm: 20/30s Singles Mingle, Billiards & Nightlife in Middlesex County
Mar 14 (Fri) 7pm: 20/30s Singles Mingle in Princeton & Live Band Music
Mar 29 (Sat) 2-3pm: Young Sierrans Committee Meeting, Bridgewater Library
Mar 29 (Sat) 3pm: 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 is open to all of any age. www.AlaskaWild.org
Mar 29 (Sat) 5:30 pm: Dinner at The Office Grill on Rte 22 in Somerset County. Open to all ages.
Mar 29 (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)

National Website: <http://www.ssc.org/>

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/>. Last year, for the 50 ICO groups nationwide, ICO leaders led 727 outings for 9,203 youth participants, while New Jersey ICO led 7 outings for 67 youth - less than 1 % of the national total. As New Jersey's population of 8.8 million represents 3% of the country's population, the NJ-ICO Chair considers this performance to be sub-par and so would like to solicit leadership help. If you would be willing to devote some time and energy discussing and implementing ideas for growing NJ-ICO, please contact us.



Outings

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

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

Central Jersey: Leona Fluck
leona@pineypaddlers.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: Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H)
NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd, Warren, 07059
Chapter Outings: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417
eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Outing Leaders: Please send April-June 2008 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before January 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 April-June 2008, trip write-ups by February 3.

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

Sierra Club outings are arranged by volunteer leaders who are in charge of the trip and responsible for the safety, welfare and enjoyment of all participants. Leaders

determine qualifications to participate, adequacy of equipment, routes to be followed, and special precautions to be taken. Please arrive adequately prepared and equipped. If you have any allergies, please remember to bring your medication. The leader has the final word in the conduct of the trip. Your cooperation will help assure a safe and pleasant outing.

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

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

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

If you are a Sierra Club member interested in becoming an Outing Leader or have suggestions for new outings, contact your Group Outings Chair or the Chapter Outings Chair for assistance and further information. The Sierra Club 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.

JANUARY

Jan 1, 2008 (Tue): Clayton Park, Upper Freehold Twp, Monmouth Co. (Special Interest: History) Ring in the New Year with a moderate 6-mile hike in one of Monmouth County Park System's best kept secrets. Moderate elevation gains. Hiking shoes not required. Bring snack and drink. Meet 9am at the Wawa store near the intersection of County Rte 537 and I-195 in Upper Freehold Township. Bad weather (includes snow cover) cancels. Confirmation/questions call or text leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

Jan. 6 (Sun): Social Hike, Apple Pie Hill, Burl. Co. 9am. 7-8 miles. All are welcomed. Moderate pace. Hike the highest point in SJ for a great panoramic view of the pines. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NP/NC. Meet at Carranza Memorial parking lot, 6.7 miles SE of Tabernacle, on Carranza Road. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 Eve. pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels

Jan. 12 (Sat): Pine Meadow Lake Loop, NY. 10am. 8 mile beautiful hike along the streams to/from Pine Meadow Lake in Harriman State Park. Icy conditions would change route. Bring lunch & lots of water. Heavy rain/snow/sleet would cancel. Joint with AMC. Limit 12 people. Must preregister. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (NJ)

Jan 12 (Sat): Hatfield Swamp Hike, Essex Co. 10am. Meet at the Essex Co. Environmental Center. We will hike 4-5 miles through the Hatfield Swamp. Wear waterproof boots; if snow covered, then cross country skiing or snow shoes an option. Lunch to follow at local eatery. A \$3 fee will be charged to nonmembers. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Rain cancels. Leader: Ron Pate: ronpate31@verizon.net (E)

Jan. 13 (Sun): Harriman State Park NY. 10am. 8-mile moderately paced hike. Depending on trail conditions we will either take trails or fire roads from Johnstown Circle on a moderate paced hike. Bring lunch & lots of water. Limit 12 people. Joint with AMC. Must preregister. Heavy rain/snow/sleet would cancel. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (NJ)

Jan 18-21 (Fri-Mon): Martin Luther King Weekend, X-C Ski/Snowshoe Trip staying at Trail's End B & B in the Lake Placid area of the Adirondack Mts. of New York. Ski at Mt. VanHoevenburg Center, site of the 1980 Olympics, and other X-C centers. Also, lots of backcountry X-C/snowshoeing areas. Great for all levels of skiers/snowshoers. Cost: \$258 p/p, includes 3 nights' lodging, 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners, 2 apres ski parties, taxes and gratuities. Very popular trip, early sign-up necessary (Sept). Call Charlie Phy at 609-567-0221 for complete details.

Jan. 19 (Sat): Moonlight Hike, Campfire and Campout. 7pm. 7 miles, moderate pace. Hike the Pines under the Wolf Moon on a new route and return to a roaring campfire. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NC/NP. Meet at Atsion Lake, Burl. Co: From Rte 206 take Atsion Rd. west 1 mile, go to Goshen Pond Group site sign turn left go to camping area. Camping is available Friday and Saturday, call to reserve space. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-463-3593 eve. or pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels. Contact leader to confirm hike.

Jan 19 (Sat): Jockey Hollow Grand Loop, Morris Co. 10am. We will do the Grand Loop at Jockey Hollow National Park in Morristown. See <http://www.nps.gov/morr/playourvisit/directions.htm> for directions and information. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Meet at the visitors' cen-

The Winter Walk at Noon

(William Cowper, 1731-1800)

...Where now the vital energy that moved,
While Summer was, the pure and subtle lymph
Through the imperceptible meandering veins
Of leaf and flower? It sleeps; and the icy touch
Of unprolific winter has impressed
A cold stagnation on the intestine tide.
But let the months go round, a few short months,
And all shall be restored. These naked shoots,
Baren as lances, among which the wind
Makes wintry music, sighing as it goes,
Shall put their grateful foliage on again,
And more aspiring, and with ampler spread,
Shall boast new charms, and more than they have lost.

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

ter. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footgear required (sabilicers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. Optional lunch at a local eatery if we get done in time. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove, Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com . Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. (E)

Jan. 20 (Sun): Black River Trail/Patriots Path 11am 8 miles very scenic trail connects two nature centers in Morris County and follows the Black River. Snow/sleet/rain would cancel. Limit 12 people. Must pre-register. Carpool can be set up from Parsippany at 10:15 am or you can meet at trail head at Cooper Mill in Morris County. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (NJ)

Jan 25-27 (Fri-Sun): Catskill Mountain (NY) Winter Weekend: Alpine Inn. Enjoy all of winter's white magic in the special beauty of the high peaks of the central Catskills by skiing the numerous alpine resorts and cross country ski trails. Hikers and snowshoers can explore and photograph the scenic mountain beauty of the miles of the spectacular state maintained trail system covering this mountain range. In the evening by fireside we plan a great mountaineering or SCUBA Diving color slide program and/or magic show. Excellent accommodations and gourmet food! Total cost for 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner, one trail lunch and all taxes & gratuities: \$219. This is a joint trip of the AMC and Sierra Club. Our several cross country skiing and hiking trips are rated from the easiest to more difficult. Leader: Al Tatyrek (eve 973 - 763- 2303 - no calls after 10pm) Send transportation, activities planned and other info with \$100 deposit and SASE envelope to our co-leader and registrar: Balance of payment is due on arrival at the Alpine Inn . Info Website http://www.geocities.com/petebeck_00/catskills Registrar & co-leader: Peter Beck H 201-274-4471; 212 Perry St., Dover NJ 07801 (E)

Jan 26 (Sat): Tallman Mountain State Park. (Rockland Co, NY) 11am. Moderate, 7 miles. We will hike through Tallman Mountain State Park and view the berms and salt marsh. We will then walk the mile-long Piermont pier halfway across the Hudson! Trails include the Long Path. Bring lunch and water. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY. Drivers meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural). Leader: John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

FEBRUARY

Feb. 2 (Sat): Minnewaska/Lake Awosting (NY). 10:15 am. 9-mile scenic loop along trails and carriage-ways to Lake Awosting. Beautiful views. Optional dinner stop in New Paltz after hike. Rain/snow/sleet would cancel. Bring lunch, snacks & water. Group limit 12 people. Must preregister. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (NJ)

Feb. 3 (Sun): Hike Wissahickon Gorge (Philadelphia). 8:30 am. 8 miles, moderate pace, over hills and valleys. Hike the Gorge in late winter with its spectacular views. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Proper hiking shoes required. Meet at 8:30 am in the rear parking lot of Crown Plaza Hotel (formerly Hilton Hotel) on Rte 70, to carpool/caravan to site or meet 9:30 am at Valley Green parking lot in park. NP/NC. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 eve or pis1@cccnj.net Inclement weather cancels

Feb 3 (Sun): Ramapo Reservation, Bergen/Passaic Cos. 10am. 8-mile, moderate-paced loop connects Ramapo Reservation to Ringwood State Park passing 3 lakes. Lunch stop at a great viewpoint. Bring lunch & lots of water. Heavy rain/snow/sleet would cancel. Limit 12 people. Opt. pizza/beer stop after hike. Must preregister. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (NJ)

Feb 9th (Sat): Social Hike at Eagle Rock Reservation, Essex Co. We will hike 4-5 miles at a moderate pace. Bring water and snacks and wear hiking boots. Meet before 10am at the Highlawn Pavilion Parking lot off Eagle Rock Ave. in West Orange. Take I-280 to Prospect Ave (exit 8B), head north, right turn onto Eagle Rock Ave, left turn into reservation. A \$3 fee will be charged to nonmembers. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Rain cancels. Leader: Ron Pate, ronpate31@verizon.net (E)

Feb 9 (Sat): Tallman Mountain State Park. (Rockland Co NY) 11am. 7 miles. This is a beginners young peoples hike. We will hike through Tallman Mountain State Park and view the berms and salt marsh. We will then walk the mile-long Piermont pier halfway across the Hudson! Trails include the Long Path. Bring lunch and water. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY. Drivers meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural) at 11am. Leader: John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

Feb 9 (Sat): Harteshorne Woods, Monmouth Co. (Special interest: Recent History) Moderate 6-mile hike has elevation gains and a lot of scenery. Please bring drinks and snacks. Hiking shoes are suggested. Meet at 9am at the Rocky Point parking area. Take GSP to exit 117. Take Rte 36 toward Sandy Hook, approx. 11 miles. Exit right at Portland Rd.(last exit before bridge). Stay on Portland Road to top of hill. Parking area is ahead to the left. Bad weather, (includes snow cover) cancels. Confirmation/questions please call. Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

Feb. 9 (Sat.): Let's socialize on skis (snowboards)! Join other Sierra Singles for a day of skiing/snowboarding at Campgaw Mountain (Mahwah, Bergen County). Campgaw Mountain is offering us a 50% discount off its regular rates! Bring your own equipment or rent it at Campgaw. Don't know how to ski (snowboard)? It's about time you learned in a relaxed non-threatening, environment with a patient PSIA certified instructor (that would be me for skiing and our Snow Sports School Director for snowboarding). At mid-day, let's sit down together around the table at Campgaw cafeteria for lunch and socializing and do the same for dinner by the end of the day. "Rain" date, Sunday, Feb. 10. We'll meet at 10am. For more information contact the Leader (George Ekel) by e-mail (GeorgeEkel@aol.com) or by phone (201-444-2096). Registration with the Leader a MUST!

Feb 14 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak Oswego River on Valentine's Day (Burlington Co): 10am. Meet at Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego Rd in Penn State Forest. Paddle 7 miles and celebrate our "Love of the Pinelands Rivers" with homemade brownies & chocolate candy. Please contact leaders to confirm trip, meeting time and participation. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Feb 16 (Sat): Watchung Reservation Ramble, Union Co: 10am. Moderate 5-mile hike. Meet at the Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave. where it intersects with New Providence Rd. in Mountainside. We should be done around Noon. Leader: John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

Feb 16 (Sat): Lewis Morris Park, Morris Co. 10am. We will start at Sunrise Lake, then hike to the parking upper lot and back down to the lake using a combination of the Yellow and Red trails. The pace will be a moderate to slow one. See the Morris County Parks Commission website (<http://www.morrisparks.org/aspparks/lmdir.asp>) for directions. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Meet in parking lot. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footgear required (sabilicers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove, Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com . Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. (E)

Feb. 17 (Sun): Social Tundra Swan Hike, Burlington Co. 10am. 6 miles. Moderate pace. All are welcome. Hike the wintry beauty among ponds filled with Tundra Swans. Bring binoculars. Dress for the cold weather. NP/NC. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet at Whitesbog Village parking lot. Take Rte 70 east to Rte 530 north (Browns Mills/Ft Dix), go 1 mile, turn right onto Whitesbog Road, go to parking lot. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve., pis1@cccnj.net Inclement weather cancels.

Feb 23 (Sat): Clausland Mountain (Rockland County NY) 11am. 6 miles. We will climb up Clausland Mountain (700' Climb) through historic Rockland Cemetery to an old Nike missile base. Bring hiking boots, lunch, 2 quarts of water. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY. Drivers meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural) at 11am. Leader: John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

Feb. 23 (Sat): Social Full Moon Hike. 7pm. 6-7 miles. Moderate pace. All are welcomed. Hike the pines in winter under the Snow full moon. Bring snack type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NC/NP. Meet in field behind Atsion Ranger Office on Rte 206 between Hammonton and Red Lion Circle, Burl. Co. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve. pis1@cccnj.net Contact leader to confirm hike.

Feb 25 (Mon): D&R Canal State Park Hike (Princeton, Mercer Co.): 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. We'll enjoy a winter walk on the towpath from Turning Basin Park, Alexander Rd., crossing over the Millstone Aqueduct and end at the Kingston Lock on Rte 27. Bring binoculars, lunch and beverage. We'll stop for lunch as we hike along Carnegie Lake. Dogs are welcome! Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: Leona and George F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Feb 29-Mar 2 (Fri-Sun): CATSKILL MOUNTAIN WINTER WEEK END (NY). Alpine Inn. Enjoy all of winter's white magic in the special beauty of the high peaks of the central Catskills. Hikers and snowshoers can explore and photograph the scenic mountain beauty of the miles of the spectacular state maintained trail system covering this mountain range. Skiing the numerous alpine resorts and cross country ski trails also available. In the evening by fireside we plan a great mountaineering or SCUBA color slide program and/or magic show. Excellent accommodations and gourmet food! Total cost for 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner, one trail lunch and all taxes & gratuities: \$219. Our several cross country skiing and hiking trips are rated from the easiest to more difficult. Leader : Al Tatyrek (eve 973 - 763- 2303 - no calls after 10pm). Send transportation, activities planned and other info with \$100 deposit and SASE envelope to our co-leader and registrar: Balance of payment is due on arrival at the Alpine Inn. Info website: http://www.geocities.com/petebeck_00/catskills Registrar & co-leader: Peter Beck H 201-274-4471 212 Perry St., Dover NJ 07801 (E)

MARCH

Mar 2 (Sun): Social Hike and Birthday Brunch. 9:30 am. 5 miles, moderate pace. Hike between two rivers in late winter, wildlife sighting possible. Then help celebrate the leader's birthday as we enjoy an all you can eat buffet at Renault Winery Restaurant. NC/NP. Meet at Atsion Office on Rte 206, between Hammonton and Red Lion Circle, Burl. Co. Leader. Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve., or pis1@cccnj.net Limited seating, call early to reserve a place. Inclement weather cancels.

Mar 2 (Sun): Island Pond Loop (Rockland Co, NY) 10am. 9-mile moderately-paced hike from Lake Skannati to Island Pond and back. This loop has several scenic views, and only some moderate ups and downs. Heavy rain/snow/sleet would cancel. Bring lunch & lots of water. Limit 12 people. Must pre-register. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (NJ)

Mar 8 (Sat): Roebing Park Trash Pick-up (Mercer Co). 9 -12pm. Enjoy a "Walk in the Park" while supporting the spring trash pick-up. Bring working gloves, if you have them. Wear long-sleeves and long pants. Meet at Spring Lake - Roebing Park (end of Sewell Ave, Hamilton). Joint with Mercer County Parks and D&R Greenway Land Trust. Leader: Harold Rapp HALRAPP@AOL.COM (C)

Mar 8 (Sat): Breakneck Pond loop (Rockland Co, NY) 10am. 10-mile moderate paced hike in Harriman. Trail conditions will determine exact route/combination of fire roads and hiking trails to this lake for a lovely picnic lunch spot at old summer camp on lake shore. Heavy rain/snow/sleet would cancel. Bring lunch & lots of water. Limit 12 people. Must preregister. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (NJ)

Mar 8 (Sat): Social Hike at Eagle Rock Reservation. 10am We will hike 4-5 miles at a moderate pace. Bring water and snacks and wear hiking boots. Meet at the Highlawn Pavilion Parking lot off Eagle Rock Ave. in West Orange. Take I-280 to Prospect Ave (exit 8B), head north, right turn onto Eagle Rock Ave, left turn into reservation. A \$3 fee will be charged to nonmembers. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Rain cancels. Leader: Ron Pate: ronpate31@verizon.net (E)

Mar 9 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak The Mullica River (Burlington Co). 9am. Daylight Savings Time begins today!! We'll paddle 14 miles from Atsion to Pleasant Mills. This is a trip for experienced Pinelands paddlers. Call to confirm trip, meeting logistics and participation. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Mar 17 (Mon): Canoe/Kayak the Crosswicks Creek/Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh on St. Patrick's Day (Mercer Co). 10am. Wear Your Green! We'll paddle with the tide from Bordentown up the Crosswicks to Roebing Park. Bring lunch and beverage. After lunch: option to hike to Spring Lake. Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St. in Bordentown. Please contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Leaders: George & Leona F 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Mar 20 (Thur): Canoe/Kayak the N.Branch Rancocas and Celebrate the Vernal Equinox (Burlington Co): 9am. Welcome spring with a paddle on the 10-mile canoe trail from the trailhead behind BCCC to

(continued on page 12)

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Ken Johanson**, Joan and George Denzer,
Sunil Somalwar

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Johanson, Laura Bagwell, George Denzer

Legislative Committee

Ken Johanson**, Dave Mattek,
Carolyn Freeman, Bill Finnegan, Jeff Tittel

Litigation Oversight Committee

Ken Johanson**, Carolyn Freeman

Finance Committee

George Denzer**, Sunil Somalwar,
Ken Johanson

Information Technology Committee

Sunil Somalwar**, George Newsome
Bob Johnson, Laura Lynch

Facilities (office, meeting sites)

George Denzer**, Joan Denzer, Bob
Johnson, Sunil Somalwar, Bonnie Tillery

* Indicates Chapter-wide elected ExCom members.

** Indicates committee chair or co-chair

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

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

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

January 12 at the Chatham Public Library (214 Main St.)

February 9 at the Hamilton Public Library (Mercer Co, Cypress Lane)

March 15 at the Hamilton Public Library

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

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

Smithville Park. Option to meet for breakfast at the Vincentown Diner. Contact leaders to confirm trip, logistics and participation. Leaders: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)


Mar 22 (Sat): Patriots Path Stroll (Morris Co). 10am Come take an easy stroll on Patriots Path in Morristown. This 3-5 mile stroll will start out from the Speedwell Lake parking lot, across the street from Historic Speedwell. See the Morris County Parks website (<http://www.morrisparks.org/>) for directions. The path is wide, partly paved, partly crushed stabilized gravel with very little in the way of elevation gains. We will be strolling at a very moderate pace. Please bring plenty of water and a light snack. Great for beginners. No pets please. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footgear required (stabilizers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. Optional lunch afterwards. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove, Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com . Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. (E)

Mar 22 (Sat): Moonlight Hike, Campfire and Campout. 7pm. 7 miles at moderate pace. Enjoy a spring moonlight hike in the Pines under the Worm Moon on a new route and return to a roaring campfire. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NC/NP. Meet at Atsion Lake, Burl. Co., From Rte 206 take Atsion Rd. west 1 mile, go to Goshen Pond Group site sign turn left go to camping area. Camping is available Friday and Saturday, call to reserve space. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-463-3593 eve. or pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels

Mar 23 (Sun): Pine Meadow Lake/Harriman State Park (Rockland County NY) 10am 9-mile beautiful hike along the streams to/from Pine Meadow Lake and the Egg for NY skyline views. Icy conditions would change route. Bring lunch & lots of water. Heavy rain/snow/sleet would cancel. Limit 12 people. Must preregister. Leader Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (NJ)

Mar 29 (Sat): Hook Mountain Hike (Rockland County NY) 10:30 am. 7 miles. Excellent views of the Hudson River and Croton Point. Meet at the South Parking Lot of Rockland Lake State Park off Rte 9W. Leader: John P. Jurasek, 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

Mar 30 (Sun): Manasquan River Reservoir, Monmouth County (Special Interest: birds) Enjoy an easy 5-mile circular hike on one of the largest reservoirs in the area. We may observe water fowl. Bring snacks, drinks, bird books or binoculars. Hiking shoes are not required. This is a great family hike. Meet at 9am at the main entrance to the reservoir on Windeller Rd. Take the GSP to exit 98. Head west on I-195 to exit 28 (Rte 9). Go north on Rte 9. Make first right onto Windeller Rd. The main entrance is 1.5 miles on your left. Meet in the parking area at the far left toward the back. Bad weather, (includes snow cover) cancels. Confirmation/questions please call or text leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS).



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Editorial Board: George and Joan Denzer, Rich Isaac, Ken Johanson, Laura Lynch, Paul Sanderson, Sunil Somalwar, Bonnie Tillery and Jeff Tittel.

The Jersey Sierran appears in January, April, July and October. The deadline for copy is on the 10th of the month, two months before appearance. Members are cordially invited to propose articles, essays, letters, poetry and artwork. (Group/Section News columns are prepared by Group/Section Chairs; Outings are vetted by the Chapter Outings Chair, Ellen Blumenkrantz.)

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

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