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The Jersey..... SIERRAN

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Roughly 20,000 Members in New Jersey

October-December 2009

Sierra Club Endorses Chris Daggett for Governor

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

This year the Club has endorsed former New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Commissioner Chris Daggett for Governor – the first time in the Chapter's history that it has supported an independent candidate for that office.

Club leaders are very disappointed by the environmental record of the current Governor, and we remain unconvinced that his Republican opponent would have a better one. We do know that Chris Daggett has already achieved an outstanding environmental record, and we strongly believe that he is a man of the highest integrity. We also view him as politically viable, as he has already qualified for matching campaign funds - so that he will participate in this year's campaign debates.

For 25 years Daggett has been a leader on the full range of New Jersey environmental issues. He has a record of accomplishment in the public, private and nonprofit sectors unmatched by any current or prior candidate for Governor. He would bring to the office not only an understanding of the environmental challenges we all face together, but also how the solutions we choose must mesh with sound fiscal, energy, and education policies. Daggett believes that only an **independent** governor can bring together all parties to solve the complex issues facing our state. The Sierra Club believes his record of accomplishment in the environmental arena proves that Chris Daggett has the ability to achieve a non-partisan consensus on how to fix New Jersey - that all citizens, regardless of party, would like to see.

The Sierra Club believes that the challenges facing New Jersey today, not only in environmental and energy policy, but in virtually every area, are daunting, and, in most cases, are the consequence of a failure of the two-party system: beholden to special interests and party ideology. The two parties are more worried about how many seats they will win or lose in the next election than doing the right thing for the citizens of New Jersey. Accordingly, the Club firmly believes that solving our problems will take a new approach. As an **independent** Governor, whose only interest is the citizens of New Jersey, Chris Daggett will bring people together to make intelligent long-range decisions based on facts, evidence, and sound public policy. Please see also the editorial on p.3.

Here are some of Chris Daggett's many environmental accomplishments:

CHRIS DAGGETT: 25 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Administrator (1984-1988)

- Blocked construction of controversial \$2 billion Westway transportation and development project in Manhattan based on scientific evidence of environmental impact against the wishes of President Reagan and New York City business, political, union and media leaders.

- Ended ocean dumping at sludge

dumpsite 12 miles off Sandy Hook and initiated negotiations to end all ocean dumping of sludge.

- Negotiated deal with polluters to pay \$17.5 million to clean up Price's Pit in Atlantic County, a pact that was then one of the largest polluter-financed Superfund cleanups in the nation.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Commissioner (1988-1989)

- Developed a comprehensive plan with federal, regional and local officials to stop the medical waste, garbage and other debris that was polluting the ocean and washing up on the Jersey Shore.

- Recognized threat of global warming 20 years ago and worked to implement landmark executive order issued by Governor Kean to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- Developed educational and remediation program to combat threat of naturally occurring radon gas.

Environmental and Civic Leader (1990-date)

- Co-Chair of NJ Committee of Trust for Public Land for past two years; member for almost 20 years.

- Chair and board member of Garden State Preservation Trust, 1998-2002.

- Chaired 2008 DEP Permit Efficiency Review Task Force that forged unanimous agreement among environmental, business, non-profit and government leaders on how to reform permitting without sacrificing any environmental protections.

- Principal and adviser on brown-fields cleanup and redevelopment, J.M. Sorge Inc.

A Call to Arms - and Legs!

While former NJDEP Commissioner Chris Daggett will clearly make a big difference for this state if he's elected Governor in November, it will be especially challenging for us to help elect an independent in a state that has never done so. We ask our members and friends to donate their time, together with their arms and legs and hearts, to help distribute Sierra Club campaign literature, and to do "tabling," and to distribute comparison charts at various events. I will personally take the lead on behalf of the Chapter, and urge you to help us win this critical election. If you're interested in helping out, for even just one afternoon or morning on a weekend, please contact me, Richard Isaac, at my home, at: 973-716-0297, or at: risaacx@aol.com. Thanks!

We invite you also to contribute money to Chris Daggett's campaign fund, using his web site: <http://daggettforagovernor.com/wordpress/contribute-now/>. Because Chris has qualified for public campaign financing, every dollar you contribute will be doubled by public funding!



Sustainable Life-style Articles inside:

Eating Green See page 2

Car, Train or Bus? See page 5

A Green Christmas See page 5

Disclaimer Regarding Republican Governors TV Ad

During August, the Republican Governors Association ran a television advertisement with the Sierra Club logo. Please be aware that the Club never approved the ad, never paid for the ad, and that the use of our logo was unauthorized and done with neither our permission nor knowledge.

2009 Legislative Endorsements

In addition to voting for the endorsed candidates listed below, the Chapter urges you to vote YES on the Open Space Public Question appearing on this year's ballot - authorizing the issuance of \$400 million in bonds to finance the preservation of open space, farmland and historic sites.

District / Candidate / Party

1	Matthew Milam, D*
3	John Burzichelli, D*
4	Paul Moriarty, D*
4	William Collins, D
6	Pamela Lampitt, D*
7	Herb Conaway, Jr, D*
7	Jack Connors, D*
10	James Holzapfel, R*
10	David Wolfe, R*
12	Michelle Roth, D
12	John Amberg, D
13	Amy Handlin, R*
14	Linda Greenstein, D**
15	Reed Gusciora, D**
17	Upendra Chivukula, D*
18	Peter Barnes, D**
18	Patrick Diegnan, Jr, D*
19	John Wisniewski, D*
20	Annette Quijano, D*
21	Jon Bramnick, R**
21	Nancy Munoz, R*
22	Linda Stender, D**
27	John McKeon, D**
27	Mila Jasey, D*
30	John Kocubinski,
34	Sheila Oliver, D*
36	Gary Schaer, D*
37	Valerie Huttie, D**
37	Gordon Johnson, D*
39	Charlotte Vandervalk, R*
40	Scott Rumana, R**
40	David Russo, R**

* Incumbent
** Incumbent hero (early-endorsed)
Competitive Race

SIERRA CLUB BALLOT

2009 Election of Officers of the New Jersey Chapter, and its Groups and Sections

Please help elect members of the Chapter's Executive Committee (ExCom), which meets monthly to debate and take policy positions (including legal actions), make political endorsements, hear reports from staff and volunteer issue coordinators, elect the Chapter Chair, and consider matters arising. Three of nine at-large members are elected each year (just below!). There are also ballots for the ExCom members of our 12 regional Groups, and for one of our five specialty (optional) Sections.

Chapter Ballot: Please read the candidates' statements on p.2, and vote for UP TO THREE. Name-order has been randomized. All are "Nominating Committee" candidates, i.e. none are "Petition" candidates. (Laura Lynch and George Denzer are incumbents.) PAIRS of boxes are to enable JOINT members to cast separate votes. Then clip the ENTIRE ballot (retaining your address label, which will be obscured before counting!) and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Dec 1, to **Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618.**

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

- Don McBride Laura Lynch
 Leia Simms George Denzer
 Joe Testa
 Write-in _____

Group and Section Ballots:

Please vote your GROUP ExCom ballot, over, and SECTION ballot if you are active; then clip the ENTIRE ballot and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Dec 1, to **Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618.** PAIRS of boxes are to enable two members of family memberships to cast separate 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.

(continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Positive Population News.....	2
Eating Green - with Suzanne	2
Chair's Message: Federal Energy Bill	3
Editorial: Weak Politics.....	3
Editorial Cartoon: Shady Glen.....	3
ExCom's Resolutions, June-August, 2009	3
Vegetation under Power Lines	4
Parkway Widening.....	4
NJ's Clean Energy Scorecard	4
Eco-tip: Car vs. Bus vs. Train.....	5
Eco-tip: Christmas Trees.....	5
The Future of National Parks	5
Regulation of Off-Road Vehicles	5
Group and Section News	6-10
Fall Outings	10-12
Leader List, Meetings, Membership Form	12

and there's a SUPPLEMENT on our Chapter web site - with ten more articles

Group and Section Ballots:

Northwest Jersey Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO NINE. The five highest vote-getters will serve two-year terms, and the next four will receive one-year terms.

- Toni Zimmer
- Herb Wolff
- Pat Mangino
- Charles Kopp
- Write in: _____
- Write in: _____
- Marilyn Finley
- Marie Springer
- Christine Feoranzo

South Highlands Group (formerly known as Hunterdon County Group): Candidates for Group ExCom. For two-year terms. Please vote for UP TO FIVE.

- Mark Sharrock
- James Brightwell
- Dwight Irving
- Write in: _____
- Write in: _____
- Mike Nusbaum
- Celeste Martin

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

- Greg Nelson
- Mark Marciniak
- Dwight Irving
- Write in: _____
- Write in: _____
- Jessica Nusbaum

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

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

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

- Paul Sanderson
- Eric Hausker
- Write in: _____
- Write in: _____
- Melling Chin
- Jeff Huppert

Central Jersey Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO FIVE. Terms expire December 2011.

- Leona Fluck
- Malcolm McFarland
- Write in: _____
- Write in: _____
- Ruth Ann Mitchell
- Lynne Weiss

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

- Kevin Geoffroy
- Don McBride
- Roomi Nusrat
- Randy Gill
- Renee Skelton
- Mike Lindemann
- Adele Pudner
- Melissa Moskowitz
- Marc Grappel

Raritan Valley Group: By-law amendment: Should the size of the Group Executive Committee be increased from seven to nine members?

- Yes
- No

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

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

Ocean County Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Two-year terms. Please vote for UP TO FOUR.

- Gregory Auriemma
- Sandra Brown
- Write in: _____
- Write in: _____
- Joyce Isaza
- Jill Palmer

West Jersey Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Two-year terms. Please vote for UP TO TWO.

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

South Jersey Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Two-year terms. Please vote for UP TO TWO.

- Julie Akers
- Write in: _____
- Write in: _____
- Douglas Jewell

Singles Section: Candidates for Singles Section ExCom. Please vote for UP TO SEVEN. To be eligible to vote in the Singles Section ExCom election, you must have attended at least one Singles general meeting (not other events, only second-Monday-of-the-month meetings at a library) within the past year.

- Joe Testa
- Joyce Haddad
- Joe Prebish
- Ron Pate
- Write in: _____
- Write in: _____
- Joyce White
- Jeff Sovelove
- Susan Browne

Statements by Candidates for Chapter Executive Committee

(name order has been randomized):

DON MCBRIDE: I have been a Sierra Club member and participated in outings from the Sierra Nevada to Tibet for over 35 years. I have been on the Raritan Valley Group ExCom since 2001, serving as Group Chair in 2006 and 2008.

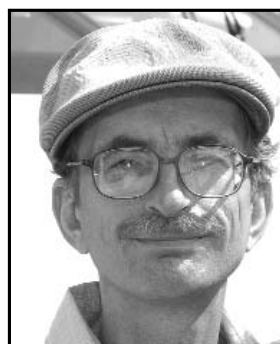


I am also a member of the California-Nevada Outings Subcommittee where I have led outings for the last 6 years. In 2007 I successfully lobbied Rep. Mike Ferguson with a native Alaskan to support the ban on oil drilling in ANWR. I recently lead a successful statewide effort to revise the New Jersey BPU rules for Vegetation Management. (See p. 4)

LEIA SIMMS: Environmental Education Chair for the NJ Chapter. With buildings consuming 48% of energy in the US, my goals include promoting energy efficiency in buildings through involvement with Sierra Club and CoolCities. At Virginia Tech I studied sustainable building and now own a company (BrightAlt.com). I provide energy audits and upgrades to NJ homes and buildings. Educating people about energy efficiency and reducing global warming is a key component in my work and I have taught energy-efficiency courses to managers, maintenance staff, energy auditors, and end-users. As an ExCom member I will continue to promote environmental awareness throughout New Jersey.



JOE TESTA: This is a great time to be an active member of the Sierra Club. Clean water, energy efficiency, development sprawl, and recycling are issues now near the top of the public's agenda. They're especially important in a crowded, expensive state like NJ; issues where we can work together with the public's support to protect and enjoy our environment. An avid hiker, I joined the Club 25+ years ago. As the current Singles Section Chair and Conservation Chair, I've been working with the Club's state-level leadership, and would be honored to receive your vote to serve with them on the ExCom.



LAURA LYNCH: An active Sierra Club member since 1996, I have been Conservation Chair for the West Jersey and Central Jersey Groups, and continue as Conservation Chair for the Chapter. I helped stop the Millstone Bypass and Route 92, I work with neighborhoods to ensure Green Acres and wetlands protection in central NJ, and I continue to represent the Club at local Planning Board and Township Council meetings. I am also involved in the Sustainable Lawrence project. I participate actively in decision-making at Chapter meetings, and I am writing a citizens' guide to land use and neighborhood open space conservation



GEORGE DENZER: As a member of the Club since 1983, I've concentrated on two issues, transportation and money. I'm proud of our work for efficient mass transit to help lower emissions into our air, but also to minimize road expansions that bring misplaced developments ruining our open spaces. I will continue to support these critical efforts to keep New Jersey a livable state. As Chapter Treasurer I will continue to insure that we get the most of our limited dollars, and work with the fund raising committee to increase those funds. I would appreciate your vote.



POPULATION ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Positive Population News

By Bonnie Tillery, (blt44blt@msn.com)

Under the Obama Administration, population issues seem to be heading in a positive direction. The 2010 budgets in both the House and Senate have more funding committed for international family planning, including a significant increase in the United States' contribution to the United Nations Population Fund — from \$0 to \$50-\$60 million.

Our own Senator Lautenberg has included an amendment which would provide protection against future presidents imposing the Global Gag Rule, under which countries have not been able to use their own funding to so much as mention abortion, even to save the life of the mother. Give a SHOUT OUT to Senator Lautenberg!

The House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee eliminated funding for abstinence-only programs and provided \$114 million funding for teen pregnancy prevention. In the latest study on teen birth rates in New Jersey, those rates decreased between 2000 and 2006; however, in the last year of the study, the rate rose slightly. We hope that this is not a new trend, and that eliminating abstinence-only funding and providing comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education will allow for lower rates of unplanned pregnancies in teens ages 15-19.

SEICUS (Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States) recently reported on the second year results of a Comprehensive Sex Education Program in the Cleveland Public Schools, grades K-12. "High school students showed a significant shift in attitudes toward condom use, pregnancy prevention, and remaining abstinent as well as increased skills in condom negotiation." One high school senior said, "It was very beneficial to have something that was fact-based. I've been able to make a lot of smart decisions because I know the truth, and I'm not questioning what I'm learning." Comparative studies of abstinence-only programs are not available because they were never done.

When women and girls are educated, they choose to have fewer children. Smaller families put less stress on the land, water and air we all depend on, allowing us to better live in balance with the earth's resources.

TAKE ACTION: One of the most important things you can do this November to keep the positive momentum going is to vote for decision makers who support women's reproductive health care, including comprehensive, age-appropriate sexuality education.

Eating "Green" with Suzanne

By Suzanne Dragan

No, I'm not suggesting you eat moldy food to help save the environment! But if you are eating a meat-based diet, you aren't helping your health or our Planet.

Seems us environmentalists tend to focus solely on our "carbon footprint" and carbon dioxide emissions, negating another potent greenhouse gas— methane. How come? It takes 100+ years to cycle carbon dioxide out of our atmosphere but only 8 years to get rid of methane gas. We could see global warming reduction faster if we start reducing our methane production, i.e. animal agriculture.

Anyone who grew up in New Jersey in the 1950's remembers the pig farms of Secaucus. The noxious smell you inhaled when you pulled up at the NJ Turnpike toll booth was memorable. These pigs were fed garbage scraps from NYC restaurants—an early version of NJ recycling.

Pig excrement went into the Meadowlands - creating lagoons of feces emitting methane gas. These days when such cesspools get full the liquid manure is sprayed into the air, creating fecemist, containing bacteria, mold and fungi, that is inhaled by whoever is unlucky enough to live downwind.

Studies in California have shown that animal waste lagoons emit irritant, toxic chemicals which can cause inflammatory, immune and neurochemical problems in humans.

The animals raised for food in the United States create 130 times more excrement than do people. That's a lot of poop.

An estimated 46 million turkeys are eaten at Thanksgiving. How much air and water pollution these particular birds create is unknown, but consuming them and other meat products adds to global warming and ill health.

The American Journal of Nutrition in 1999 stated that people "eating white meat, once or more per week, have three times the colon cancer risk of vegetarians."

You can help the environment, your health and still eat hearty at the holidays: Feast on soups, salads, cranberries, sweet potatoes, rice, casseroles, vegetarian stuffing, breads, cider and pies. You can even try Tofurkey, a tasty turkey substitute.

Plant-based vegetarian food—it's what's for dinner!
Suzanne Dragan is a Sierra Club member and nurse director of Food for Life, a program of NJ Animal Right Alliance that promotes the New 4 Food Groups (fruits, vegetables, whole grains and legumes). Comments or questions? Contact: sdragan@nj-ara.org 732-466-6963.

Editorial

Two Weak Candidates, Weak Legislature, Weak Electorate

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

I sat next to two of the three candidates for Governor (Jon Corzine and Chris Daggett) during their interviews by our Political Committee, and, although I missed the interview of Chris Christie, I have his questionnaire response, and the benefit of the computer chat that was part of the deliberation process that resulted in our decision to endorse Daggett. (See p.1.)

Daggett was by far the most honest and impressive, reminding us that the weaknesses of all governors since (and especially including) Christine Whitman, and of their Legislatures, have produced a budget hole so big that, even if every state employee was fired today, it would take many years of tax income before current obligations would return the budget to balance. (And in California it's MUCH worse!)

In such circumstances the environment pales almost to insignificance as an issue. Even the national recession pales to insignificance. I watch with chagrin as my faculty colleagues at Stockton (State) College cringe at the prospect of small salary cuts ("furloughs"), and am reminded of how precarious are the spending habits of most people (and how exceptional is my own minimalist lifestyle whereby the vast majority of my income has always gone to charities and into savings). Yet to achieve a sustainable planet we obviously must learn to live on much less - as we did before suburbs, cars, and jet planes!

Is blame appropriate for the "extravagance" of recent state and most family budgets? My muckraker guru, Lincoln Steffens, would say no: Steffens came to understand the temptations facing politicians (and all others in a position to spend money), and applied a rare Christian understanding toward them. Our "corruption" stems from weaknesses that are in all of us. It's the same weakness as that which propels the Tragedy of the Commons, and the enjoyment of gambling, and of shopping, and the other vices (and, indeed, what I think will be the brief triumph of Capitalism - as our natural resources are exhausted, and as sea level rises).

I know that many Club members will be offended by our choice of Daggett,



photo: James Mendelsohn

Chair's Message

The House Energy Bill

By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)



arguing that it is irresponsible to endorse a candidate facing such long odds, and that there are clear environmental differences between Christie and Corzine. There will be reminders of how Ralph Nader drew enough votes away from Al Gore, in 2000, to give victory to the second George Bush. I predict that some members will send in their resignations. But you can see from many of the press releases on the Chapter's website why we couldn't endorse Corzine. These arguments were included in the debate that preceded our endorsement decision, and our decision was unequivocal (a 2/3 majority, both by the Political Committee and then the Executive Committee, is required for an endorsement).

Here's what I think about Christie and Corzine: Both are ordinary politicians, i.e. friendly, articulate, eager to please, power-obsessed, indebted to their financial supporters, obligated to lobbyists, and constrained by a Legislature of also-ordinary politicians of the same stripes. (Their ordinariness is emphasized by the mutual attempts at character assassination that are filling the headlines in mid-August, as this editorial is written. I wish them mutual success!) More importantly, as Rich Isaac says so well on p.1, neither is likely to have the political skills of an FDR or a Ronald Reagan, by which charisma, charm, cajoling, and the cracking of heads is used strategically to convince legislators to enact needed reforms in fiscal and all the other policies. In desperate times one has to take desperate chances. That's what we have done.

Incidentally, if the state's budget deficit over-rides all other issues, then let's consider it: perhaps the federal government will intercede, as it has done with the national economy. (Perhaps there are enough problematic states to entice Congress to support a state rescue package.) One could ask whether Christie or Corzine would be better-placed to promote such a package. Considering that Gov. Corzine has already had plenty of time to work on it, and that Christie would be at a disadvantage dealing with a Democratic Congress, the answer would seem to be neither. (And would a deeper FEDERAL budget hole be any different from a deep STATE hole?)

The big story this past Spring was passage of the American Clean Energy and Security Act by the House of Representatives. The final tally was 219 to 212, with eight Republicans, including three from New Jersey, breaking ranks with their party and voting for the bill.

The House action represents an important first step in addressing what many consider to be the most serious threat ever to face mankind. So I am delighted that our lobbying efforts paid off and I am hopeful that the bill, while facing an uncertain future in the Senate, will eventually become law.

But while I am pleased with the result, I keep asking myself: Why did it take so long? Why was the vote so close? And why is the bill so weak?

In order to obtain the votes necessary to ensure passage, the bill sponsors had to agree to a series of amendments that significantly weakened the bill. Greenhouse gas emission targets are woefully inadequate, the cap and trade mechanism is overly generous to polluters, coal-burning power plants have been exempted from compliance with key provisions of the Clean Air Act and existing restrictions on biofuels that create more global warming than gasoline have been eliminated. Without these concessions by the bill's sponsors, the bill, and its many positive provisions, would never have made it through the House.

So why are our elected representatives, and by extension the American people, so reluctant to take the steps required to head off a global catastrophe?

I think the simple answer is that people, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, just don't consider global warming and climate change to be such a big deal. First it was the fire ants, then the killer bees and now it's global warming. Past warnings of impending doom, like early reports of Mark Twain's death, have proven to be "greatly exaggerated." Somehow we've always managed to muddle through. Why should this time be any different?

A recent survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the American Association for the Advancement of Science supports this analysis. According to the study, only half of the American public believe that people are responsible for climate change and 11 percent don't even believe that global warming exists. So despite the dire warnings of scientists, environmental activists and concerned citizens, the message is not getting through.

But I think there's more to it than that. Paul Krugman, in a recent column in The New York Times, refers to the difficulty people have in responding to what he refers to as a "creeping disaster," a disaster that creeps up on you a bit at a time. Krugman argues that climate change is a creeping disaster, the effects of which will not become fully apparent for decades or perhaps generations, not an attention-grabbing crisis that evokes an immediate response.

Nicholas Kristof, in another Times column, goes further, arguing that evolution has programmed man to respond to immediate threats but not to longer term threats that require forethought. Kristof refers to the work of Daniel Gilbert, a professor of psychology at Harvard University. According to Professor Gilbert, threats that get our attention are (1) personalized and intentional, (2) disgusting or immoral, (3) imminent and (4) instantaneous rather than gradual. Global warming and climate change fail to make the cut.

So where do we go from here? Do we throw in the towel or is there hope for the future?

I submit that there is hope and that the action taken by the House, while deeply flawed, represents an encouraging first step to address a problem that no legislative body at the federal level has ever addressed before. Remember that we are just emerging from eight years of Bush administration denials and obfuscations. We need to reeducate the American people, to get them to look beyond their short term economic interests and to convince them that the threat of global warming is real, that it is serious and that if left unchecked the consequences to their children, their grandchildren and future generations will be nothing short of calamitous.

But while all of us need to play a role in educating and inspiring the American people, we can't do it without help from the White House. President Obama says that he supports the bill, but I don't get the sense that he is pushing that hard or that he is working to have some of the more egregious provisions removed from the Senate version. Nor is he doing enough to reach out to the American public and use the power of his position and his personal magnetism to galvanize support for the bill. As Thomas Friedman observed in a recent Times column, "If he is not ready to risk failure by going all out, failure will be the most likely result."

If we are to succeed we need President Obama's unqualified commitment and support. The stakes are too high to accept anything less.

Resolutions Adopted by ExCom in June, July and August, 2009

Authorization of an application by our **Hudson-Meadowlands Group** to join the **Coalition to Preserve the Palisades Cliffs**, which is fighting a development project, was passed. (July)

We made US Rte 46 the official boundary between our Northwest and Hunterdon County Groups, changing the latter name to the South Highlands Group. (Aug)

A resolution was approved to support a **Middlesex County ordinance for bonding \$40M in Open Space Trust Funds**. (Aug)

Political Endorsements: See p.1 for the full list, including support for the Ballot Question on Open Space funding.

We've published a **SUPPLEMENT** to this issue of *The Jersey Sierran*, with ten additional articles, including: (Click NEWSLETTER from the Chapter's web site.)

New Jersey Chapter Review: a summary of Chapter activities, written by Jane Tousman - to inform volunteers from other Chapters of the Sierra Club.

Corzine's Highlands Sell Out: a press release written by our Trenton staff.

More on Plug-in Cars: from Sunil Somalwar, our Global Warming Issues Coordinator.

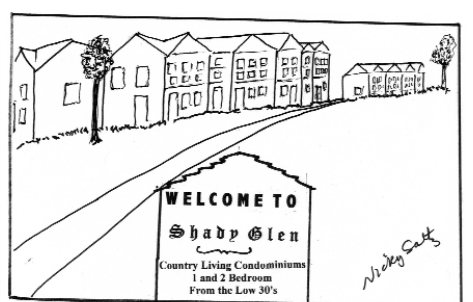
New Protection for Wilderness Areas: a lawsuit overturns a Bush administration atrocity.

Fight the Extension of Rte 55 to Cape May County: from Douglas Jewell, Chair of our Cape May Conservation Committee.

Policy on Global Warming: more from Sunil Somalwar.

Editorial Cartoon

Courtesy of Norma Saltz



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.

The Question of Vegetation under Power Lines

NJ's Board of Public Utilities Revises its Vegetation Management Rules

By Donald McBride, of our Raritan Valley Group (dtmcbride@alumni.haas.org)

In the spring of 2007, New Jersey electrical distribution companies (EDCs), which include Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G), Jersey Central Power and Light, Orange & Rockland Utilities, and Atlantic City Electric, started clearing 150 ft swaths (75' on each side) under high-tension power lines. These are 250-500 kilovolt lines on 80-100 ft metal towers, bringing power to electrical distribution substations. The cleared width is much greater than in the past, and the trees are now clear cut rather than trimmed. The Club's Trenton office received many calls for help from property owners whose fruit and ornamental trees, which had been tolerated for 25 years or more, were now being chopped down. It turned out that new vegetation management rules from the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) required the utilities to do this.

I discovered that there are federal guidelines for trees under power lines, that recommend six times less clearance than had been applied by NJ's BPU prior to 2007. I also discovered that the BPU's 2007 revisions were in response to a 2003 blackout which started when an overheated transmission line sagged into a tree near Cleveland, short-circuiting and overloading other power lines spreading to Michigan, Canada, and down into New York, affecting power to 50 million people. The spread beyond Ohio was due to human and equipment errors, not to trees.

In 2005 Congress had passed the Federal Energy Policy Act, requiring federal agencies to expedite rules for electrical utilities to comply with reliability standards. The federal rules required "vegetation clearance to prevent flashover between vegetation and supply conductors."

In December, 2006, the NJ BPU revised its regulations to "better keep electric lines or towers from making dangerous contact with trees," and required the utility companies to comply by 2007. These revisions required all trees which could mature to over 15 ft in the border zone (from the wire to the edge of the right of way) to be cut down.

Sierra Club involvement:

Our Raritan Valley Group attended several meetings, organized by Bridgewater Township in response to public outcry, between attorneys and engineers from PSE&G and representatives from the BPU staff. Bridgewater hired a consultant to write a report on the issue. The Club's Chapter Executive Committee voted support for tree protection, and provided some diagrams showing the clearance required by federal rules. Bridgewater Mayor Flannery worked with the New Jersey State League of Municipalities to adopt a Resolution "rejecting the concept of clear cutting in EDC transmission line rights of way, in favor of vegetation management which permits trees and other vegetation to grow in the border zone." The resolution was sent to BPU President Jeanne Fox.

We also attended meetings with the BPU and with other townships, pointing out that the new NJ rules exceed the federal recommendations by a factor of 5 to 10.

The BPU kept changing its reasons for the stricter NJ standards. Some of them were: (1) "to allow helicopters to see the lines in case terrorists tried to attack them." (We asked if they thought the terrorists were going to come into people's

back yards in broad daylight.) (2) "to provide room for large cherry pickers to maneuver in order to repair lines." (Homeowners pointed out they had been doing their maintenance from helicopters for the last 10 years.) (3) "to preclude trees hitting wires." (We pointed out that this was true for low voltage distribution lines on residential streets, but there never was an outage in New Jersey caused by a tree hitting a high-voltage transmission line.) (4) "to enable equipment to rebuild the towers in case they were brought down by an ice storm or hurricane." (We pointed out that they were built to federal regulations with zones that took into account all possible weather conditions, and there was never a case when weather caused a tower to fall.) (5) "to accommodate NJ's high population density." (We pointed out that high density means fewer miles of line per household so there was a lower probability of outages.)

All through this process PSE&G seemed to have a strong interest in supporting the new clear-cutting rules and many times was more eager than the BPU to support them. Jersey Central seemed more willing to accept the federal guidelines.

We petitioned the BPU:

Since neither our arguments, nor those of the League of Municipalities, nor the consultant's report, seemed to influence the BPU, we did our own research comparing the NJ rules with federal rules, and submitted diagrams to NJ Sen. Christopher Bateman (R-16) who forwarded them to the BPU commissioners. The first question the commissioners asked the BPU staff at the hearing to adopt the rules was, "what is the difference between the proposed NJ rules and federal guidelines?" Their response was, "we need to study that."

Our campaign to protect trees started with protests against tree cutting in the Spring of 2007, and included the January, 2008, BPU meeting where the commissioners decided that the new rules need some work. Then, after publication of draft revisions in May, 2009, many informal citizens groups, Assemblywoman Marcia Karrow (R-23), and the Sierra Club visited sites, spoke at hearings and filed comments. BPU Commissioner Fiordaliso chaired most of the hearings and even evoked Joyce Kilmer's poem "Trees" in defense of the environment.

The Commissioners said they would not approve the new rules and asked the staff to revise them to be more in line with federal standards. The utilities were asked to use restraint and follow the federal guidelines, but PSE&G kept on cutting as they had been. At one point Readington Twp and the Sierra Club asked for support from the commissioners - and Commissioner Fiordaliso intervened on the behalf of the homeowners. On another occasion a Bridgewater Twp homeowner wrote the Commission because PSE&G was not following the federal guidelines: President Fox wrote back to say that say that PSE&G has assured her they were following the guidelines.

Sierra Club proposes new Rule Guidelines:

In the draft revisions published in the New Jersey Register in May, 2009, the BPU eliminated the requirement to cut any tree over 15 ft, but then required the

Report from Trenton

The Problem with Parkway Widening

By Kara Seymour, Chapter Program Assistant (Kara.Seymour@Sierraclub.org)

The widening of the New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway has begun, and the Chapter predicts major environmental impacts. Widening won't solve the state's transportation problems. Rather, it will encourage more traffic, increase sprawl, damage wetlands, and add to pollution.

The Turnpike will be expanded to 12 lanes from exit 6 in Burlington Co. to exit 9 in Middlesex Co. It will cost \$3 billion. The Parkway will be widened by one lane in each direction from exit 30 (Atlantic Co.) to 80 (Ocean Co.), at a cost of \$1.2 billion.

We are disturbed that no alternatives were considered prior to July's ribbon cutting, and that proper environmental reviews were not conducted. Alternatives such as flex lanes, incentives for off-peak driving, trip reduction programs, the MOM rail commuter line, express bus lanes, and improved interchanges, would not only last longer, but would also save taxpayer dollars. An additional alternative is zoning action to "de-suburbanize" New Jersey: promoting residential migration back into cities and towns so that public transportation becomes a feasible alternative to the necessity of cars. Because the state did not complete environmental reviews as specified by the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), it cannot qualify for federal dollars. So the taxpayers and toll payers of New Jersey will pay for these projects.

History has repeatedly shown that widening roads does little to ease traffic. The more lanes you build, the more sprawl development you promote, and the more cars you will get. The result is that New Jerseyans will pay more to sit in worse traffic.

The thousands of additional automobiles that will be traveling the expanded

roads will increase particulate matter and other toxic air pollutants that cause cancer, asthma and other diseases. The EPA recently released a report showing that areas along the turnpike already have the worst air pollution in the country. The cars will also release more greenhouse gases, undermining the emission reduction goals of 2007's Global Warming Response Act.

The widening of the Turnpike threatens to increase sprawl, especially in the Jamesburg area, now largely farmland. It will require filling approximately 200 acres of wetland habitat just north of exit 8A. Remember that wetlands reduce flooding, detoxify polluted water, recharge aquifers, house wildlife, and retain a semblance of nature in an industrialized state.

The Parkway widening will add more than 11 million square feet of pavement along our shore, adding polluted run-off to increase flooding and degradation of coastal estuaries and back bays. This road cuts through the Pinelands National Reserve, with endangered species habitat areas, and several C-1 streams. For the first time in the history of the Pinelands, a road project has been allowed to destroy known habitat for endangered species.

Of more concern, the DEP is not considering secondary impacts from this project, such as the additional pollution and flooding that will be caused by thousands of new units of sprawl housing, shopping centers, office parks, etc.

Summer Saturdays, when beach house rentals turn over, is when traffic is at its worst on the Parkway and Turnpike. So another alternative to widening would be to stagger summer rental turnover between Saturdays and Sundays, as is done on North Carolina's Outer Banks and in Ocean City, Maryland.

NJ's Clean Energy Scorecard

By our Chapter Staff: Jeff Tittel, Kara Seymour and Grace Sica

As the candidates vying to be the next governor debate clean energy and green jobs, a Pew Charitable Trusts report released in June paints a grim picture on this issue.

Pew's green jobs report, **The Clean Energy Economy**, ranks New Jersey near the bottom in a national comparison. The statistics show that, while New Jersey is good at developing programs, it lags when it comes to real results.

In areas of the green economy where New Jersey has done well, such as solar manufacturing, much of the progress isn't recent: it predates the Corzine Administration.

The Pew Report considered five green job categories: clean energy, energy efficiency, environmentally friendly production, conservation and pollution mitigation, and training and support.

Between 1998 and 2007:

Green jobs in New Jersey declined by 9.6%; the second worst performance of any state (behind Utah).

42 states saw an increase in green job growth; New Jersey was one of eight states to actually lose jobs.

While the nation experienced a 9.1%

gain in green jobs; New Jersey lost 9.6%.

States significantly less populated than New Jersey, such as Massachusetts, actually have more green jobs than we do.

The vast majority - approximately 80% - of New Jersey's green jobs are in conservation and pollution mitigation programs.

Comparing 50 states and the District of Columbia, New Jersey ranks 35th in percentage of energy efficiency jobs.

New Jersey ranks 43rd in environmentally friendly production jobs and 34th in training and support category jobs.

New Jersey is in last place when it comes to clean energy business growth.

29 states and the District of Columbia have established renewable portfolio standards and 19 states have more stringent efficiency standards than New Jersey.

On a positive note, New Jersey ranked among the top 15 in green businesses and in the top ten in venture capital investments and patents.

While the Chapter is glad to see the gubernatorial candidates campaigning on the environment and clean energy, we are taking a close look at what the candidates are saying and what it actually means for New Jersey.

utilities to meet the federal guidelines only as a minimum, i.e. setting no upper limit to what they can cut. We have submitted a formal comment for consideration before the final rules are adopted

this Fall. Time will tell!

See http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/RaritanValley/bpu_veg_mgmt.asp for more information.

Conservation Eco-Tips 

ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

The Future of Our National Parks

By John Kashwick, our Utah Issues Coordinator (JKashwick@optonline.net)

Energy Efficiencies of Cars, Trains and Buses

Both by Laura Lynch, Chapter Conservation Chair (njsierraclub@gmail.com), with permissive thanks to Sustainable Lawrence, for which this article was first written

Here's a quick question: Which is the most energy efficient form of transportation between Washington DC and New York City: a car with two passengers, an Amtrak train full of people, or a loaded bus?

When Sunil Somalwar, Professor of Physics at Rutgers University, asked an online environmentally-savvy group recently, we all assumed that the train was the answer. We were wrong.

The standard for comparison is passenger miles per gallon (pmpg), calculated by multiplying the number of people in a vehicle by the miles per gallon the vehicle gets. For example, if a hybrid car gets 50 mpg and carries one person, the passenger mpg equals 50. If two people are in the car, the value doubles to 100 pmpg.

Most cars, of course, get far fewer than 50 mpg; the average is closer to 20. So even if there were five people on the trip, the average car would reach only 100 pmpg.

Do Amtrak's trains fare better? Dr. Somalwar did some calculations and determined that, because of the heavy weight of the trains - two tons per seat on the newer Acela cars - the passenger mileage per gallon is low. He estimates that Amtrak achieves approximately 30 pmpg when every seat is occupied. New Jersey Transit trains are lighter, so probably fare a bit better.

But the winner in this competition is the bus, with a range of 130 to 200 pmpg. And, as it turns out, we are fortunate to be living in a bus-rich region. According to the Tri-State Transportation Campaign, each weekday more than 9000 buses cross the Hudson River into Manhattan, carrying twice as many passengers as commuter rail does. Discount

bus lines cost a tiny fraction of what Amtrak charges, and taking the bus removes the cost and hassle of paying tolls and finding a parking spot in the city.

Prof. Somalwar offers another comparison: the amount of fuel for two passengers to travel from central New Jersey to Washington, DC. His 1993 Honda Civic, getting 60 pmpg, uses 3 gallons of gasoline per person. Amtrak uses approximately twice that amount. A bus, even though it gets a mere 4.2 mpg, when full of people uses only 1 gallon per person for the trip.

There's another environmental advantage to taking the bus: Most electricity is generated by burning coal; coal burning emits more greenhouse gases than burning gasoline does; and most trains in our region run on electricity. Until we move to clean, renewable fuels all around, the greenest option for short-distance trips is to take the bus.

For more information on fuel efficiency across modes of transportation, see <http://airfare.michaelbluejay.com/modes.html> and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passenger_miles_per_gallon. To learn more about the future of bus transportation in our region, see Tri-State's transportation report at http://mobilizingth-region.files.wordpress.com/2009/05/pa-report_final.pdf. Sunil Somalwar's presentation on transportation's environmental impact can be found at <http://www.physics.rutgers.edu/~somalwar/energy/RE109/0905-RE1-Somalwar.pdf>. To learn more about sustainability go to <http://sustainablelawrence.org>.

Please view the new Ken Burns' film series, National Parks: America's Best Idea, premiering on PBS on September 27. The history of the Sierra Club and of our National Parks is intertwined. Many of the early parks were promoted by Sierra Club members, including its founder John Muir. The Club continues this tradition today. I'm privileged to be one of nine activists from different parts of the country who make up the Club's National Parks and Monuments Committee. Its mission is to mitigate threats and foster interest in protecting our national parks.

The Committee encourages expansion of the Park System, which includes National Parks, Seashores, Recreation Areas, Wildlife Preserves, Monuments, Historical Parks, and Wild and Scenic Rivers. There have been no major additions since the California Desert Protection Act of 1994, which created Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks. There have been a few "promotions" and enlargements in recent years—Congaree in South Carolina, Cuyahoga Valley in Ohio, and Great Sand Dunes in Colorado. In the past year, Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park became New Jersey's newest park unit.

We think there are many new areas that should become national parks. Pinnacles in California and Cedar Breaks in Utah are both national monuments worthy of "promotion." (A monument is generally a single resource whereas a park consists of a range of natural or cultural wonders.

National park status can be a mixed blessing. National parks are afforded greater resource protection, but as they become more visited there is a demand for more infrastructure such as roads and visitor facilities. I recently visited Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah, which is managed by the Bureau of Land Management. This unit contains some magnificent scenery, including slot canyons, streams, and Red Rock cliffs. While I would love to see cattle-grazing eliminated from this unit, I would hate

to see the feelings of solitude and remoteness destroyed.

Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument is managed by the National Forest Service and plagued by budget shortfalls. Two of its five visitor centers have closed. Advocates want upgrading to national park status, to facilitate protection of the ecosystem that is recovering from the 1980 eruption.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge contains the last 4% of America's Arctic coast that is not open to oil and gas development. The status of the coastal plain has been debated for decades. It is prime habitat for many species of waterfowl, plus porcupine caribou and polar bears. It is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. National park status would settle once and for all the question of energy development and protect "America's Serengeti."

Maine Woods National Park is one of our dreams. Activists at Restore the North Woods propose creating this park from land currently held by state, local and private interests. If designated, it would be the largest national park in the East. Historically, other Eastern parks, including Shenandoah and Great Smoky Mountains National Parks, were established in this manner as federal lands are scarce.

National Parks are fast becoming oases in a desert of urban sprawl. They are barometers of the impacts of climate change and refuges for endangered species. While some parks might seem large, they represent just over 2% of the nation's land mass. The Sierra Club's National Parks and Monuments Committee will continue to work with other activists and park enthusiasts in all states to foster the protection and expansion of our national treasures.

John Kashwick is a member of the Sierra Club's National Parks and Monuments Committee. He is also the Utah Issues Coordinator for the New Jersey Chapter and the Public Lands Issues Coordinator for our North Jersey Group.

Christmas Green vs. Grinch

The Christmas season is tough for the environmentally-conscious. The allure of electrical holiday lights conflicts with the image of Appalachian mountaintops being blown up for coal. Glossy wrapping paper, plastic bows, and shrink wrap laugh at the forlorn recycling bin. And then there's the Christmas tree. Let's start there.

Real or plastic? Artificial trees are made from fossil fuels in far-away countries and shipped over here by boat and truck. That's a lot of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere for one little tree. However, that little tree can last for decades if cared for properly. Spread out over such a long time, the environmental impact doesn't seem as bad. A real tree, on the other hand, can be planted if you buy a live one. If you go to a local tree farm to cut one down yourself, the tree really hasn't traveled far at all. If you buy one from one of the many roadside vendors, ask where the tree came from and try to find one that grew up nearest to your house. When you're finished with the tree, make sure it gets composted. Lawrence Township will compost your tree if you leave it on your curb.

What about all those lights? Consider buying light-emitting diode (LED) holiday lights. They're a bit more expensive than incandescents, but they burn cooler, last much longer, and use far less electricity - up to 90% less. LEDs are becoming easier to find; you can even buy fancy shapes and colors online.

When thinking of gifts, consider these

options: Keep your money local by buying a gift certificate to a nearby, non-chain restaurant or service. Buy something hand-made, preferably by a local artist. If you're buying a hand-made gift from far away, make sure that it comes from a fair-trade merchant, i.e. one who guarantees that the craftspeople were paid a living wage, and who might even provide benefits to the community where the piece was made. Stay away from items that are mass-produced in slave-wage factories and sold in chain stores unless you know that's what your friend really, truly wants. If you, your friends, and family are tired of getting so much "stuff," consider making donations to your loved ones' favorite charities instead.

As for wrapping paper, a lot of it can't be recycled because it is coated in metals or plastics. But paper gift bags, which come in many sizes, colors, and patterns, are not only recyclable but also reusable. Add a little tissue paper, which can also be reused and recycled, and you're giving a bag that can take home a pile of gifts.

If you're hosting a holiday party and need to use disposable plates, try compostable plates and utensils, or buy heavy plastics that can be washed and reused. And, please, do not serve bottled water.

For more information on why bottled water is a bad, bad thing, and for more Eco-Tips, see <http://ecotips.sustainablelawrence.org>.

Progress on Legislation to Regulate Off-Road Vehicles in New Jersey

By Fred Akers, Administrator of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association

The New Jersey Legislature is moving along with legislation that would require registration and authorize enforcement of ORVs: A823/S2055. Both bills were voted out of Committees in June, and are headed for an up or down vote by the full Legislature, hopefully this December.

Meanwhile, federal land managers have recently been admonished by Congress for the extensive damage done to federal lands by ATV and dirtbike riders. In March, 2008, the House Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held an oversight hearing about "The Impacts of Unmanaged Off-Road Vehicles on Federal Lands."

Subcommittee Chair Raul Grijalva's opening statement, about the need for new oversight, included, "Although ORV use on federal lands is legal on designated roads and trails, it has increased so dramatically that federal managers seem unable to keep up. A recent poll of federal land enforcement agents reveals that they view off-road vehicles use as one of the biggest threats facing our public lands."

As a result of this hearing, the Government Accounting Office studied

the issue and has just released a new report on June 30 with enhanced management recommendations. One recommendation is to raise amounts of fines for violators.

NJ has no federal lands suitable for ORV use, but legal and illegal ORV use on state lands and other public and private lands raises the same damage issues as on federal lands. Fortunately, our legislature is ready to go with A823/S2055; they include increased fines for violators.

Please contact your state representatives now and urge them to vote in favor of A823/S2055 - for the registration and enforcement of ORVs. The bills' sponsors deserve special praise: Assembly Members Reed Gusciora (D-15), Paul Moriarty (D-4), John Wisniewski (D-19), Ruben Ramos (D-33), Caridad Rodriguez (D-33), and Senators Robert Gordon (D-38) and Brian Stack (D-33).

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance has a new web page specific to ORV damage and regulation: <http://www.pinelandsalliance.org/protection/work/currentissues/offroadvehicles/>

Link to GAO report: <http://www.gao.gov/Products/GAO-09-509>.



Group News

FROM
AROUND
THE
STATE

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

Northwest Jersey Group: Sussex & northern Warren
North Jersey Group: Passaic & most of Bergen
South Highlands Group: Hunterdon and southern Warren
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 and northern Warren Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Christine Feoranzo	973-352-9203	cfeoranzo@gmail.com
Vice-Chair & Conservation Chair:	Marie Springer	201-660-8880	aikidomarie@yahoo.com
Secretary:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Treasurer:	Charles Kopp		cckgp@verizon.net
Hospitality & Special Events Chair:	Pat Mangino		patmangino@optonline.net
Publicity & Membership Chair:	Marilyn Finley		marfin@earthlink.net
Outings & Events Chair:	Herb Wolff		herbwolff@warwick.net
Environmental Education Leader:	Toni Zimmer		tzimmer@twgpower.com
Webmaster:	Christine Feoranzo		cfeoranzo@gmail.com

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

GENERAL MEETINGS: Open to all and held on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of every month, 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.

Our meetings consist of open discussions regarding various issues in our area. If you have an environmental concern in your town and are considering forming or have formed a citizen action group to address the issue, come to a meeting to discuss it. Our meetings are a good forum to spread the word about an issue and to obtain information and ideas on how to proceed.

Please see our website for information on conservation issues our group is focusing on.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Please contact Group officers for information.

North Jersey Group

(Bergen, Passaic and northern Morris Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:

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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Held four times a year. For more information, please contact Betsy or Mike (above).

GENERAL MEETINGS: Begin at 7:30pm; dates and locations below. It is advisable to contact Betsy (above) to make sure the meeting is on as planned. Or sign up for e-mail notices at <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-NORTH-JERSEY-NEWS.html>.

Oct 14: at the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, 113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood. Program TBA.

Nov 9: at Clifton Public Library, 292 Piaget Avenue, Clifton. Program TBA.

CONSERVATION ISSUES. To find out more or tell us about an issue, contact Betsy, Mike or Tom (above).

(1) **The Hackensack River** vegetative riparian corridors, essential for habitat, flood control and river health. To our dismay, the NJ DEP has recently granted a permit to allow intensive development of a riverfront parcel in Teaneck (a project we have long opposed). To protect this site, the Township is now trying to purchase it to add to the Hackensack River Greenway Through Teaneck (which, thanks to the hard work of the Friends of the Greenway, is now a National Recreation Trail under the National Park Service).

(2) **The Ramapo River watershed**, a sole source aquifer at the NY/NJ border supplying water for over two million New Jerseyans. In NY State, Tuxedo Reserve (1,195 housing units and 30,000 sq. feet of commercial space) threatens 2300 acres of forested slopes. Since its approval in 2004, the project has been amended several times and has changed substantially, requiring a Supplemental EIS to address any new adverse impacts. The draft SEIS is expected soon, and the hearing will give you a chance to voice your concerns about water protection and unwanted sprawl. Stay tuned!

(3) **New Jersey Highlands.** We find it disturbing that the Highlands Council, after receiving an \$18.4 million I.O.U. from PSE&G, has now dropped its opposition to the 500 kV Susquehanna-Roseland transmission line. This is a dirty coal project that will pollute Highlands watersheds and water. Construction of the 195-foot high towers will cause extensive damage to forests and slopes. Meanwhile, we remain skeptical that the Regional Master Plan adequately protects our water because it allows new and expanded extraction in areas of water deficit.

(4) **Preserve parkland!** We oppose destroying parkland in the Overpeck County Park for a park-and-ride for the Northern Branch light rail line and for a new road to connect park areas in Leonia and Ridgefield Park. We urge NJ Transit and Bergen County to find alternative solutions outside the park and to develop bus routes with links to light rail to eliminate the need for commuter parking lots.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS! Help with conservation or energy issues, educational programs, outings, or in many other ways. Please contact a group officer (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!

South Highlands Group (formerly Hunterdon Group)

(Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties and surrounding areas)

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Greg Nelson	gregssap@hotmail.com
Vice-Chair:	Mark Sharrock	msharrock@comcast.net
Conservation Chair:	James Brightwell	james_brightwell@comcast.net
Secretary:	Dwight Irving	dwight@dlirving.com
Treasurer:	Mike Nusbaum	mikeynus@yahoo.com
Political Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>	
Publicity Chair:	Celeste Martin	onecentral@mac.com
Membership Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>	
Energy Coordinator:	Mark Marciniak	mpmplace@ptd.net
Outings Chair:	Jessica Nusbaum	syfrgrl@yahoo.com
Webmaster:	Mike Nusbaum	mikeynus@yahoo.com

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

See us and keep up to date with our group on Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=53817136187>

We are now on Facebook! Now you have two ways to stay updated on our group and events/activities going on! Either go to our Facebook page or get on our email distribution list! Please contact hunterdonsierra@gmail.com for more information!

Currently we have a variety of fun outings and events planned for our members. The list is constantly being updated. Please see our group Facebook page for information on upcoming activities. On the initiatives front, we are tackling a variety of important issues, but focusing on three major topics: conservation issues, such as preserving open space (a priority in Hunterdon County), clean energy, and recycling. GET INVOLVED!

GENERAL MEETINGS, OUTINGS, and EVENTS:

Make sure to check our Facebook page for the updates and the latest and greatest on Meetings, Outings, and Events for members and non-members! For information on any of the events, please contact us at hunterdonsierra@gmail.com.

Sept 10 (7:30-10pm): General Meeting: Screening of the movie **Kilowatt Ours** along with a Q&A afterwards, with one of the creators of the movie! Hunterdon Medical Center Auditorium, Rte 31, Flemington.

Sept 26 (9:30 am-5:30 pm): Mountain Hawk Watch: Group outing to the Scott's Mountain Hawk Watch at Merrill Creek Reservoir, presented by the Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation Department. Watch for migration of hawks, eagles and falcons. This time of year is fine for Broad Wing Hawks, American Kestrels, and Ospreys. We will also take time to scan the reservoir for other species. The alternative plan will be to head to the visitor center and hike their trail system looking for fall songbirds, which could involve up to 1.5 miles of hiking. Cost \$25 per person. For information on this event, please go to <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/parks/newsrel.htm#walks>. To register for this event - please go to <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/parks/regpdf.htm>

Oct (TBD): Villa Milagro Winery: The ONLY Organic Winery in NJ - Wine Tasting and Tour - Find out what makes this winery different and how they do it. There will be a cost per person to be determined - Mark Sharrock at msharrock@comcast.net or hunterdonsierra@gmail.com for more information and to reserve. (The winery's website is <http://www.villamilagrovinyards.com>).

Oct 14 (7:30-9pm): Jeff Tittel on Current Environmental Issues: Our Chapter Director will speak on issues facing New Jersey as well as specific concerns in Hunterdon County. Includes Q&A. Town of Clinton Municipal Bldg auditorium, 43 Leigh Street, Clinton.

Multiply your environmental vote, on Nov 3, by convincing your friends and neighbors of the value of Club endorsements.

Nov 2 (7:30-9pm): General Meeting: The **Musconetcong Watershed Association** (MWA) will show us their renovated "Green" building. Learn what about thermal heating, composting toilets, solar panels, and use of recycled and local materials in the renovation. Also includes discussion on the native plants used on the property. This is an impressive building! The MWA's River Resource Center is located at 10 Maple Avenue, Asbury (website: www.musconetcong.org). Carpooling is encouraged.

Nov 7 (10am): Recycling Tour: Al DuBois, the Recycling Manager of Clifton, will show us through a supermarket to inform us about food packaging and recycling. Al has worked with the Sierra Club in promoting the Smart Container Act. Please RSVP by Oct 26 to adele1214@yahoo.com or call 732-572-6929. We will meet at the Acme in Clifton, at 467 Allwood Road (973-594-0590). Carpooling may be available, so please ask.

Dec (TBD): Holiday Party: Join us for our second annual holiday party! Join our email distribution list or contact hunterdonsierra@gmail.com for more information!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Monthly - Normally alternating between the FIRST MONDAY and WEDNESDAY: Sept 14, Oct 7, Nov 2, Dec 2. Meetings start at 7:30 pm and are held at the New Jersey Water Supply Authority Annex, 1851 State Rte 31, Clinton 08809.

** Please note - Dates and location are subject to change - For more information please e-mail Greg Nelson at hunterdonsierra@gmail.com.

WHERE WE WILL BE: We tabled at many events this past Summer. Thank you to all who volunteered and to those who visited our table!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Ever think about volunteering? Do you enjoy the outdoors and/or want to help protect our environment and open space in New Jersey? Do something about it! Join us to work on important environmental issues facing Hunterdon County, New Jersey, the United States, and the World. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Contact our Group Chair, Greg Nelson (hunterdonsierra@gmail.com), to learn more about the Sierra Club and to join our Group.

Hudson-Meadowlands Group

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

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Louise Taylor	201-886-9320	ltaylor2@nj.rr.com
Vice-Chair, Cool Cities:	Helen Manogue	201-963-3511	
Secretaries:	Judith Courtney	201-868-6575	jaocourtney@netzero.net
	and Ruth Olsen	201-868-6575	oof46@msn.com
Treasurer, Political Chr:	Brane Zivkovic	201-758-0398	brane@nyu.edu
Conservation Chair:	Mariana Zivkovic	201-758-8390	tenisko@hotmail.com
Publicity:	Jodi Jamieson	917-804-8390	jodijami@mac.com
Fundraising Chair:	Rosemary Arena	201-861-6222	drrosemary@verizon.net
Outings Chair:	Scottie Perry	201-320-1758	scottieperry@optonline.net
Palisades Landmark Status Committee:			
Chair:	Rosemary Arena	201-861-6222	drrosemary@verizon.net
Vice Chair:	David Kronick	201-869-6218	jktejas@aol.com
Group ExCom	Gil Hawkins	201-944-5799	gilc3d2@aol.com
Members:	Donald Kopczynski	201-224-2641	Littlechops03@netzero.com

CONSERVATION ISSUES: We are opposed to a 256-unit development proposed for the last parcel of open space on the Hudson River in North Bergen. The development plan is still before the North Bergen Planning Board, and we continue to oppose it. We would like to see this space become permanent parkland, as designated in Hudson County's Master Plan. We have also been monitoring additional development proposals along the Palisades south of the George Washington Bridge in order to protect the Palisades Cliffs from being destroyed for a proposed Walgreens, Starbucks and Bank of America and several other developments. Our impressive group of concerned citizens and experts in many related fields has continued its Planning and Zoning Board attendance on both the Hudson River Park and the Palisades for more than three years.

MEETINGS: ExCom meetings are on FIRST FRIDAYS at 7:30 pm, every other month. Please contact Judith or Ruth for more information.

Essex County Group

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

OFFICERS: 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 soon receive a postcard 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.

Loantaka Group

(Morris and Union Counties, approximately)

The website address for the Loantaka group: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka/>

OFFICERS:

Group Co-Chairs:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	hauskerr@aol.com
	and Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
Treasurer:	Joyce White		joyce00201@yahoo.com
Secretary:	<i>Open Position!</i>		

Conservation Chairs:

Morris County:	Chris Mills	973-377-1742	chrismills@yahoo.com
Union County:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	hauskerr@aol.com
Cool Cities Chair:	Stefano Crema	973-627-4354	stefcre@aol.com
Political Chair:	Meiling Chin		chinmeiling@yahoo.com
Programs Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Education Coord:	Jeff Huppert	973-263-0344	jeffhup@optonline.net
Fundraising Chair:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	hauskerr@aol.com
Outreach, Events:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Publicity Chair:	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
Membership:	Doug Williams	973-263-8404	dougjwilliams@verizon.net
Air Quality Coord:	Bob Campbell	973-761-4461	wrobc_sc@earthlink.net
Webmaster:	Paul Sanderson		paulmsanderson@aol.com
Greenbrook:	Bob Muska	908-665-2296	rmuska@erols.com

If you might be interested in getting involved, come to one of our Executive Committee Meetings on the first Tuesday of the month and get to know us. Or come to one of our General Meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. 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: 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. Directions are posted on our website : <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka/>.

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!

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Oct 14: Candidates Night - The Loantaka Group intends to invite any candidate in our Districts whom we have endorsed to come to the meeting and answer your questions. Watch our website for further information on evening's activity.

Nov 11: Edible Plants - Debbie Naha will talk about what you can have on your menu next spring.

Dec 9: NJ Bats & White Nose Fungus - You may not care much for bats, but they are a

(Continued on page 8)

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GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

critical part of our ecosystem. They eat enormous numbers of insects, reducing the populations of mosquitoes and pests that are harmful to crops, eliminating the need for dangerous insecticides. Now many bats are dying and scientists are concerned that they may be on their way to extinction, at least in the Northeast. Come hear what bat expert MacKenzie Hall has to say on this topic.

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

Central Jersey Group

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

Website: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/central>.

Please visit our website for conservation news, meetings, event details and last-minute announcements.

OFFICERS:

Chair, Pol Chair: Terry Stimpfel 609-731-7016 terystimb@hotmail.com
Conservation Chair: *Open Position!*
Membership Chair: *Open Position!*
Outings Chair: Leona Fluck 609-259-3734 Leona@pineypaddlers.com
ExCom At-Large: Malcolm McFarland 609-448-8699 jmalcolmmcfarland@verizon.net
 Ruth Ann Mitchell ram400500@yahoo.com
 Tamanna Mohapatra 732-801-9629 tmohapatra@yahoo.com

We need you! Want to help out? Thinking of becoming involved? Try volunteering for a few hours or at an event! Opportunities abound in Publicity, Recycling, Events, Outreach and as Conservation Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Let's talk. Please contact Terry or Grace Marie.

Some local conservation issues include the Camden & Amboy Rail Trail (Hamilton, Robbinsville), Rte 33 By-pass (Hamilton, Robbinsville), Assunpink Creek Trail (Robbinsville), and NJ Turnpike widening. Concerned about an issue? Want to take action? Let's talk.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: All Sierra Club members are invited. Come find out what's happening in Central Group and help advance conservation! Please contact Terry.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Our meetings are held from 7:30 to 9pm (pre-meeting social at 7pm) on the THIRD TUESDAY of most months at the Whisk and Spoon meeting room of Whole Foods Market, Windsor Green Shopping Center, Rte 1 South, Princeton. No general meetings in July, August and December. January location varies.

Upcoming Programs:

Oct 20 (Tues): Climate Change and Energy. Grace Sica, NJ Sierra staff, will discuss climate issues and the impacts of various energy sources. Learn about Sierra's national energy programs and how to convey energy issues effectively.

Nov 17 (Tues): TBA. Details will be sent to NJ-CENTRAL-NEWS list. (Not a subscriber? Follow link from Central webpage <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/central> to sign up.)

CENTRAL OUTINGS and EVENTS: For details see Outings Section of this newsletter or Chapter Outings website. For full event description, updates and last minute events see Central Group online calendar, accessed from Central Group website. ALWAYS check with outing leader for cancellations, etc. ALL paddling trips require pre-registration. Do you have an idea for an outing? Would you like to try co-leading? Please contact Leona.

Oct 4 (Sun): Paddle D&R Canal - Bulls Island to Lambertville
Oct 11 (Sun): Paddle Delaware Water Gap under Fantastic Fall Foliage.
Oct 18 (Sun): Paddle Delaware Water Gap Bushkill to Kittatinny Point.
Oct 28 (Wed): Hike/Walk with Docent at Audubon Honey Hollow Center.
Nov 8 (Sun): Paddle D&R Canal Lambertville to Cadwalader.
Nov 11 (Wed): Veterans Day Hike at Veterans Park.
Nov 13 (Fri): Paddle Crosswicks Creek.
Nov 14 (Sat): VOLUNTEER for Land Cleanup at Roebling Park/Marsh.
Nov 21 (Sat): Paddle D&R Canal.
Nov 28 (Sat): Paddle D&R Canal Lawrenceville to Kingston.
Dec 5 (Sat): Hike/Walk NJAS Plainsboro Preserve.
Dec 13 (Sun): Paddle Crosswicks Creek/HTB Marsh.
Dec 26 - 31 various: Patriots Week in Trenton. See www.patriotsweek.com

NJ-CENTRAL-NEWS List: Please subscribe to receive infrequent e-mail event reminders and important local conservation notices. Visit Central Group website and follow link to subscribe or unsubscribe to NJ-CENTRAL-NEWS.

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Kevin Geoffroy 732 568-4914 kdgeoffroy@gmail.com
Group Vice Chair: Don McBride 732 560-0369 dtmcbride@alumni.haas.org
Conservation Co-Chairs: Mike Lindemann and Renee Skelton
Conservation Advisor: Jane Tousman 908-561-5504 jdtous@aol.com
Treasurer: Roomi Nusrat
Secretary: Melissa Moskowitz
Political Chair: Randy Gill 732 525-2612 ragill@optonline.net
Education: Marc Grappel

Membership: Kevin Geoffroy 732 568-4914 kdgeoffroy@gmail.com
Recycling Coordinator: Adele Pudner
Media Coordinator: Matthew Roth
Webmaster: Don McBride 732 560-0369 dtmcbride@alumni.haas.org

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

We have an exciting fall schedule lined up, and are looking for volunteers to help with group issues and activities. 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. 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. If you can't make a meeting, please give us a call. We rely on our members to keep us informed and strongly encourage members to attend their town Land Use or Planning/Zoning meetings.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Sept 24 (Thurs, 7:30 pm): Showing of **Kilowatt Ours: A Plan to Re-Energize America**, and Panel Discussion. Panelists will include Rachel Weinrich, a Rutgers student who interned making this film, Doug O'Malley from Environment New Jersey and Grace Sica of our Chapter staff. Doug and Grace both have extensive experience working on federal energy policy. This event will be held at the Unitarian Society located at 176 Tices Lane in East Brunswick.

Oct 17 (Sat, 10am): Washington Valley Park Hike, Hawk Watch and Barbeque. Fall day hike and hawk watch at the Washington Valley Park, a 715-acre park in Bridgewater Twp along the Watchung Ridge. For more information about Washington Valley Park and the Hawk Watch project please visit: http://www.geocities.com/dtmcbride/nyc-nj/wash_vly_pk.html and <http://www.geocities.com/dtmcbride/nyc-nj/hawk-watch.html>

Nov 7 (Sat, 10am): Recycling Tour: Al DuBois, the Recycling Manager of Clifton, will show us through a supermarket to inform us about food packaging and recycling. Al has worked with the Sierra Club in promoting the Smart Container Act. Please RSVP by Oct 26 to adele1214@yahoo.com or call 732-572-6929. We will meet at the Acme in Clifton, at 467 Allwood Road (973-594-0590). Carpooling may be available, so please ask.

Nov 12 (Thurs, 7:30 pm): Political and Environmental Update and Discussion with Jeff Tittel. Our Executive Director will join us to lend his perspective on environmental issues in NJ, the results of the recent election outcome, the federal climate bill, and what we can expect in the global climate talks in Copenhagen. The meeting will be held at the Unitarian Society located at 176 Tices Lane in East Brunswick.

RECYCLING NEWS - MIDDLESEX MOBILE PAPER SHREDDING PROGRAM!!:

Recycle your old documents and confidential files safely and securely! Fall Shredding Schedule:

Helmetta: Sat, Oct 3, Borough Hall parking lot
 Piscataway: Sat, Oct 10, Senior Center parking lot
 South Amboy: Sat, Oct 24, Municipal Building parking lot
 South River: Sat, Nov 7, Grekoski Park
 Woodbridge: Sat, Nov 14, Department of Public Works
 Old Bridge: Sat, Nov 21, Municipal Center parking lot

Check <http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/planningboard/papershred.pdf> or call 732-745-4170 for directions, future dates and locations. All events run from 9am to 1pm or until the truck is full, whichever comes first.

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Dennis Anderson 732-970-4327 dennisaza@aol.com
 6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747
Vice-Chair: *Open Position!*
Secretary: Joe DeLuca 732-389-1835 joe-deluca@att.net
Conservation Chair: Faith Teitelbaum 732-229-0553 faithtei@aol.com
Webmaster: George Newsome 732-308-1518 newsome1@pobox.com
Treasurer: Pat Fuschetto 732-308-4588 fusche40@yahoo.com
Political Chair: Laura Bagwell 732-741-8678 l.bagwell3@verizon.net
Outings Chair: Mike Verange 908-902-0718 mjverange@aol.com
Membership Co-Chairs: Alan Roseman 732-780-1308 rosealan@optonline.net
 And April Klimley 917-626-4838 AprilJeanK@aol.com
Program Chair: George Moffatt 732-544-1726 gmofattgt@aol.com
Fund-raising Co-Chairs: Lois Blake 732-863-5917 lqblake@optonline.net
 and Joellen Lundy 732-741-4756 jfutey@comcast.net

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

Sept 28: Grace Sica, a member of the State NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club, will discuss advances and issues in **state and federal energy policy**. The topics will range from implementing NJ's Energy Master Plan and renewable projects around the state to the Obama Administration's efforts to mitigate global warming.

Oct 16 (Fri): Special Event: **Coffeehouse:** The Jersey Shore Group will offer live entertainment (Celtic/folk/rock music), 8-11:30 pm, at the Women's Club, 164 Broad Street, Red Bank. The suggested donation is \$8.00.

Oct 26: Our Chair, Dennis Anderson, will show **slides on his trip to Australia**, New

Zealand and Fiji. While in Fiji, Dennis learned about cannibals, the white man and his invasive plants and animals, and wild-boar hunting with a machete in the jungle.

Nov 23: Helping the Environment with Your Fork: How a **Plant-based Diet** Benefits the Planet. Suzanne Dragan, Director of the Food for Life program, explains that if we all switch to a vegetarian diet we'll be healthier and slow down pollution, global warming, energy depletion and world hunger. Rumor has it she might even let us sample what she preaches.

Dec 13 (3-6pm): The group's annual **pot luck holiday party** will be held at Joellen Lundy's home at 25 Peters Place, Red Bank. Members should contact Joellen at jfutey@comcast.net if they plan to come. Everyone is asked to bring hor d'ouvres, cakes or other hot and cold dishes, as well as soda, wine or beer. If members of other Sierra Groups are in the neighborhood, please stop by and say hello.

Ocean County Group

Website: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean

OFFICERS:

Chair: A. Gregory Auriemma, Esq.	732-451-9220	sierraclubOC@aol.com
Vice-Chr, Outings: Dawn Marie Johns	732-644-6340	sierraclubOC@hotmail.com
Conserv'n Chair: Margit Meissner-Jackson	609-296-4367	sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com
Secretary: Jill Palmer		
Treasurer: Gregory Auriemma	732-451-9220	sierraclubOC@aol.com
Political Chair: Nancy Brown	732-892-6089	
Publicity Chair: Howard Schwartz	609-242-9304	hirschschwartz@comcast.net
Fund-Raising: Joyce M. Isaza	732-920-9270	realtymstr@aol.com
Membership Chair: Sandy Brown	609-242-9304	sandybrown@comcast.net
ExCom Member: Jocelyn Isaza	732-581-0130	nightingale77nj@yahoo.com
Env'l Consultant: Helen Henderson	908-278-9807	hhlaceyrailtrail@msn.com
Env'l Educ'n Coord: Terrance Brown	848-333-7331	terrybrown@comcast.net

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Generally held on the SECOND MONDAY of each month at the home of one of our ExCom members.

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.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS: General 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.

Oct 4 (Sun): Please stop by our table at the **CATTUS ISLAND NATURE FESTIVAL** in Toms River. There will be fun for all ages. Show up early to sign up for a kayak or pontoon boat ride. For more details, please contact our Chair, Greg Auriemma, at 732-451-2770.

Oct 10 (Sat): Come down and visit our table at the **PINELANDS JAMBOREE** at Wells Mills Park in Waretown. We will be leading 2 hikes within the park. For information on volunteering please contact Group Chair, Gregory, at 732-451-9220. For details of the hikes, please call our Outings Chair, Dawn Marie Johns, at 732-644-6340.

Oct 17 (Sat): Please join us for our **FOLIAGE HIKE**. Enjoy the beautiful colors and scenery of the changing of the season. For details on the hike location, please call our Outings Chair, Dawn Marie Johns, at 732-644-6340.

Oct 24 (Sat): CLIMATE CHANGE DAY - Tentative outdoor concert. For more details please contact our Chair, Greg Auriemma at 732-451-9220.

Nov 3 (Tue): Election Day! Please go out and vote and remember that every vote counts!

Nov 9 (Mon): Please join us for our next General Meeting which will be held at 7pm at the "SKYWALK CAFE" in TOMS RIVER. Our Main topic will be determined, please check back for updates and more details.

Dec 19 (Sat): We will be having our **5th ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY** and **FUND RAISER** at 7pm, location to be determined. Join us for food, fun and a chance to get a start on your holiday gift shopping. If you would like to help out or for more details please contact our Fund Raising Chair Joyce Isaza at 732-604-4583.

A very special THANK YOU to both Domenic Russo of Dusk Till Dawn DJ Service (848-448-2578) and Lexx Merceus of Above and Beyond Catering (732-581-8343) who donated their time and effort at our 4th Annual Barbeque Fund Raiser.

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

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

*** IMPORTANT NOTE - NEW MEETING VENUE AND DAY ***

GENERAL MEETINGS: are held at 7:30 pm on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month, September thru May at the Quaker Meeting Hall on Friends Ave in Haddonfield.

Directions: From I-295, take exit 34B onto Rte 70 West. Follow the 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. After about 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 right side of the building. Do not go into the Meeting House.

Oct 14: Lori Braunstein of Sustainable Cherry Hill will speak about the town's efforts to become the **cleanest, greenest town in NJ**.

Nov 11: Photographer Mark Schmerling has documented the horrible **toll that coal has taken on the land and people of Appalachia**. Come and hear what he has to say and view his photos. Also, please bring a can of food for the Friends Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Dec 9: Year end wrap-up and **holiday party**. Bring your favorite munchie to share.

South Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:

Group, Outings Chair:	Tom Boghosian	609-625-0878	boghosian1@verizon.net
Vice-Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Conservation Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Pol. Chair, Calendars:	Dick Colby	609-965-4453	dick.colby@stockton.edu
Membership Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Secretary/Treasurer:	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. There will be a meeting on Wed, Nov 11th. The Chair is Douglas Jewell, 5 Timber Lane, Swainton 08210-1462 (e-mail 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. To be placed on a carefully guarded distribution list for local issues and meetings, please e-mail dick.colby@stockton.edu.

Current Issues: Douglas Jewell is leading a campaign to prevent the **extension of NJ Rte 55** into Cape May County; his contact information is above. 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:

Oct 15, Nov 19, and Dec 17, 7pm: Atlantic County Friends of the Parks: Monthly meetings of Friends of the Parks, a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Park System. All are welcome. 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. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

Oct 21 and Dec 16, 7pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Bi-monthly meeting, open to the public. WFNC*. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

Nov 11, 6:30 pm: Bi-monthly meeting of **Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River** and its Tributaries: Annual meeting: Danielle Kreeger, PhD, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. 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. Website: www.cumauricriver.org — for information on the following additional events:

Oct 9: Fall Historical Recollections Campfire. Oct 10 rainedate.

(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)

Oct 17, 6:30 pm: Ah Why Knot Awards Dinner.

Nov 24, 7pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: Membership meeting, open to the public. The annual Belinda Irizarry Memorial Award will be presented. WFNC*. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

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/>

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".

OFFICERS:

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

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

GENERAL MEETINGS: Casual pizza gathering, introduction to club issues and activities, 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.

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.

HIKES:

Please join our listserv to receive notification of our outings Instructions are above.

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)

Our mission 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 is the editor of the Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section. She can be reached at azatz@funtravels.com. and invites members to check her web site at www.funtravels.com for trips and travel information.

Young Sierrans

(A special interest section for Sierra Club Members in their 20's & 30's, providing Socials and Outings to inspire a sense of community, appreciation for the environment, and involvement in preserving our future. Many events are open to all Young Sierrans regardless of marital status, so whether you are single, dating or married, please come join us!)

Young Sierran web site: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/YoungSierrans/>

YOUNG SIERRAN COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Head Chair & Coordinator:	William Sevchuk	wsevchuk@yahoo.com
Vice Chair:	Open Position	Please Contact Us!
Advisor, transitional:	Diana Christine Eichholz	MistyAngel22@aol.com
Conservation Chair:	Steve Timmerman	skiingsteve@aol.com
Webmaster:	Julie Garber	journey7@optonline.net
Ex-Com/		

YS National Rep. (CA)	Jackie Enfield	jackie@jackieenfield.com
Northern Jersey YS Rep.	Jim DeSantis	green@northjerseygreendrinks.com
Outings Chair:		
(Northern Jersey)	Open Position!	Please Contact Us!
Outings Chair:		
(Central Jersey)	Leon Yerenburg	lyerenburg@gmail.com
Outings Chair:		
(South Jersey)	Open Position!	Please Contact Us!

EVENTS: Volunteers for events throughout New Jersey wanted. Meet great people in your area! Publicity provided. Contact Coordinator at 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 with subject heading "Young Sierrans E-Mail List" — or to subscribe directly go to <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-YOUNG-SIERRANS-NEWS.html>. Events for 20's only are available for those wanting to volunteer to host 20's only events. Young Sierran Event Volunteers always needed and welcomed.

Sierra Student Coalition

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

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

Inner City Outings Section

(another Chapter-wide special interest activity)

OFFICERS:

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

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



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 January-March 2010 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before November 1. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it for the previous Sierran, due to the occasional lag in mailing. Also, please send outing rosters or sign-up sheets to the Chapter Office as soon as possible after each outing.

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

Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your January-March trip write-ups by November 5.

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.

SEPTEMBER

Sept 27 (Sun): Hedden Park of Mine Hill (Morris Co). 11am. This 2 to 3 mile stroll will begin from the Concord Road parking lot in Hedden Park. Mainly the white blazed trail but we will head over to see Indian Falls. This hike will feature elevation gains. See the Morris County Parks site (<http://www.morrisparks.org>) for directions and map. (Take I-287 to the Rte 10 exit and head northwest toward Dover. Right turn onto Rte 513 (Dover-Chester Turnpike), then 0.4 mile past YMCA to first stop sign, and turn left onto East Randolph. Drive west 0.2 mile and turn right onto Concord Road. Continue 0.4 mile to park entrance and the parking lot. Leader: Jim Davoust: davou@att.net, 203-214-9305 (JS).

OCTOBER

Oct 3 (Sat): South Mt. Reservation (Union Co) - singles outing. Meet before 10am at Turtle Back parking area. Take I-280 to Exit 10, Northfield Ave. west to Walker Rd. Left turn onto Walker Rd. Parking lot is 200 yards on right. 6-7 mile hike with some ups and downs. Rain cancels. Bring lunch- wear hiking boots. Contact Ron Pate, leader: ronpate31@verizon.net for info.

Oct 3 (Sat): Moonlight Hike, Campfire & Campout, 7pm. 6 miles at moderate pace. Hike under the Beaver moon as we walk on moonlit sand roads and return to a roaring fire. Camping is available; call to reserve space. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NP/NC. Meet at Bryne State Forest group campsite. Entrance is on Rte 72, 1/2 mile from junction of Rtes 70 & 72. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 evenings or pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Oct 4 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the D&R Canal from Bulls Island to Lambertville (Hunterdon/Mercer Co). 10am. We will paddle 8 miles from Bulls Island State Park to Firemen's Eddy, stopping for lunch at Prallsville Mill and Lock. Warren "Philo" Elmer, naturalist and Sierra member, will join us to share the history of the D&R Canal as we paddle. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and logistics. Rentals are not available. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Oct 7 (Wed): Celebrate Pinelands Month - Cranberry "Cruise" on Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am. We'll stop to pick cranberries at old bogs as we paddle favorite Pines streams. Meet at Double Trouble Park, Pinewald-Keswick and Double Trouble Rds. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting logistics. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct 9 (Fri): Hike in Double Trouble State Park (Ocean Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. October is Pinelands Month and cranberry harvesting season. Join us for a guided interpretive walk. After hiking we'll have lunch along Cedar Creek, option to geocache. Meet at Double Trouble Park, Pinewald-Keswick and Double Trouble Rds. Leashed dogs are welcome! Bring lunch and beverage. Leaders: Leona and George F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

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

Oct 10 (Sat): Washington Valley Park, Martinsville (Somerset Co). (Singles) 10am. This hike will cover 7 miles in 3 hours in moderately hilly terrain. This is the hike leader's home park. We'll pass along two reservoirs, visit the hawk watch patio, and take in views of the quarry. After the hike the crew will go to the nearby "East Star" buffet restaurant for lunch. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Registration required via e-mail. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: the_hikist@mac.com.

Oct 10 (Sat): Sterling Forest Fire Tower Ramble (NY, Singles) 10am. 5 miles, moderate to slow pace. Option to extend if the group desires. This is a moderately strenuous hike with a considerable amount of climbing. Bring water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. No sneakers. Meet at the Visitors Center. See the Sterling Forest website for information and directions: <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/info.asp?parkID=81>. No pets please. Steady/heavy rain cancels. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com.

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

Oct 11 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River Water Gap (Sussex Co) 9am. Fall foliage should be spectacular. We plan to paddle 10 miles from Dingmans Ferry to Bushkill Falls. Trip is for experienced paddlers. Kayaks must be 12ft or over; spray skirts and helmets recommended. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and logistics. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Oct 14 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Mullica River (Burlington Co) 9am. We'll paddle 12 miles from Atsion to Pleasant Mills. This is an all-day trip for experienced Pinelands paddlers. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation, meeting time and logistics. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct. 17 (Sat): South Mountain Reservation (Union Co) in the Fall. 9:30 am. Washington Rock and Hemlock Falls await the autumn hiker. We'll hike at a speedy pace for 3+ miles on both well-trodden and winding paths to the overlook. Hiking boots suggested. Bring lunch/water. Well-behaved dog ok. Rain cancels. Directions: I-78 west to exit 50B, Millburn direction, taking Vauxhall Rd. Left at 2nd Exxon, right on Wyoming just after Whole Foods Market. Proceed 2 miles to stoplight, left uphill on Rte 510 for 1.6 mi, right on Brookside Drive for 0.4 mi to Tulip Springs lot. After leaving main road, continue toward right. Leader Jim Davoust: davou@att.net, 203-214-9305. (JS)

Oct 17 (Sat): Canoe Trip on the Passaic River, Essex Co. (Singles). 10am. Canoe 4 hours at a steady pace observing the wildlife and natural settings. Bring water, picnic lunch and comfortable clothes. Meet promptly at the Canoe garage next to the Environmental Center on Eagle Rock Ave in Roseland, ½ mile west of the intersection of Eisenhower Pkwy and Eagle Rock Ave. Reservations required. A limited number of canoes are available at \$15 per seat. (\$20 for non-members). Older children are welcome and can sit in the middle. Rain cancels. Reservation/payments are due by Mon, Oct 7. For further information and to register; email leaders: Ron Pate, ronpate31@verizon.net or Walter Goldenbaum, goldenb1@optonline.net.

Oct 17 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 9am. Celebrate Pinelands Month with a stop at Chatsworth's Cranberry Festival weekend after our trip. We'll paddle 7 miles from Lake Oswego to Harrisville Lake. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Mick's Canoe and Kayak Rental 800-281-1380 or www.mickscanorental.com/. Contact leaders to confirm trip: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct 18 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River Water Gap (Sussex Co) 9am. Fall foliage should be spectacular. We plan to paddle 16 miles from Bushkill Falls thru the Walpack Bend to Kittatinny Point. Trip is for experienced paddlers. Kayaks must be 12ft or over; spray skirts and helmets recommended. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and logistics: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Oct 24 (Sat): Highlands Trail Fall Foliage Hike (Sussex Co) 11am. Repeat of last year's great fall foliage hike on Highlands Trail to beautiful Bear Pond, near Lake Hopatcong. 5 miles. Moderate difficulty. For information, contact Herb Wolff: 845-544-2371, or herbwolff@warwick.net.

Oct. 25 (Sun): Social Hike. Hawk Mountain (Hamburg, PA). 8am. Moderate-paced 7-mile hike in Hawk Mt. Bird Sanctuary. Observe a variety of hawks and other migratory birds in a natural setting. Spectacular views of the valley and ridge. Good boots and physical shape required. Bring binoculars. NC/NP. Optional family style dinner at a local eatery after hike. Meet promptly (8am) in the rear parking lot of Crown Plaza Hotel (formerly Hilton Hotel) on Rte 70, to carpool/caravan to site. Contact leader for carpool/caravan information. Or meet at 9:30 am: Hawk Mt. Visitors Center. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eve, Pis1@cccnj.net.

Oct 28 (Wed): Hiking the Pastoral Landscapes of Bucks County PA. 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. Join us on a hike of the Bucks County Audubon's Honey Hollow Environmental Education Center and adjacent Tuckamony Farm, located in Solebury Township (2 miles outside of New Hope). (Website: www.bcas.org.) BCAS Executive Director John Brunner will lead this interpretive hike in the Honey Hollow watershed. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1969, Honey Hollow is the site of the nation's first watershed conservation effort by the USDA's Soil Conservation Service. As such it is the birthplace of the watershed movement in the United States. We'll walk the trails along Honey Hollow and visit the Audubon Visitor Center. Bring lunch and beverages. After our lunch break at BCAS it's a short drive to the Bowman's Hill Wildlife Preserve in New Hope (small fee). We'll visit the Twinleaf Shop, hike the trails and then join Preserve staff for a one-hour guided wildflower walk at 2pm. Contact leaders to confirm your participation: Leona and George F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com.

Oct 31 (Sat): Wurtsboro Ridge Hike (NY). Strenuous hike with several ascents/descents totaling over 2,500 ft. elevation gain/loss. Hike takes about 6.5 hours including lunch and snack breaks. Great views. Car shuttle set up meets at 9:45 am in Wurtsboro. Hike starts 10:45 am, finishes around 5:30 pm. Optional dinner stop at Danny's in Wurtsboro after hike. Rain would cancel. Limit 12 people. Must preregister. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

NOVEMBER

Nov 1 (Sun): Pine Meadow Lake/Harriman State Park (Rockland Co NY). 10am. Moderate-paced 9-mile hike with great views to Pine Meadow and back along the brook. Several steep ups and downs over rocky trails. Bring lunch and lots of water. Opt. pizza/beer stop after hike. Limit 12 people. Must preregister. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

Nov 3 (Tues): Vote and Float - Canoe/Kayak the N. Branch Rancocas Creek Canoe Trail (Burlington Co). 9am. The Rancocas is the largest watershed in south central New Jersey. Thanks to the Burlington County Parks System - paddlers are invited to experience this beautiful 14-mile waterway from BCCC to Mount Holly. Rentals are not available. Meet at the Vincentown Diner - arrive early for breakfast. Contact leaders for trip participation and logistics: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Nov 7 (Sat): Jockey Hollow Grand Loop (Morris Co) - Singles. 10am. Hike 5 miles at a moderate to slow pace. We will do the parts of the Grand Loop: blue trail and yellow trail. We will stop at the soldiers huts. See <http://www.nps.gov/morr/planyourvisit/directions.htm> for directions and information. Bring lots of water, a light snack, and wear hiking boots. Meet at the Visitors' Center. Heavy/steady rain cancels. 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.

Nov 8 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the D&R Canal from Lambertville to Cadwalader Park (Mercer Co). 9am. We'll paddle from Firemen's Eddy to historic Cadwalader Park in Trenton. The Park was designed by the famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. The trip is 12 miles with a lunch stop at Washington Crossing Park. Bring lunch, snacks and beverage. There are 2 portages; bring portage wheels if you have them. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and logistics: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com, and Warren "Philo" Elmer: wpelmer@gmail.com. (C)

Nov 8 (Sun): Wissahickon Gorge Hike (Philadelphia PA). 8:30 am Hike 6 miles at a moderate pace over hills and valleys. In late fall there are spectacular views. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Proper hiking shoes required. Meet at 8:30 am in the rear parking lot of Crown Plaza Hotel (formerly Hilton Hotel) on Rte 70, to carpool/caravan to site. Or meet 9:30 am at Valley Green parking lot in park. NP/NC. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eve, or pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Nov 11 (Wed): Hike on Veterans Day at Veterans Park (Mercer Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. This magnificent 333-acre park was built in honor of Hamilton Township's veterans in 1977. Ribbons of walking paths are sprinkled through wooded areas and intermittent picnic grounds and rest stops. Meet at Mastoris Restaurant parking lot, 144 Rte 130, Bordentown. Veterans Park is a short drive from the restaurant. Option for lunch at Mastoris after the hike. Leashed dogs are welcome. This is a nice family hike. Leaders: Leona and George F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Nov 13 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak on the Crosswicks Creek (Mercer Co). 9:30 am. Fall foliage will be lovely on the Crosswicks. This is a 14-mile shuttleless trip on the Crosswicks Creek Canoe Trail. We paddle with the tide from Bordentown to Anchor Thread Park in Groveville. Kayaks must be 12ft and over. Bring your lunch and beverage. Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St. Option - 8:30 breakfast at Torp's Too Café on Park St. Contact leaders to confirm trip: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com, and Warren "Philo" Elmer: wpelmer@gmail.com. (C)

Nov 14 (Sat): Roebbling Park and Marsh Land Cleanup (Mercer Co). 9am - 12noon. Spring Lake area. Bring gloves if you have them, water to drink; wear long sleeves, long pants. Meet at Spring Lake - Roebbling Park (end of Sewell Ave., Hamilton). Joint with Mercer County Parks and D&R Greenway Land Trust. Leader: Terry Stimpfel: terystimb@hotmail.com, or 609-731-7016.

Nov 14 (Sat): Norvin Green, Ringwood (Passaic Co). (Singles) 10am. This hike venue is probably the most rugged and challenging park in New Jersey. We will cover about six miles in four hours but it will feel more like eight. No beginners. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. Registration required via email. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: the_hikist@mac.com.

Nov 15 (Sun): Black River Trail/Patriots Path (Morris Co). 10:45 am Moderate paced hike along a very scenic trail that connects two nature centers in Morris County and follows the Black River. Rain would cancel. Carpool can be set up from Parsippany at 10am or meet at trailhead at 10:45. Optional stop for drinks/dinner after the hike at local pub/restaurant next to trailhead. Limit 12 people. Must preregister. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

Nov 18 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burl Co). 10am. Enjoy a fall trip on the "Jewel of the Pinelands" as we paddle 7 miles from Lake Oswego to Harrisville Lake. Meet at Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego Rd. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and logistics: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Nov 21 (Sat): Sunset Hike and Star Gazing at Batsto (Burl Co). 4pm Hike 6 miles at moderate pace between two rivers as we watch the sun set over the pines. We come back to our tailgate social and meet with the Willingboro Astronomical Society to view Uranus, Neptune, stars and galaxies. NP/NC. Bring picnic-type food to share, blanket or chair to sit on. Dress for the weather. Meet in the northern parking lot Batsto Village, Rte 542, 8 miles east of Hammonton. Optional overnight camping is available at Bass River SP; contact leader for information: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eve, or Pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Nov 21 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the D&R Canal (Middlesex Co). 10am. There may still be fall foliage to enjoy along the canal as we paddle 9 miles from Amwell Rd to Demott Lane. There are 3 canal lock portages, so bring portage wheels if you have them. Dinner option at Pooja's in Somerset. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and logistics: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com.

Nov 28 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the D&R Canal from Lawrenceville to Kingston (Mercer Co). 9am. Too much turkey and trimmings? Then work off those calories with this 11-mile paddle from Cherry Tree Lane to Kingston - no portages either! Bring your Thanksgiving leftovers for lunch. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and logistics: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Nov 29 (Sun): Manasquan River Reservoir, Monmouth County (Special Interest: birds). 9am. Enjoy an easy 5-mile circular hike on one of the largest reservoirs in the area. We may observe water fowl. Bring snacks, drinks, bird books and/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 front. Bad weather cancels. Confirmation/questions please call or text leader: Mike Verange: 908-902-0718, or mjverange@aol.com. (JS)

DECEMBER

Dec 2 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 9am. We'll have the Great Egg all to ourselves as we paddle 9 miles from Penny Pot to Weymouth Furnace. Meet at the Harley Dawn Diner, Rte 322/Black Horse Pike - arrive early for breakfast! Contact leaders to confirm trip: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 4 (Fri): Moonlight Hike, Campfire and Campout in the Pines. 7pm. Hike 7 miles at a moderate pace. Enjoy a winter moonlight hike in the Pines under the Cold Moon on a new route and return to a roaring campfire. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NC/NP. Meet at Atsion Lake, Burl. Co. From Rte 206 take Atsion Rd. west 1 mile, to Goshen Pond Group Site sign, turn left into camping area. Camping is available; call to reserve space. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-463-3593 evenings, or pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Dec 5 (Sat): NJ Audubon Society 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/. Inclement weather cancels. Co-leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com, and Warren "Philo" Elmer: wpelmer@gmail.com. (C)

Dec 6 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am. Cedar is a very pretty waterway in December; especially if we have an early snowfall. The trip will be 7 miles from Ore Pond to Dudley Park. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation, time and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 12 (Sat): Hatfield Swamp Hike, Essex Co. (Singles) 10am. Meet at the Essex County Environmental Center, 621B Eagle Rock Ave, Roseland. Moderate 4-5 mile hike. Wear water-proof boots & bring a lunch and binoculars. Rain cancels Take I-280 E or W to Exit 4A. This will put you on Eisenhower Parkway. Make a right at the first light onto Eagle Rock Ave. The Center is 1/2 mile on the left. Plenty of parking in front of the building. Leader: Ron Pate: ronpate31@verizon.net.

Dec 12 (Sat): Lambertville (Hunterdon Co): Delaware Canal Walk. 11am. 10-mile easy loop walk along the canal north from Lambertville to Prallsville Mill and back on the Pennsylvania side to New Hope. Depending on weather we will either picnic or stop at a local café for lunch. Rain will cancel. Group limited to 12 people. Must preregister. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

(continued on page 12)



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FOUNDED 1892

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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!)

Sept 12, Oct 10, and Nov 14, at the New Brunswick Public Library (60 Livingston Av)

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.

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

Dec 12 (Sat): Lewis Morris Park, Morristown, Morris Co. (Singles) 10am. This hike will cover about 6 miles in three hours in moderately hilly terrain. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. Registration required via email. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: the_hikist@mac.com.

Dec 13 (Sun): Valley Forge National Park (PA). 8am. 6 miles at moderate pace. Hike the National Park and appreciate the hardships of our forefathers. Revolutionary re-enactors will be present, portraying life in the early days. We will go to Manayunk Brewery for a breakfast buffet after hike. Meet in rear parking lot of Crown Plaza Hotel on Rte 70 Cherry Hill (former Hilton Hotel) to carpool/caravan at 8am, or meet at upper level parking lot at Park's Visitors' Center by restroom entrance at 9am. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 evenings, or pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Dec 13 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak on the Crosswicks Creek/HTB Marsh (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 10am. This is an 8-mile trip from Bordentown Beach to Roebling Park for lunch; walk to Spring Lake before returning with the tide. Bring lunch and hot beverage. Option for early breakfast at Torp's Too Café on Park St. Contact leaders to confirm trip: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com, and Warren "Philo" Elmer: wpelmer@gmail.com. (C)

Dec 13 (Sun): Ramapo Reservation (Passaic/Bergen Cos). 10:15 am Moderate-paced 9-10-mile loop connects Ramapo Reservation to Ringwood State Park, passing 3 lakes and 2 great viewpoints. Bring lunch & lots of water. Rain would cancel. Opt. pizza/beer stop after hike. Limit 12 people. Must preregister. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

Dec 16 (Wed): Historic Smithville Hike and Holiday Mansion Tour (Burlington Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. Hike the grounds of this historic village, known for the Smithville-Mount Holly Bicycle Railroad. The 290-acre park features a diverse collection of habitats and terrain, upland forests and meadows. After hiking, we'll enjoy a guided tour of the Smithville Mansion (small fee). Option for late lunch at Vincentown Diner. Meet at Smith's Woods at Historic Smithville Park, East Railroad Ave, Eastampton. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com.

Dec 21 (Mon): Celebrate the Winter Solstice - Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burl Co). 10am. We'll paddle 6 miles from Hawkin Bridge to Evans Bridge. Join us for our annual solstice celebration as the sun renews its journey to longer days. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 23 (Wed): Search for Santa on the N. Branch, Rancocas Creek (Burl Co). 9am. Wear your Santa hat as we look "high and low" for Santa on the 10-mile Canoe Trail from Burlington County Community College to Smithville. Meet at the Vincentown Diner on Rte 206 - arrive early for breakfast. Contact leaders for trip participation, meeting time and logistics: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 26-31 (Sat-Thur): It's Patriots Week in Trenton (Mercer Co). Are you interested in the history of the American Revolution in NJ? Washington's crossing of the Delaware? Patriots Week offers fun and history for the entire family. See the First and Second Battles of Trenton Reenactments, join Walking Tours of the Trenton and Princeton Battlefields, learn about archaeological discoveries in Trenton, take a State House civics tour, etc. Website: www.patriotsweek.com. Contact leaders to meet-up for event(s) of interest: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

JANUARY

Jan 1, 2010 (Fri): Harteshorne 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. Then Rte 36 toward Sandy Hook approx. 10 miles to Portland Rd (last exit before bridge to Sandy Hook). Stay on Portland Rd to top of hill. Parking area is on left. Bad weather (including snow cover) cancels. Confirmation/questions please call or text leader: Mike Verange: 908-902-0718, or mjverange@aol.com. (JS)



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

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