Vol. 37, No. 2

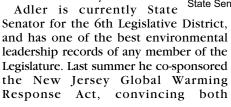
Nearly 21,000 Members in New Jersey

**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 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.





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.

#### 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-(Continued on page 4)

# **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.

# **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 (continued on page 2)

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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!

**Brooke Coneys** 

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.

#### Benefactors (\$1000 and above) Dennis and Carol Anderson

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#### YOU HAVE MORE TO GIVE THAN YOU KNOW

Elise Wendel Murray

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.

#### 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

happy? Because they were learning to read and write, learning life skills such as family planning, and marketable skills such

women so

backyard Ethiopian women clapping gardening, fruit tree planting and bee hive 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 program 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 percent of women with some primary education and 45 percent 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 wasnington, 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 bealth care, and economic opportunities. These programs have proven their effectiveness in slowing population growth in order to reach a sustainable buman population. To review the new population policy, go http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/population.pdf.

### **ENDORSEMENTS**

(Continued from page 1)

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

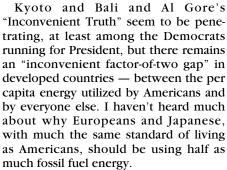
6. Over the last decade, Club manage-

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

# **Editorial**

# How to Halve Energy Consumption (and CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions)

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



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 doubleglazed (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 bikeparking 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 streetparking 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 readingchair 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!

# 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)

#### **Endorsements: National Sierra Club Board of Directors**

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

Lane Boldman, Jim Dougherty,

Larry Fahn, and Jerry Sutherland

# 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 greenscammers need to be told that their misleading messages are not welcome and that they will be held accountable for their misinformation campaign.

#### **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. CO<sub>2</sub> is CO<sub>2</sub> 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.

# 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 preapprove companies qualified to conduct the audits, and will then hire consultants to review the reports and provide technical support on how to implement the

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 do 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 elec-

tricity, 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),

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.)

#### **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

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 weeklong 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 enviro-

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 a 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 BEA-CON, 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 100mile-long North Mountain, a geological formation unique to the Atlantic coast of North America, and which is basalt from end to end. Fortunately, the federalprovincial 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.



#### **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 973-347-8849 Vice-Chair: Susan Rotter rotterls@mindspring.com

Conservation Chair: Open Position! Open Position!

Secretary: Treasurer: Charles Kopp 973-770-7718 ccgkp@verizon.net

Open Position! Publicity:

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 postglacial 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:** 201-461-4534 BetsvKohn@aol.com Betsy Kohn Mike Herson 201-262-9472 mikeherson@hotmail.com Conservation

Co-Chairs:

Tom Thompson 201-848-1080 Mike Herson

201-262-9472

Air Quality: Laura Tracey Coll Ellen Blumenkrantz **Outings Chair:** Passaic Issues: Tricia Aspinwall Political Chair: Greg Tondi Political Alternate: Phoebe Gistrak

Program Chair: Open Position! Treasurer: Tom Thompson 201-848-1080

**US Public Lands:** 201-660-8820 John Kashwick Wildlife: Mary Ellen Shaw 201-489-1588

etrans743@aol.com mikeherson@hotmail.com lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com taspinwall@hotmail.com

johnkashwick@optonline.net

gregt75@yahoo.com p-mg@att.net

etrans743@aol.com

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 OPPORTUNITES. 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	drrosemary@verizon.net
Cool Cities Chair:	Helen Manogue	201-963-3511	•
Singles Chair:	Marlene Rost	201-766-8982	MARRO@optonline.net
Outings Chair:	Scotte Perry	201-320-1758	scotteperry@optonline.net
Palisades Landmark			
Status Committee:			
Chair:	Rosemary Arena	201-861-6222	drrosemary@verizon.net
Vice Chair:	David Kronick	201-869-6218	jktejas@aol.com
Group ExCom			

Members: Gil Hawkins 201-944-5799 gilc3d2@aol.com Donald Kopczynski 201-224-2641 Littlechops03@netzero.com 201-324-3964 Melissa McCarthy mcmel@verizon.net 201-484-7277 mike\_selender@mindspring.com Mike Selender

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 7to 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: and Treasurer: Secretary: Conservation Chairs:	Eric Hausker Paul Sanderson Joyce White <i>Open Position!</i>	732-669-0719 908-233-2414	hauskerr@aol.com paulmsanderson@aol.com joyce00201@yahoo.com
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!		-
<b>Education Coord:</b>	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/njloantaka-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 welcome. 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)



#### **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/

Dan Aronson

#### **OFFICERS AND CONTACTS:**

At-large ExCom:

Sandi Lowich abstract46@aol.com Chair: Vice-Chair: Open Position! Conservation Chair: Jane Tousman 908-561-5504 jdtous@aol.com Membership: Sunil Somalwar sunil123@verizon.net Outings: Open Position! 732-525-2612 ragill@optonline.net Political Chair: Randy Gill Secretary: Michael Ricketts 732-371-9961 ictonyx@gmail.com Treasurer, Webmaster: Don McBride 732-560-0369 dtmcbride@yahoo.com Sandi Lowich Publicity: abstract46@aol.com Open Position! Programs: Chapter Delegate: Sunil Somalwar sunil123@verizon.net

**ISSUES:** We are fighting development along streams, wetlands, flood plains and steep slopes. We are pro-farmland preservation. Group members are involved in local issues, answering questions for concerned citizens regarding development and monitoring/reviewing all township/regional land use master plans in our area. This includes working to protect threatened and endangered species in these areas. 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/

<u>OFFICERS:</u>			
Group Chair:	Dennis Anderson	732-970-4327	dennisaza@aol.com
	6 Maple Ave, Mataw	an NJ 07747	
Vice-Chair:	Open Position!		
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	1.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:	Open Position!		
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:

<b>Chair:</b> A. G	regory 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		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	hrschwartz@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/

Group Chair: Gina Carola 856-848-8831 ginaceee@verizon.net Vice-Chair: Frank Zinni efzin4@aol.com Secretary: Ellen Zinni efzin4@aol.com Treasurer: Trish Clements 856-768-5639 patri321@comcast.net **Bud Kaliss** 856-428-8071 budkaliss@earthlink.net **Publicity Chair:** Political Chair: Open position! Pinelands Rep: Lee Snyder pinelands1@hotmail.com Greenways Coord's: Frank and Ellen Zinni efzin4@aol.com Conservation Chair: Stacey Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com 856-547-9221 eyebrown@snip.net Membership Chair: Mike Brown Fundraising Chair: 856-829-6405 r-ctiffany@comcast.net Reiss Tiffany Smart Growth Chair: Open position! Programs Chair: 609-440-6228 wdf711@hotmail.com Bill Freund **Outings Chair:** Open position!

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

**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: 609-625-0878 boghosian1@verizon.net Tom Boghosian

Open Position! Vice-Chair: Conservation Chair: Open Position!

Pol. Chair, Calendars: 609-965-4453 dick.colby@stockton.edu Dick Colby

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 joycewhite@netzero.net Treasurer: Joyce White Webpage designer: Tom Miller millertom@juno.com jmp0731@verizon.net Social Chair: Joe Prebish Vice Social Chair: Jeff Sovelove jeffreys@childapp.com Contact us! We need you! Programs: Open Position! Publicity: Open Position! Contact us! We need you! **Cool Cities Coordinator:** Terry Stimpfel terystimb@hotmail.com goldenb1@optonline.net Membership: Walter Goldenbaum

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

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

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.

Arline Zatz, who as 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 Vice Chair: William Sevchuk Steve Timmerman Conservation Chair: Webmaster: Julie Garber

MistyAngel22@aol.com wsevchuk@yahoo.com skiingsteve@aol.com journey7@optonline.net

(continued on page 10)

#### **GROUP NEWS**

(Continued from page 9)

Ex-Com/YS National Rep. (CA) Northern Jersey YS Rep. Outings Chair: Outings Co-Chair (Central Jersey):

**Outings Co-Chair** 

Jackie Enfield Jim DeSantis Donna Morgan jackie@jackieenfield.com green@northjerseygreendrinks.com tenkmaniacs@yahoo.com

Leon Yerenburg

lyerenburg@gmail.com

(South Jersey): Open Position!

Open Position! Please Contact Us!

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

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

Mar 29 (Sat) 2-3pm: Young Sierrans Committee Meeting, Bridgewater Library of Somerset County

Mar 29 (Sat) 3pm: Public Lecture & Slide Show Presentation on Alaska Wilderness by Julia Shaw from the Alaskan Wilderness League — in the Bridgewater Library with letter writing, and question & answer discussion session. This important slideshow presentation and Lecture is open to all of any age. www.AlaskaWild.org

Mar 29 (Sat) 5:30 pm: Dinner at The Office Grill on Rte 22 in Somerset County. Open to all ages.

Mar 29 (Sat) 7:30 pm: Game Night at The Office Grill. Open to all ages. Last time we had a lot of fun!

Mar 30 (Sun) 10am: 20/30s Hike D&R Canal Tow Path in Somerset County.

Apr 5 (Sat) 9pm: 20/30s Singles Mingle & Nightlife Dancing in New Brunswick.

Apr 13 (Sun) 10am: Beginner's Canoe Class in Somerset County. Open to all ages.

Apr 19 (Sat) 7:30 pm: 20/30s Bowling in Morris County.

Apr 24 (Thurs) 7pm: North Jersey Green Drinks Happy Hour. Open to all ages.

**Apr 26 (Sat) 6pm:** Vegetarian/Vegan Chinese Buffet Dinner at Veggie-Heaven Parsippany. Open to all ages.

Apr 27 (Sun) 10:30 am: 20/30s Princeton Grounds for Sculpture "A Day At The Fair". May 2 (Fri) 6pm: 20/30s Singles Mingle Happy Hour w/optional Nightlife Dancing in Bergen County.

May 9 (Fri) 6-8pm: 20/30s Volleyball in Morris County w/optional pizza dinner afterwards. May 10 (Sat): 20/30s Whitewater Rafting on the Lehigh River. Leader Donna Morgan: tenkmaniacs@vahoo.com

May 17 (Sat) 7:30 pm: 20/30s Bowling in Morris County.

**May 18 (Sun) 10am:** 20/30s Hike at Brendan T. Byrne State Forest w/optional lunch. Leader Donna Morgan: tenkmaniacs@yahoo.com

May 23 (Fri) 6-8pm: 20/30s Volleyball in Morris County w/optional pizza dinner afterwards.

May 29 (Thurs) 7pm: North Jersey Green Drinks Happy Hour. Open to all ages.

May 30 (Fri) 5:30 pm: 20/30s Singles Wine Tasting & Music in Middlesex County. June 1 (Sun) 10am: Beginner's Kayak Class in Somerset County. Open to all ages.

June 8 (Sun) 10am: 20/30s Canoeing & Kayaking on the D&R Canal. Leader Donna Morgan: tenkmaniacs@yahoo.com

June 14 (Sat) 7:30 pm: 20/30s Bowling in Morris County.

June 20 (Fri) 6pm: 20/30s Volleyball in Morris County w/optional dinner afterwards.

June 26 (Thurs) 7pm: North Jersey Green Drinks Happy Hour. Open to all ages.

June 28 (Sat) 6:30 pm: 20/30s Game Night & Dinner at The Office Grill in Somerset County.

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

#### **Sierra Student Coalition**

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

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

#### Inner City Outings Section

(another Chapter-wide special interest activity)

OFFICERS:

Chair:Marty Cohen201-670-8383martincohen@verizon.netTreasurer:Anne Dyjak732-560-0953annedyjak@verizon.net

Inner City Outings is a community outreach program, providing wilderness adventures for Inner City Outings is a community outreach program, providing wilderness adventures for city youth of New Jersey. Volunteer certified outings leaders conduct outings (generally day-trips) mostly on weekends. If you would like to experience the rewards of introducing inner-city youth to the wonders of nature, your involvement is encouraged and you are requested to contact us at ico-north@newjersey.sierraclub.org or the above e-mail addresses. To learn more, visit our webpage at http://www.sierraclub.org/ico/newjersey/. For those interested in an introductory education to ICO, we will be holding a training session on April 19, as announced below:

#### ICO to Hold Training Sessions April 19

NJ Inner City Outings (ICO) provides opportunities for inner city youth to explore, enjoy, and protect the natural world. We will be offering an Introduction to ICO and Volunteer Training session on Saturday, April 19th. (A suitable location in north or central NJ will be chosen based on convenience to the early registrants).

This session would be an excellent opportunity to learn the details of how ICO operates, and to meet Sierra Club members who dedicate their time and love of the outdoors as ICO volunteers. From 10am to 1pm experienced ICO leaders will present information on all aspects of planning and leading an ICO outing. In the afternoon, we will have an optional 2-3 hour hike. If you would like to learn more about map and compass use, please so-indicate in your response. Refreshments will be served. Please register as soon as you can, and address any questions, to ico-north@newjersey.sierraclub.org or to martincohen@verizon.net.



#### **GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS**

Central Jersey: Leona Fluck 609-259-3734 (H) leona@pineypaddlers.com

**Essex County**: David Ogens 973-226-0748 (H) 64 Elm Rd, Caldwell 07003

Hudson-Meadowlands: Vacant

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

1497 W Front St, Lincroft, NJ 07738

Loantaka: Joyce White 908-272-4478 (H) joyce00201@yahoo.com

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

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

**South Jersey:** Tom Boghosian 609-625-0878 (H) 4794 Andorea Drive, Mays Landing, 08330

boghosian1@verizon.net West Jersey: Vacant

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

Inner City Outings: Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H)

NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd, Warren, 07059

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

Outing Leaders: Please send July-September 2008 writeups to your Group Outings Coordinator before April 30. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it for the previous Sierran, due to the occasional lag in mailing. Also, please send outing rosters or sign-up sheets to the Chapter Office as soon as possible after each outing.

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

**Group Outings Coordinators:** Please submit your July-September 2008, trip write-ups by May 4th.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(C) Central Jersey (L) - Loantaka

(NW) - Northwest Jersey

(W) - West Jersey

(H) - Hudson (IC) - Inner City Outings (E) - Essex County (JS) - Jersey Shore (N) - North Jersey (S) - South Jersey

(NJ) - NJ Chapter (RV) - Raritan Valley (RT) - River Touring

(RT) - River Touring (ACOC) - Atlantic Chapter Outings Comm.

#### **APRIL**

Apr 6 (Sun): Social Hike in Watchung Reservation (Union Co.) 10am. About 7 miles of mixed terrain at a moderate pace. Great views, waterfalls, pine plantation and Deserted Village. Children 12 years or older and friendly dogs are welcome. Bring water and a picnic lunch and wear hiking boots. Meet at the Trailside Nature Center parking lot. For directions use Mapquest with the address of 452 New Providence Rd, Mountainside 07092, or call the Nature Center at 908-789-3670. A \$3 fee will be charged to nonmembers. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Rain cancels. Leader: David Ogens. Bandit29@aol.com (E)

Apr 9 (Wed): NJAS Plainsboro Preserve (Mercer/Middlesex Counties) 10am. Enjoy over five miles of trails meandering through mature beech woods, wet meadows, and the shoreline of scenic 50-acre McCormack Lake. Bring lunch - after the hike we'll have lunch on the outside deck overlooking the lake. No pets permitted in the Preserve. For directions: www.njaudubon.org/Centers/Plainsboro/Index.html Leaders: George & Leona F 609-259-3734 or Leona@pinevpaddlers.com (C)

Apr 12 (Sat): Black River Trail (Morris Co.) 10am. We will start from Cooper's Mill Park in Chester and hike to Willowwood Arboretum in Chester. This is a moderate 7.5-mile hike from end to end, so we will need to park a few cars at either end of the trail. Optional dinner afterwards at a nearby pub. Bring snack or lunch and 2 quarts of water. Meet at Willowwood Arboretum in Chester. Please provide your name and phone number to leader in case of a cancellation. Leader: Leslie McGlynn: failte\_629@verizon.net or 862-219-3386. Directions: From Morristown - Travel SOUTH on I-287 to Exit 22. Take Rte 206 NORTH. Travel 4 miles to Pottersville Road (Somerset County 512). Turn left onto Pottersville Road and proceed on Pottersville Road toward Pottersville for \_ mile. Turn RIGHT onto Lisk Hill Road and continue for 1/10 of a mile and come to a "T". Turn RIGHT and continue for 3/10 of a mile. You will come to a "Y". Turn LEFT at the "Y" onto Longview Road. The entrance to Willowwood Arboretum will be \_ mile from the "Y" intersection on the LEFT side of the road. Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center will be 1 mile from the "Y" intersection on the LEFT side of the road. From Long Valley/Chester Area - Take Rte 24 to Rte 206 SOUTH. Travel 4.7 miles to Pottersville Road (Somerset County 512). Turn RIGHT onto Pottersville Road and follow the directions above. From the South: Take Exit 22B from I-287. Take Rte 206 NORTH, 4 miles, to Pottersville Road (Somerset County 512). Turn LEFT onto Pottersville Road and follow the directions above.

**Apr 12 (Sat): Clean-up at Essex County Environmental Center.** 10am. Let's 'pitch in' and get the Center spruced-up for Earth Day. Meet at the Center. Tools, gloves, refreshments and snacks will be supplied. Directions: I-280 E or W to Exit 4A. This will put you on Eisenhower Parkway. Right at the first light onto Eagle Rock Ave, then 1/2 mile on the left. Plenty of parking in front of the building. Leaders: Ron Pate, KRBPESTCONTROL@verizon.net. And Walter Goldenbaum, goldenb1@optonline.net (E)

Apr 12 (Sat): Sunset hike and Star-gazing, Burlington Co. 4:45 pm. 6 miles at moderate pace. Hike between two rivers as we watch the sun set over the pines. We return to a tailgate social and then view Saturn, Mars and far off galaxies with Willingboro Astronomical Society. NC/NP. Meet at the northern parking lot at Batsto Village, Rte 542, 8 miles east of Hammonton. Please bring picnic-type food to share at the tailgate. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve. or pis1@cccnj.net.

Apr 16 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak on the Crosswicks Creek/Hamilton-Trenton Marsh (Mercer Co.) 10:30 am. Enjoy a shuttleless 8-mile round trip on the northernmost tidal area of the Delaware River. We'll paddle from Bordentown Beach to Roebling Park, have lunch and walk to Spring Lake looking for early signs of spring. Contact leaders to confirm trip and your participation. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: George & Leona F 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

**Apr 19 (Sat): Social Moonlight Hike, Campfire and Campout, Burlington/Ocean Cos.** 7:30 pm. 6-7 miles at moderate pace. Hike over roads and trails lit by the Pink moon with a campfire at end. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Overnite camping is available Fri. & Sat; call leader to reserve space. NP/NC. Meet at parking area opposite Group campsite area, Bryne State Forest, enter forest off Rte 72, 1 mile E. of jct. Rtes 70&72. Leader, Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593, eve.,or pis1@cccnj.net

Apr 19 (Sat): Earth Day at the Essex County Environmental Center. 10am. Join us to promote the Sierra Club! We will have a Club table to lobby the public, and will also demonstrate canoeing on the Passaic River. Join us for fun and food for as long as you can. Directions: I-280 E or W to Exit 4A. This will put you on Eisenhower Parkway. Right at the first light onto Eagle Rock Ave, then 1/2 mile on the left. Plenty of parking in front of the building. Leader: Walter Goldenbaum, goldenb1@optonline.net (E)

Apr 20 (Sun): Brookdale Community College/Thompson Park (Monmouth County) 9am. Moderate 6.5 mile hike that follows the Swimming River Reservoir. Please bring drinks and snacks. Hiking shoes are suggested. GSP Exit 109, head west on Monmouth County Rte 520 approx. 2 miles into Brookdale Community College, make first right to parking lot #2 Meet in the right back corner. Bad weather, cancels. Confirmation/questions please call or text Leader Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

Apr 20 (Sun): Paddle Cedar Creek and Support Earth Day 2008 (Ocean Co.) 9am. Earth Day is April 22! We'll pick up trash as we paddle 7 miles from Ore Pond to Dudley Park. We'll provide the trash bags. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting logistics. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

April 20 (Sun): Paulinskill Valley Trail - Lower Stretch Bike Ride. Join us for a 20-25-mile ride on this rail trail thru rural Warren County. Terrain is relatively flat and fairly well-graded, passing thru horse farm country and along the scenic Paulinskill River. We start near Lake Paulinskill and proceed southwest to Blairstown and beyond. Ride to begin at 10:30 am. Call or e-mail for starting point info and directions. Bring plenty of water, a light lunch (we will be stopping at halfway point) and HELMET (required) Hybrid or Mountain Bike best choice. Any questions: please call Bruce at 973-696-1809, or e-mail to wynbruce@aol.com, or if off-track with directions day of the ride, cell # 973-356-1149. (E)

Apr 26 (Sat): Pyramid Mountain (Morris Co.) 10am. A 4-5-mile loop hike past Tripod Rock using a variety of trails. Hiking boots are a MUST! There is quite a bit of elevation change and significant climbing. See the Morris County Parks website http://www.morrisparks.net/aspparks/pyrmtnmain.asp for directions and info. Bring lots of water. Optional lunch at a local eatery afterward if we get done in time. Meet in the Visitor's Center parking lot. Inclement weather cancels. No pets please. Joint ADK-NJ and Sierra Club hike. Leaders: Jeffrey Sovelove (Hiker\_Dood@yahoo.com) and Lee Ousley (Ousleycl@mindspring.com). (E)

**Apr 26 (Sat): Blauvelt Parks: Piermont-South Nyack (NY)** Strenuous 10 miles. Visit Rockland Cemetery, an old Nike base and an abandoned National Guard rifle range. 2 quarts water. Hiking boots. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural) by 10:15 am. LP out. Return via rail-trail. Leader John P. Jurasek 845-365-3618 (no calls after 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

Apr 27 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware and enjoy Shad Fest too! (Mercer Co.) 9am. It's the 2008 Lambertville Shad Festival weekend. Last year we had fun paddling 8 miles from Byrum into Lambertville, walking around town, checking out the arts & crafts, listening to music and enjoying BBQ at River Horse Brewery. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and logistics. Leaders: George & Leona F 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Apr 27 (Sun): Social Hike. Ralph Stover State Park, PA 8:30 am. 7-8 miles at moderate pace. Be prepared for rock scramble and steep climbs for spectacular views of the Tohickon Creek. Hiking boots required and good physical condition. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NP/NC. Meet at Crown Plaza (formerly Hilton Hotel) rear parking area, Rte 70, Cherry Hill, to carpool/caravan. Or meet at Ralph Stover St. Park near the bridge on Tohickon Hill Rd. in Pt. Pleasant, PA at 10am. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 evenings only or pis1@cccnj.net Inclement weather cancels.

#### MAY

May 4 (Sun): Social Hike at Tulip Springs (Essex Co.) 10am. Hike 6-7 miles at a moderate pace in the South Mountain Reservation and see some of the many highlights this 2000-acre tract has to offer, including a 25-foot waterfall and a spectacular views of New York City and South Jersey. Children 12 years or older and friendly dogs are welcome. Bring water and light snack and wear hiking boots. After the hike there will be a optional lunch/hot chocolate at the local diner. Meet in the Tulip Springs parking lot just off Cherry Lane (between Northfield Ave and South Orange Ave in South Orange). A \$3 fee will be charged to nonmembers. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Rain Cancels. Leader: David Ogens. Bandit29@aol.com (E)

May 4 (Sun): Prospect Park (Brooklyn NY) 10am. Join us for a walk through Olmsted and Vaux's "perfect park." Meet under the arch at Grand Army Plaza. We'll take an extended walk through the park and discuss how the park's designers improved on Central Park's deficiencies and fully realized their vision of the urban American park. Picnic lunch along the route. Inclement weather cancels. Leader: Mike Maurer 201-819-1742 (no calls after 10pm). Mike maurer@mail.com.

May 4 (Sun): Paddle the Wading River on Cinco De Mayo (Burlington Co.) 9am. We'll paddle 10 miles from Hawkin Bridge to Beaver Branch. This is a good trip for novice paddlers. We'll stop for lunch and salsa and chips at Godfrey Bridge. Rentals available from Pine Barrens Canoe Rental 609-726-1515 or www.pinebarrenscanoe.com. Contact leaders to confirm participation. Leaders: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

May 7 (Wed): Clayton Park Hike (Monmouth Co.) 10am. 5 miles, easy/moderate pace. This rustic 421-acre site in rural Upper Freehold is beautiful in the spring and is known for stately stands of red and white oak, beech, ash and birch trees. Directions: 1-195 to exit 11 (Imlaystown/Cox's Corner). Eastbound, turn right and follow to end; westbound, turn left and follow to end. Turn left onto Rte 526 and make immediate right onto Imlaystown-Davis Station Rd. Follow to Emley's Hill Rd., turn left. Follow to Park on left. Dogs are welcome! Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Leona and George F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

May 10 (Sat): Wurtsboro Ridge Hike (NY) 10:15 am. Hike a 10 mile section of the Long path/Shawagunk Ridge, that includes the southernmost end of the gunks. Trail has numerous ascents/descents totaling near 3,000 ft. elevation gain/loss throughout the day. Pace will be moderate, but you'll get quite a work out and some great views, Hike takes about 6 hours with a lunch break and one snack stop. Optional after-dinner stop in Wurtsboro, NY. Car shuttle required. Group limit of 12. All hikers must pre-register via e-mail and then meeting time/location will be provided. Rain cancels. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (NI)

May 10 (Sat): Pulpit Rock & The Pinnacle via the Appalachian Trail (Berks Co. PA) 10am. Join us as we take about a 10-mile asphalt-free loop to the Pinnacle and its neighbor, Pulpit Rock, for grand views of PA. farm country. Our hike will take us along the rugged AT in this stretch just outside Hamburg, PA. We will encounter many rocks in this more difficult hike geared toward the more able hiker. No sneakers! Sticks optional. Leashed socialized pets welcome. This moderately paced hike will gain about 2000' overall. Bring food and water and a ground-pad for lunch at the vista view on rocks. Meet at Hamburg Reservoir Parking Area on Reservoir Road. (No facilities avail.) Take I-476 (Blue Rte/PA Tpk NE Ext.) North to Allentown/Lehigh Valley, Exit 48, and I-78/Rte 22 West. At exit 35 of I-78 proceed North on PA Rte 143 to Mountain Rd, turning left. Then left at Dairy Farm. Bear right here and follow to Reservoir Rd, turning right, then to parking area at end. Contact Leader via e-mail (preferred) to be in the loop for any updates. Leaders: HykyrJoe Maryanski (Jmaryanski@msn.com or 609-929-7498 after 7 evngs.) and 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.

May 11 (Sun): Ramapo County Reservation (Passaic Co.) 10:15 am. Moderate-paced 9-mile hike from Ramapo County Park into Ringwood and back, passing several lakes and view-points. Optional after-hike stop at Kinchleys for pizza/salad/beer. No public transportation. Group limit of 12. All hikers must preregister via e-mail and then meeting time/location will be provided. Rain would cancel. L: Ellen Blumenkrantz eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (NJ)

May 11 (Sun): Southern Allaire State Park (Monmouth Co) (Special Interest: Geology). 4.5-mile moderate hike is in the northern fringes of the Pine Barrens. Bring drink and snack. Hiking shoes preferred. Meet at 9am at the large dirt parking lot on the right, off Hospital Rd, in Wall Township. Take GPS to exit 98, turn right on to Allenwood Rd. At "T" intersection (Ramhorn Rd) turn right. Make next left (Hospital Rd.) the parking area is approximately 1 mile on the right. Bad weather cancels. Confirmation/Questions call or text Leader: Mike Verange: 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com. (JS)

May 17 (Sat): Social Hike at Tulip Springs, Essex Co. 10am. Hike 6-7 miles at a moderate pace in the South Mountain Reservation and see some of the many highlights this 2000-acre track has to offer including a 25-foot waterfall and a spectacular views of New York City and South Jersey. Children 12 years or older and friendly dogs are welcome. Bring water and light snack and wear hiking boots. After the hike there will be a optional lunch/hot chocolate at the local diner. Meet in the Tulip Springs parking lot just off Cherry Lane (between Northfield Ave and South Orange Ave in South Orange). A \$3 fee will be charged to nonmembers. All participants must sign a liability waiver. Rain Cancels. Leader: Ron Pate, KRBPEST-CONTROL@verizon.net. (E)

May 17 (Sat): Social Flatwater Kayak Introduction Training, Burlington Co. 8:30 am. A certified ACA instructor will be on hand to share information about paddling techniques, safety and equipment. Come out and learn about this ever growing popular sport. Learn how to handle a flatwater kayak or improve your skills, great for beginners. Call leader to reserve space. After brief lake training we will paddle on the Wading River. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after trip. NC/NP. Meet at Bel-Haven Paddle Sports on Rte 542, Atl Co,12 miles E of Hammonton. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 eve. or pis1@cccnj.net.

May 17 (Sat.): Social Moonlight Hike, Burlington Co. 7:30 pm. 6 miles at moderate pace. Hike under the Flower Moon as we walk along old cranberry bogs and listen to the evening serenade. Bring snack-type food to share for our tailgate social after the hike. NC/NP. Meet in parking lot at Whitesbog Village: From Rte 70E take Rte 530 N 1 mile, turn right onto village entrance road. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eve. or pis1@cccnj.net.

May 18 (Sun): Social Kayak trip, Burlington Co. 9am. Paddle the Oswego River, one of the most picturesque rivers in the Pines. Bring lunch and water with you. We will stop to explore and swim along the way. Limited space, call leader to confirm participation and trip status. NP/NC. Meet at Bel-Haven Paddle Sport Rte 542, Greenbank, Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 856-697-3870 or pis1@cccnj.net.

May 18 (Sun): Glen Onoko Falls & Packers Point Vista (Carbon Co. PA) 10am. Rugged, challenging, wild: adjectives which describe the three falls of Glen Onoko Falls Gorge not far from Jim Thorpe, PA. We will revisit the crystal mist from these falls, and to perhaps (for those that dare) walk behind Cave Falls and plunge our heads into the crashing, cold water. This hike is geared toward the experienced hiker. Some areas of the gorge may require scrambling. A moderately-paced, asphalt-free 7-8 mile loop, with elevation gain of 1500' for the day, and rocks galore. After we reach the top, we explore PA game lands #141 to several vista views of the green-forested Lehigh River Gorge. No sneakers! Sticks optional. Leashed socialized pets welcome. Bring food and water for lunch atop the falls. Meet at Glen Onoko Falls parking area (left) off PA Rte 903 just north of Jim Thorpe. From 1476 (Blue Rte/PA Tpk NE Ext) exit 74 (Mahoning Valley) and US Rte 209 South. (Facilities avail. at lot) Contact Leader via e-mail (preferred) to be in the loop for any updates. Leaders: HykyrJoe Maryanski (Jmaryanski@msn.com or 609-929-7498 after 7pm) and 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).

May 23-26 (Fri-Mon): Memorial Day Camping Weekend at Ricketts Glenn PA. 8 miles, mod-strenuous. Hike nine spectacular waterfalls or kayak on the lake, and camp in the deep woods at Ricketts Glenn SP. Camping will be available from Friday to Sunday, call leader to confirm participation by May 15th. Or meet Saturday at 10am at trail head for hike portion at Ricketts Glenn SF, Rte 487, exit 35 off I-80 (PA Tpk). Call leader for additional info, carpool info and directions. Minimum number of participants needed to assure trip. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 eve. Or pis1@cccnj.net.

May 24 (Sat): Maurice River Paddle (Cumberland Co.), BBQ and Bonfire 2pm. Late afternoon paddle on the Wild and Scenic Maurice River. This is a pristine river with undisturbed banks, beaches and wildlife sightings. Then enjoy a BBQ and sit around a bonfire lingering into the evening at a private nearby home. You must register with leaders. Kayak rentals are available. Meet at Al & Sam's Canoe Rental on Rte 47 (Delsea Drive), 2 miles S of Rte 40. Bring picnic-type food to share at BBQ after trip. Leaders: Susan Brown 856-364-0278 or slstretch@comcast.net and Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve. or pis1@cccnj.net.

May 24 (Sat): Canoeing/Kayaking Skills Refresher on Lake Oswego (Burlington Co.) 9am. New and beginning paddlers are welcome. Enjoy a day on the water and improve your knowledge about paddle sports, equipment, safety practices, self-rescue, paddling techniques and efficiencies. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Pine Barrens Canoe Rental: 609-726-1515 or www.pinebarrenscanoe.com. Please contact leaders to confirm your participation. Leaders: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

May 24 (Sat): Smell the Spring Flowers in Bloom at Skylands Botanical Gardens. 10am. Take a leisurely stroll in the New Jersey Botanical Gardens at the peak of its bloom and visit a couple of ponds in the neighboring woods. Approximately 4 miles in 3 hrs. Optional lunch after the walk. Rain date: May 25 (Sun); bad weather on both days cancels. For details and to sign up, contact the Leader: George Ekel, George Ekel@aol.com, 201-444-2096.

#### JUNE

**Jun 4 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek and Geocach too! (Ocean Co.):** 9am. Enjoy an always-spectacular paddle in the amber-colored waters of Cedar Creek from Dover Forge to Dudley Park (10 miles). Interested in geocaching? - there are several caches in Double Trouble Park as we paddle. Please contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting logistics. Leaders George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@piney-paddlers.com (W)

June 7 (Sat): Kelly's Run/ Holtwood Envl Center (Lancaster Co. PA) 10am. Joan and I will lead a wonderful hike which will feature a fine lunch-time vista-view of the Susquehanna River. Shaded trails will keep us sun protected. We'll explore sections of the Conestoga Trail, including passage through the cool, moss-covered Kelly's Run Gorge, a National Landmark. A moderately paced, 7-mile loop (w/some asphalt) with elevation gain of 1500'. No sneakers! Sticks optional. Leashed socialized pets welcome. Bring food and water for lunch atop the vista point. Meet at the Picnic Pavilion (near the swing sets) just off Old Holtwood Rd and PA Rte 372. Facilities available at meeting lot and lunch vista. Use I-95 to US 322 West and US Rte 1 South to PA Rte 272 West and then onto PA 372 West. Contact Leaders via e-mail (preferred) to be in the loop for any updates . Leaders: HykyrJoe Maryanski (Jmaryanski@msn.com or 609-929-7498 after 7pm) and 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 8 (Sun): Social Wissahickon Gorge (PA)** Hike. 8:30 am. 7 miles at moderate pace over hills. Hike the Gorge in late spring with spectacular views. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NP/NC. Meet in rear parking lot Hilton Hotel, Rte 70 Cherry Hill to carpool/caravan. Or meet at 9:30 am at Valley Green parking lot in park. Leader Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 eve. or pis1@cccnj.net.

**Jun 8 (Sun): Clayton Park, Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth Co.** (Special Interest: History) 9am A moderate 6-mile hike in one of Monmouth County Park System's best kept secrets. Moderate elevation gains. Hiking shoes not required. Bring snack and drink. Meet at the Wawa store near the intersection of Rte 537 and I-195 in Upper Freehold Township. Bad weather cancels. Confirmation/Questions: call or text Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com. (JS)

**Jun 8 (Sun): Woodlawn Cemetery (Bronx, NY)** 10:00am Join us for a 3 mile walk through one of New York's oldest and most renowned cemeteries located in the Bronx. The burial site of many notable New Yorkers - Irving Berlin, George Cohan, Miles Davis, Duke Ellington, Jay Gould, Herman Melville and Otto Preminger - among many others. A unique cemetery if ever there was one. Meet at the main entrance - Webster Ave. and E 233 St. at 10 am. (NOT the Jerome Ave entrance). Metro North, 2,4,5 subway. See www.thewoodlawncemetery.org for directions. Picnic lunch along the walk. Inclement weather cancels. L Mike Maurer 201.819.1742 NCA 10. Mike.maurer@mail.com.

Jun 11 (Wed): Canoeing/ Kayaking Skills Refresher on Lake Oswego (Burlington Co.) 9am. New and beginning paddlers are welcome. Enjoy a day on the water and improve your knowledge about paddle sports, equipment, safety practices, self-rescue, paddling techniques and efficiencies. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Pine Barrens Canoe Rental, 609-726-1515 or www.pinebarrenscanoe.com. Please contact leaders to confirm your participation. Leaders: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

June 14 (Sat): Social Moonlight Hike, Campfire and Camp-out, Burlington Co. 7:30 pm. 6 miles at moderate pace. Join us as we hike under the Strawberry Moon on sand roads, and return to a roaring fire. Overnight camping is available, contact leader for reservation. Bring picnic-type food to share at the tailgate social after the hike, firewood and a chair to sit on. Meet at Goshen Pond campsites, from Rte 206 take Atsion Rd. 1.5 miles to Goshen Pond campsite sign, turn onto dirt road and follow to campsites. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 eve. or pis1@cccnj.net.

June 15 (Sun): Split Rock Reservoir Loop, Morris Co. 10:15 am. Beautiful 12-mile loop around Split Rock reservoir in the Farny Highlands of NJ. Some ups and downs around the lake, but relatively moderate. Group limit of 12. All hikers must pre-register via e-mail and then meeting location/directions will be provided. Rain cancels. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (NJ)

Jun 15 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak on the Crosswick Creek/Hamilton Trenton Marsh (Mercer Co.) 10:30 am. Enjoy a relaxing Father's Day on the water. We'll paddle from Bordentown Beach to Roebling Park and grill hot dogs for lunch. Optional walk to Spring Lake to look for the mute swans. Bring something to share for lunch. Please contact leaders to confirm trip and your participation. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

June 20-23 (Fri-Sun): Janes Island Kayaking Weekend (MD) 9am. Kayak, camp and bike this weekend on the Chesapeake Bay at Janes Island State Park. Must confirm participation and trip status with leaders. Janes Island State Park is a Chesapeake Bay Gateway, one of over 100 special places to experience the Chesapeake Bay. We will be kayaking both days on the many sheltered water trails around the Island and Little Annemessex River. We will be camping at Janes Island SP in one of the camping loops. Saturday night will include an optional visit to Christfield for an all-you-can-eat crab fest, blue claw and soft shell. Biking will also be available around the many flat roads on the island and adjacent mainland. Contact leaders ASAP to reserve a spot and obtain camping information, as this trip will fill quickly. Campsite reservations will be made directly with State Park, however contact leaders for number and group area. Minimum of 12-foot kayak with spray skirt is required. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 eve. or pisl@cccnj.net.

June 21 (Sat): Hickory Run State Park (Carbon Co. PA) 10am. This moderately-paced asphalt-free 8-mile in & out hike will start from the Hawk Falls parking area on PA Rte 534 and take us to Hickory Run's Boulder Field (a National Landmark) where we will take lunch and some will watch while others will dare to traverse the many-sized and shaped-rock boulders that constitute the Boulder Field. (which is over 4 times the size and girth of a standard football field) Difficult terrain and elevation gain suggests suitability for experienced hikers. No sneakers! Sticks optional. Leashed socialized pets welcome. Bring food and water for lunch at the boulder field. OPTIONAL: Afterwards, those with residual energy may join us for the 1.5 mile total in and out trail from the same parking area to Hawk Falls for a chance to frolic and splash in the cold, clear water of the misnamed Mud Run. Meet at Hawk Falls parking area off PA Rte 534. Use L476 North (Blue Rte/PA Tpk NE Ext) exit 95 to I-80 west to PA Rte 534. Continue south- and eastward on 534 past the ranger station and later beneath the Tpk. where the lot will be on your left. (No facilities available) Contact Leaders via e-mail (preferred) to be in the loop for any

(continued on page 12)



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**Litigation Oversight Committee** Ken Johanson\*\*, Carolyn Freeman

**Finance Committee** 

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Information Technology Committee Sunil Somalwar\*\*, George Newsome Bob Johnson, Laura Lynch

Facilities (office, meeting sites) George Denzer\*\*, Joan Denzer, Bob

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Indicates Chapter-wide elected ExCom members

\*\* Indicates committee chair or co-chair

#### NEW JERSEY CHAPTER **LEADERSHIP**

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Marine Issues Greg Auriemma (see left column)

**Passaic River** 

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Pinelands Issues Lee Snyder (see left column)

Population Issues Bonnie Tillery (see left column)

Recycling 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**

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

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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.)

Advertised products and services carry no Club endorsement Thank you to all who contributed to this issue! This newsletter is produced mostly by volunteers.

Opinions, unless otherwise attributed, are of the writer only.

Members please send address changes:

To address.changes@sierraclub.org, or Sierra Club Membership 85 Second St, 2nd Floor San Francisco CA 94105, or 415-977-5653, and NJ Sierra Club, 145 West Hanover St. Trenton NJ 08618

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SIERRA

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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 is being threatened with plans to open the Giant Sequoia National Monument to the chainsaws of the

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lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

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