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# The Jersey..... SIERRAN

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Roughly 20,000 Members in New Jersey

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Three Reports from Trenton

## Energy Master Plan (EMP) No Longer EMPTY

By Jeff Tittel and Becca Glenn, Chapter staff

On Oct 22nd, Governor Corzine released the final draft of the Energy Master Plan (EMP), the blueprint for where the state will get its energy for the next ten years. Our reaction is enthusiastic: the Plan will provide green energy, green collar jobs to New Jersey workers, and savings to consumers through energy efficiency programs.

While the Club graded the Plan's original draft a D-, we give the final draft a B+. Unlike the original plan, which promoted fossil fuels and nuclear power while underplaying renewable energy, this Plan triples the amount of wind, doubles the amount of solar, and raises the Renewable Portfolio Standard from 22% to 30%.

The final Plan reduces the call for nuclear power, recognizing that this outdated form of power is extremely costly, takes a long period of time to develop and bring online, and raises serious safety issues. The Plan also opposes the development of new coal facilities, showing that the Governor has listened to the outpouring of public support for clean energy. The Plan will help move us away from dirty, costly, and obsolete technologies and toward new technologies that will stimulate our economy and protect the environment at the same time.

The Sierra Club and other environmental groups recently released a study commissioned by the Center for American Progress and written by the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, detailing the ways in which investment

in new green technologies will also create high-paying American jobs. Among the areas of investment studied was energy efficiency, which will create jobs in the areas of construction, carpentry, roofing, heating and air conditioning installation, insulation work, and building inspection, among other fields. The report also looked at investment in renewable energy technologies, such as wind and solar, which provide jobs to electricians, electrical engineers, sheet metal workers, welders, truck drivers, computer software engineers, and many others.

We estimate that the investment detailed in the EMP will produce more than 25,000 new jobs in New Jersey in energy efficiency alone. It will also save consumers money in the long term, with consumers projected to save \$4 in energy costs over the next seven years for each \$1 of initial investment in energy efficiency programs. In addition, it embraces the development of new technology by supporting the exploration of other sources of alternative energy through the Clean Energy Institute and helping new businesses get off the ground through the Edison Innovation Fund.

This is a good plan, but we must see that it is implemented. We've seen many plans sit on shelves gathering dust. This Energy Master Plan has to actually be put into effect if we are to combat climate change, create green jobs, and bring long-term energy savings to the people of New Jersey.

## Sierra Club to NJ Turnpike Authority: Go Take a Hike

By our Chapter staff, Jeff Tittel and Becca Glenn

The New Jersey Turnpike Authority is pushing through Governor Corzine's toll hikes, which will do nothing to solve the state's transportation needs, but instead will charge people more money to be stuck in traffic longer. The revenue from the more-than-doubling of tolls is intended for road-widening projects, many of them in rural areas of Salem County and in the Pinelands. These projects will not alleviate congestion - they will only promote more sprawl, more traffic, and more pollution. They will also increase state debt, even though recent state bond offers have not sold, including a bond issue offered in early October under the New Jersey Infrastructure Trust Bond Act.

The widening projects are the most expensive ever proposed by the Turnpike Authority, with an expected price tag of \$6 billion, including new debt service. They include widening of the Turnpike and Garden State Parkway in rural areas of the state at a time when ridership is down - this year ridership on the turnpike has dropped six percent due to spiking gasoline prices. If we are going to widen roads anywhere, it should be in heavily congested areas where drivers would actually benefit and the demand justifies the expense.

The plan for the Parkway, which would add an additional lane in each direction from exits 1 to 80, would cut through the Pinelands Preservation Area. Far from relieving congestion, the real purpose for widening the roads in this low population area is to induce growth: It is projected that population will increase by roughly 500,000 people, a 50% increase from the current

level. Ocean County is already struggling with sprawl and supplying water to new developments; more sprawl will further strain water, energy, and financial resources in the region.

The proposed widening of the Turnpike from exits 6 to 9 likewise threatens to increase sprawl in the Jamesburg area, now largely farmland. It also would eliminate the potential for more sustainable and effective options. Widening the road north of the Jamesburg exit will prohibit the future construction of a freight corridor from New Brunswick to exit 8A, an area filled with warehouses, which would take trucks off the road and alleviate congestion for cars. In the area north of exit 8A, widening would fill in approximately 200 acres of wetland habitat, which is critical for reducing the effects of flooding and purifying water. The Turnpike plan also includes a widening of 32 miles from exits 1 to 4, mostly in areas of farmland.

History has repeatedly shown that widening roads without reducing demand does little to ease traffic. The more lanes you build, the more development you promote, and the more cars you will get. In the end, New Jerseyans will pay more to sit in worse traffic.

These thousands of additional automobiles will increase particulate matter, a known cancer-causing agent, and other toxic air pollutants. The additional vehicles will also release more greenhouse gases, undermining the emission reduction goals of 2007's Global Warming Response Act.

Better options are available. By significantly scaling back the widening, New Jersey could reduce toll increases while protecting the environment. Toll increases would be cut dramatically if the Parkway was widened only from Toms River to Manahawkin and a flex lane was added. Similarly, adding one lane in each direction between Turnpike exits 6 and 8A plus a two lane reversible truck-only road would reduce truck traffic and save money. Much of the traffic on both roads could be addressed by staggering summer rental turnover between Saturdays and Sundays, rather than all on Saturdays.

## We need Better Highlands Protection, not Public Relations

By our Chapter Director, Jeff Tittel (jeff.tittel@sierraclub.org)

In mid-September Governor Corzine signed an executive order calling for a moratorium on water allocation permits in water supply areas of the Highlands that are in a deficit, but it includes exemptions that make the order meaningless.

An executive order cannot overturn or change a rule or a plan like the Highlands Plan. The order applies only to developments of more than 330 units, or that use more than 100,000 gallons a day, very few of which exist in the Highlands. Then the governor exempted the Highlands' existing community zone from the order, which is the place large developments would go if they were to be built.

The Governor has recognized the tremendous amount of public support in New Jersey for protecting the Highlands and the drinking water for more than half the state's population. But instead of actually protecting the environment, he has weakened real environmental protections.

One way in which the Corzine administration has weakened protections for the Highlands and for the state's water supply is its failure to set aside Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) rules that have mandated the construction of large amounts of affordable housing in environmentally sensitive areas, especially in the Highlands.

For example, West Milford, in the Highlands preservation area, has a higher COAH quota than Hoboken, and Ringwood has a higher quota than Secaucus.

The Governor has also promoted a Highlands Plan that trumps Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations. The Highlands Plan, which took four years to develop, allows more overdevelopment and more pollution in our waterways than was envisioned by the original Highlands Act and that is afforded by current DEP regulations. In the areas targeted for growth, up to a third of the private wells already show impacts from pollution, according to the DEP's own testing.

The Highlands Plan also permits double the density allowed by the DEP in existing community zones, which, given the new COAH rules, will also raise affordable housing numbers.

The day after the Governor signed his executive order, he signed the Permit Extension Act, the worst anti-environmental bill in New Jersey in decades. This bill will extend all development permits, bringing back to life many permits from bad projects that have lapsed. It is a giveaway to developers that undermines the state's efforts to promote good planning and protect its natural resources.

### Closing state parks

Corzine has also tried to close state parks and is trying to privatize Skylands Manor.

The Governor has also talked about the need to fund open space, but has thwarted attempts to actually follow through on this promise, and he has failed to come up with his own plan to

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Weakening protections

## Sierra Club Ballot

Election of Officers, for 2009, of our Hudson Meadowlands Group.

If you consider yourself a member of this Group, please detach the ballot, vote it, and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Feb. 1, to **Sierra Club Group Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton 08618**. PAIRs of boxes are to enable two members of family memberships to cast votes. Club rules require two more candidates than the number of openings; when an insufficient number of candidates is on offer, write-in slots are provided.

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

Gil Hawkins  
  Donald Kopczynski  
  Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

Scotte Perry  
  Mariana Zivkovic  
  Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

### ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

## Healthy House: Improve Indoor Air Quality while Improving your Quality of Life

By Leia Sims, our new Chapter Environmental Education Coordinator (leia@bized.com)

The quality of the air we breathe has a direct impact on our health, well-being, and ultimately, our life. Many people are concerned with the air quality outdoors, and with good reason. It often contains toxins from smog, acid rain and automobile emissions. Laws to improve air quality have been instituted, such as power plant emission standards and more stringent mileage requirements for new vehicles.

Homes are typically thought to be safe. But indoor air can be much more polluted than outdoor air. Since the average person spends more than 90 percent of her/his time indoors, 65 percent of which is in her/his own home, improving indoor air quality (IAQ) can be important.

Before I begin scaring you about the demons of indoor air quality, let's review some simple tips to make your home healthier:

#### Healthy Home Tips

- Reduce the amount of carpeting in your home, these can be great collectors of dirt, soot, chemicals, and who-knows-what-else tracked into your home.

- Change your vacuum cleaner to a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter model, which removes 99.97 percent of airborne particles down to 0.3 microns in diameter.

- Use that vacuum cleaner for dusting your house, to remove airborne particles that may be allergens (you will sneeze less when you use the HEPA filter).

- Stop bringing poisonous chemicals into your home; use cleaning products approved by [greenseal.org](http://greenseal.org) or related organizations.

- Use a more efficient air filter on your furnace, and change it regularly.

- Stop disinfecting everything, and masking smells with heavily perfumed scents, try more neutral cleaners without strong odors.

- Acquire house plants to help filter the air and provide more oxygen.

- Wipe your feet before you come into the house, and have a series of shoe and boot cleaners on the way in (experts call these walk-off mats). Once inside, remove your shoes and keep them by the door.

- Bring more fresh air into your homes and get more of the excess moisture out, although there may be an energy penalty to adding more fresh air into the home and running the bath and kitchen fan another 20 minutes. But they will remove the moisture and smells that are the root of many IAQ issues.

*Leia Sims is a certified energy consultant and owner of Bright Alternatives. She can be reached at leia@bized.com*

## Going Green and Helping the Hungry

By Stacey Ayala, Conservation Chair of our West Jersey Group

Cathedral Kitchen of Camden, NJ is proving that an organization can help a worthy cause and protect the environment at the same time. Since 1976 this non-profit organization has been helping to feed the hungry. The plight of the hungry has only grown and the church needed more space to continue its work.

At first there was an attempt to find an existing building that would solve the problem and comply with the plans of the Camden Redevelopment Agency. But, finding none, the decision was made to build a new one. DAS Architects helped Cathedral Kitchen by designing a building that would achieve LEED certified / Green Building status, and the chosen location would make use of a former, now cleaned brown-fields site.

Beginning with donated recycled I-5 fill for site improvement and the building the foundation, everywhere you look this building went green. The building itself has recycled materials through-

out the structure including in its steel frame. Twenty percent of those materials were made locally, reducing pollution from transportation. Over 75% of the construction waste was recycled.

Light-colored metal roofing will reduce air-conditioning costs during the summer, while drought-resistant landscaping will be irrigated by water runoff from the roof. Low-flow faucets with automatic controls and low-flush valves help to reduce water use. 90% of the public space has natural lighting and energy-efficient appliances and lighting, along with motion-sensor lighting to help reduce energy consumption. Large walk-in freezers and refrigerators will allow the organization to accept more food donations that would otherwise have been trashed.

The organization didn't stop there. Low-emitting paints and sealants were used, as well as low-emitting carpeting and flooring. Recycled cafeteria chairs and office furniture helped to keep more waste out of the environment.

### POPULATION ISSUES COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

## Population in the Philippines, Part 2

Guest Report by Sandeep Bathala

The Philippines has the highest population growth rate in Asia; population is expected to jump from 88 million people in 2007 to 150 million by 2050. A burgeoning population coupled with high population density and quickly degrading environmental resources will force the number of people who live on less than \$2 a day well above its current rate of 40%. The Philippines is one of the World's three biodiversity hotspots most at risk from population pressures. In the July-September, 2008, issue of the Jersey Sierran I promised that I would further discuss the development projects, funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), that I visited on a Sierra Club-sponsored study-tour of this island nation.

The Pasig River Project is in a newly incorporated barangay (borough) of Metro Manila with about 130,000 people, most of whom do not have access to education or adequate sanitation. The project includes a recycling program which generated 1.4 million pesos (\$29,000 US) last year that supported several community programs including gender sensitivity training, which educated husbands and fathers on women's reproductive rights. The resulting environmental improvements have been encouraging. Before the project, one "couldn't even see the river's surface because it was so choked with garbage." Still, however, fish do not survive in the river, and high rates of TB, asthma and dehydration due to diarrhea (from poor water quality) continue to exist.

Filipinos do not have consistent access to modern contraceptives. In some districts corporations provide free health care, and those that can afford it can go to government clinics for general and reproductive health care. These clinics encourage natural family planning (i.e. the rhythm method) which does not meet the community's expressed need for modern contraceptive methods.

Nationally 18.8% of married Filipina women report an expressed but unmet need for family planning. 25% of married women ages 20 -24 identify as having

unmet needs, and the number is even higher among women without access to education. No statistics are available for unmarried women.

Despite the fact that "public opinion surveys [of Filipinos] in recent years have consistently found that about 90% of respondents supported government funding of contraceptives for people who cannot afford them," access to family planning has been under fire in Manila. Under the previous administration, modern contraception was illegal; and it is still very hard to get information about family planning. Furthermore, instead of stepping up its funding for family planning in the Philippines, the US is in the process of withdrawing critical funding from the country. For the last seven years, under the Bush Administration, the US has been one of only three countries to deny funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the other major source of family planning funds in the Philippines.

#### What You Can Do

To ensure that USAID and UNFPA, under a new Obama Administration, support projects that integrate family planning programs with natural resource conservation and poverty alleviation, contact your legislators in Washington, DC. Urge an increase in funding for international family planning programs in FY 2009 to \$1 billion. Let them know that voluntary family planning programs ensure that women and their families in the Philippines, and around the world, can lead better lives, and that environmental degradation will also be reduced. The individual healthcare workers in communities, supported by international aid programs, have made a difference and you can make a difference too. Please call or write today!

*Sandeep Bathala is a Club member living in Jersey City, who is available to report on her study tour to regional Sierra Club Groups and other organizations. Contact her at [batbala\\_sandeep@hotmail.com](mailto:batbala_sandeep@hotmail.com).*

## HIGHLANDS PROTECTION

(Continued from page 1)

provide money for this important purpose.

At this time all of the state's open space programs - Green Acres, the local matching program and the farmland preservation program - are out of money.

The Governor has not even supported a modest societal benefits fee assessed on water usage that would enable local governments to buy the land that would protect our water supply at a minimal cost to the average family - about the cost of a small bottle of water per month.

#### So where do we go from here?

The Governor needs to appoint public members to the Highlands Council. It is still composed mostly of elected officials, and

there are no environmental or community activists from the Highlands region.

The Governor also has to stand up to developers on the dozen additional bills they will be introducing to weaken environmental protection.

Ten years ago, 15 percent of New Jersey's streams were pristine. Now, according to a DEP report, we are down to 7 percent. The threat of a state drinking water shortage - for both homes and industries - is both real and serious.

What happens over the next few months will determine whether or not we are able to protect these dwindling resources for future generations and provide for the continued economic health of the state.

### Energy Factoids *Courtesy of Sunil Somalwar, our Energy Issues Coordinator*

**The Cost of Electricity:** In NJ we pay about 18 cents per kWhr. That means: TVs and VCRs kept sensitive to remote controllers (known as vampires): 1W, \$1.60 per year.

Desktop computers left on: about 50 W, \$80 per year.

Old fashioned (non-LED) nightlights kept on 10 hr/d: 7-8W, \$5 per year. (Replacement LED nightlights cost \$2 typically)

Compact fluorescent lights equivalent to 100 W incandescents, on 8 hr/d: \$40 per year (Replacement bulbs cost \$1-2)

Energy Star-tagged appliances (refrigerators, water heaters, air conditioners, washing machines, dryers, etc.) might consume 100kWhr less per year (say) but cost \$50 more (say). That means a payback period of \$50/\$18, which is 3 years.



# Editorial Election Observations

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

I served as a poll worker on Nov 4, and was touched and humbled by the seriousness and smoothness with which 260 (63%) of my neighbors did their duty and expressed their feelings about candidates national and local.

The most worrisome concern for many Americans was no doubt the extent to which race would affect the Presidential results. Most important, I think, is the way the Obama-McCain split was affected by voter AGE: only in the 65+ group did Obama poll worse, percentage-wise, than John Kerry in 2004. The optimistic implication is that racial prejudice is dying out with the older generation.

The Economist Magazine emphasized the smallness of President-elect Obama's mandate: the 52-46% differential denotes that the US is a bitterly divided country, ideologically, "a reminder of just what a conservative place America still is."

The massive swing in Electoral College votes, achieved by realignments of just a few swing states, reminds us of how sensitive (and undemocratic) the Electoral College system is.

And then there's the money thing. Here's an invitation for a statistically-minded political scientist to use Obama's careful targeting of his campaign funds - to calculate what the vote would have been without all that money!

The map of election results by New Jersey county brings home our regional variations in political alignment: Democratic in the urban-suburban "Northeast Corridor" and Republican as distance increases from the Corridor. The 3rd Congressional District is close enough to the Corridor to explain John Adler's win over Chris Myers, and the 7th District is far enough to account for Leonard Lance's win over Linda Stender. But what kind of Republican? Read on!

Of likely interest to New Jerseyans is future control, nationally, of the Republican Party. As in the other Northeastern states, our Republican Congresspersons mostly comprise a liberal wing, receiving the highest LCV (environmental) scores of all Republicans nationwide. My political scientist friends explain that Republicans since Rove (and perhaps since Reagan) have been a melting pot of neoconservatives (military hawks like John McCain), religious fundamentalists (like Sarah Palin), and small-government capitalists (perhaps Ronald Reagan, George Bush Senior, Newt Gingrich, and Christine Todd Whitman). The three factions will now fight it out for control.

Perhaps we need reminding of the four ideological poles in politics, which occupy the four corners of the graph embedded above, with axes labeled "personal issues" (or civil liberty) and "economic issues."

As examples of the distinction between the two axes, consider answer-

ing these two questions: for the personal axis, "Should immigration be unrestricted?" On the economic axis, "Should minimum wage laws be repealed?" The full chart, with more questions so that you can "type" yourself, is available by googling Libertarian Placement Chart (or Nolan Chart).

It's odd that our two major political parties don't cleanly "locate" on the chart; nor does environmental responsibility have an obvious ideological "location." If anywhere, the need to impose the preservation of open space, and to entice people into behavior patterns that use less energy, recycle resources, and produce less pollution, argue for an authoritarian ("statist") ideology.

As I've argued in a previous editorial, environmental protection in a world of population (and consumption) excess, constituting a "Tragedy of the Commons," can only be achieved by the imposition of governmental constraint.

Both axes of the chart must be clipped! It's something that politicians find difficult, but that we must demand of them by lobbying. For examples, see most of the other articles in this issue of the Sierran.

As the world teeters on an economic crisis fully comparable to those of the 1890s and the 1930s, I suggest we reconsider whether traditional free-market economic values are compatible with modern personal and social well-being. In all three crises the impetus was/is **greed**, a deadly sin only slightly over the line from honest ambition! The crisis of the 1890s was solved by limiting the greed (economic freedom) of robber barons - imposing labor unions on them. The crisis of the 1930s produced "New Deal" restrictions on the greed (economic freedom) of bankers and other stockholding capitalists. **Who are the greedy this time?** (Everyone who owns an SUV, or a detached house, or has parented more than one or two children?) What new restrictions could or should be imposed? Can the free-market system still function in a time of population and consumption overload, which I associate with pervasive relaxed attitudes toward greed? I really worry that this crisis might be fundamentally different from the two others, and that Adam Smith's "invisible hand" won't be able to cope with the new Malthusian constraints, which include Global Warming and sea-level rise that will inundate most of New Jersey.

I'm reminded of this song of the 1930s, which I learned at my father's knee:

*God bless free enterprise, economic system that we love,  
Stand beside it, subsidize it, through the night by the light of the NAM.  
From Wall Street, to the Congress, to the lobbyists, green with daub,  
God bless free enterprise, our status quo,  
God bless free enterprise, but it must go.*



Photo: James Mendelsohn

# Chair's Message The Economy

By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)



While the current economic crisis is of great concern on many levels, not the least of which is the hardship being inflicted on so many people who had nothing to do with creating this mess, one of the most troubling aspects of the crisis to me as an environmentalist is the widely held view that a healthy economy and a healthy environment are incompatible goals. According to what appears to be the accepted wisdom of the day, in order to stimulate economic growth and work our way out of the current crisis we need to relax environmental controls and allow market forces to operate free of environmental constraints.

Well, we all know how well deregulation has worked in the financial sphere. I submit that there is no reason to believe it will work any better in the environmental sphere. Yet the New Jersey legislature and Governor Corzine appear to have bought into the deregulation agenda.

This past June the legislature passed, and the governor signed into law, a measure that extends the expiration dates of development permits for up to two years and resurrects approvals that already have expired (the so-called Dracula clause). The effect of this measure is to exempt developers from more stringent environmental regulations that have been adopted, either because of advances in environmental science or changes in development patterns, since approvals were initially granted.

The Sierra Club and our allies in the environmental community vigorously opposed this measure. But our voices were drowned out by those who claimed that the measure was necessary in order to stimulate the economy.

Governor Corzine, in a recent address to a joint session of the New Jersey Legislature, suggested that he would like to go even further in loosening environmental restraints. The Governor proposed speeding up the approval process for development permits, while at the same time announcing the need for further staff cut-backs in the Department of Environmental Protection and other State agencies.

Over the years the duties of the DEP have continued to expand while its staff has continued to shrink. In some cases this has resulted in delays in the permitting process. The Governor's approach to eliminating these delays, rather than addressing the underlying cause, is to require that applications be acted upon, and that approvals be granted, without an adequate opportunity for a complete environmental review.

The result of this misguided policy, when coupled with another administration proposal to allow consultants hired by developers to self-certify cleanups and anticipated cuts in DEP funding necessitated by proposed reductions in the Corporate Business Tax, will be an increase in the number of approvals for environmentally harmful development projects throughout the State.

Sacrificing the environment for short term economic gain is a losing proposition. And while some companies, including Google (as reported in the October 28, 2008 issue of The New York Times), and a number of major retailers (as reported in the November 8 issue of the Times) have begun to see the light, many others, despite protestations to the contrary, have a long way to go.

The Center for American Progress recently released a study prepared by the Political Economy Research Institute of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. The study outlines a green economic recovery program designed to strengthen the United States economy over the next two years. The program calls for an investment of \$100 billion, an amount that could be paid for with proceeds from auctions of carbon permits under a greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program. The money would be spent on retrofitting buildings to improve energy efficiency, expanding mass transit and freight rail, improving electrical grid transmission systems, expanding wind and solar power and investing in next-generation biofuels.

The report concludes that the green economic recovery program would create about two million new jobs over the next two years, including many better paying jobs, and would reduce the unemployment rate by 1.3 percentage points. Here in New Jersey it is anticipated that 57,228 new jobs would be created and that the unemployment rate would be reduced from 5.3 percent (as of June, 2008) to 4.0 percent.

If you are one of those who may be inclined to dismiss the conclusions of the UMass report as just so much pie-in-the-sky, I suggest that you take a look at the actual results of energy-efficiency policies implemented in California.

David Roland-Holst, an economist at the Center for Energy, Resources and Economic Sustainability at the University of California, Berkeley, recently issued a report analyzing the effect of California's energy-efficiency policies upon employment and compensation. The report, which is described in the October 20, 2008, issue of The New York Times, concludes that from 1977 to 2007 California's energy-efficiency policies created nearly 1.5 million jobs, while eliminating fewer than 25,000. Over the same period these policies were responsible for increasing overall employee compensation by \$44.6 billion.

So the evidence is in. We can have our cake and eat it too. A healthy economy and a healthy environment are not incompatible goals. What we need now is political leadership in Washington and in Trenton to help guide us along the path to economic recovery and environmental sustainability. I am cautiously optimistic that President Obama and his new administration will be up to the task. I sincerely hope that Governor Corzine will be as well.

## Resolutions Adopted by ExCom in September, October and November, 2008

We authorized legal action to oppose the Capital Plan finalized by the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, which includes widening of the Turnpike between junctions 6 and 8A. (Oct)

We resolved that our Essex County Group be placed into "reorganization," under the supervision of a steering committee of Chapter ExCom members, until new Group officers are appointed. (Oct)

### YOU HAVE MORE TO GIVE THAN YOU KNOW

Maybe you can't make a gift to protect the environment during your lifetime, but you can become a financial hero by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. You can even direct your gift to a special Club program or to the New Jersey Chapter.

For information about making a bequest to the New Jersey Chapter call George Denzer at 609-799-5839.

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



## COOL CITIES CORNER

# Middlesex County Freeholder James Polos discusses Global Warming

Interviewed by Stefano Crema (stefcre@aol.com)

James Polos says that political action to confront global warming reminds him of the effort to institute recycling in New Jersey. Both initiatives started small, but with time gained speed and public support. Environmental groups went directly to the public, bypassing government, to teach people how important recycling was. As public interest awakened, local governments started supporting recycling.

At the state level there was initial support without a mandate for action. As the cost of solid waste disposal increased, the state passed enabling legislation. A similar thing is happening with global warming. Just four years ago Polos asked about the possibility of Middlesex County's vehicle fleet utilizing hybrids and alternative fuels. At that time it was difficult even to get information to evaluate the suitability of such vehicles. It took several months to obtain a few test vehicles; then heavy equipment manufacturers threatened to void warranties if bio-fuels were used to power them. After months of testing, Middlesex County held a forum, which was attended by more than 120 people, where results of the tests were disseminated, and it was announced that 10% of the county fleet would be hybrid.

That was in 2004 when the price of gasoline was \$1.78/gal. Not many municipal officials rushed to buy hybrids. Then came Al Gore's movie "An Inconvenient Truth," and a spike in the cost of fuel, and the phones started ringing. Starting in 2007, Middlesex County has been helping communities to integrate green technologies, from planning solar projects to writing ordinances to promote green buildings.

Polos believes that a major obstacle for municipalities has been the bureaucracy associated with Trenton. The simplest of projects requires hiring consultants and engineering firms for customized designs. The state can not

afford to support all municipalities requesting help. In his view, it would be much more efficient if the state would let counties deal with individual municipalities. Many counties have better relationships with their municipalities than the state does. He suggests that the state come up with a standardized set of criteria and designs to allow municipalities to avoid customized set ups. Furthermore, with the limited expertise available to the individual municipalities, mayors have a hard time determining if the suggestions they receive from consultants conform to best practices.

Polos thinks that overworked public officials might not pay attention to state goals unless they are given substantial help. He thinks that the 2020 goals outlined in New Jersey's Energy Master Plan are reachable with effort, but not the loftier 2050 goals. The state should come up with a series of intermediate goals, and provide incentives. There should be no unfunded mandates. Communities successful in implementing green initiatives will be imitated by others, under the pressure of their constituents. A dozen New Jersey communities are leading in green initiatives.

It is also important that sustainability plans at the county level mesh with plans developed at the community level. Middlesex County is the first in New Jersey to have developed a county sustainability plan, thanks to a grant that Sen. Bob Smith helped to get.

The federal government should also play a part in setting policies and providing funding. But Freeholder Polos believes that before adding to the existing tax burden, the federal government should eliminate unnecessary and inefficient programs and subsidies.

Local grassroots efforts alone will not have the impact needed to solve the problem of global warming. There are commercial and industrial developments in green energy practices that can only be stimulated by federal incentives.

## Cool Cities News

By Faith Teitelbaum, our Cool Cities co-Coordinator

The Cool Cities Campaign has been having a busy time. Our goal this year is to get functioning green teams in every Cool City in NJ (that's 80!) We are focusing our efforts in Monmouth and Ocean counties.

Laura Bagwell and I gave a Cool Cities presentation to the Monmouth County Environmental Commission in April. In July the Monmouth County Board of Freeholders pledged to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80% by 2050. The Monmouth County Cool Cities Partnership (comprised of members of the Sierra Club, League of Women Voters, Unitarian Church of Lincroft, St Mary's of Colts Neck and The Methodist Church of Red Bank) is working with the Freeholders to put on lunchtime seminars on the environment. We also held a Saturday joint training at the County Agricultural building in Freehold on Nov 15, entitled "What is a Green Team." Jim Polos, Freeholder from Middlesex County was our featured speaker. Another joint training will be held in January or February entitled "How to Build a Green Team."

In October, Stockton College Prof Patrick Hossay presented training sessions in Toms River and Point Pleasant on

How to Do an Energy Audit and on How to Do A Carbon Inventory, respectively.

The Shore Group Conservation Committee hopes to influence towns to include cleaning up their coastal lakes into every Cool Cities Climate Action Plan. We have begun to work on a joint project between the Urban Coast Institute at Monmouth University, the Environmental Partnership of Monmouth County (environmental commissioners from 14 towns), Monmouth University Water Watch and the Monmouth County Cool Cities Partnership. Our goal is to clean up the coastal lakes in New Jersey, starting with our local lakes of Takanassee Lake in Long Branch and Deal Lake in Asbury Park. Oct 25 we had over 50 people cleaning up a section of Deal Lake. We eventually want to build rain gardens and educate the people surrounding the lakes as to the effects of fertilizers from their lawns on the lakes. Then we hope some of these people will form 'green teams' in their towns.

For further information on Cool Cities go to [www.coolcities.us](http://www.coolcities.us) or contact me at [faithtei@aol.com](mailto:faithtei@aol.com).

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Solving the Gasoline Crisis

By Edward Hannaman (edman7@yahoo.com) of our Central Jersey Group

The obvious short term response to the ever-worsening oil crisis is the prompt development of a far more fuel-efficient internal combustion engine. The true, long term solution would be a plentiful, reliable substitute for oil as an energy source (one that doesn't subvert the world's corn crop).

To achieve this I propose a "Manhattan-type" project/contest to achieve energy independence. If we can spend ten billion dollars a month for the war in Iraq, why can't we offer that kind of money to the inventors of a revolution in energy technology? How about giving one billion dollars to each of ten universities with leading science reputations - e.g., MIT, Cal Tech, even our own Rutgers (full disclosure: I'm a graduate!) to solve the energy problem?

Then offer two additional "prizes," of similar magnitude, to any school, compa-

ny, person or entity as follows: The first would be for the development of an internal combustion engine capable of powering a normal vehicle at 60 mph with an average of 175 mpg. The second would be for a suitable replacement energy source for vehicles, one which is environmentally friendly, cheap and renewable. Perhaps someone could refine photoelectric cell technology to propel a vehicle, and create highly efficient rechargeable batteries to supplement power. Perhaps chemical reactions could be a power source.

With this financial incentive one can imagine that new companies would be formed by venture capitalists, scientists and entrepreneurs to compete for the reward.

Even if the breakthroughs were not achieved quickly, this effort would demonstrate a national conviction to reject our self-defeating energy paradigm.

## Chapter's Annual Appreciation Day Honors List



Ken Johanson, Alan Steinberg, Bernadette Bizer, David Yennior, Jeff Tittel. Photo by Wynn Johanson and Stacey Ayala.

Our annual awards ceremony took place in the historic Pretty Brook Farmhouse, on the campus of the Princeton Day School, on November 16th. Joan and George Denzer did their usual great job in organizing and coordinating the event. Based upon the reac-

tions of those in attendance, it appears that their efforts were successful.

Ken Johanson, Chapter chair, expressed the Chapter's appreciation and thanks to all those who have helped in achieving the Chapter's goals during the year, including our excellent staff,

our dedicated volunteers, our friends in Trenton and Washington and our many members and supporters. Jeff Tittel, Chapter director, went on to note some of our recent accomplishments, as well as the challenges that lie ahead.

Bernadette Bizer (a Madison High School sophomore), Club volunteer-of-the-year Dave Yennior, and Alan Steinberg (EPA Region 2 Administrator) received awards. Others in attendance were Congressmen Rush Holt (12th CD) and Frank Pallone (6th CD) and Assemblywoman Linda Greenstein (14th AD).

Bernadette Bizer was recognized for her efforts to build awareness of environmental issues among young people. Bernadette recently organized an environmentally friendly coffeehouse for teens. Attendees were encouraged to support the environmental movement by bringing their own coffee mug to the coffeehouse, rather than using a throw-away cup, and by making a voluntary donation to the New Jersey Chapter. Due in large part to Bernadette's dedication and hard work, the event was a great success.

Dave Yennior was recognized for leading our campaign to motivate the Legislature to pass the Smart Container

Act, A-121, a bill promoting the recycling of beverage cans and bottles by imposing a refundable deposit on the container. His remarks brought forth the story from Congressman Pallone of how, as a student at Middlebury College, he had got his start in politics by working on Vermont's Bottle Bill. Then Assemblywoman Greenstein explained how she had become a prime sponsor of the New Jersey Bill, along with Valerie Vainieri Huttler (37th AD) and Nilsa Cruz-Perez (5th AD).

EPA Administrator Alan Steinberg was commended for his efforts to clean up the Passaic River, as well as his efforts to limit the harmful impact of New Jersey's Permit Extension Act by sending a letter to legislators pointing out that some aspects of the proposed legislation might well be in violation of federal environmental laws. His efforts resulted in amendments that eliminated some of the most egregious provisions of the bill.

Many of our faithful benefactors were present, along with the Chapter staff, and many volunteer officers of our Groups, Sections, and of the Chapter itself. The weather was crisply cooperative, as was a herd of deer just outside.



## CONSERVATION ECO-TIPS

## Ocean Cruises

By Laura Lynch, Chapter Conservation Chair ([njsierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:njsierraclub@gmail.com)), with acknowledgement of Sustainable Lawrence

Two of my friends left for a cruise today. That got me wondering just how much of an environmental footprint the ship and my friends would be making.

According to the environmental group Oceanea, every day cruise ships dump 168,000 gallons of liquid waste into the ocean, along with sewage from toilets, sinks, showers, and kitchens. Add to this seven tons of solid waste, seven thousand gallons of bilge water contaminated with oil, and fifteen gallons of toxic chemicals.

Per passenger, carbon dioxide emissions from cruise ships are three times higher than from airplanes such as the Airbus 380. The Queen Elizabeth II, with nine diesel engines, moves approximately 45 feet on a gallon of fuel.

Realizing they have an image problem, and after being fined for illegal discharges, cruise lines are beginning to go green. In the past six years, they have cut their waste in half. Some are employing new gas turbines that drastically reduce nitrogen and sulfur emissions. Another will turn off its engines while in port in Juneau, Alaska, plug-



ging in to local hydroelectric power instead. Yet another has installed scrubbers that use seawater to remove smokestack pollutants. One cruise line is buying carbon offsets in order to promote carbon-neutral cruises.

According to a press release, 2010 will bring the debut of a new, more environmentally friendly cruise ship, the Orphalese. It will recycle all onboard solid waste, treat its wastewater, use GPS to prevent dropping anchor on coral and other fragile sites, desalinate its water without chlorine, use LED lighting, biodegradable cleaning items, and water-efficient washing machines, and will use golf balls that dissolve into fish food should a shot gone bad send a ball overboard.

Clearly there is a long way to go before cruise ships can be truly environmentally neutral. Meanwhile, do some research into the cruise company you plan to use, and remember that there are more efficient ways to get from point A to point B than by cruise ship.

For more information on the environmental impact of cruise ships and for sustainability in general, go to <http://sustainablelawrence.org>.

## Don't Put that Old TV in the Trash

by Laura Lynch (Chapter Conservation Chair) and David Yennior (Recycling Issues Coordinator) – with usual acknowledgement of Sustainable Lawrence, for which this article was written

When television broadcasts switch over to high-definition (HD) in February, many people will be discarding their old TV sets for new, HD-compatible ones. Each piece of electronics kicked to the curb contains toxins such as lead, mercury, nickel cadmium, lithium, zinc, bromated flame retardants, and PVCs. When these toxic boxes are incinerated with municipal waste, or buried in landfills, they release those heavy metals and harmful chemicals into the air and groundwater.

California, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Oregon, and Washington had already decided to do something about toxic electronic waste when New Jersey joined them by enacting the Electronics Waste Recycling Act in January 2008. Starting in 2009, electronic waste may no longer be put out with the trash. Instead, it must be recycled.

Much of what we use in our homes contains some form of electronic control, so what, exactly, are we supposed to be recycling? According to the law, a "covered electronic device" is a "desktop or personal computer, computer monitor, portable computer, or television sold to a consumer."

Electronics manufacturers doing business in New Jersey will be responsible for collecting and recycling their own devices. Those that accept for recycling more than they are required to take will receive credits which they can either apply to the following year's allotment or sell to another manufacturer. Any manufacturer that doesn't comply will be fined.

Meanwhile, every electronics retailer must provide information on how to recycle old electronics. Dealers must also tell buyers where unwanted electronics can be dropped off. In addition, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will provide, via the web, more information on electronics recycling. The law also mandates that municipalities inform their residents

about where and when electronics can be recycled.

Nearly a year into the new law, the DEP's online list of recyclers is a bit thin, but phone numbers, and in some cases web addresses, are provided. The list can be found at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/lrm/uwaste/ucomplist.htm>. Two other online resources fill some gaps. One, searchable by county, lists all municipal recycling coordinators: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/recycle/recycor.htm>. The other lists commercial recyclers, searchable by state: <http://www.eiae.org/recycler/index.php>.

If there is life left in the old equipment, there are two other options to consider. The first is a charitable donation to an organization such as Goodwill or the Salvation Army, or any local organization that can use an old computer for educational purposes. The second is Freecycle (<http://www.freecycle.org>, searchable by community), the equivalent of an online garage sale where no money changes hands. Charitable donations and Freecycle give a second life to equipment that would otherwise be discarded.

As the age of HD TV approaches, don't put your old TV on the curb. Put it in your trunk instead and take it to a recycler.

To read the NJ Electronic Waste Recycling Act (A-3572-SCS), go to [http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/legis/2007c347\\_law.pdf](http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/legis/2007c347_law.pdf). For everything you ever wanted to know about electronic waste recycling, go to [http://www.earth911.org/master.asp?s=1ib&a=electronics/elec\\_index.asp](http://www.earth911.org/master.asp?s=1ib&a=electronics/elec_index.asp). For a simpler primer on the subject, try [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/recycle/brochures/recycling%20brochures/e\\_waste.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/recycle/brochures/recycling%20brochures/e_waste.pdf).

For more information on sustainable living, go to <http://sustainablelawrence.org>.

(Contact Laura at [njsierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:njsierraclub@gmail.com), and/or David at [dyennior@msn.com](mailto:dyennior@msn.com).)

## Homage to Bees

By Marie Springer, a bee expert and Conservation Chair of our Northwest Jersey Group ([aikidomarie@yahoo.com](mailto:aikidomarie@yahoo.com))

The September-October issue of the Club's national Sierra Magazine has a short bit about buying local honey.

It explains that commercial bee-keepers use chemicals to kill off their bees each winter and also use pesticides, antibiotics and chemicals to treat their bees.

Commercial producers actually use cyanide to kill off their bees each winter. I have never understood why. So, the notion of colony collapse is sort of silly, when you know the facts of bee-keeping.

My point is the Sierra Magazine article encourages buying honey from local organic bee keepers, which is what I am and which I also encourage.

If any of you would like to find local bee keepers, feel welcome to contact me and I will find someone near you.

Actually honey bees are the only bees that do not hibernate. The honey is their winter stores.

They will not defecate in the hive, they hold it until the weather is above 45 degrees; then they all rush out and relieve themselves then zoom back inside. They flap their wings and keep the hive at 82 degrees all winter.

I do not use pesticides or antibiotics on my bees. I feel that their immune systems need to develop to cope with naturally-occurring stressors in the environment. If we continue to treat for parasites and pathogens we are encouraging the weaker strains. The weaker strains

need to die out.

Some bees and wasps winter over in the larval stage; for some only the queen winters over. The bees that are alive in November stay alive through to March when the queen starts laying eggs again. The rest of the year they only live about a month.

The queen only produces eggs when there is pollen to feed them.

In November they kick all of the drones out to starve or freeze, simply because the drones are incapable of doing any work and they don't want them consuming the winter stores.

I have my bee specimens from the native bee research I have been doing across NJ and into NY.

It would be great to come and show you all the beauty and diversity of native bees. They are pretty awesome creatures. It would also give everyone some insight into where honey bees are in the scheme of things, and what a business they are.

Also, three fourths of all native bees nest in the ground, like ants - their cousins. So when people fill their lawns with chemicals they are killing them off - another fine example of how the great American anal retentive, glow in the dark, suburban lawn is even more evil than we already thought.

Weeds, also known as native flowers, are the food source pollinators need.

## ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

### Pinelands Protection - 30 Years!

By Michael Gallaway ([m.gallaway@comcast.net](mailto:m.gallaway@comcast.net)), the Club's liaison to the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, and Rich Bizub, PPA Staff ([rich@pinelandsalliance.org](mailto:rich@pinelandsalliance.org))

This November 10th marked the 30th anniversary of the signing of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, the federal legislation creating the Pinelands National Reserve (PNR). It's time now to wonder how the Pinelands will fare in the next 30 years, considering that New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation and still growing at an alarming rate.

The current legislative mandate to protect the Pinelands was part of a massive parks bill, the largest in US history, authorizing \$1.2 billion for more than 100 parks and preservation projects in 44 states. This was also the bill that finally killed the Tocks Island dam project on the Delaware River.

The language of the Act makes clear that there was a strong "national interest" in protecting the Pinelands. It called for the development of a comprehensive management plan, land use capability map, and the creation of a fifteen-member planning entity, the Pinelands Commission.

During the past 30 years, the residents of New Jersey have been able to witness first hand this great experiment in land-use planning. The PNR is a unique achievement in our Nation's history. It is a daunting task to manage land-use in 56 municipalities and seven counties. In this context the Pinelands process has been remarkably

successful at preserving large areas of ecologically sensitive lands within the heart of the Pine Barrens.

Like any innovative and far-reaching endeavor, the strengths and weaknesses of such an effort only became apparent with time. One of the greatest threats facing the Pinelands is the shift in philosophy of the Pinelands Commission in viewing their rules more as guidelines, and not as regulations. This is particularly true when it comes to applications for public and quasi-public developments such as roads, schools, utility rights-of-ways, public buildings & recreation areas. The Commission too often weakens its regulations to avoid having to say No to local and county governments, even when these types of activities can have significant impacts on the ecosystem. The increased use of waivers and regulations as guidelines continues to raise concern for the integrity of the Pinelands.

The Pinelands can survive as a unique place for the next 30 years if the residents of New Jersey constantly remind the Governor and Pinelands Commission of the original legislative intent of the federal Act, "to protect, preserve and enhance the significant values of the land and water resources of the Pinelands area."

### Alaska Wilderness Week: Feb 28 - Mar 4: Sign up to tell Congress to protect Wild Alaska

The Alaska Wilderness League, in conjunction with many other groups, will host grassroots activist training in Washington DC. Learn how to lobby Congress to protect America's Arctic, including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Arctic Ocean, Teshekpuk Lake, and other places threatened with oil drilling.

We need participants from each state, including New Jersey. Please contact me by Jan 19 if you would be interested: Julia Millan Shaw, NJ Organizer, at [Julia@alaskawild.org](mailto:Julia@alaskawild.org).



# New Jersey Voters Loyal to Open Space on Nov 4

By Michele Byers, of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation

When it comes to New Jersey voters' support for open space, last November's election proves again the old adage: The more things change, the more they stay the same.

It's neither an analytical stretch nor partisan to observe that voters across the United States were seeking political change in this election. Despite the mood of the electorate, 60 percent of open space tax measures on ballots throughout New Jersey were approved by voters, allowing some things - like cherished landscapes - to stay exactly the same.

What it boils down to is this: Garden State taxpayers, at a time when there is more anxiety about the economy than at any time in recent memory, voluntarily chose to pay more taxes so that open space and farmland could be preserved all across the state.

Statewide, 14 of 22 local measures to continue or increase funds for open space were approved. That amounts to a success rate of 64 %, which is substantially higher than the 50 % rate in 2007. The measures will generate an estimated \$191 million in conservation funding.

Nationally, voters approved more than \$7 billion in new public money to protect land for parks and open space. Overall, 71 % of open space measures across the United States won voter endorsement - 62 out of 87 ballot questions.

Among the measures on New Jersey

ballots this fall was Hunterdon County's effort to fund its Open Space Trust Fund indefinitely by continuing the current levy of 3 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. The original open space tax was set to expire next year, but 76 % of Hunterdon County voters said yes to establishing a continuing stream of revenue. The measure is expected to generate \$7.6 million every year.

As it often does, New Jersey had more measures on ballots this year to continue or increase funds for open space than any other state. The number of measures and their high rate of voter approval again demonstrate that New Jersey's citizens understand the importance of protecting and caring for our state's remaining open spaces, farmland, historic sites and parklands.

The glaring omission from this year's ballot was any measure to fund the Garden State Preservation Trust Fund. Knowing the election results, perhaps our elected officials will now listen to their constituents and establish a stable, secure source of preservation funding at the state level.

A complete list of conservation vote results is available from the Trust for Public Land's LandVote 2008 Web site at [www.landvote.org](http://www.landvote.org).

*Michele S. Byers is Executive Director of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation: [info@njconservation.org](mailto:info@njconservation.org).*

# Hiking at Clayton Woods Park (Monmouth County)

By Arline Zatz

All ages can enjoy the easy trails at Clayton Woods, a 417-acre park in Lincroft, that's open year-round. Although a couple of the trails are designated as multi-use and used by mountain bikers and equestrians on weekends, it's a good bet that you'll be alone during weekdays. With over seven miles of trails to explore - from a very easy 0.7 mile trail skirting through a bit of the forest; an easy 1.8 miles over a mostly sandy gentle graded trail; a moderate 2.2 miles multi-use trail with steeper grades and more primitive trail conditions; and a 3 mile primitive and challenging trail - there's a wide choice, as well lots to see and admire.

I like the Bridges Trail, which begins to the right of the map board in the parking lot opposite the entrance road. You'll find lots of beech and tulip trees, and those brown, round, spiky husks that litter parts of the sandy, narrow trail are telltale signs that sweet gum trees are common here.

At 0.3 mile, cross a short bridge where, on both sides, stand tall, stately tulip trees. Most impressive, the tulip tree bears flowers with six petals crossed by a bright orange band with yellow borders during May and June, has an odd-shaped leaf, and conical clusters of winged seeds in late fall. Continue right at the T along the Bridges Trail, with gradual ups and downs ahead. Occasionally, you may hear a plane, but for the most part there is silence except for the sound of leaves rustling in the breeze and birds singing. Continue straight at the post/trailhead with green blazes. A deep gully appears on the right at 0.9 mile, and ahead are two bridges. The first is very short, but the second, a few feet further, is longer and will keep

you high and dry as you cross over a swampy area. A gradual uphill climb follows, with excellent specimens of Virginia creeper growing up a few trees on the left.

You'll reach a huge cornfield at 1.20 miles, a pretty body of water, and a bunch of posts adorned with bluebird houses. In this open area, sumac abounds.

When reaching the woods once again, the level trail ascends slightly. On the day I came, I heard turkeys gobbling in the distance and, although I waited, never spotted any. A long hill follows; be careful not to leave the trail because poison ivy flourishes here - as do more tulip trees that have grown so tall it's difficult to see their tops. Another gully appears on the right at 1.4 miles, as well as lovely beech trees. When you reach the top of the hill, rest for a while, and take in the beauty of the fields you just came from.

At 1.6 miles, with the main traffic road ahead, turn left to return to the parking lot.

Driving directions: Interstate 195 to exit 11 (Imlaystown/Cox's Corner). Eastbound: Turn right and follow to the end. Westbound: Turn left and follow to the end. Turn left onto Route 526 and make an immediate right onto Imlaystown-Davis Station Road. Continue to Emley's Hill Road, and turn left. Follow to the park located on the left side.

For more information: Contact the Monmouth County Park System, Newman Springs Road, Lincroft, NJ; 732-842-4000 or web site [www.monmouth-countyparks.com](http://www.monmouth-countyparks.com)

*(Arline Zatz is the editor of the Sierra Fifty-Plus group, and the author of the award-winning book, Best Hikes With Children in New Jersey (The Mountaineers Books))*



## Group News

FROM  
AROUND  
THE  
STATE

### HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

**Northwest Jersey Group:** Hunterdon, Sussex & Warren  
**North Jersey Group:** Passaic & most of Bergen  
**Essex County Group:** Essex  
**Hudson-Meadowlands Group:** Hudson & SE Bergen  
**Loantaka Group:** Morris & Union  
**Central Jersey Group:** Mercer  
**Ocean County Group:** Ocean  
**Raritan Valley Group:** Somerset & Middlesex  
**Jersey Shore Group:** Monmouth  
**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:

<b>Chair, Political Chair:</b>	Christine Feoranzo	973-352-9203	<a href="mailto:cfeoranzo@gmail.com">cfeoranzo@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Susan Rotter		<a href="mailto:rotterls@mindspring.com">rotterls@mindspring.com</a>
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Secretary:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Charles Kopp		<a href="mailto:ccgkp@verizon.net">ccgkp@verizon.net</a>
<b>Publicity:</b>	Toni Zimmer		<a href="mailto:tzimmer@twgpower.com">tzimmer@twgpower.com</a>
<b>Membership Chair:</b>	Pat Mangino		<a href="mailto:pmangino@aol.com">pmangino@aol.com</a>
<b>Outings &amp; Events Chair:</b>	Sandy Raviv and Herb Wolff		<a href="mailto:sraviv@optonline.net">sraviv@optonline.net</a>
<b>Delegate to Chapt. ExCom:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Cool Cities Delegate:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		

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

Our Group will continue to focus 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.

Meetings include general discussions 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.

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Please contact Group officers for information.

### North Jersey Group

(Bergen and Passaic Counties, approximately)

#### OFFICERS:

<b>Group Co-Chairs:</b>	Betsy Kohn	201-461-4534	<a href="mailto:BetsyKohn@aol.com">BetsyKohn@aol.com</a>
and	Mike Herson	201-262-9472	<a href="mailto:mikeherson@hotmail.com">mikeherson@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Conservation Co-Chairs:</b>	Tom Thompson	201-848-1080	<a href="mailto:etrans743@aol.com">etrans743@aol.com</a>
and	Mike Herson	201-262-9472	<a href="mailto:mikeherson@hotmail.com">mikeherson@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Air Quality:</b>	Laura Tracey Coll		<a href="mailto:lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com">lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Outings Chair:</b>	Ellen Blumenkrantz		<a href="mailto:eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com">eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Passaic Issues:</b>	Tricia Aspinwall		<a href="mailto:taspinwall@hotmail.com">taspinwall@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Greg Tondi		<a href="mailto:gregt75@yahoo.com">gregt75@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Political Alternate:</b>	Jeff Hartman	<a href="mailto:jeffhartman@optonline.net">jeffhartman@optonline.net</a>	
<b>Program Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Tom Thompson	201-848-1080	<a href="mailto:etrans743@aol.com">etrans743@aol.com</a>
<b>US Public Lands:</b>	John Kashwick	201-660-8820	<a href="mailto:johnkashwick@optonline.net">johnkashwick@optonline.net</a>
<b>Wildlife:</b>	Mary Ellen Shaw	201-489-1588	

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** Held at least four times a year. For more information or date and location, please contact Betsy or Mike (see above).

2009 is an election year for NJ's Governor, all 120 members of the state Legislature, and many local officials. Our Political Committee can use your help in deciding on candidates to endorse.



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** Held at least four times a year. For more information or date and location, please contact Betsy or Mike (see above).

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** Begin at 7:30 pm; dates and locations below. To find out more, please call Betsy (see above) or sign up for e-mail notices at <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-NORTHJERSEY-NEWS.html>.

**Jan 15:** at Paramus Public Library, E-116 Century Road, Paramus: **"We Are the Sierra Club,"** an introduction to Club activities, issues and hikes in northern New Jersey, with group activists.

**Feb 19:** Location and program TBA.

**Mar 19:** at Pequannock Public Library, 477 Newark-Pompton Turnpike, Pequannock. Program TBA.

**CONSERVATION ISSUES:** Below are updates. To find out more or help, please contact Mike, Tom or Betsy (above).

(1) Good news! Pinnacle on 84 acres of steep slopes in Oakland has been effectively blocked: DEP ruled last August that the 209-unit development, which was to draw its water from Oakland and send its wastewater to Wayne, would deplete the water supply in the Ramapo River watershed and overburden Wayne's sewers. DEP also recognized the need to protect the surrounding Breakneck Mountain natural area and biodiversity, in particular the threatened Barred Owl.

(2) More good news! Upstream in NY in the Ramapo River watershed, the 495-acre Wrightman Plateau overlooking the Ramapo Pass has been preserved with help from the Trust for Public Land, NY State and Rockland County. But still under threat are forested slopes in Tuxedo and Ramapo where a total of 2,000 units are planned.

(3) The Highlands Regional Master Plan (approved last July) does not adequately protect the water supply for 5.4 million New Jerseyans. It allows (1) new and expanded water extraction in areas of current water deficit even though 60 per cent of the Highlands' 183 sub-watersheds already do not have enough water; (2) clustered housing complexes on operating farmland; (3) reduction of C1 and C2 stream buffers in redevelopment areas, and (4) relaxation of DEP nitrate standards to permit pollution of well water with septic.

(4) We oppose destroying parkland in Overpeck County Park for a park-and-ride lot for the Northern Branch rail line. Parkland is to be preserved! We urge NJ Transit and Bergen County to look for a more appropriate site outside the park and also to develop Bus Rapid Transit with links to rail and light rail to eliminate the need for large commuter parking lots.

(5) We oppose the Montclair State University plan to use Quinn Road as a campus exit, spilling 8,000 cars daily onto Valley Road in Clifton to create more traffic jams. Reconfiguring the steep and narrow road will destroy the mountainside, trees and habitat. Clifton has passed a resolution against the plan, thanks in large part to the relentless efforts of Ed and Kathryn Pasino. MSU's plan is now under review by the Passaic County Planning Board.

(6) We continue to monitor the riparian corridors of the Hackensack and Ramapo Rivers, the fragile ecosystem of Van Buskirk Island, Elmwood Park's air quality, and Clifton's Latteri Park.

**BE A SIERRA CLUB VOLUNTEER.** To find out how you can get involved with issues, outings, meetings, Cool Cities program, and more, contact Betsy or Mike (above).

**RECYCLE PRINTER CARTRIDGES.** Leave your used cartridges in the window box by the exit door at Whole Foods Market, 905 River Road, Edgewater, 8am to 10pm daily. No remanufactured ones, please. Thanks for recycling and supporting North Jersey Group!

## Hudson-Meadowlands Group

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

### OFFICERS:

<b>Chair:</b>	Louise Taylor	201-886-9320	ltaylor2@nj.rr.com
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Helen Manogue	201-963-3511	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Connie Ftera	201-869-7950	cftera@earthlink.net
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Brane Zivkovic	201-758-0398	brane@nyu.edu
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	Mariana Zivkovic	201-758-8390	tenisko@hotmail.com
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Brane Zivkovic	201-758-0398	brane@nyu.edu
<b>Publicity:</b>	Jodi Jamieson	917-804-8390	jodijami@mac.com
<b>Parks Chair:</b>	Rosemary Arena	201-861-6222	drrosemary@verizon.net
<b>Cool Cities Chair:</b>	Helen Manogue	201-963-3511	
<b>Singles Chair:</b>	Marlene Rost	201-766-8982	MARRO@optonline.net
<b>Outings Chair:</b>	Scottie Perry	201-320-1758	scottieperry@optonline.net
<b>Palisades Landmark Status Committee:</b>			
<b>Chair:</b>	Rosemary Arena	201-861-6222	drrosemary@verizon.net
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	David Kronick	201-869-6218	jktejas@aol.com
<b>Group ExCom Members:</b>			
	Gil Hawkins	201-944-5799	gilc3d2@aol.com
	Donald Kopczynski	201-224-2641	Littlechops03@netzero.com

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

**Issues:** 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.

**CONSERVATION ISSUES:** We are opposed to a 256-unit development proposed on the last parcel of open space on the Hudson River in North Bergen. The oversized residential plan's application was "denied without prejudice" at a Hudson County Planning Board meeting in October. The denial was due to a dispute over title and land ownership of one of the lots, in addition to the improper annexing and subdivision of the same lot. The development plan is still before the Town of North Bergen Planning Board and we continue to attend these meetings to dispute the application. The devel-

oper's plan as presented requires several variances to support the density they propose. As planned this development will cause many traffic issues on an already congested roadway plagued with flooding problems and it will destroy the view of the Hudson River for many current residents. We would like to see this space become permanent parkland as it had been designated in the Hudson County Master Plan. We feel that it is much needed open space in this urban environment.

We have also been monitoring additional development proposals along the Hudson River and the Palisades south of the George Washington Bridge and north of the Lincoln Tunnel. All together the Planning and Zoning Board attendance has been going on for more than three years quite consistently.

## Essex County Group

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

The Essex Group is in reorganization. To facilitate this, the Chapter Executive Committee has assigned mediators to help rebuild and strengthen the Group. Essex members will receive a postcard after the New Year giving the time and place of a reorganization meeting. Questions? Contact Joan Denzer: jdenzer73@yahoo.com.

**ACTIVITIES:** Presently working with land conservation groups to preserve 120 acres atop the Second Watchung Mountain (known as the West Essex Highlands) in West Orange as open space. 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 usually take place on TUESDAYS, from 7 to 9pm, at the Essex County Environmental Center, 621 Eagle Rock Ave, in Roseland. Contact Walt Goldenbaum (goldenb1@optonline.net or 973-925-8662) for general information.

**Jan 13 (Tues, 7-9pm): The Two Faces of Money.** Join guest speaker Philip Botwinick, Co-Executive Director of Local Energy Solutions for an opportunity to better understand our monetary system; its origins, evolution, current monetary crisis and how a sustainable monetary system is possible. Fee: \$7 per adult; free for WEPC/Sierra Club members.

**Feb 10 (Tues, 7-9pm): Eco-villages.** Join guest speaker Diana Christian to learn all about the ecological, economic, social, cultural, and spiritual aspects of sustainability in eco-villages world-wide. Find out how these eco-centric communities operate sustainably. Fee: \$7 per adult; free for WEPC/Sierra Club members.

**Mar 10 (Tues, 7-9pm): The 12 Best Hikes in and around Essex County.** Hike the great ones and see waterfalls, ponds and inspiring vistas. This presentation, covering hikes of all levels, will be given by David Ogens, Sierra Club Outings Leader, who will provide maps and descriptions of each hike. Fee: \$7 per adult; free for WEPC/Sierra Club members.

*(Continued on page 8)*

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**Members living near Trenton are invited to volunteer time to help run our state office: Call Becca Glenn**



## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

### Loantaka Group

(Morris and Union Counties, approximately)

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

#### OFFICERS:

<b>Group Co-Chairs:</b>	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	hauskerr@aol.com
and	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Joyce White		joyce00201@yahoo.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Conservation Chairs:</b>			
<b>Morris County:</b>	Chris Mills	973-377-1742	chrismills@yahoo.com
<b>Union County:</b>	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	hauskerr@aol.com
<b>Cool Cities Chair:</b>	Stefano Crema	973-627-4354	stefcre@aol.com
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Meiling Chin		
<b>Programs Chair:</b>	Tamanna Mohapatra	732-801-9629	tmohapatra@gmail.com
<b>Education Coord:</b>	Jeff Huppert	973-263-0344	jeffhup@optonline.net
<b>Fundraising Chair:</b>	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	hauskerr@aol.com
<b>Outreach, Events:</b>	Bob Johnson		robert.johnson@njsierra.org
<b>Publicity Chair:</b>	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
<b>Membership:</b>	Doug Williams	973-263-8404	dougjwilliams@verizon.net
<b>Air Quality Coord:</b>	Bob Campbell	973-761-4461	wrob_sc@earthlink.net
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Bob Johnson		robert.johnson@njsierra.org
<b>Greenbrook:</b>	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://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka/>

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

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

All members are welcome 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:

**Jan 14: The Secrets of the Tree Whisperer,** Dr. Jim Conroy - Listening heart-to-heart with Nature. Climb inside the amazing world of trees and plants during a guided visualization. Touch them and be moved by their majesty. Envision their inner design. Learn simple, easy techniques that help trees overcome environmental or other stresses so they can grow again.

**Feb 11: Alaska,** Julia Shaw- Learn about how global warming is affecting Alaska, it's people and wildlife. Find out what changes are expected under the new Obama administration.

**Mar 11: Conservation Wildlife Foundation of NJ,** Maria Grace - Find out how the Foundation is involved in acquiring and managing open space in New Jersey. This is especially important because this is the first year we don't have a state level program to purchase open space!

**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) or Eric (732-669-0719).

### Central Jersey Group

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

Website: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/central> - includes Central online Calendar. Please check our website for conservation news, meetings, directions, outings, and more. For event details and last minute announcements be sure to check the Central online Calendar. Follow the link from our website to reach the Central online Calendar.

#### OFFICERS:

<b>Chair:</b>	Terry Stimpfel	609-731-7016	terystimb@hotmail.com
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>			
	David Schmetterer	914-522-6642	dschmetterer@gmail.com
<b>Membership Chair:</b>			
	Grace Marie Beans	585-755-3430	beansgm@yahoo.com
<b>Outings Chair:</b>	Leona Fluck	609-259-3734	Leona@pineypaddlers.com
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Terry Stimpfel	609-731-7016	terystimb@hotmail.com
<b>ExCom* At-large:</b>	Malcolm McFarland	609-448-8699	jmalcolmmcfarland@verizon.net
	Ruth Ann Mitchell		ram400500@yahoo.com

**We need you.** Open positions: Publicity Chair, Membership Chair, Secretary, Treasurer. Volunteer for a month or an event!! Have knowledge or special interest in a particular species, water ways, land use or other topic? Let's talk.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** All Sierra Club members are invited to attend, learn what's happening, and help things happen too! Please contact Terry (above) for details.

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** We meet at the Wisk and Spoon meeting room, Whole Foods Market, Windsor Green Shopping Center, Rte 1 South, Princeton. Our meetings are free and open to all - members and public alike. Come join us, make new friends, share conservation ideas! Arrive early, grab a bite and socialize with other attendees as you eat in the meeting room. No general meetings in July, August and December.

**JANUARY SPECIAL EVENT:** Plan to join us at the **Princeton Environmental Film Festival**, which runs from Jan 2-11 at the Princeton Public Library. We will view a film and discuss over a meal or snacks. Specifics on the date, film, time and meeting location will appear in the Central online Calendar after the festival schedule is finalized.

**Feb 17 (Tues) 7:30-9pm. Off Shore Wind.** Kris Ohleth of Bluewater Wind, an offshore wind developer, will present an overview of the mechanics, environmental issues and policy status of generating energy with wind turbines in the ocean. Also see and hear wind turbines in a short video of a wind farm in Denmark.

**Mar 17 (Tues): 7:30-9pm. The Buzz about Bees.** Marie Springer, bee keeper and researcher, will discuss honeybees, native bees and wasps. Learn their differences and environmental benefits. Hear about current threats. See specimens and nests.

**OUTDOORS EVENTS:** See the Central online Calendar for details. For all NJ Chapter Outings see this Sierran and visit the NJ Chapter outings website. ALWAYS check with leaders to confirm event details. ALL paddling trips require pre registration with leaders.

**Jan 10 (Sat): Veterans Park (Mercer Co):** 10am. 5 miles, easy pace, family friendly. Optional lunch afterwards. Leashed dogs ok. Leona and George F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com.

**Jan 28 (Wed): Clayton Park Hike (Monmouth Co):** 5 miles, easy/mod pace. Leashed dogs ok. Bring lunch & beverage. Leona and George F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com.

**Feb 28 (Sat): NJAS Plainsboro Preserve Hike (Mercer/Middlesex Cos):** 10am. Easy pace, great family hike. (Directions at [www.njoudubon.org/Centers/Plainsboro/](http://www.njoudubon.org/Centers/Plainsboro/).) George & Leona F 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com.

**Mar 7 (Sat): Riverline Ramble and Burlington History:** 12:30 pm gathering. Ride RiverLINE train to Burlington for historical district walk and three house tour. Lunch later at historic Madison Inn. Pre-registration required. Don Carlo, 609-586-4357 or doncarlo2@verizon.net.

**Mar 8 (Sun): Paddle Crosswicks Creek/H-T-B Marsh (Mercer Co):** 10am. 8-mile round trip with the tide! Bring lunch and beverage. George & Leona F 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com.

**Mar 15 (Sat): Turkey Swamp Park (Monmouth Co):** 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. Leashed dogs welcome! Bring lunch and beverage. Leona and George F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com.

**Mar 30 (Mon): D&R Canal Bike Ride (Mercer Co):** 10am. Easy 14-mile trip on Towpath between Washington Crossing S.P. and Lambertville. Hybrid or mountain bikes recommended. Helmets required. Bring lunch. George & Leona F 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com.

**Apr 4 (Sat) tentative: Clean Up at Assunpink Wildlife Management Area.** Check the Central Online Calendar for details.

**SOME LOCAL ISSUES and ACTIONS:** Princeton Nurseries (Mercer and Monmouth Cty.), C&A Rail Trail (Hamilton, Robbinsville), Assunpink Creek Trail (Robbinsville), NJ Turnpike Exits 6-8 Expansion, Rte 33 By-pass, and Princeton Ridge.

**CONCERNED? WANT TO TAKE ACTION? HAVE A FEW HOURS? WILLING TO HELP?** Please e-mail Terry.

Manage your own subscription to the NJ-CENTRAL-NEWS list serve to receive infrequent e-mail meeting and event reminders and occasional notices of local import. Visit our website and follow link to NJ-CENTRAL-NEWS.

### Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties, approximately)

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

**EMAIL LIST:** Go to <http://lists.sierraclub.org> and sign-up for NJ-RARITAN-VALLEY-NEWS

#### OFFICERS AND CONTACTS:

<b>Chair:</b>	Don McBride	732-560-0369	dtmcbride@alumni.haas.org
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	Jane Tousman	908-561-5504	jdtous@aol.com
<b>Membership:</b>	Sunil Somalwar	732-572-7721	sunil.somalwar@gmail.com
<b>Outings:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Randy Gill	732-525-2612	ragill@optonline.net
<b>Secretary:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Treasurer, Webmaster:</b>	Don McBride	732-560-0369	dtmcbride@alumni.haas.org
<b>Publicity and Programs:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Chapter Delegate:</b>	Sunil Somalwar	732-572-7721	sunil.somalwar@gmail.com

**REORGANIZATION:** We will be reorganizing the Group this spring and are looking for volunteers for our Executive Committee and suggestions for locations and programs; Should we move the meetings back to Bound Brook, stay with East Brunswick, or find a new location? We plan to have an organizational meeting in April, time and place to be announced by postcard, e-mail and on our web site.



**ISSUES:** We are fighting development along streams, wetlands, flood plains and steep slopes. Group members are involved in local issues, answering questions for concerned citizens regarding development and stewarding local master plan initiatives.

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** General Meetings have been suspended until April. A new location will be announced.

## Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

Web Site: <http://NewJersey.SierraClub.org/JerseyShore/>

### OFFICERS:

<b>Group Chair:</b>	Dennis Anderson	732-970-4327	dennisaza@aol.com
	6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747		
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Secretary:</b>	Joe DeLuca	732-389-1835	joe-deluca@att.net
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	Faith Teitelbaum	732-229-0553	faithtei@aol.com
<b>Webmaster:</b>	George Newsome		newsome1@pobox.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Pat Fuschetto	732-308-4588	fusche40@yahoo.com
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Laura Bagwell	732-741-8678	l.bagwell3@verizon.net
<b>Outings Chair:</b>	Mike Verange	908-902-0718	mjverange@aol.com
<b>Membership</b>			
<b>Co-Chairs:</b>	Alan Roseman	732-780-1308	rosealan@optonline.net
<b>And</b>	April Klimley	917-626-4838	AprilJeanK@aol.com
<b>Program Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Fund-raising Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		

### GENERAL MEETINGS:

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

**Jan 26:** Linda Z. Jordan, Outreach Coordinator for NJDEP's DESH-Radon Program, will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about **Radon**: what it is, where it comes from, how it is concentrated in some areas and not in others, its hazards, how you can test your home and how to make your home safer. ([linda.jordan@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:linda.jordan@dep.state.nj.us), 609-984-5434)

**Feb 23:** Sandy Van Sant will explain how the local Health Department has been involved in issues such as the **Navesink River and Wreck Pond**. Since these bodies of water are in our area, she is eager to meet out members and get input from them.

**Mar 23:** Since 2003, **Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program** has conducted study tours to explore issues around sustainable development and the environment. In March, 2008, Sandeep Bathala witnessed the challenges and opportunities associated with community-based integrated development programs in the Philippines. Come hear her discuss the connections among population, health and the environment in this island nation.

## Ocean County Group

Website: [www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean](http://www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean)

### OFFICERS:

<b>Chair:</b>	A. Gregory Auriemma, Esq.	732-451-9220	sierraclubOC@aol.com
<b>Vice-Chr, Outings:</b>	Dawn Marie Johns	732-644-6340	sierraclubOC@hotmail.com
<b>Conserv'n Chair:</b>	Margit Meissner-Jackson	609-296-4367	sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com
<b>Secretary-Treas:</b>	Richard Washik	732-616-2775	r_washik@hotmail.com
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Nancy Brown	732-892-6089	
<b>Publicity Chair:</b>	Howard Schwartz	609-242-9304	hirschschwartz@comcast.net
<b>Fund-Raising:</b>	Joyce M. Isaza	732-920-9270	realtymstr@aol.com
<b>Co-Membership</b>			
<b>Chair:</b>	Sandy Brown	609-242-9304	sandylbrown@comcast.net
<b>ExCom Member:</b>	Jocelyn Isaza	732-581-0130	nightingale77nj@yahoo.com
<b>ExCom Member:</b>	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 Web Site (below) for directions. We've recently purchased a new computer projector and large screen, which has made our meetings even more dynamic, interactive and interesting. We will not have a July meeting, but our next meeting will be in September.

**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), fighting Mountain Top Removal 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. We're also involved in creating a greener environment in Ocean County. 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](http://www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean). Special thanks go to our Web-Master, Rick Washik!

**Jan 20 (Tues):** Please welcome BARACK OBAMA as he becomes our 44th President!

**Jan 26 (Mon):** All our welcome for our first GENERAL MEETING of the New Year held at the "SKYWALK CAFE" in TOMS RIVER! We will recap the events and issues covered in 2008 and discuss the happenings planned for the year ahead. Please join us as we watch the **VISIONS OF WILD ALASKA** as we prepare for the upcoming Alaska Wilderness League's Wilderness Week in Washington, DC.

**Feb 21 (Sat):** Join us for our first outing of the New Year. This will be a "Special Event" as we take a "**BIRD WATCHING HIKE**" at the Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. Pack a lunch and bring your binoculars, as we will see lots of birds. For more details and to register for the event, please contact Dawn Marie Johns our Outings Chair.

**Mar 23 (Mon):** GENERAL MEETING held at 7pm at the "SKYWALK CAFE" in TOMS RIVER. Our Main topic will be discussing the strategies for **protecting the BARNEGAT BAY**.

A special thanks to Domenic Russo of Dusk Till Dawn DJ Service once again for donating their entertainment services at our Holiday Party and Silent Auction Fund Raiser on December 20th. For more information of their services please contact Domenic at 732-206-1715 or check out their web site at [www.dusktilldawndj.com](http://www.dusktilldawndj.com).

## West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

### OFFICERS:

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

**\* IMPORTANT NOTE - NEW MEETING VENUE AND DAY STARTING JANUARY 14 \***

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** are held at 7:30 pm on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month, at the **Quaker Meeting Hall** on Friends Ave in Haddonfield, NJ. (Directions: From I-295, use exit 34 B onto Rte 70 West. Follow signs for Rte 41 south which is Kings Hwy (you will have to exit to the right into a jug handle and then turn left onto Rte 41 (Kings Hwy). Cross over Rte 70 and you will be briefly on Rte 154 (Brace Rd). Make the next right and then the next left onto Kings Hwy. At a little over 1 mile, you will cross Grove Rd (Indian King Tavern is on the right corner). After crossing Grove Rd, go two more blocks and turn right on to Friends Ave. Go one block to the Meeting House. Park in the lot next to the Meeting House and enter the auditorium through the doors on the left of the building. Do not go into the Meeting House.)

**Jan 14:** Karl Anderson, Naturalist, Botanist & Author will present **Natural Places of Gloucester County**.

**Feb 11:** Grace Sica will speak about the **Sierra Club's Energy Policies**, both local and national. Come and find out what you can do to help.

**Mar 11:** Leona and George Fluck will present **Canoeing and Kayaking the Rivers of NJ**.

## South Jersey Group

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

### OFFICERS:

<b>Group, Outings Chair:</b>	Tom Boghosian	609-625-0878	boghosian1@verizon.net
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Pol. Chair, Calendars:</b>	Dick Colby	609-965-4453	dick.colby@stockton.edu
<b>Membership Chair:</b>	Gary Roman	609-625-3438	
<b>Secretary/Treasurer:</b>	Julie Akers	856-697-3479	julie_akers@hughes.net

We have a new Cape May County Conservation Committee, with about 40 folk holding bi-monthly meetings at the Arc of Cape May administrative building: 822 Rte 47 in South Dennis. Our meetings are 7-9pm, each with a guest speaker. The first two meetings of 2009 will take place on Weds, Jan 14th (Howard Schlegel will talk about the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge) and Mar 11 (Tim Dillingham will talk about the American Littoral Society). The Chair is Douglas Jewell, 5 Timber Lane, Swainton 08210-1462 (e-mail [jewellrea@comcast.net](mailto:jewellrea@comcast.net), cell phone 609-780-7129). Look for our meeting notices in the CMC Herald.

The central conservation issue, for which the South Jersey 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 the Watershed Association (GEHWA) that "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. We strongly recommend GEHWA's website for keeping up with local issues, and for links to many other local, regional, state and national environmental organizations: [www.gehwa.org](http://www.gehwa.org). 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 meet-

(continued on page 10)

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



## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

ings, please e-mail dick.colby@stockton.edu.

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

### Some Possibly Relevant Meetings of Allied Organizations:

**Jan 14, 6:30 pm:** Bimonthly meeting of **Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries:** Gant Room of the Millville Public Library. For more information contact Renee Brecht at 856-305-3238 or rbrecht.cumaurice@yahoo.com.

**Jan 15, 7pm:** **Atlantic County Friends of the Parks:** Monthly meeting of Friends of the Parks, a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Parks System. A focal point is preservation of historic resources in the parks, along with advocacy for environmental attributes of parklands in fast-growing Atlantic County. All are welcome. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. Warren Fox Nature Center (WFNC\*): Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor: Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 3 1/2 miles south of Mays Landing.

**Jan 27, 7pm:** **Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association:** Membership meeting, open to the public. WFNC\*. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

**Feb. 7, 8am-4pm:** **Cumberland County Winter Eagle Festival,** at the Mauricetown Fire Station: Annual festival featuring presentations, exhibits, hikes and raptors, coordinated by Cumberland County. Local Delaware Bayshore environmental groups, including Citizens United, Natural Lands Trust, and NJ Audubon host guided walks and presentations. For more information contact Renee Brecht at 856-305-3238 or rbrecht.cumaurice@yahoo.com.

**Feb 18, 7pm:** **Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council:** Bi-monthly meeting, open to the public. WFNC\*. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

**Mar 11, 6:30 pm:** 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 Brecht (CU) at 856-305-3238 or rbrecht.cumaurice@yahoo.com.

**Mar 19, 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\*.

**Mar 24, 7pm:** Annual members' meeting of the **Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association:** Open to the public. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114. WFNC\*.

## 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:

<b>Chair:</b>	Joe Testa	jtesta@syncsort.com
<b>Outings Chair:</b>	Joyce Haddad	jkhaddad@juno.com
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	Joe Testa	jtesta@syncsort.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Joyce White	joycewhite@netzero.net
<b>Webpage designer:</b>	Tom Miller	millertom@juno.com
<b>Social Chair:</b>	Joe Prebish	Joe.Prebish@kraft.com
<b>Vice Social Chair:</b>	Jeff Sovelove	jeffreys@childapp.com
<b>Programs:</b>	<b>Position Open.</b> Contact us! We need you!	
<b>Publicity:</b>	<b>Position Open.</b> Contact us! We need you!	
<b>Cool Cities Coordinator:</b>	Terry Stimpfel	terystimb@hotmail.com
<b>Membership:</b>	Walter Goldenbaum	goldenb1@optonline.net

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

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** Casual pizza gathering, introduction to club issues and activities, speakers, and letter-writing at the Chatham Library (214 Main St). Dates and topics will be announced on our listserv; see above for subscription information.

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

### GENERAL MEETINGS:

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 listserv to receive notification of our outings See above for instructions on how to subscribe to the listserv.

## 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 "List Serve," by which members learn about current environmental issues, and how they can be supported.

Arline Zatz, who has been active in the Sierra Club, as well as running her own group called "Fun Travels," has taken over as editor of the Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section. She can be reached at azatz@funtravels.com. and invites members to check her web site at [www.funtravels.com](http://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

<b>Head Chair &amp; Coordinator:</b>	William Sevchuk	wsevchuk@yahoo.com
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Open Position	Please Contact Us!
<b>Advisor, transitional:</b>	Diana Christine Eichholz	MistyAngel22@aol.com
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	Steve Timmerman	skiingsteve@aol.com
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Julie Garber	journey7@optonline.net
<b>Ex-Com/</b>		
<b>YS National Rep. (CA)</b>	Jackie Enfield	jackie@jackieenfield.com
<b>Northern Jersey YS Rep.</b>	Jim DeSantis	green@northjerseygreendrinks.com
<b>Outings Chair:</b>		
<b>(Northern Jersey)</b>	<b>Open Position!</b>	Please Contact Us!
<b>Outings Chair:</b>		
<b>(Central Jersey)</b>	Leon Yerenburg	lyerenburg@gmail.com
<b>Outings Chair:</b>		
<b>(South Jersey)</b>	<b>Open Position!</b>	Please Contact Us!

We need Young Sierran Outing Leaders for all areas, but extra especially for the Northern 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 Chair or Young Sierran Coordinator at [YoungSierrans@yahoo.com](mailto:YoungSierrans@yahoo.com)

**EVENTS:** Volunteers for events throughout New Jersey wanted. Meet great people in your area! Publicity provided. Contact Coordinator at [YoungSierrans@yahoo.com](mailto:YoungSierrans@yahoo.com) for information.

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

## Sierra Student Coalition

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

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



## Inner City Outings Section

(another Chapter-wide special interest activity)

### OFFICERS:

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

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

An experienced hike leader or two willing to lead a children's hike or two a year are sorely needed by ICO. Please be advised that leading a hike for children is very similar to leading a hike for adults - except that the kids listen.



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

### 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 April-June 2009 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before Jan. 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 Jan.-Mar., trip write-ups by February 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.

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

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

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

share at tailgate social after hike. NC/NP. Meet at Atsion Lake, Burl. Co., From Rte 206 take Atsion Rd. west 1 miles, go to Goshen Pond Group site sign turn left go to camping area. Camping is available, call to reserve space. Leader, Paul Serdiuk 609-463-3593 eve. or pis1@cccj.net Inclement weather cancels. Contact leader to confirm hike.

**Jan 11 (Sun): Social Hike Parvin State Park, Salem Co.** 11am. 6 miles at moderate pace. Hike the hidden jewel of South Jersey parks. No bug, ticks or mosquitoes. Just the quite splendor of winter on the lake. An historical site will be viewed. Park Naturalist has been invited to give a guided tour. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social with possible fire after hike. NP/NC. Take Rte 55 South to exit 35, follow signs to park. At blinking light, Almond Rd & Parvin Mills Rd, turn left, park at Fisherman's Landing parking area on right. Inclement weather cancels. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 evenings or pis1@cccj.net Inclement weather cancels.

**Jan 11 (Sun): Harriman State Park, NY.** 10am Depending on trail conditions we will either take trails or fire roads from Johnstown Circle on a moderate paced hike of 8-9 miles. Bring lunch & lots of water. Limit 12 people. Must pre-register. Heavy rain/snow/sleet would cancel. Leader Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (N)

**Jan 17 (Sat): Patriots Path Stroll, Morris Co.** 10am. Come take an easy stroll on Patriots Path in Morristown. This 5 mile stroll will start out from the Speedwell Lake parking lot, across the street from Historic Speedwell. See the Morris County Parks website (<http://www.morrisparks.org/>) for directions. The path is wide, partly paved, partly crushed stabilized gravel with very little in the way of elevation gains. We will be strolling at a very moderate pace. Please bring plenty of water and a light snack. Great for beginners. No pets please. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footwear required (sabilicers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. Optional lunch afterwards. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker\_Dood@yahoo.com . Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

**Jan 18 (Sun): Black River Trail/Patriots Path.** 10:30 am Very scenic trail connects two nature centers in Morris County and follows the Black River. Moderate-paced hike of about 8 miles. Snow/sleet/rain would cancel. Limit 12 people. Must pre-register. Carpool can be set up from Parsippany. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

**Jan 18 (Sun): Hike Wissahickon Gorge, Philadelphia.** 8:30 am. 8 miles at moderate pace over hills and valleys. Hike the Gorge in late winter with its spectacular views. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Proper hiking shoes required. Meet at 8:30 am in the rear parking lot of Crown Plaza Hotel (formerly Hilton Hotel) on Rte 70, to carpool/caravan to site, or meet 9:30 am at Valley Green parking lot in park. NP/NC. Leader Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eve, or pis1@cccj.net Inclement weather cancels.

**Jan 28 (Wed): Clayton Park Hike (Monmouth Co).** 10am. 5 miles, easy/moderate pace. This rustic 421-acre site in Central New Jersey is located amidst the rolling farmland of western Monmouth County. The property is known for stately stands of red and white oak, beech, ash and birch trees. Directions: I-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. Leashed dogs are welcome! Bring lunch and beverage. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: Leona and George F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

**Jan 30-Feb. 1(Fri-Sun) Social Getaway Weekend at AMC's Mohican Center, Blairstown, Warren Co.** 1pm. Enjoy an all inclusive weekend in a rustic lodge, with modern amenities, situated in the mountains of Northern Jersey. We will do a hike along the Appalachian Trail on the Coppermine and Rattlesnake trails with their great vistas into the valley. We will do a short hike the next day to explore old mining caves. Cost will be dependant on number of participants and will cover food and lodging. Snow is a possibility, bring snow shoes and cc skies. Limited openings, contact leader now! Payment due by Dec. 31. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 evenings, or pis1@cccj.net.

## FEBRUARY

**Feb 1 (Sun): Minnewaska/Lake Awosting (NY).** 10am. Scenic 8-10 mile loop along trails and carriageways to Lake Awosting. Beautiful views. Optional dinner stop in New Paltz after the hike. Heavy rain/snow/sleet would cancel. Bring lunch, snacks & water. Group limit 12 people. Must pre-register. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (N)

**Feb 7 (Sat): South Mt. Reservation, West Orange, Essex Co.** 10am. We will hike 6-7 miles at a brisk pace, stopping at Hemlock falls and some delightful look-outs. Bring lunch and water. Contact leader for start location: Ron Pate: 973-202-6667.

**Feb 7 (Sat): Social Moonlight Hike, Campfire and Campout, Burl, Ocean Cos.** 7pm. 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. Overnight 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@cccj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

**Feb 8 (Sun): Social Hike, Estell Manor, Atlantic Co.** 10:30 am. 6 miles at moderate pace. Hike old munitions plant of WW II. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Dress for weather. Pets permitted. Meet at Playground parking lot, Atlantic County Park at Estell Manor, off Rte 50, 3 miles south of Mays Landing (Rtes 40 & 50). NC/ Leader, Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eve, PIS1@CCCJ.NET Inclement weather cancels.

**Feb 15 (Sun): Social Tundra Swan Hike, Burl. Co.** 10am. 6 miles at moderate pace. All are welcome. Hike the wintry beauty among ponds filled with Tundra Swans. Bring binoculars. Dress for cold weather. NP/NC. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet at Whitesbog Village parking lot. Take Rte 70 east to Rte 530 north (Browns Mills/Ft Dix) go 1 mile, turn right onto Whitesbog Rd, go to parking lot. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eve, pis1@cccj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

**Feb 21 (Sat): Jockey Hollow Grand Loop, Morris Co. 10am.** We will do the Grand Loop at Jockey Hollow National Park in Morristown. See <http://www.nps.gov/morr/playourvisit/directions.htm> for directions and information. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Meet at the visitors' center. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footwear required (sabilicers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. Optional lunch at a local eatery if we get done in time. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker\_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

**Feb 21 (Sat): Harteshome Woods, Monmouth County: (Special interest: recent history).** 9am. Moderate 6-mile hike has elevation gains and a lot of scenery. Please bring drinks and snacks. Hiking shoes are suggested. Meet at the Rocky Point parking area. Take GSP to exit 117. Take Rte 36 toward Sandy Hook approx. 10 miles to the Miller St Exit. Go to the top of the hill, make a right. Parking area is straight ahead. Bad weather (including snow cover) cancels. Confirmation/questions please call or text Leader: Mike Verange: 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com. (JS)

**Feb 28 (Sat): NJAS Plainsboro Preserve Hike (Mercer/Middlesex Cos).** 10am. Easy pace. Enjoy over five miles of trails through mature beech woods, wet meadows, and shoreline of scenic 50-acre McCormack Lake. Bring water & lunch to eat afterwards as we watch the wildlife around the lake. Also, The Preserve has wildlife exhibits, a reference library and the Nature Store is a great source for field guides, optics, etc. Dogs are not permitted. This is a great family hike!! For directions: [www.njaudubon.org/Centers/Plainsboro/](http://www.njaudubon.org/Centers/Plainsboro/) Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

## MARCH

**Mar 1 (Sun): Ramapo Reservation, Passaic Co.** 10am. Moderate-paced 8-mile loop connects Ramapo Reservation to Ringwood State Park, passing 3 lakes and lunch stop at great viewpoint. Bring lunch & lots of water. Heavy rain/snow/sleet would cancel. Limit 12 people. Opt. pizza/beer stop after hike. Must pre-register. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

**Mar 1 (Sun): Social Hike and Birthday Brunch, Burl. Co.** 9:30 am. 5 miles at moderate pace. Hike between two rivers in late winter, wildlife sighting possible. Then help celebrate the leader's birthday as we enjoy an all you can eat buffet at Renault Winery Restaurant in Egg Harbor City. NC/NP. Meet at Atsion Office on Rte 206, between Hammonton and Red Lion Circle. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eve, or pis1@cccj.net. Limited seating, call early to reserve a place. Inclement weather cancels.

**Mar 7 (Sat): Watchung Reservation, Mountainside (Union Co).** 10am. We will hike 6-7 miles at a fast pace, stopping at the deserted village and several interesting gorges and old mines. Bring lunch and water. Contact leader for start location: Ron Pate: 973 202-6667.

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

**Mar 7 (Sat): Riverline Ramble and Burlington History:** 12:30 pm gathering. Ride RiverLine train to Burlington for historical district walk and three-house tour (fee). Lunch later at historic Madison Inn. Pre-registration required. Don Carlo: 609-586-4357 or doncarlo2@verizon.net. (C)

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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!)

**Jan 10 at the Chatham Public Library (214 Main St.)**

**Feb 14 and Mar 14 at the Hamilton Public Library (Mercer Co, Cypress La.)**

Conservation and/or Political Committee meetings usually 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.

\* Indicates Chapter-wide elected ExCom members.  
\*\* Indicates committee chair or co-chair

**OUTINGS**

(Continued from page 11)

**Mar 8 (Sun): Spring Ahead with a Canoe/Kayak Trip on Crosswicks Creek/H-T-B Marsh (Mercer Co.):** 10am. This is an 8-mile round trip with the tide!! Bring lunch and beverage. After lunch, option for hike to Spring Lake. Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St in Bordentown. Contact leaders to confirm trip, logistics and time: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers. (C)

**Mar 14 (Sat): Tallman/Piermont, Rockland County NY.** 10am. Half-day 6-8 mile walk in Tallman State Park and on the pier in Piermont that stretches 1/3 way across the Hudson River. After the hike stay to visit the galleries and shops of Piermont. Hike limited to 15 people. Rain/snow would cancel. Must pre-register. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

**Mar 15 (Sat): Turkey Swamp Park (Monmouth Co.).** 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. The Park features 2,111 acres including a 17-acre lake for boating, fishing and skating, miles of trails, an archery range and playgrounds. Multi-use and fitness trails are relatively level and traverse the park which is located at the northern end of the NJ Pine Barrens. For Park directions: www.monmouthcountyparks.com/ Leashed dogs are welcome! Bring lunch and beverage. Meet at the Main Entrance - 200 Georgia Rd, Freehold. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

**Mar 21 (Sat): Lewis Morris Park, Morris Co.** 10am. We will start at Sunrise Lake, then hike to the upper parking lot and back down to the lake using a combination of the Yellow and Red Trails. The pace will be moderate to slow. See the Morris County Parks Commission website http://www.morrisparks.org/asp-parks/lmdir.asp for directions. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Meet in parking lot. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footwear required (sabilicers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker\_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.


**Mar 21 (Sat) Roebling Park Marsh Cleanup (Mercer Co.).** 9am-Noon. Bring gloves if you have them, water to drink; wear long sleeves, long pants. Meet at Spring Lake - Roebling Park (end of Sewell Ave), Hamilton (Rain cancels.) Leader: Terry Stimpfel: terystimb@hotmail.com or 609-731-7016. (C)

**Mar 22 (Sun): Manasquan River Reservoir, Monmouth County (Special Interest: birds).** 9am Enjoy an easy 5-mile circular hike around one of the largest reservoirs in the area. We may observe water fowl. Bring snacks, drinks, bird books or binoculars. Hiking shoes are not required. This is a great family hike. Meet at the main entrance to the reservoir on Windeller Rd. Take 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 snow cover) cancels. Confirmation/questions please call or text leader: Mike Verange: 908-902-0718 or mjrverange@aol.com. (JS)

**Mar 30 (Mon): D&R Canal Bike Ride (Mercer Co.).** 10am. Join us for an easy 14-mile trip on the Towpath. We'll pedal from Washington Crossing State Park to Lambertville and return to WC for lunch. The D&R Towpath is relatively flat and well-graded dirt with some occasional loose dirt and gravel. Hybrid or mountain bikes are recommended; helmets are required. Bring lunch that will stay in your car at WC for the return. Meet at Washington Crossing State Park, off Rte 29. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

**APRIL**

**Apr 4 (Sat): Clean Up at Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, Mercer Co.** Joint with Princeton Ski Club. See Central Online Calendar for details.



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