

The Jersey..... SIERRAN

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Nearly 21,000 Members in New Jersey

April-June 2008

Club Endorses John Adler for an Open Congressional Seat

By Rich Isaac, Chapter Political Chair (risaacx@aol.com)

The Sierra Club has endorsed State Sen. John Adler's bid for Congress in the 3rd Congressional District, currently held by retiring Rep. Jim Saxton. The 3rd District consists of most of Burlington and Ocean Counties, and Cherry Hill in Camden County.



State Sen. John Adler

Adler is currently State Senator for the 6th Legislative District, and has one of the best environmental leadership records of any member of the Legislature. Last summer he co-sponsored the New Jersey Global Warming Response Act, convincing both

Democrats and Republicans to enact the bill, which will push New Jersey to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and serve as a model for promoting renewable energy and energy conservation. In 2003 he prime-sponsored a bill that requires New Jersey to adopt California emissions standards for new cars.

As an open seat in a closely balanced District (51-49 Bush-Kerry in 2004), this race will be nationally targeted. To help us get Adler elected, please contact Greg Auriemma at: SierraClubOC@aol.com, or 732-451-9220.

Chapter Agenda for 2008

The January meeting of our Chapter's Executive Committee (ExCom), which took place on Jan. 12th in the Chatham Public Library, is traditionally enlivened by a debate over the prioritization of our issues. Here are the issues we decided to concentrate on in 2008, listed in no particular order:

Energy And Global Warming

- Implementation of New Jersey's Global Warming Response Act
- Energy efficiency legislative and regulatory measures, including green buildings and energy efficient appliances
- Alternative energy legislative and regulatory measures, including Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
- Transportation issues, including promotion of mass transit and other measures to reduce reliance on automobiles and trucks
- Other legislative initiatives, including a carbon generation tax on new developments to fund transportation projects and a low carbon fuels bill
- Cool Cities

Open Space Preservation

- Highlands Act implementation and enforcement
- Green Acres reauthorization
- Land use issues, including legislative measures to promote sound land use planning, opposition to sprawl-inducing development proposals and efforts to protect species and preserve habitat

Recycling

- Implementation of a new law requiring safe disposal of electronic waste
- Smart container legislation
- Plastic bag legislation

Water Supply and Quality

Site Remediation

Comprehensive Sex Education Presidential and Congressional Election Campaigns

Lobbying in support of our issues is carried out at federal, regional, state and local levels by our volunteers and by our staff members. All members are encouraged to become active in this work, most easily by contacting officers of their local Groups, identified in the middle (Group News) section of this Newsletter.

Other Candidates Endorsed for Congress

- 1st Dist.** (Camden, Gloucester Counties): Rep. Robert Andrews (D, incumbent)
2nd Dist. (Atlantic, Cape May, Cumb, Salem): Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R, incumbent)
7th Dist. (Central Jersey): in the June 3rd Primary: Leonard Lance (R) and Linda Stender (D)
8th Dist. (N. Essex, Passaic): Rep. William Pascrell (D, incumbent)
9th Dist. (Bergen, N. Hudson): Rep. Steven Rothman (D, incumbent)
10th Dist. (Essex, E. Union): Rep. Donald Payne (D, incumbent)
12th Dist. (Hunterdon, Mercer, M'sex, Monmouth): Rep. Rush Holt (D, incumbent)

Report from Trenton

Highlands Plan Misses the Point – It's Supposed to Be About the Water

By Jeff Tittel and Becca Glenn, Chapter Staff

The Highlands Act was passed in 2004 to restore, enhance, and protect the quality of the water supply for 5.4 million people in New Jersey – more than half the state's population. When the draft Highlands Regional Master Plan was released recently, however, its provisions showed more concern for protecting development interests than for protecting the water supply. In fact, many parts of the plan are in clear violation of the Highlands Act.

Most disturbingly, the plan allows new development in areas that are already in water supply deficit, requiring developers to remediate the harm done by engineering a 25% increase in recharge within five years after building. Due to the complex geology of the Highlands, recharge typically takes between 50 and 100,000 years, depending on the specific aquifer. Even if this could be artificially shortened to five years – a prospect that is impossible – the new developments will use water for five years, making the depletion worse and decreasing dilution of existing pollution, at the same time adding new wastewater pollution to New Jersey's streams. This is in clear violation of the Highlands Act, which mandates that there shall be no further degradation of Highlands waters.

The plan fails to include a proper capacity analysis to determine how much additional pollution from new development can be safely added, instead using a flawed nitrate model that overestimates the amount of development the Highlands can support. The plan's model averages nitrate pollution over entire watersheds, rather than looking specifically at the most densely populated areas. Therefore, the water being used by a particular community may

have a much higher level of pollution than the watershed average, meaning that the water in that community may not be safe, even if the average pollution level for the region meets standards for human health. In addition, the model fails to look at background nitrates from farmlands or lawns or what falls from the sky (nitrates make up .03% of our rainwater due to pollution from Midwestern power plants). By not including these background sources of nitrates in calculations of nitrate levels, the state is setting the stage for serious health consequences for the people of northern New Jersey.

Further, the plan greatly weakens restrictions on sewers, which are a necessary precursor to new development. The new draft of the plan allows sewers or package plants to be built in the Highlands Preservation Area to support new development, even though the Highlands Act itself forbids any new sewers that are not required by public health and safety concerns. In addition, the adjacency provision allows sewers to be extended into a new area if it is next to an existing sewer service area. The problem is that once a new area has sewers, the next area over is now adjacent to an existing sewer service area and is eligible for sewer extension – and on and on. So the plan is a recipe for sprawl creeping down the valleys of the Highlands in the same way that it traveled down Route 9 in Ocean County after an adjacency provision was included in the Coastal Area Facility Review Act.

Sprawl is not likely to be kept out of the most environmentally-sensitive areas, given that the current draft of the plan adds 87,000 acres – or 15% of the total area of the Highlands – to the areas des-

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Chapter Officers Elected

Congratulations to our members elected to the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in our Fall, 2007 balloting:

Elected to three-year terms: **Mike Herson** (North Jersey Group), **Rich Isaac** (Essex County Group) and **Jane Tousman** (Raritan Valley Group).

Elected to two-year terms:

Laura Bagwell (Jersey Shore Group) and **Laura Lynch** (Central Jersey Group).

Sierra Club Board of Directors Election: Endorsements by Chapter ExCom

This year is the first in which the New Jersey Chapter's Executive Committee has endorsed candidates running in the Club's national BoD election. Endorsements were made because of current attempts by the BoD to revise the "authority" of volunteers within the Club, relative to staff. The endorsements (see box on pg. 3) were mostly based upon responses to a questionnaire, submitted to BoD candidates, and summarized in the paragraphs below. Group Chairs and Chapter-wide officers can supply more information.

1. The "Project Renewal" restructuring of the Club's national leadership, currently before the BoD, would create "Coordinating Pairs", consisting of one volunteer appointed by the Board and accountable to the Club President, and one staff member appointed by and accountable to the Executive Director, empowered to select volunteers for task forces. This would permit, for the first time, the appointment of volunteers by staff persons.

2. The Council of [Volunteer] Club Leaders (CCL) is equivalent to the stockholders in a corporation, and represents the volunteer membership. According to the Club's Bylaws, "Chapter delegates to the CCL are designated to represent the membership..." Yet, according to a proposal within Project Renewal, the CCL will be enlarged with volunteers appointed by both the Board and by staff.

3. Currently, Board of Director candidates are required to be Club members for only one year prior to nomination. Thus many Chapter officers have more years of Club experience than Board members.

4. A proposed change in funding for chapters would make it more difficult for chapters to do advocacy work

5. Currently, the national organization prohibits state chapters from submitting grant applications to foundations that the national Club has applied to, and forbids chapters from maintaining their

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ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Environmental Significance of Federal Interest Rates

By our Global Warming Issues Coordinator, Sunil Somalwar (sunil123@verizon.net)

The Federal Reserve is in a bind because the messed up US economy could benefit from lower interest rates, but lowering the interest rates could stoke up inflation. The origin of BOTH sides of this dilemma is in bad environmental policies.

Forget the intrinsic good of preserving open space; think strictly from an economic point of view: had open space preservation been an economic "good," then there would have been fewer and smaller (cheaper) houses built, and at higher density, thus avoiding the mortgage crisis. The economy would not be suffering from massive indigestion from the bad debt it gobbled up. There would be no credit crisis and no need for the stimulus of lower interest rates.

Prices of commodities such as petroleum swing wildly on the narrowest mismatch of supply and demand. If energy efficiency were an economic priority, gas-guzzling vehicles would not have proliferated. Oil consumption would

have been lower, and that reduction in demand would have prevented the rising cost of petroleum, along with the fear of inflation, and the Fed could have lowered the interest rates to rescue the economy. Another inflation contributor is the rising cost of food — which comes from, you guessed it, another bad environmental policy: subsidized corn ethanol. Corn ethanol is responsible for switching millions of farm acres from food production to filling the gas-guzzlers.

So there we are, boxed in by lousy economic policies which also happen to be lousy environmental policies. Don't let anyone ever get away with the false premise of environmental good as the enemy of the economic good. The conflict is not between the environment and the markets, but between the environment and the profiteers who use the government to game the markets. **Environmental skullduggery is the canary in the coalmine of market corruption.**

Thanks for Your Support!

supplied by Ken Johanson, Chapter Chair

The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club would not be as effective as it is today were it not for the generosity of our members and friends. To all those who helped us out in 2007, please accept my most sincere thanks. Listed below are the names of those who made gifts of \$100 or more during 2007. Space does not permit us to list all of our supporters, but please be assured that we are deeply appreciative of all contributions to the New Jersey Chapter, regardless of the amount.

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POPULATION ISSUES COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Focus on Ethiopia

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@verizon.net)

The joyous sounds of more than 100 women singing and dancing greeted Global Population and Environment Program colleagues and their National Audubon partners in Ethiopia this past November. The group traveled there to see how the integration of population, health and environment (PHE) programs is working to bring this country out of poverty — both human poverty and environmental poverty. Why were the women so happy? Because they were learning to read and write, learning life skills such as family planning, and marketable skills such as backyard gardening, fruit tree planting and bee keeping through the international non-governmental organization (NGO) Pathfinder International and a local NGO.

My colleagues were in Ethiopia for a conference focusing on "Population, Health and the Environment in East Africa." One of the goals of participating African countries was to share how PHE programs are working to reduce poverty and improve lives and the environment. The conference took place in Addis Ababa, considered the political capital of Africa and home of the African Union and UN Economic Commission for Africa.

Ethiopia, the second most populous country in Africa, has been plagued with droughts and famine in recent years, in part because the growing population has stripped the arable land of nutrients. Global warming has also played a part in changing the country's rainfall patterns. Eighty-five percent of the people live in rural areas and depend on farming and livestock herding for their livelihoods. But, natural resources such as land, water and forests keep shrinking. Today less than 3% of the country is forested.

An environmental hotspot, Ethiopia is home to rare and exotic flora and fauna. People in one area visited by the group are working to preserve habitat for the white-winged flufftail; another natural area visited was habitat for colobus monkeys, vervet monkeys and baboons. But, these natural areas and others are under pressure as population continues to grow.

The population of Ethiopia stood at 11.2 million in 1900; today there are 77.1 million. Forty-two percent of the population is under age 14, and will soon be entering their reproductive years. This is acknowledged by a UN Population Division prediction that the population will be 100 million by 2015, and double that by 2040. Ethiopia is a country ripe for more famine and conflict, with resources already inadequate for its current population. One of the best ways to prevent these human catastrophes is through increased access to voluntary family planning. Already, NGOs are working with the Ethiopian government, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and local communities, and have seen fertility rates decline from 6.4 births per woman in 1990 to 5.4 in 2005. Voluntary contraceptive use by married women has increased from 4.8% in 1990 to 14.7% in 2005.

In a special report to the Packard Foundation, Sahlu Haile, a senior pro-

gram advisor, noted, "Educating and empowering young girls, changing traditional practices that encourage early marriage and early childbearing, and increasing access to family planning are all steps that could contribute to reducing the country's rapid population growth...Educated women are economically active, marry late, and make independent reproductive health decisions. For example, contraception is used by



less than 5 percent of illiterate women in Ethiopia, while 16 percent of women with some primary education and 45 percent of women with secondary education use family planning methods."

Spacing and limiting births decreases maternal and child mortality. Ethiopia is one of the worst countries in the world for mothers. According to Population Reference Bureau statistics, 850 mothers die for every 100,000 live births in Ethiopia. By comparison, in the U.S. the maternal mortality rate is 17 per 100,000 live births (in Canada it is 6 per 100,000). One out of three Ethiopian women want to voluntarily use family planning but have no access. One in 13 Ethiopian babies dies before age one, and one in eight does not survive to age five.

But, as grim as these statistics are, there is hope. A farmer's association has decided to make family planning part of their work because population pressures are affecting the environment and their reforestation efforts; elsewhere, energy saving stoves are being used; solar electricity provides light and potable water; another group plants 21,000 native tree seedlings each year; everywhere, more young girls are going to school; husbands are supporting their wives in voluntary family planning decisions; families are planting gardens for better nutrition; health workers are being trained. There is progress.

The help Ethiopia receives through USAID is crucial to continued progress. Unfortunately, the President's 2009 Fiscal Year budget requests a 29% cut in international family planning assistance; this for programs that work to save the lives of women and children, as well as save the environment. At the same time, Bush has requested a huge increase in total abstinence-only funding for programs that don't work! Please contact your Senators and Representatives in Washington, DC to voice your concern over this irresponsible, unconscionable budget proposal.

Special Note: The Sierra Club's Board of Directors approved a new population policy on November 17, 2007. This policy supports programs such as those in Ethiopia where the hallmark is education for women and girls, access to voluntary family planning and health care, and economic opportunities. These programs have proven their effectiveness in slowing population growth in order to reach a sustainable human population. To review the new population policy, go to:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/population.pdf>

ENDORSEMENTS

(Continued from page 1)

own non-profit foundations (for holding grant monies).

6. Over the last decade, Club manage-

ment has greatly expanded a field staff, effectively creating a system of staff parallel to and somewhat overlapping that of staff hired by chapters.

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.

Editorial

How to Halve Energy Consumption (and CO₂ Emissions)

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

Kyoto and Bali and Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth" seem to be penetrating, at least among the Democrats running for President, but there remains an "inconvenient factor-of-two gap" in developed countries — between the per capita energy utilized by Americans and by everyone else. I haven't heard much about why Europeans and Japanese, with much the same standard of living as Americans, should be using half as much fossil fuel energy.

As I write this editorial from my best friend's home in Oxford, England, the answer is obvious: Europeans drive smaller cars, less frequently and for shorter distances: because gasoline is far more heavily taxed, parking in cities is exorbitantly expensive, and the annual vehicle tax, much higher than in the USA, is graduated with age and power of vehicle. (And car-insurance can be paid by the mile, time-of-day, and type of road driven.) Non-Americans live in smaller houses, packed closer together with shared walls — so less energy is needed to heat them, and train stations and schools are within walking distance. Their shower-heads emit less flow, toilets are lower-flow, windows are double-glazed (insulated), and there is a national policy (at least in Britain) of phasing out incandescent light bulbs.

Oxford has the largest bicycle parking lots I've ever seen, and they are not just for the 100,000 bicycles belonging to university students, staff and their families. Oxford's biggest industry is the former Morris Motor Works (which originally made bicycles, then Minors, MGs and Minis), now owned by BMW and making Mini-Coopers, and staffed by employees many of whom arrive on bicycles. There are express bikeways for

commuters, some off-road, and the bike-parking facilities in supermarkets, offices and hospitals to support them. Oxford also has superb public bus service, with five-minute separations, made possible by residential densities of upwards of 20 row-homes per acre, each with small front and back gardens, and numerous apartment blocks, both purpose-built and from conversions of large houses. Because street-parking is forbidden except for local residents, who pay annual fees for the privilege, visitors arriving by car must park in outlying "park-and-ride" lots, where buses await!

I wish you could experience the comfort and convenience of these small homes. What more could one desire in a living room than a comfortable reading-chair in a large sun-filled bay-window, flower garden outside, small TV in the corner, and a small writing desk nearby? The computer is in another corner or a small room of its own. It seems very British for there to be a floor-to-ceiling heated towel-rack in the bathroom, also used for drying clothes. Kitchens generally have an under-counter, front-loading clothes-washing machine. Shops, schools, churches, playgrounds and bus stops are only minutes away on foot, as are (in Oxford) grazing cows, horses and sheep. The milkman still cometh, and many supermarkets deliver orders placed over the internet. The bread is fresh daily, and the stall-merchants in the public markets still shout out their wares, and remember seeing you before. I see no reason why Americans shouldn't be encouraged to return to this simpler, more human, and more environmentally responsible way of life. Down with automobile suburbs! Up with density!



photo: James Mendelsohn

Chair's Message

Greenscam

By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)



It doesn't seem that long ago when environmentalists were viewed by most of the population as slightly unbalanced, if not downright delusional. But things have changed. Today we see full-page ads by Exxon and BP touting their environmental sensitivity, members of Congress falling over one another in their rush to show that they are greener than their colleagues on the other side of the aisle and even the Bush administration proudly pointing to its support of the recently enacted energy bill and the Bali accord. What a relief. Environmentalism has become mainstream and we've finally achieved the respect we deserve. If Rodney Dangerfield were alive today, I'm sure he would be envious.

But has anything really changed? There are companies out there that are trying to do the right thing, but these are not the companies with full-page ads in The New York Times. And Congress, despite its protestations to the contrary, has done far too little to address climate change and other environmental threats.

Sure, the recently enacted energy bill mandates a significant increase in fuel economy standards by 2020, but the bill also perpetuates the ethanol scam by calling for a 100 percent increase in the amount of ethanol produced from corn and, to a much lesser extent, other grains. And the bill fails to require that utilities generate a portion of their power from renewable sources, such as solar and wind.

Nor does the bill eliminate the \$12 billion in tax breaks for the petroleum industry. When pressed it is hard to think of any segment of the economy, with the possible exception of powerful corn producing agribusiness, that is less deserving of a governmental subsidy. And, of course, the corn producers already have been more than adequately provided for.

But, you may say, we'll always have Bali. The Bush administration received high marks in the press for its willingness to make concessions at the Bali conference. But what exactly did the Bush administration agree to? The United States delegation, after enduring boos and hisses from the assembled delegates, agreed to participate in future negotiations to arrive at a new global warming treaty. Big deal. The administration did

not agree to set targets for reducing greenhouse gases and did not commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In short, it didn't agree to do anything. So while we may always have Paris, I wouldn't bet the bank on Bali.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently released a sobering report on the likely effects of global warming. Global warming is already upon us and it will get worse. But that does not mean that there is no hope. We have the tools at hand to significantly reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions. What we lack is the political will to implement the necessary reforms.

Some lay the blame for failing to take effective action on the American people. But have the American people really been given an opportunity to decide whether they are willing to make the changes that must be made if we are to avert the impending calamity?

Clearly the Bush administration is doing nothing to raise public awareness. And to the extent that the message is getting through, too often it is being diluted and negated by overly optimistic and downright false claims by Madison Avenue, by Congress and by the administration that there is no cause for alarm and that timely and effective actions already are being taken. Many of these claims are no more than greenscam, but the largely docile media allows them to remain unchallenged.

So where do we go from here? Clearly we need to replace the current environmentally hostile Bush administration with an administration that not only appreciates the seriousness of the threats we face but also is prepared to adopt meaningful measures to address those threats. But we also need to become more skeptical of claims made by members of Congress and the business community and more critical of the largely ineffectual media. We can't expect the American people to sign on to the measures that must be taken if we are to save the planet unless we first provide them with the information they need to analyze the facts and make informed decisions. The greenscam messages are not welcome and that they will be held accountable for their misinformation campaign.

Resolutions Adopted by ExCom in December, January and February

At a teleconference meeting on Dec 28th, we expressed concern with attempts by the national Sierra Club to **change the role of Chapters**, approved a questionnaire to send to candidates for the Club's national Board of Directors, and resolved to make endorsements. (See the article on p. 1 of this Newsletter.)

We re-elected **Ken Johanson as Chapter Chair**, and approved the other **Chapter leaders** listed on p. 12 of this Newsletter. Tim Palmer and Carey Huff are new members of the Legislative Committee, Sunil Somalwar is newly made Global Warming Issues Coordinator, and David Yennior now coordinates Passaic River Issues. David Mattek's issue (as an Issue Coordinator) has shifted from Wildlands to Trails. (Jan)

Our **issue priorities for 2008** were approved. See story on p.1. (Jan)

We approved a resolution in support of expansion of the **Walkill River National Wildlife Refuge**, in Sussex County. (Jan)

We voted to endorse candidates for the Club's national **Board of Directors**:

See story on p.1 and box below.

We authorized **legal action** to challenge a proposal by a farm in Franklin Township (Warren County) to build 40 acres of **greenhouses on protected farmland**, a project that has serious environmental stormwater and pollution consequences. (Feb)

Political Endorsements were voted — see p.1. (Feb)

In connection with the concerns, expressed on p.1, with the Club's national leadership, we urged that the Council of (Volunteer) Club Leaders be authorized to hire an Executive Assistant to support its work. (Feb)

In another attempt to influence national Club policy, we resolved that the **Club should not endorse any commercial products in exchange for financial support**. (Feb)

We initiated an amicus petition to the New Jersey Supreme Court in the matter of NJ Shore Builders v. Twp of Jackson (Ocean Co.), supporting a municipal ordinance that **requires developers to replace trees cut on development sites**. (Feb)

ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

New Environmental Nonsense: the Plug-In Hybrid Car

By Sunil Somalwar, our Global Warming Issues Coordinator (Sunil123@verizon.net)

Toyota has announced that it will offer a plug-in hybrid car by 2010 (New York Times, Business Day, Jan. 14), which will travel seven miles on 2.7 kilowatt hours of electricity. On its face, this sounds like a good environmental development because a car running on batteries does not produce any pollution out of its tailpipe.

But it's a different story when one takes into account the pollution at the electric power plant. CO₂ is CO₂ whether it comes out of the tailpipe of a car in New Jersey or from a smokestack somewhere out of sight. The plug-in Prius will have the "greenhouse gas efficiency" of a 20.3 miles-per-gallon gasoline car. Since today's Prius hybrid travels roughly twice as far on a

gallon of gasoline, the plug-in version makes as much environmental sense as a gas-guzzling SUV.

Environmentalists are opposed to coal-to-liquid synfuels because these fuels burn to produce twice as much greenhouse gas per mile compared to gasoline. Yet many environmentally conscious people are willing to buy plug-in cars that unwittingly give backdoor entry to coal in transportation.

Maybe the plug-in car will make sense some day when we have dismantled the last coal-fired power plant. But until then, the true color of a plug-in car would not be green but coal black. A plug-in Prius would be a bad bet for Toyota.

Endorsements: National Sierra Club Board of Directors

The New Jersey Chapter's ExCom recommends a vote for:

**Lane Boldman, Jim Dougherty,
Larry Fabn, and Jerry Sutherland**

Is there an environmental issue that we're MISSING? If so, please call or write to Club officers.

New Jersey Climate Leaders: Jeanne Fox, President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

Interviewed by Stefano Crema on Nov. 29, 2007

President Fox's enthusiastic commitment to improving energy use is backed by long involvement as an administrator and a regulator. A past Regional Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, she holds, among other positions, the Chair of the National Council on Electricity Policy, and she is currently the President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU).



Jeanne Fox believes that the people of New Jersey are as aware of Global Warming as their counterparts in Europe or Asia. This is not necessarily true elsewhere in the United States, nor of certain people in Washington DC.

She compares Global Warming with the war in Iraq. "The public is not yet feeling the personal impact," she says, "they think of Global Warming only when it is in the news, it is something they do not like, the same way they do not like the war, but are not engaged in stopping the war, the same way they are not engaged in stopping climate change."

She believes Global Warming to be the main problem now facing the world, and that the Sierra Club should be involved in developing the grassroots understanding needed to face it.

However, she says, "while it is extremely important to develop the outreach effort, once that is done it is just as important to give people the tools to do something about it." This is what the BPU is doing for municipalities, having just approved a program that will fund 75% of the cost of conducting municipal energy audits. If the municipalities implement the recommendations of the audit, they will be reimbursed for the remaining 25% of the costs. In order to reduce uncertainty, the BPU will pre-approve companies qualified to conduct the audits, and will then hire consultants to review the reports and provide technical support on how to implement the recommendations.

She is aware that, even if mayors have the desire to move, many small towns do not have the time or expertise to implement even the most cost-effective recommendations. President Fox maintains that the BPU's Clean Energy Program is the right tool to help towns identify the most cost-effective steps to reduce their energy usage. Counties also can participate in this program. An example is Middlesex County that, under the leadership of Jim Polos, is reaching out to the 26 towns it contains to assist them with expertise and technical support.

A long time Club member, Jeanne Fox suggests that the Sierra Club should work together with the BPU to help towns that have already signed the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. With our large membership we can help convince municipalities to participate in the Clean Energy Program. She observes that this program can also help mayors involve their communities and local businesses in opportunities to improve their carbon footprint. She was to announce a new program in December, geared towards small businesses that do not have much time to dedicate to energy efficiency initiatives.

Her vision is that the Sierra Club should challenge its own members to commit to at least one thing to move energy initiatives forward. Besides pushing communities to take advantage of the programs available through the BPU and the State, our organization should give feedback on changes to make them more effective.

Another area where President Fox and her staff dedicate considerable effort is the completion of the New Jersey Energy Master Plan (see next article). The plan is very comprehensive. It covers energy used in the electricity, heating and transportation sectors. "We estimate that Governor Corzine's goal of 20% reduction in energy consumption by 2020 can be reached only if everybody does what needs to be done" says Jeanne Fox. She does not believe it can be reached through legislation alone. The state will offer plans and programs, but it will be necessary for every municipality, business and private individual to join in and do their part. To give an idea of the magnitude of the task, she points out that "Some 300,000 buildings per year will have to be upgraded to higher energy efficiency in order to meet that goal. We cannot do it as state government alone". To reach this goal, New Jersey will have to double the number of buildings that have been improved in each of the past 6 years.

President Fox states that while the 2020 goal is doable but hard, the more ambitious goal to reduce energy consumption 80% by 2050 will require developing new technologies. In her mind, energy efficiency will always be one of the primary tools, but that is not enough. "The question is, which technology is going to work?" she says, "Today people are still pushing coal and nuclear plants based on the requirement projections for future energy. However, there are newer energy sources like coal gasification with capture and storage that should be tried to see if they can work. There are also outside technologies like fusion, which, unfortunately, seems to be always one step away, but if it works, will solve all our problems." She believes that more unproven technologies like tidal power could also help. There is a huge amount of energy in the ocean and people live along the coasts close to this source. She is convinced that Americans will want to get their energy and will spare no effort to get it.

The personal preference of Jeanne Fox is to use a carbon tax to pay for the needed changes in infrastructures because it is fair and easy to administer. However, she understands that Cap and Trade is politically more feasible and looks like it can pass. She mentions RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative) as a project which has been set up to demonstrate what a national Cap and Trade might look like.

Smart growth is very important to President Fox. She points out that "People living in an old house in Jersey City have a smaller footprint than people living in the suburbs in a modern and well insulated building. All because of individual driving." Studies, indeed, show that transportation uses about 35% of New Jersey's energy. She is convinced that people will use more mass transportation and will walk if the proper infrastructures are made more accessible. For this reason, developers have to be incentivized to build living quarters that are close to transportation. Presently, that is rarely demanded.

Overall, Jeanne Fox believes that New Jersey is one of the most advanced states in the Union, and she feels confident about the future. She highlights our record for renewable energy: "It is second only to California in the US and the 6th largest market in the world for solar power. I think it is doing well, with sound energy policies."

Changing Incentives for Solar Power in New Jersey

by Stephen Knowlton (sknowlton2@verizon.net), in our Jersey Shore Group

New Jersey is transitioning its strategy for encouraging solar electricity (typically photovoltaic (PV)) from one largely of rebates to one based largely on increased performance incentives for large systems. The reason for the change is that State funding for rebates is insufficient to meet the demand and the State's targets for solar generation. Rebates for larger systems will be discontinued. The Board of Public Utilities (BPU) set these changes in motion by an order dated Dec. 6, 2007; see <http://njcleanenergy.com/>, NCEP Policy Updates.

When the NJ program began in 2001, the only incentive was a rebate from the State based on the installed capacity. In 2004, the State added the incentive of a performance-based credit system whereby PV generators were assigned Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SREC's) for electricity production. For example, if a PV system generated 2 megawatt hours, it was credited with 2 SREC's. To create a market, the State required that the utilities accumulate sufficient SREC's to meet the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) set by NJ for solar generation or pay a penalty of \$300 per megawatt hour. The penalty was called the Solar Alternative Compliance Payment (SACP). For 2008, 0.0817% of all NJ electricity must come from PV solar. The RPS increases each year to 2.12% in 2020. In energy year 2008 SREC's are trading at \$100 - \$288 per megawatt hour.

The plan is to boost the market price of SREC's to provide the incentive for larger systems, but keep some rebates for smaller systems (under 20 kW). To boost the SREC price, the State will increase the penalty, the SACP, to a level about \$100 above the desired or target SREC price. The BPU calculates that the SREC price will provide a 12% Internal Rate of Return (IRR) to participating businesses. It is estimated that a 12% IRR will allow a business to recover its investment in 6 years. The plan contemplates that the SREC price will be \$611 for utility year 2009 (June 2008 - May 2009). The calculated targets decline by 3% per year; it is assumed that the cost of systems will go down based on changing technology and other market factors. To reduce market uncertainty, the BPU will set the SACP for eight years. System owners, including those who now have operational systems (called "legacy" owners), will be allowed to sell SREC's for the first 15 years of system life. SREC's will have a life of two years, up from the current one year, to allow for a more orderly market.

I can supply more details to those interested in large-scale systems.

The State has not set rebates for smaller systems (less than 20 kW),

HIGHLANDS

(Continued from page 1)

ignated for growth, despite the fact that these acres were originally designated as environmentally sensitive and placed in the Protection Area. Another provision allows towns to play Let's Make a Deal, adding even more lands to the growth areas based on politics, rather than on science.

The Highlands Plan as written fails to set firm benchmarks and standards, like a good regional plan is supposed to do. Instead, it reads more like the State Plan, with fuzzy goals and few specifics on how to reach them.

Rather than debating whether the glass is half empty or half full with this

although some level is contemplated, possibly \$3 per watt in 2009. As noted by the Office of Clean Energy, "The small project market often needs immediate validation, motivation, and the market signal that is provided by a rebate payment (even at reduced levels), and is less likely to invest if it must depend upon a stream of future payments from an unfamiliar commodity market . . ." The Office of Clean Energy has recommended that small system rebates end in 2012.

Customers who want smaller systems and who are not now in the BPU's queue for rebates should submit applications for utility year June 2008 - May 2009). The time for a full return of investment will vary depending upon a number of assumptions. Let's take a 2.4 kW system costing \$19,000 before rebate, that starts generating in June 2008. Assuming there is a rebate of \$3/watt, electric rates remain at \$0.15/kWhr, and a 30% Federal tax credit (cap of \$2,000), then the customer get a full return of his/her net investment of \$10,000 (\$12,000 less \$2,000) by 2015. If there is no tax credit, the year moves to 2017. And if there is no tax credit and no rebate, the recovery year moves to 2021. This projection assumes that the system is reasonably efficient (a capacity factor of 11.4%, in this case 2.4 kW times 24 hours per day times 365 days in the year) and that the market price of SREC's is as targeted. Customers who do not want to wait for the rebate plan to finalize can participate in the Pilot program - that program provides SREC payments as the only incentive.

The State is also working on a way residential customers can invest in a community-based system with attractive incentives and at a lower cost than if each customer added a private PV system. The plan will need to address how the actual generation is assigned to each investor.

So what is the future of the solar program in New Jersey? I predict large commercial systems will provide the bulk of the generation capacity required by the RPS because businesses have the large un-shaded, flat roofs, can benefit from lower costs for installation, and have tax advantages such as depreciation. We may even see solar power plants that are designed to produce power for the grid. The net metering law was amended in December 2007, to allow renewable energy power plants to participate in the incentive program (P.L. 2007, chp. 300). Until December, all generation was limited by the generator's needs (the concept is called 'net metering').

(Steve manufactures his own household PV electricity and keeps up with the trends for us.)

plan, we should be questioning why the glass isn't brimming with clean, pure Highlands water. The Highlands Act was passed in order to protect Highlands water. According to the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission, failure to protect this precious resource will cost the people of New Jersey \$100 billion over the next 50 years for additional water treatment and treatment facilities. There should be no question in our minds - the current draft of the Highlands Plan must be fixed to adequately protect our water supply before its final adoption. No other option makes sense.

Cool Cities Corner

Supplied by Faith Teitelbaum

Establishing Your Town's Emission Baseline

Would you like to know how many tons of carbon dioxide your town's municipal activities are generating? This calculation will provide you and your town council with both the dollars spent on energy as well as its carbon dioxide consequences.

Here's an easy way to get a 'general' idea of your town's emissions:

1. Go to your City Clerk and ask for the following budget items (freedom of information allows us all to have access to these numbers).

NATURAL GAS - budget and annual therm consumption

ELECTRICITY - budget and annual kilowatt hr consumption

STREET LIGHTING - budget and annual kilowatt hour consumption

VEHICLE FUEL - budget and annual consumption of gasoline/diesel

Send me the information at Faithtei@aol.com.

We have a formula that will translate the data into tons of CO2 emitted.

We'll send you back that information so you can go to your Mayor and City Council and ask them to start reducing emissions.

From there you can help them to create a plan for further reductions.

The Cool Cities campaign is here to help you so please contact us and good luck in your endeavors to help stop climate change!

The Motorized Assault on our Public Lands

By Fred Akers, Administrator of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
(Fred_Akers@Hughes.net)

As the motorized assault on our public lands gets worse in New Jersey, the Foundation for Deep Ecology has moved to reframe the debate from off-roaders vs. environmentalists to a much deeper cultural clash about rights, responsibilities, and fairness. Their new large and colorful book, *"Thrillcraft, the Environmental Consequences of Motorized Recreation,"* exposes not only the environmental degradation caused by ATVs, dirt bikes, dune buggies, jet-skis, snowmobiles, etc, but also the degradation to our culture and our peace and quiet from this growing national nuisance.

The name Thrillcraft is profoundly important, because it instantly identifies the primary benefit of the activity for the rider, which is to be weighed against the extreme costs: to the environment, to farming and fishing, to public health and safety, and to peace and quiet.

The good news in NJ is that Assemblymen Reed Gusciora (D, 15th District), Paul Moriarity (D, 4th District), and John Wisniewski (D, 19th District) have had the foresight and courage to sponsor new legislation, A823, which provides enforcement, increased penalties, and significant deterrents under Title 39 to bring reckless and irresponsible thrillcraft operators under control. Vehicles would have to be registered. A823 has been assigned to the Transportation, Public Works and Independent Authorities Committee; its enactment later this year would save lives, prevent injuries, protect the environment, and save money for the state.

The bad news is that neither the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) nor the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) supports the bill. The MVC would have the major respon-

sibility to administer a registration and licensing program. But they don't think that ATVs and dirt bikes are motor vehicles, so they don't want to get involved.

The NJDEP has decided to **support** legal thrills for thrillcraft owners. It claims that the creation of legal, state-owned thrillcraft parks will protect the environment by drawing riders away from other public land. Unfortunately, all the evidence - namely the failure of the legal thrillcraft park in Chatsworth to protect nearby Pinelands - refutes these claims.

Under current law it is illegal to operate thrillcraft off-road on public land in New Jersey. The NJDEP has been spending more than \$900,000 annually to repair their damage to 340,000 acres of state land (as of 2002), and enforce the law. It spent more than \$1.2 million on the site in Chatsworth, and attempted to connect the new legislation to environmental sacrifices and development approvals on this specific site.

Fortunately, NJDEPs attempt to alter Gusciora's bill has met with rejection. Hopefully NJDEP and the MVC will come around to appreciate the wisdom and importance of this legislation. Along with the League of Municipalities and 70 NJ mayors, the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club supports this legislation; you can get behind it too by contacting your representatives, NJDEP, and the MVC to urge them to work with the state legislature to save lives, prevent injuries and protect New Jersey's environment by passing A823.

Note: Jaclyn Rhoads, Director of Conservation Policy, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, contributed to this article, and is actively lobbying for the bill. Contact her at jaclyn@pinelandsalliance.org or 609-859-8860 ext. 18.

A Long-Distance Trail-System in New Jersey?

By David Mattek, our new Trails Issues Coordinator (MattekDC@aol.com)

Our State is blessed with regions of great natural beauty and habitat for wildlife: the Highlands, Pinelands, Meadowlands, Bayshore, Palisades, and inland and coastal wetlands, to name only a few. Wouldn't it be good to **connect** some of these regions with long-distance trails? A few fragments of long trails exist now: a portion of the Appalachian Trail in the Highlands, the Batona Trail in the Pinelands, and a few rail-trail conver-

sions. But nothing to inspire week-long vacations on foot, in the style of Britain's cross-country paths, or Connecticut's, or Vermont's.

The Club's NJ Chapter sees a larger need for **integrating** the trail fragments of our parks, non-profit preserves, and wildlife refuges and management areas - into a long-distance **system**.

We hope to produce printed and online brochures that include detailed topographic maps, and lists

Conservation Eco-tip Greenwashing

From our Conservation Chair, Laura Lynch, with thanks to Sustainable Lawrence for permission to republish.

Is environmental consciousness just another overdone trend, like a once exclusive catch-phrase made so commercial that its presence is a sure sign of obsolescence? Take a quick look around and you'd think so. From bold print on a bottle of shampoo to the latest public relations spot from a petroleum giant, the message is everywhere: "Look what our brand is doing to save the planet!"

Welcome to "greenwashing," a form of doublespeak most often used by the biggest polluters who are attempting to burnish their image after being rightly labeled environmental nemeses.

One example of greenwashing that's easy to find is the "made from natural ingredients" claim. This could mean that every component of the product is made under strict organic farming standards, or it could mean that only one of the many ingredients came from a farm while the rest were cooked up in a lab. Before being taken in by an enticing label on the front, read the ingredients on the back. If a product claims to be organic, there should be proof of outside certification on the label. And if a product is intended to be toxic, such as a pesticide, environmental friendliness really doesn't enter into the equation.

Another obvious example is the recent phenomenon of hybrid SUVs. In an attempt to appease budding envi-

guilt in some drivers, automakers are engaging in greenwash. Compared to most cars, most SUVs get half the mileage and emit twice as much global-warming pollution. Tossing in a hybrid engine merely gives the gasoline engine slightly more power and a mere handful of extra miles per gallon. But compared to a relatively efficient compact car, a hybrid SUV's mileage is still shameful.

A particularly heinous greenwash demonstration came from the Competitive Enterprise Institute in mid-2006. Desperately working to downplay what has become the accepted fact of global warming, the Institute, whose major donors are oil companies, ran TV ads that stated, "Carbon dioxide: they call it pollution; we call it life." We call it greenwashing at its most obvious.

The next time you come across a claim of energy efficiency, purity, or earth-friendliness on a product one wouldn't usually associate with environmental responsibility, take a minute to ask yourself, "What are they hiding?" Don't let yourself be greenwashed.

For information on how you can be truly environmentally responsible without greenwash bombardment, go to <http://sustainablelawrence.org> and <http://ecotips.sustainablelawrence.org>.

(Contact Laura at njsierraclub@gmail.com.)

Quarry Plan Ditched

By our Chapter Staff: Jeff Tittel and Becca Glenn

Last November, Nova Scotia's Minister of Environment and Labor rejected a proposal that would have destroyed critical wetlands and disrupted endangered right whale breeding grounds in order to provide gravel to build roads in New Jersey. This was a big environmental victory both for New Jersey and for Nova Scotia's Bay of Fundy, where we can now say 'save the whales' instead of 'pave the whales.'

The proposed Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal would have extracted up to 2.5 million tons, the equivalent of 1.5 million dump trucks, of basalt aggregate per year from Nova Scotia's relatively pristine Digby Neck, and shipped it in large bulk carrier vessels to South Amboy. Digby Neck is on the Bay of Fundy, summer home to a large portion of the remaining endangered right whale population. The effects the coastal blasting might have had on right whale feeding, nursing and mating behavior are not well known, but it is widely agreed that encounters between large ships and the slow-moving right whales is the primary human cause of right whale mortalities. Ships traveling to and from the quarry - approximately fifty ships a year - would have transited an area of known habitation by this whale species, which is estimated to have less than 350 individuals remaining worldwide.

Back in New Jersey, the aggregate would have been used for sprawl projects like widening the Garden State Parkway. Sprawl is what destroys habitat for native plant and animal species, increases impervious coverage, which leads to increased rain water runoff, more flooding, and less filtering of the pollutants going into our waterways, and it separates businesses

and homes from each other, making it necessary for people to drive more, contributing to global warming.

Opposition to the Digby Neck quarry was significant in Canada, but few people in New Jersey knew anything about it. Mark Dittrick, Conservation Chair of the Sierra Club of Canada's Atlantic Canada Chapter and founder of BEACON, the Sierra Club of Canada's right whale protection initiative, traveled to New Jersey and other East Coast states last year, trying to raise awareness about the issue. "We're hoping that folks in New Jersey will be more than a little concerned about the price the most endangered large whale in the world might be paying for the new roads they would be driving on," said Dittrick at the time. "It could be the end of them."

The Digby Neck decision's significance stretches beyond the Whites Point Quarry. Environmentalists had feared that should operator Clayton Block be given permission to go forward with his quarry, other aggregate companies would follow suit and quarries would spring up along Nova Scotia's entire 100-mile-long North Mountain, a geological formation unique to the Atlantic coast of North America, and which is basalt from end to end. Fortunately, the federal-provincial environmental review panel that recommended rejection of the Whites Point Quarry also recommended that Nova Scotia develop a comprehensive coastal zone management plan, enact a moratorium on new quarry developments on North Mountain, and require environmental assessments for quarries of all sizes in Nova Scotia, rather than just for quarries larger than 390 acres.

New Jersey and the Bay of Fundy: in this case, not so perfect together!

of appropriate overnight accommodation, facilities, restaurants, and purveyors of provisions for an entire NJ trail network.

In the near future, I will be presenting details of the project to NJ Sierra Club

groups. Check the Group News section of future Jersey Sierrans for times and dates. We hope to establish a list-serve for online discussion.

For more information, comments, or to help, please contact me.



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: Pat Mangino 862-432-7552 pmangino@aol.com
Outings & Events Chair: Sandy Raviv and Herb Wolff sraviv@optonline.net
Delegate to Chapt. ExCom: *Open Position!*
Cool Cities Delegate: *Open Position!*

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

Our Group has reorganized and welcomes two new members to our Executive Committee: Sandy Raviv and Herb Wolff will co-chair outings and events. Sandy and Herb are planning to lead some very interesting outings this Spring, listed below.

For 2008 our Group will be focusing on the following goals:

- (1) Building a more active and vibrant Group.
- (2) Scheduling more guest speakers and hosting more frequent outings that are related to the issues and interests that concern our members and the general public.
- (3) Our Group will work to change the view our municipal governments have of us, so that we can help motivate the preservation of our region's wilderness.

These goals can not be achieved without the help and commitment of our members. We need to fill our open positions to build a new team. We need members to keep us informed of environmental concerns in their communities. So please come out and meet with us during the next few months. If you can't attend our meetings then try to attend your town's planning/zoning board or land use board meetings.

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.

MEETING ACTIVITIES:

General discussion regarding growth in our area. If you are aware of any large development proposals in your town that may have a negative environmental impact **PLEASE** come to a meeting and tell us about it. We rely on our members to keep us informed and strongly encourage members to attend their town Land Use or Planning/Zoning meetings. When we do not have a guest speaker scheduled we will be viewing various environmental programs/movies, including: *March of the Penguins, Planet Earth, The Blue Planet, Grizzly Man, NJN's The Race for Open Space, CNN's Planet in Peril.*

GROUP OUTINGS:

May 31 (Sat) - Join us for a double-feature outing: **10am** - Tour Grey Towers in Milford PA, the ancestral home of Gifford Pinchot, first Chief of the US Forest Service and twice Governor of Pennsylvania. In 1963, Gifford Bryce Pinchot donated the site to the US Forest Service. For more information visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/na/gt/index.shtml>. Admission is \$5. **2pm** - Tour the Delaware Valley Raptor Center, also in Milford PA. It is a private, not-for-profit state- and federally-licensed rehabilitation and conservation center for birds of prey. For more information visit <http://www.dvrconline.org/dvrc.html>. Admission is also \$5. Both tours are limited to 20 people. Registration is required by May 25: sraviv@optonline.net. Please bring a bag lunch to enjoy between tours.

June 15 (Sun) 10am - Visit the **Black Creek Village Site** in Vernon, a traditional Lenape Native American site that was occupied 10,000 years ago at the edge of a great post-glacial lake. Starts with an informative slideshow. More than a decade of archaeological research has produced thousands of artifacts that tell a compelling story of human life during the Great North American Stone Age. At Noon we will begin the guided historic trail walking tour winds through meadows and forest for three quarters of a mile with additional interpretive signs along the way. Limited to 30 people. Rain Date will be Sunday June 22. Bring a Bag Lunch to enjoy before the walking tour. Registration is required by June 8: sraviv@optonline.net.

Suggestions for additional outings would be most welcome.

Please visit our website for details and updates 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
Air Quality: Laura Tracey Coll lauratraceycoll@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 below. For more information, please call Betsy (above) or sign up for e-mail announcements at <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-NORTH-JERSEY-NEWS.html>

Apr 10: at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood, NJ 07631: Program on **Indian Point nuclear plant** (TBA).

May 15: at the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, 113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ 07450: Program on **regional water issues** (TBA).

June 12: Location and program TBA.

CONSERVATION ISSUES: Below are issue updates. For more information, please contact Mike, Tom or Betsy (above).

(1) In Oakland, Pinnacle Communities wants to build 209 housing units on 84 acres of forested slopes in the Highlands Preservation Area. Oakland is to supply the water and Wayne to treat the wastewater. This would mean that 67,000 gallons daily (over 24 million gallons yearly) would be removed from the Ramapo River and watershed, with detrimental impacts on water quantity and quality. At last November's DEP hearing on the project's inconsistency with the Northeast Water Quality Management Plan, we urged the DEP not to permit this "depletive water use." No word yet on DEP's decision.

(2) We oppose Montclair State University's plan to convert the very steep and winding 1,000-ft Quinn Road into a two-way road to allow cars to exit the campus onto Valley Road in Clifton. MSU estimates that the road will handle 55 per cent of its campus traffic. Widening and reconfiguring this road will involve extensive excavation of the mountain, clearing of trees and vegetation and disturbance of habitat. Adding so many more cars onto Valley Road will also increase traffic jams and air pollution.

(3) Across the NY border, the Ramapo River and watershed, a sole source aquifer supplying water to NJ and NY, is threatened by the 1,195-unit Tuxedo Reserve on the slopes between Sloatsburg and Tuxedo Park and Pierson Lakes development in 800 acres of unfragmented forest that contains critical habitat for the endangered timber rattlesnake. Both projects are now seeking Planning Board approvals.

(4) Other concerns include Latteri Park in Clifton, air quality in Elmwood Park, the Hackensack River's vegetative riparian corridors, a riverfront parcel in Teaneck, and Van Buskirk Island where the Eastern Towhee, Baltimore Oriole and Black-crowned Night Heron and other migratory birds have been sighted.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES. Help save open space, lead outings, organize public education programs, promote efficient and renewable energy (Cool Cities Campaign), or work on issues of recycling, mass transit, another of your own choosing, and more. Contact a group officer (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, Ridgefield, 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 drosemary@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 drosemary@verizon.net
Vice Chair: David Kronick 201-869-6218 jktejas@aol.com
Group ExCom

2008 is an election year for all 13 NJ Congressmen, one Senator (Lautenberg), US President, and many local officials. Our Political Committee can help you to provide support for endorsed candidates.

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 4 General Meetings per year. Please contact Louise Taylor for information about the next meeting.

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.

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. Also working to preserve a five-acre forested tract in West Orange and an ancient forest on Gov. McClellan's former estate. Contact Sally Malanga at 973-736-7397 or sally@eccobella.com or Linda Stiles at 973-736-2224 or birdlady07052@msn.com if you want to get involved.

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

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: *Open Position!*
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: *Open Position!*
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 973-761-4461 wrobc_sc@earthlink.net
Webmaster: Bob Johnson 908-598-0656 robert.johnson@njsierra.org
Greenbrook: Bob Muska 908-665-2296 rmuska@erols.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEETING SCHEDULE:
Apr 9: Passaic River Coalition. A slide presentation and discussion program about the Passaic River and its problems and potential will be presented by Ella Filipone or Eugene Reynolds.

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 over 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.

June 11: Rockaway River Coalition. Sandra Brinker will give a discussion about pollution in the Rockaway River Watershed and various steps being taken for the preservation and restoration of the watershed. Come, learn about some of their success stories and find out how it affects you.

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 wel-

come. Call Paul (908-233-2414), Chris (973-377-1742) or Bob Johnson (908-771-9676) for more information.

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County, and the adjoining towns in Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Somerset)

OFFICERS:
Chair: Terry Stimpfel 609-731-7016 terystimb@hotmail.com
Vice Chair: *Open Position!*
Conserv'n Chair: Rocky Swingle 609-587-7568 rockyswingle@optonline.net
and Co-Chair: *Open Position!*
ExCom At-large: Malcolm McFarland 609-448-8699 jmalcolmmcfarland@verizon.net
ExCom At-large: Harold Rapp 609-671-0435 HalRapp@aol.com
Membership
Chair: *Open Position!*
Outings Chair: Leona Fluck 609-259-3734 Leona@pineypaddlers.com
Political Chair: Terry Stimpfel 609-731-7016 terystimb@hotmail.com
Publicity Chair: Ruth Ann Mitchell
Secretary: *Open Position!*
Treasurer: *Open Position!*

The Central Group's website is <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/central>. Please use it for activity details, meeting locations (we move around in Mercer Co.), directions and last minute announcements.

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

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!

Apr 9 (Wed) 7:30 pm: Know the Bear Facts. Black bears are native to NJ and now are found in all counties. Michelle Ruggiero of the NJ DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife will discuss safe co-existence and may even bring a bear cub. **West Windsor Branch Library**, 333 N. Post Rd, Princeton Jct., Corner Clarksville & Old Post Rds.

May 14 (Wed) 7:30 pm: Paddling NJ's Waterways - Great Put-Ins and Secret Gems. Get the inside scoop from Leona and George Fluck, who have led hundreds of Jersey canoe and kayak outings. Add a scoop of ice cream with your favorite topping, sit back and enjoy the fun. **Robbinsville** (formerly Washington) **Branch Library**, 42 Allentown-Robbinsville Road, Rte 526, Robbinsville. Located just east of Rte 130 between the Robbinsville Police Station and the Senior Center.

June 11 (Wed) 7:30 pm: The State-Wide Trail. Dave Mattek will discuss the trail, its major segments and important linkages. View his maps and discover the role of the central Jersey corridor. **Robbinsville** (formerly Washington) **Branch Library**, (see above).

(Continued on page 8)

**You know the reasons.
 We know the gear.**



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GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

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

Apr 9 (Wed) NJAS Plainsboro Preserve (Mercer/Middlesex Cos.) 10am

Apr 16 (Wed) Canoe/Kayak on the Crosswicks/Creek/Hamilton Trenton Marsh (Mercer Co.) 10:30 am

Apr 27 (Sun) Canoe/Kayak the Delaware and enjoy shad fest too! (Mercer Co.) 9am

May 7 (Wed) Clayton Park Hike (Monmouth Co.) 10am

Jun 15 (Sun) Canoe/Kayak on the Crosswicks Creek/Hamilton Trenton Marsh (Mercer Co.) 10:30 am

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

HAVE A FEW HOURS? WILLING TO HELP? CONCERNED? WANT TO TAKE ACTION? Please e-mail Terry. To receive up-to-the-minute Central Group meeting reminders and notices of local events, please e-mail Terry.

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		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		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 Secretary are open. If you are interested in filling an open position, contact Sandi Lowich, the Group Chair.

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

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

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

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

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

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

Web Site: <http://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			
Co-Chairs:	Alan Roseman	732-780-1308	aroseman@monmouth.com
	And April Klimley	917-626-4838	withington44@aol.com
Program Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Fund-raising Chair:	Marinel Mukherjee	732-780-8678	baykoof944@bms.com

GENERAL MEETINGS:

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

April 28: Energy Efficiency in the home. Find out the ten easiest things you can do at your home to reduce your utility bills; make your home more comfortable; and

improve indoor air quality and occupants health. Leia Sims, a Building Performance Institute-certified contractor, will report on what is commonly seen in homes during an energy audit, and what the most cost-effective upgrades are (hint: windows are almost never at or near the top of the list).

May 19 (NOT THE 4TH MONDAY!): George Moffatt, an active member of **Save Sandy Hook**, will explain his organization's concerns current activities.

June 23: E-Books—facts, fiction, gadgets, and formats. A short history of the rise of paperless books, the authors who write them, and the small independent publishers who are competing with the big conglomerates in a global market.

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	732-644-6340	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	hirschowitz@comcast.net
Fund-Raising:	Joyce M. Isaza	732-920-9270	realtymstr@aol.com
Co-Membership			
Chair:	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'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!

Apr 19 (Sat): Please mark you calendars for our **3rd Annual Earth Day Clean Up** in Toms River. To join us in our efforts to clean up Long Swamp Creek please call Dawn Marie Johns at 732-644-6340. More details will follow.

Apr 26 (Sat): Please join us for this special event of the **GSP** (Garden State Philharmonic). For details contact our Chair Gregory Auriemma at 732-451-9550.

May 19 (Mon): Our General Meeting will be to discuss the **Barnegat Bay Threats and Solutions**. The meeting will be held at 7pm at the "Skywalk Cafe" in the Ocean County Administration Building, 129 Hooper Avenue (2nd Floor), Toms River.

May 31 (Sat): Please come and visit us at the **Canoe & Kayak Festival**. For more information call our Chair Gregory Auriemma at 732-451-9220.

Jun 28 (Sat): Our **3rd Annual Paddle for Protection**. Please join us as we continue to fight for C-1 designation for Cedar Creek. We will be meeting at Triple T Canoes on Double Trouble Road in Beachwood. Please bring lunch and sunscreen. For details please call Dawn Marie Johns at 732-644-6340.

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Gina Carola	856-848-8831	ginacee@verizon.net
Vice-Chair:	Frank Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Secretary:	Ellen Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Treasurer:	Trish Clements	856-768-5639	patri321@comcast.net
Publicity Chair:	Bud Kaliss	856-428-8071	budkaliss@earthlink.net
Political Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Pinelands Rep:	Lee Snyder		pinelands1@hotmail.com
Greenways Coord's:	Frank and Ellen Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
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.

Apr 8: To be announced. Please check our website
<http://mysite.verizon.net/vzev1ujt/>

May 13: Susan Craft will discuss the **New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program**.

June 10: To be announced. Please check our website
<http://mysite.verizon.net/vzev1ujt/>

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:

Mar 25 (Tues) 7pm: Annual Members’ Meeting of the **Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association (GEHWA)**. 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. Warren Fox Nature Center (WFNC*): Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor: Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 3 ½ miles south of Mays Landing.

Apr 16 (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).

Apr 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. WFNC*.

Apr 22 (Tues) 7pm: **Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association:** Trustees’ meeting, open to the public. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. WFNC*.

Apr 27 (Sun): Annual **Earth Day** festivities at the Atlantic County Utility Authority’s “Environmental Park”, Delilah Rd, Egg Harbor Twp. See www.acua.com.

May 14 (Wed) 6:30pm: Bi-monthly meeting of **Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries**. Meeting place: Gant Room, Millville Public Library, 210 Buck Street. Cumberland County development issues are commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Renee Scagnelli (CU) at 856-305-3238 or DRScagnelli@comcast.net.

May 15 (Thurs) 7pm: **Atlantic County Friends of the Parks:** Monthly meeting of Friends of the Parks. (See entry for April 17th, above.)

May 27 (Tues) 7pm: Members’ meeting, GEHWA. (See entry for Mar 25th, above.)

June 18 (Wed) 7pm: **Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council:** (See Apr 16th above.)

June 19 (Thurs) 7pm: **Atlantic County Friends of the Parks:** Monthly meeting of Friends of the Parks. (See entry for Apr 17th, above.)

June 24 (Tues) 7pm: Trustees, **Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association:** See Apr 22nd, 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 Chair:	Joyce Haddad	jkhaddad@juno.com
Conservation Chair:	Joe Testa	jtesta@syncsort.com
Treasurer:	Joyce White	joycewhite@netzero.net
Webpage designer:	Tom Miller	millertom@juno.com
Social Chair:	Joe Prebish	jmp0731@verizon.net
Vice Social Chair:	Jeff Sovelove	jeffreys@childapp.com
Programs:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Publicity:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Cool Cities Coordinator:	Terry Stimpfel	terystimb@hotmail.com
Membership:	Walter Goldenbaum	goldenb1@optonline.net

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

GENERAL MEETINGS: Casual pizza gathering, introduction to club issues and activities, and letter-writing. **SECOND MONDAY** of each month (except July/Aug) starting at 7pm with optional pizza, at the Chatham Library (214 Main St). Guest speakers at each meeting at 7:30 pm. \$5 donation at door and RSVP (required for pizza only) to joycewhite@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.

Apr 14, May 12, June 9 – speaker 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 join our listserver to receive notification of our outings See above for instructions on how to subscribe to the listserver.

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, the founding Coordinator of this Section, has relocated to Massachusetts, but welcomes hearing from members at ncarringer@yahoo.com.

Arline Zatz, who has been active in the Sierra Club, as well as running her own group called “Fun Travels,” has taken over as editor of the Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section. She can be reached at azatz@funtravels.com. and invites members to check her web site at www.funtravels.com for more trips and travel information.

Young Sierrans

(A special interest section for Sierra Club Members in their 20’s & 30’s, providing Socials and Outings to inspire a sense of community, appreciation for the environment, and involvement in preserving our future. Many events are 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

(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!



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Regional Issues Committee
Joan Denzer** (see George Denzer, above),
Bob Johnson, George Denzer

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

Personnel Committee
Joan Denzer, Sunil Somalwar**, Ken
Johanson, Laura Bagwell, George Denzer

Legislative Committee
Ken Johanson**, Dave Mattek,
Carolyn Freeman, Bill Finnegan, Jeff Tittel
Carey Huff, Tim Palmer

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

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Issue Coordinators

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

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

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

April 12 and May 10 at the Hamilton Public Library (Mercer Co, Cypress Lane)

June 14 at the New Brunswick Public Library (60 Livingston Ave.)

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)

updates. Leaders: HykyrJoe Maryanski (Jmaryanski@msn.com or 609-929-7498 after 7pm) & Joan Foltz (Rfoltz@aol.com or 609-335-9675). Contact leaders for caravan info from Mt. Ephraim Super Wawa, NJ Rte 168, north of Kings Highway, Mt. Ephraim, NJ.


June 21 (Sat): Black Rock Forest, Orange County NY 10:15 am Combination of trails takes us to several view points and past many ponds, including Eagle Cliff and Rattlesnake Hill. Some trails are very rocky and include short, steep ascents/descents. Moderate paced 9-mile hike. Group limit of 12. All hikers must pre-register via e-mail and receive confirmation there is space available. Rain cancels. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (NJ)

June 22 (Sun): Pine Meadow Lake Loop, Harriman State Park, NY 10am. My favorite loop along Reeves Brook and Stony Brook to Lake Wanasink and Pine Meadow Lake. Group limit of 12. All hikers must pre-register via e-mail and receive confirmation there is space available. Rain cancels. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (NJ)

June 22 (Sun) Minnewaska State Park (NY) Bike 'n Swim Event. We will ride the carriage trails in beautiful Minnewaska State Park, stopping at Lake Awosting for a swim and lunch. Total ride will be about 15 miles, more if everyone is up for it. Carriage Trails are wide, very scenic, relatively flat but with some elevation changes (no steep or killer hills but expect some mild upgrades and downgrades-if you have to get off and walk, no problem, we will wait). Great views abound from this park atop the Shawngunks-bring your camera and bathing suit. The ride will begin at 9:30 am. Please plan to arrive by 9:15 as the parking area has limits and on a good weekend it will fill up quickly and you may be out of luck for parking. Directions: Minnewaska State Park is located on Rte 44/55 in Ulster County NY. Upon exiting the New York State Thruway in New Paltz (Exit 18) (north or south), make a LEFT onto Rte 299 (west), for approximately 6 miles. At Junction of Rte 44/55 make a right. Go about 6 miles up winding mountain road to second park entrance on left (first entrance is on right). Go to Upper Parking Area. There is a fee for parking that can vary from \$7 to \$10, call the Park for specific fees week of the ride. Bring plenty of water and lunch. HELMETS ARE REQUIRED BY PARK RULES - NO HELMET=TICKET. Contact Bruce at 973-696-1809, e-mail wynbruce@aol.com, or if off track with directions day of the ride, cell # 973 356 1149.

June 28 (Sat): Little Stony Point Historic Cold Spring Foundry, NY 10am. Easy 5 miles. Hear all about the history of this fantastic area told by professional storyteller Jonathan Kruck. Meet at the foot of Main St. in Cold Spring NY. Take the Bear Mt. Bridge to Rte 9D North 7 miles to Cold Spring. Leader: John P. Jurasek, 845-365-3618, no calls after 10pm, or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

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



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Dick Colby (dick.colby@stockton.edu)Editor
Karen Brown (karonna@yahoo.com)Designer

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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This newsletter is produced mostly by volunteers.

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To address.changes@sierraclub.org, or Sierra Club Membership
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Liberty... for all?

Giant Sequoias are the most massive trees on the planet - some stand as tall as the Statue of Liberty and date back 3,500 years, making them among the largest and oldest organisms on Earth. Now this historic conservation area is being threatened with plans to open the Giant Sequoia National Monument to the chainsaws of the logging industry. We need your help now!

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Visit our Website: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org. The "Committees/Initiatives" menu includes a list of legislative bills we've evaluated, and an introduction to our Cool Cities Program.