

The Jersey..... SIERRAN

Vol. 39, No. 1 Roughly 20,000 Members in New Jersey January-March 2010

New Jersey Election Results – 2009

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

Gubernatorial

While the Chapter is naturally disappointed that Chris Daggett, our endorsed candidate, was defeated, we look forward with some optimism to working with both the new governor Chris Christie and the State Legislature – to secure a stable source of funding (i.e. within the state budget) for open space acquisition, to reduce energy use through more effective energy efficiency standards, to create green jobs in the manufacturing of renewable energy, to put into place public policies that encourage urban living as opposed to suburban sprawl, to stop the Delaware Deepening project, and to increase penalties for violations of the “Ocean Dumping Act” and the “Comprehensive Regulated Medical Waste Act.”

Public Question #1

One of the best results of the November election was passage of the \$400 million bond act by 52.2% of the vote. This is great news, as the funds will replenish the Green Acres Program, which preserves open space and farmland, including parks, and fish and wildlife habitat, and protects public water supplies and floodplains.

Assembly Races

Congratulations to the endorsed candidates who won with our support, listed below. All 28 were incumbents; none of our four endorsed challengers or contestants for open seats was successful. All 8 of the endorsed Republicans won, as did 20 of the 24 endorsed Democrats. The 12th Legislative District (LD), central Monmouth Co, in which we endorsed two Democratic challengers, and which was 53%D in 2003, has gone steadily

Sustainable Life-style Articles inside:

- Disposing of Smoke Detectors**
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- Rather than Fish**
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- Healthy Home**
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Report from Trenton:

Highlands Council Sells Out Again: Council votes 9-2 to approve a gas pipeline that will cut right through the Highlands

By Jeff Tittel and Kara Seymour, of our Trenton staff

On Nov 12th, the Highlands Council once again sold out the Highlands for the benefit of a utility company, granting the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company an exemption from the Highlands Act.

The Highlands Council’s staff had recommended against this pipeline, which will cut right through a reservoir. The proposal is inconsistent with the Highlands Plan on 16 separate counts, most of them involving water issues. Please be reminded that the Highlands Plan and Highlands Act were specifically created to protect the region’s water.

This is the second time this year the Council has reversed itself. In May, it approved the PSE&G Susquehanna-to-Roseland high-voltage Transmission Line. And, as with the Transmission Line, the Council’s approval was purchased with a bribe: 55 acres of open space that are already protected!

This project will have a horrific impact not only on the Highlands but also on New York and Pennsylvania - because the gas transported will originate in a formation in those two states called the Marcellus Shale, and be obtained by drilling and fracturing the shale, a process that pollutes groundwater and ultimately the Delaware River. You can’t mitigate for this kind of environmental destruction. The Highlands Act was supposed to protect us from these types of projects.

The pipeline will cross 23 miles of Highlands. It was approved on the grounds that it is an upgrade of an existing pipeline, which it is not. It is a new pipeline being dug in a trench parallel to an existing pipeline. It is also bigger and will carry significantly more gas.

The route will be through some of the region’s most important environmentally-sensitive areas, including the watersheds of seven of North Jersey’s largest water

supply reservoirs, which provide drinking water for more than 2.5 million people.

Our major concern is that it will disturb and destroy more than 230 acres of critical lands in the Highlands, cutting through many Category One streams, exceptional resource value wetlands, critical forest habitats, habitats of threatened and endangered species, and conservation priority areas as designated by the Highlands. Its construction will destroy an additional 500 acres as roads are needed to bring in heavy equipment. Furthermore, massive digging will result in high levels of silt entering the critical waterways and reservoirs.

The Highlands Council’s approval also failed to address an issue of environmental justice. The route includes Upper Ringwood, which has endured its share of pollution due to the Ford Superfund Site.

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Reader Survey

In a time of media innovations, we invite you to help guide Sierra Club practices in New Jersey: The last time we did this was April, 2004. Check as many or few boxes as you like, feel free to disregard any questions that seem too inquisitive, and to write in additional comments. Please mail to Survey, Sierra Club, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618. Or you can respond online: from the Chapter website, click Newsletters.

This Newsletter

- Check all its features that interest you:
 - Group News
 - Outings
 - Sustainable Life-style articles, including Eating Green and Eco-tips
 - Reports from Trenton (on state environmental politics)

- Reports from our Issue Coordinators (on energy, population, etc.)
- Editorial page (Chair’s Message, Resolutions Adopted, Cartoon, Editorial)
- (add a comment if you like):

- Would you be as likely to read it if it appeared only in **electronic format**:
 - No – I prefer hard copy.
 - Yes – the format doesn’t matter to me.
 - Yes – but the current pdf electronic format is clumsy; html is preferable.
 () How frequently to you access the internet in your private (i.e. non-employment) life?
- There was an ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENT to the Oct-Dec, 2009, issue:

- Did you look at it?
 - If so, did you think your time well spent?
 - Feel free to add comments:
- Would you be likely to utilize any or all of the following additions to our “out-reach”?
 - Blogging
 - Twittering
 - Facebooking.
 - (suggest others?)
 - Comment on the **quarterly frequency** of the Jersey Sierran:
 - Satisfactory.
 - Would prefer six issues per year.
 - Would prefer fewer than four issue per year.
 - Would accept (and appreciate) additional (intermediate)

- electronic issues.
- ### Your Club involvement
- How long have you been a member?
 - More than ten years.
 - Between five and ten years.
 - Between two and five years.
 - Less than two years.
 - How active are you:
 - Attend Group meetings once a year or more.
 - Join outings at least once a year.
 - Read and send Action Alerts (contacting politicians on issues).
 - Vote regularly in Sierra Club (Chapter and Group) elections.
 - Frequent discussions of environmental issues with family, friends, neighbors.
- (continued on page 2)

Sierra Club Group Ballot:

If you are a member of the Northwest Jersey Group, Hunterdon County Group, or Hudson-Meadowlands Group, please vote your section of the ballot below, and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Feb 1, to **Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618**. (Your name and address, on the reverse side of this ballot, will be used to verify your eligibility to vote, and will be obscured before the ballot is counted.) 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.

Hudson-Meadowlands Group: Candidates for two-year terms on the Group ExCom, listed alphabetically. Brief bios of these candidates are in this Issue's Group News section. Please vote for UP TO FIVE.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monica Dua | <input type="checkbox"/> Connie Ftera |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Janet Glass | <input type="checkbox"/> Jodi Jamieson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Lanset | <input type="checkbox"/> Louise Taylor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helen Monague | |

Northwest Jersey Group: Requesting approval for a Name-Change: to the Skylands Group

Do you approve of the Name-Change to Skylands Group?

- Yes No

Hunterdon County Group: Requesting approval for a Name-Change: to the South Highlands Group

Do you approve of the Name-Change to South Highlands Group?

- Yes No

Judith Enck Chosen as EPA Regional Administrator

By Kara Seymour and Jeff Tittel, of our Trenton staff

On Nov 5th, the White House announced the appointment of Judith Enck, New York Deputy Secretary for the Environment, as EPA Administrator for Region 2, which includes New Jersey. The NJ Sierra Club applauds this appointment, and are grateful to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and the Obama Administration.

The Club has a long history working with Enck on many issues from toxic cleanups to global warming. She helped force the NJ-DEP to clean up polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the Hudson River. She helped to set up the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. She has overseen the clean-up of toxic sites from Long Island to the Canadian border.

Given all the problems the DEP has with site remediation, the weakening of regulations, the legislature's bad bills like permit extension and licensed site professionals, and Governor Corzine's budget cuts, this is a critical time to have a strong EPA Regional Administrator.

POPULATION ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

If you educate a girl, you educate a community

By Bonnie Tillery, (blt44blt@msn.com)

Perhaps you have read "*Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace One School at a Time*," by Greg Mortenson, or at least seen the book on the NY Times best seller list for the last 142 weeks (as of 11/1/09). Mortenson writes about his failed attempt to climb the second highest mountain in the world, K2 in Pakistan. In failing to reach his goal, he found his life's work -- to build schools and improve lives, especially for girls, in Pakistan and Afghanistan. His book is an adventure story of climbing, and a testament to the resilience and dedication of one person who, through great sacrifice, fulfilled a promise to the people of a remote rural village who helped save his life.

This past fall, Mortenson was in New Brunswick to take his second cup of tea with an audience of some 800. (In Pakistan, when you are invited for your first cup of tea, you are a stranger. When you come back and are offered a second cup of tea, you are an honored guest. When you are invited in to drink your third cup of tea, you are family, and for family you are prepared to do anything, even die.)

The Central Asia Institute, co-founded by Mortenson, is now fully or partially supporting 140 schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Of their 58,000 students, 44,000 are girls. He believes in the African proverb he learned growing up in Tanzania, "If you educate a boy, you educate an individual. If you educate a girl, you educate a community."

When you hear about the fighting and deliberate destruction of schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan, especially those for girls, the question arises: how have Mortenson's schools fared? The answer is that none have been damaged! The

schools are generally located in areas that have not seen fighting, and they are built by the communities who donate their land and their labor. The Central Asia Institute supplies the materials. With this buy-in, the communities are very invested in ensuring their schools are not destroyed.

According to the World Bank, income growth goes up as women are educated. Mortenson has seen that educating girls does help alleviate poverty. It also helps reduce infant mortality by as much as 20% with each year of additional education; decrease population growth by 40% if women have a primary education; improve quality of life with better sanitation, hygiene and nutrition; and continue the cycle of education - a mother with a primary education is five times more likely to send her children to school than a mother with no education.

Mortenson said, "the number one problem is too many people." "Just educating a girl to the fifth-grade level reduces infant mortality (and) reduces the population explosion." According to the latest available information from the 2008 Population Reference Bureau data sheet, in Afghanistan each woman has, on average, 6.8 children with an infant mortality rate of 163 per 1000 live births; in Pakistan a woman will have, on average, 4.1 children with an infant mortality of 75. Numbers for a stable population are 2.1 children, and a stable population puts fewer strains on the environment.

Mortenson said, "Education should be our top global priority...We can drop bombs, we can build roads or we can put in electricity. But unless the girls are educated, the world won't change."

To learn more about the Central Asia Institute and Greg Mortenson's work go to: www.ikat.org.

Report from Trenton:

Weatherization: NJ out in the Cold

By Grace Sica and Jeff Tittel, of our Trenton staff

October 30th was National Weatherization Day, an annual opportunity to remind people of the value of investing in energy efficiency, and to reassess New Jersey's energy efficiency policies. The Sierra Club regrets that a recent study shows New Jersey is no longer considered one of the top ten states in efficiency efforts and green jobs.

The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy released its 2009 scorecard which showed New Jersey has dropped off its Top Ten List of States. Also, a Pew Report, released in July, found green jobs in New Jersey had declined by 9.6%; the second worst performance of any state.

Failure to implement energy programs comes at a cost to the environment and the economy. Every dollar invested in residential efficiency returns four dollars over the life of the home; every dollar invested in commercial efficiency returns 16 dollars over the life of the building.

Weatherization is the most cost effective way to lower our carbon footprint while saving people money on energy.

It is estimated that retrofitting U.S. homes could reduce associated greenhouse gas emissions by up to 160 million metric tons annually by 2020. Residential buildings are responsible for a staggering twenty percent of global warming pollution. Many families lose money on energy bills each month because their homes aren't energy efficient. Weatherizing homes is one simple solution that will create thousands of good jobs, put money in the pockets of American families, and help fight global warming.

Resolutions Adopted by ExCom in September, October and November, 2009

We asked both DEP and the NRC to **require closed-loop cooling towers** as a condition of the re-licensing of the three Salem nuclear power plants. (September)

Two new **Issue Coordinators** were approved: Jonathan Wall for Alaska Issues, and Steve Lanset for Transportation Issues. (September)

The national Club was urged to provide **better training programs for Chapter and Group conservation officials**. (September)

We protested a decision by national Sierra Club to no longer insure **bike-athon-type outings**, joining the Ohio and Maryland Chapters. (September)

On the issue of **horizontal drilling for natural gas**, which includes a fracturing process using proprietary chemicals, that such fracturing not be permitted in the Marcellus shale formation of the Delaware River Watershed, which supplies much of New Jersey's drinking water. (October)

We petitioned for an extended comment period before redevelopment of the **Raritan Arsenal**, in Edison, as Port Raritan, an intermodal freight transfer complex. (October)

We opposed **Asbury Park's proposed Bradley Cove Development**, which would restrict public access to the beach and boardwalk. (October)

We supported federal legislation to require that **cigarette filters be made of biodegradable materials**. (October)

Two last-minute **political endorsements**: for a local election in Jackson Twp, Ocean Co: Mike Kafton for Mayor and Howard Tillis for Council. (by conf. call on 29th October) [both lost]

Legal action was authorized, in support of Delaware Riverkeeper, to oppose the Corps of Engineers' latest attempt to **deepen the shipping channel of the Delaware River**. (Nov)

Dismal Swamp: Edison Twp's (Middlesex Co) attempt to authorize location of a church on a sensitive site was opposed. (Nov)

Survey

(continued from page 1)

8. What environmental issues are most important to you (please rank them #1 etc.):

- Global Warming = Climate Change = energy conservation
- Land Use = residential sprawl = open space preservation
- Environmental health = green life style = air, soil and water pollution
- Population
- Environmental Justice

9. Which "faces" of the Sierra Club interest and engage you?

- The political and lobbying side.
- The recreational side.
- The social side.
- The side that displays as a charitable and educational force for societal change, through public education.

10. How do you regard the political (lobbying) "operation" of the Sierra Club:

- Constructively, as an intelligent and responsible force for change.
- Too extremist and irresponsible to obtain respect from legislators.
- Marginally effective, as too small and isolated a group to accomplish change.
- More "professional" (staff-driven) than "grass roots" (volunteer-driven) in its operations.
- More "grass roots" than "professional" in its operations.
- More "national" than "local (New Jersey)" in its operations.
- More "local" than "national" in its operations.

Your lifestyle

11. Characterize your residential situation:

- "Automobile" suburban
- "Railroad" suburban (compact enough for good public transportation, and walking to shops)
- Urban
- Freestanding town (shops and schools walkable)
- More rural than suburban or town.

12. How seriously do you regard the threat of Global Warming?

- Enough to have replaced incandescent light bulbs with CFLs.
- Enough to live in a walkable community - without a car.
- Enough to have installed solar panels, a wind turbine, or geothermal well.
- Enough to make frequent use of

public transportation.

- Enough to consider buying a share of a COMMUNITY solar electricity scheme?
- Enough to have taken other steps (please describe):

13. How would you describe your politics:

- Generally Republican
- Generally Democrat
- Generally Independent

14. Your age, if you would be so kind:

- Under 30
- 30-60
- Over 60

15. Any additional handwritten comments would be carefully considered by Club officers.

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

Editorial

The Invisible Hand, Unemployment and the Environment

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



photo: James Mendissohn

Classic economic dogma, from the pen of Adam Smith (1723-1790), holds that an "invisible hand" provides jobs for everyone in a free market economy. Smith lived at a time when 80% of the population lived on farms, and most of the jobs involved walking behind a horse-drawn plow. But the theory held good through 19th Century migrations from rural farms to urban industries, and through the 20th Century shift from urban industrial jobs to suburban service jobs. The farm sector shrunk to 64% by 1850, 38% by 1900, and 12% by 1950 (source: Information Please Almanac), where it has remained. In the last 50 years we've seen another trend: from private sector jobs to public sector jobs. (I had difficulty finding statistics suitable for comparison - "Statistical Abstracts" provides numbers in the range of 13 to 18%, in the public sector, for the period 1980 to 2000.)

Meanwhile (getting back to history), the environment was plundered. Early towns and cities (before sewage treatment was invented in the early 20th Century), were cesspits of environmental degradation, and industrial production required the stripping of forests, the slashing of landscape for manufacture of bricks and many other commodities, and the dumping of increasingly toxic wastes into landfills and rivers.

Pioneer environmentalists, including the Sierra Club's John Muir, others identified in Ken Burns' recent history of our National Parks, Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson, the Ehrlichs, and Al Gore, provoked a turning of the tide, resulting in islands of preserved open space, and much healthier daily lives for most Americans. And all this time the population grew, and continues to grow. Now a new environmental threat, Global Warming, threatens global food supply, spread of tropical infectious diseases, and sea level rise of many meters in this Century.

The years since Adam Smith have also seen a cyclical progression of economic booms and busts, intensifying as local and regional economies gave way to national and international economies. Textbooks supply 1873, 1893, 1929 and 2007 as years of national panic, when invested fortunes were lost, and many employees were relieved of their jobs.

I don't claim a direct relationship between unemployment and the environment. If anything, it's at times of high employment that affluent people can afford more travel and more consumption, and produce more waste. And "progress" enables "better living through chemistry," so more pesticides, more plastics, and a more disposable culture. The 2007 recession has actually benefited the environment by reducing jet and automotive fuel consumption and emissions, and the enormous waste associated with the fast food lifestyle.

Rather, I'd like to explore the fundamental correctness of the invisible hand dogma: as fewer and fewer jobs are "needed" to provide the necessities (and even the luxuries) of life (food, clothing, shelter and entertainment), don't more and more of them prove to be insubstantial, expendable, unjustifiable in times of financial stringency, and unrewarding in a profound existential sense? So many jobs are just "make-work." I've seen whole rooms full of federal agency secretaries sitting neatly at their desks, reading their novels. I'm amazed to contemplate that much of the high cost of

American health care goes to pay all the clerks who bill the insurance providers, and who process all the insurance claims. With the state government so deeply in debt to the pension funds of former employees, do we really need all the current employees? With such drastically different public employee percentages from one state to another, are all those jobs really necessary? Perhaps they exist for reasons of a not-so-invisible hand!

If the reason for government is really to provide jobs, i.e. to satisfy the invisible hand, then we should consider how to maximize jobs at the least cost, both to the state purse and to the environment. Public jobs have some of the strongest union protections in these times, with regulations that give considerable protection even to underperforming workers, such that the only way to get them out of a poorly performing niche is often to promote them! (Sierra Club officers hear many such claims made for high-level officials in the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.) Their salaries have been climbing past those of the private sector, where much less job security is available. I suggest a "reckoning" or "balancing" process, in which job security is considered a value that offsets salary and other benefits. If the need for make-work jobs is acknowledged as a modern necessity, then so should be the need for inexpensive lifestyles of environmental minimalism. I suggest capping the salaries of all public servants at \$100,000, including benefits, requiring all state (and other government) employees to live where they can commute by public transit, and begin to consider how they can serve as models for everyone else as conservers of water, electricity and other limited resources.

I ask you to focus on the "invisible hand." Isn't it remarkable that all the farm jobs should have been replaced by equal numbers of industrial jobs, and that all the industrial jobs, as they migrated to Mexico and China, should have engendered a magically equivalent number of service jobs? And what are those service jobs? The US Bureau of Labor Statistics classifies them as follows (World Almanac, 2006):

Professional Service		(34.9%)
Management	14.6M	(10.5%)
Financial	5.7M	(4.1%)
Computer	3.1M	(2.2%)
Architect/Engineer	2.8M	(2.0%)
Scientists	1.4M	(1.0%)
Social Service	2.2M	(1.6%)
Legal	1.6M	(1.1%)
Education/Library	7.9M	(5.7%)
Arts/Sports/Entertain.	2.7M	(1.9%)
Health Care	6.7M	(4.8%)
Non-professional Service		(16.3%)
Health Care	2.9M	(2.1%)
Police/Fire/Security	2.8M	(2.0%)
Food Service	7.3M	(5.2%)
Building/Grounds	5.2M	(3.7%)
Personal Care	4.5M	(3.2%)
Sales	16.0M	(11.5%)
Clerical	19.5M	(14.0%)
Transportation	8.5M	(6.1%)

Against this comes the small non-service portion of American employment:

Construction		(10.5%)
Farm/Fish/Forestry	1.0M	(0.7%)
Construction/Extr'n	8.5M	(6.1%)
Installation/Repair	5.1M	(3.7%)
Manufacturing	9.5M	(6.8%)

Chair's Message

Economic Growth and the Environment

By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)



I was an economics major in college. After spending four years of my life and thousands of dollars of my parents' hard-earned money, I came to the realization that this stuff is harder than most people think, that I really didn't have a clue as to what it all means and that if I had any hope of pursuing a successful career, it wasn't going to be as an economist. Well, I still don't have a clue as to what it all means. But at least now I realize that I am not in bad company.

When I think back to my college days, my mind invariably returns to a class that began like many other classes, an exercise in trying to stay awake after spending too much time the night before on nonacademic pursuits. The class was being taught by a non-tenured instructor and he was discussing the gross national product, clearly a challenge for any sleep-deprived undergraduate. But then he said something that caught my attention.

He noted that while economists universally equated prosperity with growth, he was beginning to question this underlying assumption. He noted that the earth's resources are finite and that we needed to find new ways to measure economic prosperity. In his mind merely increasing GNP, without dealing with other issues, was not the answer.

I do not remember the name of the instructor. If I did I would let him know that he planted a seed in my mind that over time would grow into an increased awareness of environmental issues and, yes, a desire to try to do something to make a difference. I hope he would be pleased.

But unfortunately, not much has changed since I was in college. Gross national product is now gross domestic product. And of course we have new buzzwords, like "sustainable" and "environmentally friendly." But in reality much of what continues to drive the economy is unrestrained growth.

So when I read that two Nobel prize-winning economists, Joseph E. Stiglitz of Columbia and Amartya Sen of Harvard, had published a report questioning the emphasis on growth as an indicator of societal well-being, I decided to take a closer look.

Gross domestic product, or GDP, measures the quantity of goods and services the economy produces. Since GDP is the only show in town, economists and policy-makers tend to disregard other factors, factors that are far more difficult to

quantify, and equate an increase in GDP with an increase in economic prosperity and societal well-being. Stiglitz and Sen argue that this emphasis on GDP is misguided.

Consider a commuter who spends two hours a day stuck in traffic. Unless the car is a hybrid, the engine continues to run and gasoline continues to be consumed, even though the car isn't moving. The increase in gasoline consumption requires an increase in production, resulting in an increase in GDP. Economists and policy-makers are happy. But what about the commuter? And what about all those greenhouse gasses and other pollutants that are being spewed into the environment?

While Stiglitz and Sen cite a number of instances where the nation's reliance on GDP has resulted in an inaccurate picture of overall economic prosperity, they take particular pains to criticize the failure of current measures to deal with what they describe as the looming environmental crisis of global warming. Measures of economic performance that, unlike GDP, actually reflect the environmental costs of carbon emissions, would produce markedly different results than measures currently relied upon by economists and policy-makers to assess economic performance and forge economic policy.

Stiglitz and Sen argue that our current measurement system needs to shift emphasis from measuring economic production to measuring people's well-being, including people's health, education, personal activities and environmental conditions that affect their lives. And if the system is to accurately measure people's well-being, it needs to take into account both current conditions and sustainability--whether current economic, environmental and social conditions can be maintained over time.

Coming up with a measurement system that can accurately quantify such inherently subjective conditions, as well as conditions that are likely to exist in the future, is a tall order. Stiglitz and Sen do not pretend to have the answers. But they do offer a number of suggestions on how to proceed from here. It can only be hoped that their report will serve as a wake-up call to other economists and policy-makers and that the nation's misguided preoccupation with economic growth, at the expense of the natural environment and people's overall well-being, can successfully be addressed.

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.

Sustainable Life-style

Smoke Alarm/Detector Disposal

Supplied by David Yennior, our Recycling Issues Coordinator (dyennior@msn.com)

When smoke alarms/detectors cease to function, they should be returned to their respective manufacturer for proper disposal. Please consult the reference manual or the case of your unit for manufacturer contact information. Should you not be able to determine the manufacturer, FIREX (www.firexsafety.com) will accept and properly dispose of all manufacturers' smoke alarms/detectors at no charge, except that the consumer must pay for mailing.

More radically, permit me to suggest that economists revise their homage to the invisible hand, and figure out a successor paradigm, in which it is NOT expected that everyone should

need to be employed. It wouldn't be Socialism or Communism; rather something perhaps like Random Welfare, coupled to more environmental respect.

ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

What's New With the Delaware Deepening?

By Gina Carola (ginaceee@verizon.net)

In 1999, the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club joined Delaware Riverkeeper, New Jersey Environmental Federation, the Delaware Chapter of Sierra and several other environmental organizations to form the Alliance to Dump the Delaware Deepening. This alliance worked together for several years to stop the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Delaware River Port Authority from embarking on a project to deepen 107 miles of the Delaware River by 5 feet, dumping the toxic sludge along the riverbanks of South Jersey. The spoils have the potential to pollute South Jersey's drinking water with dangerous contaminants such as mercury, arsenic and lead. Fortunately, with the help of local officials along with our state and federal legislators, funding for the project was deleted from the Corps budget year after year. The project was pretty close to dead when the original sponsor of the project, the Delaware River Port Authority, decided that they no longer wanted to spend the money to deepen the channel and in fact, it was no longer needed. The lack-of-need argument was bolstered by a steady increase of cargo coming up the river without ever putting the first shovel in the channel.

Fast forward a few years to when Ed Rendell was elected governor of Pennsylvania. Rendell started pushing to revive the project and even cut a deal with Governor Corzine promising that if New Jersey would grant the necessary permits and drop all opposition, the

spoils would be dumped in old Pennsylvania mines. He later claimed that he never made that promise and that the Corps would put the spoils where the Corps wanted to put them. Opposition continued from Delaware and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control rejected the Army Corps' application for sub-aqueous lands dumping permits. Undaunted, the Corps announced in September 2009 that it would proceed with the deepening project without Delaware's approval and that dredging would begin in December 2009.

Governor Corzine has said he will take legal action to block the Corps of Engineers from deepening the channel because the agency has not proven to state environmental regulators that the project is ecologically sound. He has directed the New Jersey Attorney General to prepare legal action to stop the Corps from moving forward unless the Corps allows the environmental review process to be completed. Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden said he, too, is ready to stall the project with litigation.

In the meantime, we have Congressman Rob Andrews and most members of the New Jersey legislature standing firm against the project. The Alliance to Dump the Delaware Deepening is closely monitoring the situation and is working with legislators from both New Jersey and Delaware to shut this project down permanently.

Sustainable Life-style

Something Fishy about Fish

By Suzanne Dragan (suzanne.dragan@aplNJ.org), our Green Lifestyle Columnist

Fish, once thought to be an inexhaustible natural resource, are on the decline: 90% of tuna, swordfish and sharks are gone, 85% of the large whales have disappeared, as have 60% of the smaller whales. The oceans have been overfished to the point that some sea mammals' and aquatic birds' survival are in jeopardy.

Thanks to the pollution of our world's oceans, wild fish, particularly large predatory fish, have been found with accumulated mercury, heavy metals, PCB's, dioxin, chlordane and DDT. When these fish are consumed by humans, these carcinogens go into our bodies.

Factory fish farms, similar to those for mammals on land, grow thousands of fish in confined pens. Disease is rampant so antibiotics are routinely administered. People who eat farmed fish ingest these antibiotics. Chemicals are often used to enhance the healthy-pink color of farmed salmon flesh. Surrounding waters are polluted and local fish sickened, another factor in their decline.

Although thought not to be transmittable to humans, the Isa virus, infectious salmon anemia, is a threat to salmon farms and wild salmon populations globally. Farmed Atlantic salmon are most susceptible to the virus, and some fish farmers are now raising the less susceptible Coho salmon. As with the Asian carp who escaped from fish farms into the Mississippi River, infected farmed salmon

can threaten the spread of the virus to wild salmon populations.

Wild salmon populations are being fished at an alarming rate, perhaps due to the omega-3 fatty acids in their oil: promoted for improving heart health. Both omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids are important for growth, development, and brain function.

There are some healthful and easy ways to obtain alternative sources for omega-3 fatty acids: ground flax seed meal, flax seed oil, walnuts, and mung beans, also called beansprouts or urid beans. Flax seed meal & walnuts are both especially high in omega-3 fatty acids. Flax seeds will pass through your digestive system so you need to grind them up to attain any nutritional benefit. It is wise to keep (all) opened oils, ground seed meals and nuts (unshelled) refrigerated and to consume them within a month or so. Most of these food items can be found locally and are organically produced.

I think you'll agree that flax seed meal sprinkled on your morning oatmeal tastes better than a spoonful of cod liver oil!

(Suzanne Dragan is a nurse, Sierra Club member and director of Food for Life, a program of Animal Protection League of NJ that promotes the New 4 Food Groups (fruits, vegetables, whole grains and legumes) Comments or questions? Contact: FoodforLife@aplNJ.org or 732-446-6963.)

COOL CITIES CORNER:

Economic Opportunities in New Jersey's Changing Energy Infrastructure

By: Stefano Crema (sccrema@gmail.com)

In July 2007, Governor Corzine signed the Global Warming Response Act, an ambitious attempt to reduce the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions of the state in line with expected federal requirements.

The 2009 New Jersey Energy Master Plan provides guidelines for implementation of the legislation, encompassing five main goals:

1. Maximize energy conservation and energy efficiency.
2. Reduce by 2020 almost 20,000GWh of electricity consumption, and 110 trillion BTU of heating energy, compared with Business As Usual scenarios.
3. Reduce Peak Electricity demand by 5,700 MW by 2020, and obtain 30% of the State's electricity needs from renewable sources,
4. Develop a 21st century energy infrastructure,
5. Invest in innovative clean energy technologies and businesses.

At the same time, New Jersey's existing electricity infrastructure is aging, with roughly 50% of our generating plants 30 years old or older. So substantial new investments will be required. The difficulty of matching demand with the right type of supply in the 2010-2020 period, and further from 2020 to 2050, when existing state and expected national legislation will require an 80% reduction in GHG emissions, will probably result in a high variability in the cost of energy in the state.

Cooling America thru Local Leadership, a 501(c)(3) organization, believes that local governments (municipalities and counties) can utilize alternative approaches to meet energy requirements that will reduce costs, foster conservation, and expand renewable energy. The proposed approach, called Community Clean Energy Aggregation (CCEA), consists of three main components:

1. Government Energy Aggregation. This program, enabled by legislation approved in NJ in 2003 (P.L.2003, C.24), allows local governments to aggregate the energy requirements of residential accounts on an "opt out" (automatic enrollment) basis and of non-residential accounts on an "opt in" (request for enrollment) basis. The total aggregated demand of the participants is procured on the open market at prices and conditions better than those offered by the local utilities. The utilities will be paid the usual transmission and distribution fees to deliver the energy purchased by the communities and service the accounts. This component has been successfully implemented in Massachusetts and Ohio under the name of Community Choice Aggregation.
2. Demand Reduction through Conservation. The 2009 NJ Energy Master Plan states that conservation is the most cost effective investment to reduce demand. A CCEA will offer loans, to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, that will be repaid through "on bill" financing to move the responsibility of the loan from the individual owners to the improved assets. Demand reduction goals can be customized for each local government participating in the CCEA.
3. Expanded Renewable and Distributed Energy. Development of renewable energy and distributed, high efficiency generation assets (Combined

Heat and Power - CHP) in close collaboration with private investors will help meet New Jersey's GHG emission reduction goals while increasing security of supply from local sources at competitive prices. The program will foster installation of advanced energy infrastructures like mini-grids and demand management programs.

The size of the three components will vary over time. Purchases of energy on the open market will be reduced as conservation measures and renewable and distributed energy sources are implemented.

Expected results from the full implementation of the program components are:

1. Increased control over the cost of energy (electricity and gas) for residential and non-residential accounts,
2. Reduced overall energy demand,
3. Increased availability of clean, renewable energy at competitive prices,
4. Secure electricity supply from local distributed sources,
5. Increased economic activity in the areas of implementation.

Ideally, the CCEA program will be implemented by a group of communities under the coordination of a county that can provide a centralized agency (usually called a Joint Power Agency) to conduct business on behalf of all the members. However, the program can also be implemented by single municipalities with sufficient energy demand to procure on the open market.

The success of the program is greatly dependent on the active involvement of local governments to:

1. Determine the optimal combination of fossil fuel and alternative (renewable and CHP) energy to meet the local development goals,
2. Identify suitable locations for development of distributed energy production assets,
3. Develop and/or acquire cost effective production assets using tax-free revenue bonds
4. Create local job opportunities in energy conservation, building & maintenance of renewable and distributed assets

Funding for conservation and renewable energy development initiatives can be obtained from savings in the procurement of energy, and by issuing revenue bonds that are repaid from income generated by sale of electricity and payments from loans to residents and commercial accounts. Revenue bonds are municipal bonds that are secured by a specific income stream of the issuer. They differ from General Obligation bonds that are secured by the full faith and credit of the municipality that issues them and do not affect its ability to borrow for civic projects.

The successful implementation of a CCEA will also depend on the active participation of citizens, local business organizations and environmental groups who perceive the opportunity to guide the development of local energy infrastructures that will help meet and surpass New Jersey's GHG emission reduction goals.

For more information on Community Clean Energy Aggregation programs, please contact me at: sccrema@gmail.com.

Coming in the next issue:

More news and photographs of our Appreciate Day festivities
(see pg. 6)

Please complete and submit the reader survey form (pp. 1-2) to determine this newsletter's future.

Sustainable Life-style

Healthy House: Improve Indoor Air Quality while Improving Your Quality of Life

By Leia Sims, Chapter Environmental Education Chair (leia@bized.com)

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

A home is typically thought to be a safe place. But indoor air quality can be significantly more polluted and less healthy than outdoor air quality. Since the average person spends more than 90 percent of her/his time indoors, 65 percent of which is at home, improving indoor air quality (IAQ) becomes a high priority for enhancing the quality of life.

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

Healthy Home Tips

Reduce the use of carpeting: carpets collect dirt, soot, chemicals tracked into your home.

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

Use that same vacuum to **facilitate dusting** in the house, to remove airborne particles that may be allergens (you will notice you sneeze less when you use the HEPA vacuum).

Stop bringing poisonous **chemicals** into your home; use cleaning products adopted by green seal.org or other more stringent standards.

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

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

Use **houseplants** to help filter the air and provide more oxygen.

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

Bring **more fresh air** into your homes and get more of the excess moisture out, although there may be an energy penalty; and run the bath and kitchen fans another 20 minutes, they will remove the moisture and smells that are the root of many IAQ issues.

Following is a partial list of common indoor air pollutants, harmful effects they have on occupants, where they can be found, and methods for reducing your exposure to these toxins.

Dust: Symptoms of excessive dust include runny nose, sneezing, and muscle spasms. Dust contains a variety of toxins from paints, building materials, smoke, etc. It can irritate allergies and asthma, and may also be a leading reason these conditions develop.

Asbestos: It is banned from manufactured home products today, but it may be in the siding and flooring of older homes. Up until the 1970s, many building products contained asbestos - including steam pipes, boilers, and furnace ducts insulated with asbestos blanket or tape. Asbestos was in resilient floor tiles, the backing on vinyl sheet flooring, and adhesives used for installing floor tile. It was found in cement sheets and paper used as insulation on furnaces, and door gaskets on furnaces and wood stoves. It was in patching and joint compound and textured paints. Asbestos roofing shingles and siding, and artificial ashes and embers were commonly used. Asbestos is still used today for automobile brake pads and linings.

To reduce your exposure, the best thing to do with asbestos is usually to leave it alone. If there is material in an exposed area that you think might be asbestos, have a professional take a sample and have it tested. If it is in fact asbestos, let a trained contractor handle it. If you plan to do renovation/construction in an area that is believed to have asbestos, have it tested before disrupting the material.

Mold/Moisture: Mold often develops as a result of moisture that is not properly ventilated from the home and condenses on nutrient surfaces. Mold is both smelly and unsightly, and some molds can lead to respiratory problems. If left unchecked, it has the potential of deteriorating your home.

Mold develops mainly in kitchens, bathrooms and other wet places, either trying to get out or unintentionally getting in from the outside.

To reduce your exposure, install a proper ventilation system, especially in areas where there is moisture (kitchens and bathrooms). Sealing up your home properly will reduce the ability of moisture to enter. Leave shower curtains spread to reduce mold. Open washing machine doors and glass shower doors to enable the wetness to evaporate and reduce the potential for mold growth.

My impression of hothouse produce had not been favorable, due to energy use and the artificiality of it all, but I do notice that quite a bit of out-of-season grocery produce comes from Holland, Israel, etc. Once again, it is a question of costs and benefits. Here is my attempt to summarize the pros and cons of greenhouse farming using cogen energy.

Pro's:

- Cogeneration, i.e., very efficient electricity generation, substituting for coal electricity.
- Replace produce grown overseas with New Jersey-grown produce.
- Usage of landfill methane (if quantity

DEP Rules a Barrier for Renewable Energy

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

Proposed new DEP rules would make it impossible to install windmills and solar panels in our coastal areas. The DEP was supposed to update these rules to help the state meet the demand for renewable energy. But instead, DEP's new rules would do just the opposite.

The new rules would make it easier to build a shopping mall than install solar panels or wind turbines.

The very successful wind farm in Atlantic City, that powers the Atlantic County Utilities Authority, could not have been built under these proposed rules. The five towers are too high, the blades are too big, and the turbines are more than 120 feet away from the buildings. Also, only three turbines would be allowed.

The DEP permitted a large development next to a landfill in Stafford Twp, Ocean Co, but under these rules solar panels would be prohibited.

Renewable energy is critical for preventing climate change and providing green jobs. Instead of a step forward, these rules would impede clean energy.

DEP's proposed rules would:

Limit solar and wind installations to within 120 feet from an existing structure. This does nothing but stop people from putting in solar arrays and wind turbines. Taking into consideration the setbacks that towns require, the ability to install solar may be severely restricted. It seems that the DEP would rather see a subdivision than a solar farm.

Eliminate wind as a use on more than 400 square miles of New Jersey coastal areas. The criteria relating to appropriate scientific backup is arbitrary and does nothing other than stop the use of wind as a source of generating electricity. Offshore wind projects would be limited to one small 25 MW pilot project.

Restrict the size and area of wind turbines. The size of would be limited to 100 feet with the tip of the blade not to exceed an elevation of 200 feet. This would hinder the ability to install any type of turbine that could generate a worthwhile amount of electricity. Furthermore, the turbine's swept area would be limited to 2,000 square feet. Installations would be limited to three turbines but, because of swept area limitations, all one could actually build would be two small 20 kW wind turbines.

Make it easier to build high-density development than put up a solar farm. Under the Coastal Rules, you can build at 80 percent impervious coverage - or 24 housing units per acre. In the same place, you couldn't put up a wind turbine or solar farm on vacant land if it's not already disturbed. Even in rural areas, 30 percent impervious coverage is allowed in forested areas. If you want to

put up renewable energy in these areas, you're better off developing first.

Make it easier to build casinos, malls - even roller coasters - than wind turbines. Under these new rules, it would be easier to put up a casino than a wind turbine. A three million square foot casino would be permitted on a pier in Atlantic City where only one wind turbine would be allowed. Multiple roller coasters and Ferris wheels could be built but only one wind turbine.

Encourage co-generation plants, like the Linden coal plant, without designating a fuel. Instead of natural gas, coal could be used, something to which we strongly object. While DEP is limiting the height of wind turbines, it is not restricting the height of smoke stacks.

The rules don't allow for changes in technology. For example, turbines would be limited to 5 MW without the consideration that advances in technology may allow for smaller turbines to produce more electricity.

The rules were formed using dated scientific studies, none of which address the environmental impact to coastal New Jersey from climate change. The studies only look at the direct effects to species from the turbines while failing to assess the impact that climate change will have on them and their habitats.

The New Jersey Chapter supports tough standards for renewable energy. We're glad to see the DEP implementing protections for threatened and endangered species and their habitats. However, it is hypocritical to enforce different rules for development. The DEP allowed the Racetrack in Millville, Cumberland Co, with all of its pollution, to be put in the middle of an important bird migration area, but these rules wouldn't allow solar panels or wind turbines on that site.

Wind turbines are not permitted along Delaware Bayshore and other coastal areas, but the DEP has allowed a power line along the coast through the Pinelands and wouldn't block a proposal for a massive power line cutting across the Delaware Bayshore. The DEP has refused to require cooling towers at nuclear power plants, which kill more species than wind turbines would. The DEP would permit the reopening of BL England coal plant, which will contaminate our fisheries and waterways with mercury, but wouldn't allow a wind turbine next to that power plant.

New Jersey has committed to installing 1,000 MW of solar and 400 MW of onshore wind. These proposed rules would make it almost impossible for the state to meet those requirements. The Club will urge the new Christie Administration to reconsider the State's proposed anti-wind and anti-solar regulations.

Initial Discussion for a Club Policy on Greenhouse (Hothouse) Farming in NJ

By Sunil Somalwar, our Energy Issues Expert (sunil.somalwar@gmail.com)

I attended the Rutgers Energy Institute board meeting on Nov 4, 2009, and was intrigued by a comment by Bob Goodman, a Rutgers ecology professor, Dean of Environmental Sciences, and Director of the NJ Agricultural Experiment Station. He said that NJ agriculture must go annual if it is to survive. Being no expert in this area, I presumed that this means growing produce in greenhouses. So I suggested to the board that cogeneration heat might be just right for this purpose. They were clearly way ahead of me, and told me that they already have a "cogen microturbine" running, and that there is interest in scaling up the operation. Apparently this is quite common in the Netherlands. My personal

impression of hothouse produce had not been favorable, due to energy use and the artificiality of it all, but I do notice that quite a bit of out-of-season grocery produce comes from Holland, Israel, etc. Once again, it is a question of costs and benefits. Here is my attempt to summarize the pros and cons of greenhouse farming using cogen energy.

Pro's:

- Cogeneration, i.e., very efficient electricity generation, substituting for coal electricity.
- Replace produce grown overseas with New Jersey-grown produce.
- Usage of landfill methane (if quantity

is appropriate to need).

- Proximity to metropolitan areas for the produce grown.
- Benefit to local agriculture (and thus indirect containment of sprawl; good land use).
- Displacing bad calories with fruits and vegetables.
- Extended growing season.

Con's and unknowns:

- Agriculture is "artificial."
- Nutrition value of hothouse produce vs. field-grown produce?
- More energy intensive (but see cogen benefits above).
- Land use issues: Permeable coverage,

Industrial use of farm land.

- Increased pesticide usage? Are there "organic hothouse" standards?
- Water use: would all have to come from public supply.
- Chemical use?

The pros look really attractive from a carbon footprint and possibly land-use (agricultural greenbelt) standpoint. I hate to put down solar etc, but this kind of un-sexy stuff can give far better returns per dollar of investment. Should we support it? Publicize it? Push the Board of Public Utilities to promote experimental operations? What if we do, and it goes into raising roses or other high insecticide nonsense?

Report from Trenton:

EPA warns Danger from NJ's Air

By Kara Seymour and Jeff Tittel, of our Trenton staff

An EPA report released on Oct 9th reveals that 13 counties in New Jersey are among the worst nationwide when it comes to air quality. The report said the 13 urban counties have failed to meet the EPA's daily standards for fine particle air pollution, putting the region's residents at risk for health complications like asthma, heart attacks, and premature death.

It's no coincidence the report reveals that New Jerseyans breathe dangerously dirty air as a result of particulate matter and soot. In recent years, these urban counties have been subject to contamination from highway traffic, sprawl suburban traffic, dirty coal plants both within the state and to our west, chemical refineries, pollution from ports, and a lack of restrictions on diesel emissions and incinerators.

The report cited bad air quality in Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Passaic, Morris, Somerset, Union, Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester counties, which represent about 85 percent of New Jersey's population.

The reason that we have some of the worst air quality in the nation is because New Jersey is home to dirty coal plants, refineries and ports, plus high amounts of industry, construction vehicles, diesel traffic, and sprawl.

The Sierra Club thinks there has been a failure by the Corzine Administration to adequately address air pollution and the public health impacts from it. The Governor should have gone after coal plants, and not have allowed the PurGen plant to be constructed in Linden. All of our coal plants should have been switched to natural gas, especially those in Hudson and Mercer Counties. The BL England plant in Cape May Co. should not be allowed to reopen. Governor Corzine should also have required incin-

erators to upgrade for removal of fine particulates. We have four incinerators in New Jersey, each contributing to our pollution problems.

Proposals like the Susquehanna Roseland transmission line, which will bring in dirty power from Pennsylvania, should be stopped. It will only increase pollution and put New Jersey residents at risk. The Bush Administration failed to regulate coal plants in Pennsylvania and Ohio and now we are paying the price.

The state's plans to widen the Turnpike, Parkway, and Atlantic City Expressway will only make pollution worse by encouraging sprawl and adding more cars and trucks to the road that will emit particulate matter and other toxic air pollutants to our air. The state has failed to implement real vehicle mile travel reductions, which has led to increased traffic and emissions of particulate matter. If we had a trip program in place for enabling car-sharing in trips to and from work, we would not need to widen the highways.

Governor Corzine should have signed an executive order on diesel trucks and construction vehicles for state contracts, as he promised to do, and demanded cleaner diesel trucks taking containers to and from our ports. Particulates from diesel are one of the biggest contributors to our air pollution problems. Governor Corzine has only made diesel pollution worse by cutting funding from the diesel retrofit program, which retrofits school buses, commercial buses and public vehicles.

The Governor signed the New Jersey Economic Stimulus Act, a bill that will only promote sprawl by offering public subsidies to developers, impacting our air quality even more. The failure of New Jersey to have a functioning state plan impedes programs to limit sprawl.

Annual Sierra Club Appreciation Day Celebrated

Senator Robert Menendez, BPU Commissioner Joseph L. Fiordaliso, and Raritan Valley Group-member Donald McBride were the principal honorees at the Club's Nov 22 social event honoring our political heroes, financial benefactors, Trenton staff, and volunteer activists. As for many years, Pretty Brook Farmhouse, on the grounds of the Princeton Day School, was the venue.

Chapter Director Jeff Tittel described Sen. Menendez as "ahead of the Club" on most environmental issues, and as an "insider's senator" with the tenacity and ability to convince other senators of his positions in opposition to offshore oil drilling, protection of Alaskan and Utah wilderness, and the importance of action on Global Warming. The Senator briefly described some of his current efforts to promote health care reform.

Another highlight of the Appreciation Day festivities was the unveiling of a stained glass window designed, constructed and donated to the Chapter by artist Ken Johnston. The window, titled "Sierra Sunrise," splashes many shades and patterns of leafy green under a rising sun and a Sierra Club heading. Mr. Johnston was present to receive much applause. For those who would like to see the window, it will be on permanent display at the Chapter offices in Trenton.

The annual event is coordinated by Joan and George Denzer, who also supply the flower arrangements, wines, cheeses, canapés, crudités, fruit assortments, smoked salmon, pickled herring, deserts, and other enticements. More coverage will be in the next issue of the Jersey Sierran.

The photographs below, taken by George Fluck and Meiling Chin, respectively, show Sen. Menendez speaking with Club members, and Ken Johnston with the stained glass window he created for the Chapter.



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 (Skylands) Group

(Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

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	ccgkp@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.

Please see our website for information on scheduled guest speakers, monthly meeting topics and conservation issues our group is focusing on.

And please support our NAME-CHANGE by voting the ballot on p.2 of this Newsletter.

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	lauratraccycoll@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>	
Trail Maintenance:	Marty Cohen 201-670-8383	martincohen@verizon.net
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. Please contact Betsy (above) to make sure the meeting is on as planned. Sign up for e-mail notices at <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-NORTH-JERSEY-NEWS.html>.

Jan 21 at Paramus Public Library, E-116 Century Rd., Paramus: "We Are the Sierra Club," an introduction to the activities, issues and volunteer opportunities in North Jersey, with group activists.

Feb 23 at Louis Bay 2nd Public Library, 345 Lafayette, Hawthorne: "Paradise Faded: The Fight for Louisiana" (film) about America's largest environmental disaster: the loss of 2,000 square miles of coastal wetlands.

Mar date, place and program TBA.

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

(1) **The Ramapo River Watershed**, a sole source aquifer supplying water to 2.3 million New Jerseyans, is protected in NJ under the Highlands Act - but not upstream in NY State. Of great concern is the proposed 1,195-unit Tuxedo Reserve on 2300 acres of forested steep slopes and wetlands. The development would double Tuxedo's population, drastically alter the landscape (massive tree clearing, bulldozing, grading, and rock blasting), destroy essential habitat for the region's many reptile and amphibian species (including the 'threatened' timber rattlesnake), fragment the regional forest, and degrade water resources. At the SEIS hearing on Oct 26, about 150 people turned out in opposition. Stay tuned - the hearing resumes Nov 23.

(2) **New Jersey Highlands**. The Highlands Council has once again yielded to a utility, this time allowing Tennessee Gas Pipeline to cut through 230 acres (containing C-1 streams, exceptional resource wetlands, critical habitat, and conservation priority lands) in exchange for the company buying 55 acres for preservation - mitigation that appears to be a sham as the land is already protected. Last spring, after receiving an \$18.4 million I.O.U. from PSE&G, the Council dropped its opposition to the 500 kV Susquehanna-Roseland transmission line. This dirty coal project with 195-ft towers will pollute Highlands water, damage forests and slopes extensively, and spoil the views.

(3) **Hackensack River Watershed**. We have long advocated preserving the narrow vegetative riparian corridors north of Route 4, essential for the health of the river, habitat and flood control. A paved pathway on the riverbank would harm the fragile ecosystem in the heart of this watershed, recognized by NJ Audubon as an "important bird area" where the threatened Northern Harrier, Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Osprey, and foraging Eagles have been observed.

(4) **Ongoing issues**: threats to existing open space in Clifton at Latteri Park and Schultheis Farm; plans to use parkland in Overpeck County Park for a new road and park-and-ride; the MSU plan to turn the steep Quinn Road in Clifton into a campus exit which would destroy the hillside, woods and habitat.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE. If you'd like to join a team to help maintain a hiking trail, please contact Marty Cohen (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 rebuilt ones, please. Thanks!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES. Please contact a group officer (above) to find out about the many ways you can be involved.

Hunterdon County (South Highlands) 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@dlierving.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	syrfrgrl@yahoo.com
Webmasters:	James Brightwell	james_brightwell@comcast.net
	Dwight Irving	dwight@dlierving.com

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

Please support our NAME-CHANGE by voting the ballot on p.2 of this Newsletter.

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 shighlandssierra@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 shighlandssierra@gmail.com.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Monthly - 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 shighlandssierra@gmail.com.

WHERE WE WILL BE: We tabled at many events this past year!! 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 (shighlandssierra@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, Ridgely, Edgewater, Cliffside Park and Fairview)

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Jodi Jamieson*	917-804-8390	jodijami@mac.com
Vice-Chair:	Helen Manogue*	201-963-3511	
Secretaries:	Judith Courtney	201-868-6575	jaocourtney@netzero.net
	and Ruth Olsen	201-868-6575	oof46@msn.com
Conservation Chair:	Mariana Zivkovic*	201-758-8390	tenisko@hotmail.com
Political Chair:	Janet Glass	201-868-4216	iguanaj@aol.com
Outings Chair:	Scottie Perry*	201-320-1758	scottieperry@optonline.net
Group ExCom Members:	Gil Hawkins*	201-944-5799	gilhawkins@verizon.net
	Donald Kopczynski*	201-224-2641	Littlechops03@netzero.com
	Steve Lanset*		slanset@hotmail.com
	Bran Zivkovic*	201-758-8390	branc.bergen.ridge@gmail.com
	Connie Ftera*	201-869-7950	eftera@earthlink.net
Cool Cities Chair:	Helen Manogue	201-963-3511	
Palisades Landmark Status Committee Vice Chair:	David Kronick	201-869-6218	jktejas@aol.com

ELECTIONS: We are currently holding our annual elections and urge our membership to participate in the election process. Please use the ballot on p.2 to vote for five of the seven candidates listed. We thank the candidates for their participation in this important process and hope the following information about them is helpful to our membership.

Monica Dua is a new arrival to our group; she currently serves as Trustee and Treasurer of the Hudson River Waterfront Conservancy of New Jersey, of which Helen Monague is Chair.

Connie Ftera has been involved in local Sierra Club activism for many years as Secretary and has been representing our membership on ExCom for 10 years.

Janet Glass has been active in our group for several years, is an excellent writer with many published letters to editors, and is currently our Political Chair.

Jodi Jamieson advocates for vital open space in our urban area along the Hudson River and the Palisades Cliffs; she is the current HM Group Chair.

Steve Lanset former HM Group Chair, now State Transportation Issues Coordinator, lives in Jersey City where he fought to save Liberty State Park and stop the Bergen Arches Highway.

Helen Monague has been an environmental activist for many years. One of her main interests is the Hudson River Walkway. She has served as our Vice Chair for two years.

Louise Taylor, Chair of H-M for 7 years, coordinated efforts for Hudson-Palisades open space, cleaning up toxics in Edgewater, and activism in JC/Hoboken, Ft. Lee, Guttenberg.

MEETINGS: The Hudson-Meadowlands Group holds their meetings during the first week of every other month. Please contact the Secretaries, Judith or Ruth for information about the 2010 meetings.

CONSERVATION ISSUES: Currently the most important issues facing us are saving

(Continued on page 8)

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GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

open space on the Hudson River shore, and protecting the glorious New Jersey Palisades south of the George Washington Bridge from further destruction.

We are opposing a 256-unit development proposed on the last parcel of open space on the Hudson River in North Bergen. The plan is still before the Town of North Bergen Planning Board and we continue to attend these meetings to dispute the application. As presently conceived, this development would cause major disruption to the community. We would like to see this space become permanent parkland as it had been designated in the Hudson County Master Plan. We have formally presented a design for a park to the town of North Bergen. It is much needed open space in this urban environment. Please contact us for more information and for how you can help.

We continue to support the Coalition to Preserve the Palisades Cliffs. They just filed a lawsuit against a proposed mini strip mall which will cut into the Palisades. It was passed by the Hudson County Planning Board, disregarding New Jersey's Steep Slopes law, which the plan violates.

Please go to the CPPC website for more information and to sign their petition. www.thepetitionsite.com/2/Coalition-to-Preserve-the-Palisades-Cliffs

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:	Allison Michalski	973-635-6773	asmichals@gmail.com
Conservation Chairs:			
Morris County:	Chris Mills	973-377-1742	chrismills@yahoo.com
Union County:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	hauskerr@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	bobc2023_sc@verizon.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.

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

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

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Jan 13: Jeff Huppert, a retired educator and an active Sierra Club volunteer, will present a program on Family Energy Consumption. Learn how to compute your family's energy footprint and what you can do to reduce it.

Feb 10: Dr. Daniela Shebitz of Kean College will present a program on Sustainability.

Mar 10: The program will be announced at a later time. Please visit our website for more current information.

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

The Loantaka Group is working with concerned citizens and local environmental organizations to protect open space and wildlife habitat in Morris and Union Counties, and to safeguard the water resources on which we all depend. We are also organizing volunteers to help maintain and improve trails in the Morris and Union County Park Systems. In addition, the Group is actively involved in State-wide initiatives involving air quality, transportation, and environmental legislation. Volunteers are always welcome. Call Paul (908-233-2414) or Eric (732-669-0719).

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

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

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

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Terry Stimpfel	609-731-7016	terystimb@hotmail.com
Membership Chair:	Don Carlo	609-586-4357	documentsdon@gmail.com

Outings Chair:	Leona Fluck	609-259-3734	Leona@pineypaddlers.com
Political Chair:	Terry Stimpfel	609-731-7016	terystimb@hotmail.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
	Lynne Weiss	732-821-9688	lshariweiss@optonline.net

We need you! Want to help out? Thinking of becoming involved? Opportunities abound. Open positions: Conservation Chair, Publicity, Secretary, Treasurer, Recycling, Events and Outreach. Try volunteering for a few hours or an event! Please contact Terry or Leona.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: All Sierra Club members are invited to find out what's happening in Central Group and to help make things happen too! Please contact Terry.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Our meetings are held from 7:30 to 9pm (pre-meeting social at 7pm) on the THIRD TUESDAY 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; special event in January.

Special Event in January: In conjunction with the Princeton Environmental Film Festival Jan 2 - 17 (<http://www.princeton.lib.nj.us/peff/schedule.htm>), we will meet for a meal, film and discussion. Please check our website and calendar for further details.

Feb 16 (Tues): Invasive Species and coming events. Jennifer Lear, County Naturalist, Mercer Co. Park Commission will discuss invasive species and also announce her new spring programs and volunteer opportunities. This is a don't miss program as you plan your garden and get to sign up for some great spring events.

Mar 16 (Tues): Legislative Update. Assemblywoman Linda R. Greenstein (D-14) will discuss the status of bills and legislative activity in NJ under the new administration. Come and learn what's happening and how you can help.

CENTRAL SERVICE and OUTINGS: For brief description see Outings Section or Chapter Outings website. Important: For details, updates and new events visit the Central Group online calendar accessed from the Central Group website. ALWAYS check for cancellations, etc.

SERVICE:

Mar 27 (Sat): Land Cleanup at Roebbling Park in H-TB Marsh (Mercer Co). 9-12pm. Spring Lake / Roebbling Park area (end of Sewell Ave., Hamilton). Plan for mud. Wear long pants and sleeves, gloves if possible. Joint with Mercer Co and D&R Greenway.

We need your help on the many service opportunities planned for April! Later in February and March, please check the Central website and calendar for details and please plan to participate.

Outings (see the Outings Section for details):

Jan 10 (Sun): Veterans Park (Mercer Co). 10am. 5 mi. Easy pace. Family friendly. Lunch option.

Jan 29 (Fri): Clayton Park Hike (Monmouth Co). 10am. 5 mi. Easy/moderate pace.

Feb 28 (Sun): Audubon Soc. Plainsboro Preserve Hike. 1pm. 4-5 mi. Easy pace. Dinner option.

Mar 14 (Sun): Turkey Swamp Park (Monmouth Co). 10am. 5 mi. Easy/moderate pace.

Mar 31 (Wed): D&R Canal Towpath Bike Ride (Mercer Co). 10am. Easy 14-mile trip. Helmet!

NJ-CENTRAL-NEWS: You can receive infrequent e-mail reminders of meetings and events and occasional notices of local import. Just send an email message to Membership Chair Don Carlo at: documentsdon@gmail.com

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Kevin Geoffroy	732-568-4914	kedgeoffroy@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/>

Please see the website for news of meetings. 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.

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>) or use Google or MapQuest. Come early to socialize and enjoy refreshments. For additional directions or information, please contact Dennis Anderson or Faith Teitelbaum (above), or visit our web site at <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/JerseyShore/>.

Jan 24: Sierra Club member Lois Blake will present the film "Addicted to Plastic" in a virtual movie theater, complete with popcorn and soda pop. The film traces the development of plastics' use over the past 100 years and examines practical and cutting-edge solutions to recycling, toxicity, and biodegradability. These solutions - which include plastic made from plants - may let us protect the environment while continuing to enjoy the convenience of plastics, which accounts for most of the worldwide litter.

Feb 28: Dr. Kevin Lyons, Director of Purchasing for Rutgers University, and a Research Professor in Supply Chain Environmental Archeology, will discuss the university's work in developing preferable purchasing and green purchasing techniques with its many suppliers. Dr. Lyons also develops and integrates global environmental, social, economic, and ethical criteria and data to create environmental and sustainable social purchasing policies.

Mar 28: Dave Grant, Director of the Ocean Institute at Brookdale Community College, will describe a six-week sabbatical he took last Fall to cruise the Pacific on a NOAA research vessel during a "Teachers on the Seas" environmental studies program. Dave, who was joined by a number of other teachers, will describe his findings. He also is in charge of the college's very popular hands-on marine studies program for elementary and high school students at Sandy Hook.

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 732-928-0988 palmer2x2@aol.com
Treasurer: Gregory Auriemma 732-451-9220 sierraclubOC@aol.com
Political Chair: Nancy Brown 732-892-6089 nancycbrown624@comcast.net
Publicity Chair: Howard Schwartz 609-242-9304 hrschwartz@comcast.net
Fund-Raising: Joyce M. Isaza 732-920-9270 realtymstr@aol.com
Membership Chair: Sandy Brown 609-242-9304 sandylbrown@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 Ocean County Library.

ACTIVITIES & ISSUES: We're hard at work: Preventing drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and off the Jersey Coast, defending the Endangered Species Act, fighting Mountain Top Removal, watching the progress of legislation resulting from the International Copenhagen meeting on Global Warming 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 and Lakewood. 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. Protecting the Ocean County Hiking Trail in Lacey. We're watching the progress of the first Wind Turbine erected in the County which resides in Ocean Gate. We're also involved in creating a greener and sustainable 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 (above) for directions.

Jan 25 (MON): All are welcome for our first GENERAL MEETING of the New Year held at the "SKYWALK CAFE" in TOMS RIVER! We will recap the events and issues covered in 2009 and discuss the happenings planned for the year ahead. Please join us as we discuss Alaska issues in regards to the upcoming Alaska Wilderness League's Wilderness Week in Washington, DC.

Feb 20 (SAT): Join us for our first outing of the New Year where we will have a "WINTER WILDLIFE HIKE". Please check our web site for more details. To register for the event, please contact Dawn Marie Johns our Outings Chair.

Mar 22 (MON): GENERAL MEETING held at 7pm at the "SKYWALK CAFE" in TOMS RIVER. Our Main topic will be discussing local environmental issues.

West Jersey Group
(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:
Group Chair: Gina Carola 856-848-8831 ginaceee@verizon.net
Vice-Chair: Frank Zinni cfzin4@aol.com
Secretary: Ellen Zinni cfzin4@aol.com
Treasurer: Trish Clements 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 cfzin4@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: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Smart Growth Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Programs Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Outings Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831

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.

Jan 13: Kim Custer will talk about the Haddonfield Greenway Trail Plan.

Feb 10: To be announced. Please check our website and local papers for details.

Mar 10: Mike Hogan will speak about the conservation efforts of South Jersey Land and Water Trust.

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: *Open Position!*
Conservation Chair: *Open Position!*
Pol. Chair, Calendars: Dick Colby 609-965-4453 dick.colby@stockton.edu
Membership Chair: *Open Position!*
Secretary/Treasurer: Julie Akers 856-697-3479 julie_akers@hughes.net

The Cape May County Conservation Committee hosts bi-monthly educational presentations at the Arc of Cape May administrative building: 822 Rte 47 in South Dennis. Our get-togethers are 7-8:30pm, each with a guest speaker covering an environmental topic ranging from wind power and solar power to aquifers and habitat. The Chair is Douglas Jewell, 5 Timber Lane, Swainton 08210-1462 (e-mail jewellrea@comcast.net, cell phone 609-780-7129), or call Vilma Pombo at 609-465-3565. 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 with-

(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)

in 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: Two Cape May County campaigns to prevent the use of tropical rainforest wood for rebuilding oceanfront boardwalks, in Ocean City and Wildwood, are being led by Georgina Shanley [shanley2001@yahoo.com]. Club officers and staff have been following closely the several studies seeking to determine sustainable water supply levels for southeastern New Jersey, with the hope that findings will be used by planners (such as those employed by the Pinelands Commission) who authorize development. Other hot issues include damage done to sand trails by ATVs, a campaign to promote Community Solar (photovoltaic) installations (especially in each municipality in Atlantic County), and support for a New Jersey Bottle Bill, known as the Smart Container Act.

Some Possibly Relevant Meetings of Allied Organizations:

Jan 13 and Mar 10, 6:30 pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries: Meeting place: Gant Room, Millville Public Library, 210 Buck Street. Cumberland County development issues are commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Renee Brecht (CU) at 856-305-3238 or rbrecht.cumaurice@yahoo.com. Website: www.cumauriceriver.org - for information on the following additional events:

Jan 21 and Mar 18, 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.

Feb 17 and Apr 21, 7pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss river management strategies. Open to the public. WFNC*. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

Singles Section

(A Chapter-wide, special interest section offering hikes/cleanups, social gatherings, 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." You may subscribe and unsubscribe at will; directions on how to unsubscribe are at the bottom of each announcement. We recommend joining the listserv as some events are advertised only by email. If you prefer not to receive email, you may view an archive of all prior messages at <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-SINGLES-NEWS.html>

OFFICERS:

Chair:	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:	<i>Position Open.</i> Contact us! We need you!	
Publicity:	<i>Position Open.</i> Contact us! We need you!	
Cool Cities Coordinator:	Terry Stimpfel	terystimb@hotmail.com
Membership:	Walter Goldenbaum	goldenb1@optonline.net
Nominations:	Nancy Sullivan	nancysullivan@comcast.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 7pm. Join us for dinner in Morristown at the Famished Frog. RSVP required; join our listserv for further details.

SOCIAL DINNER: THIRD TUESDAY of each month at 7pm. Join us for dinner in a Montclair restaurant. Location will be announced 2 weeks before the social. RSVP is required to jkhaddad@juno.com or 973-364-7573 option # 4.

Consider volunteering with the Cool Cities Campaign. The message and method of empowering groups to manage carbon dioxide emissions are relevant for public and

private school systems, nonprofit community operations, etc. in New Jersey. Volunteers with diverse skills and contacts are important for environmental success. Sign on now. Want to promote the Cool Cities goals but have limited free time? Contact Terry Stimpfel at terystimb@hotmail.com with your ideas and to learn about short duration assignments.

HIKES:

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

Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

(A chapter-wide special interest section which offers a monthly calendar of activities and events, including hikes, clean ups, social gatherings, dinner get-togethers and other functions intended for those members over fifty)

In addition, a monthly Buy & Sell newsletter is sent out to members in which they can list items they are searching for or want to buy, at no charge.

The mission of this section is to support Sierra Club goals, and to promote activism through letter writing, phone calls, and other active support for environmental issues.

We work through a "List Serve," by which members learn about current environmental issues, and how they can be supported.

Arline Zatz 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!)

Web site: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/YoungSierrans/>

YOUNG SIERRAN COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Head Chair & Coordinator:	William Sevchuk	wsevchuk@yahoo.com
Vice Chair:	<i>Open Position</i>	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)	<i>Open Position!</i>	Please Contact Us!
Outings Chair:		
(Central Jersey)	Leon Yerenburg	lyerenburg@gmail.com
Outings Chair:		
(South Jersey)	<i>Open Position!</i>	Please Contact Us!

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

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 with the motto: No Child Left Inside!)

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/>.

FUTURE OUTING

Sept 5-12 (Sun-Fri): September in Western Maine! Location: Bald Mountain Camps, Oquosoc, Me. This is an historic sporting camp located on pristine Mooselookmeguntic Lake. Check the website www.baldmountaincamps.com. Two dates proposed: Sept. 5th-10th and Sept.12th-17th. For more information: Contact: Judy Norcross 856-235-8735, jsnorcross@aol.com, or Leona Fluck: Leona@pineypaddlers.com, 609-259-3734 (C/W).



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-ICQ, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd, Warren, 07059
Chapter Outings: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417 eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Outing Leaders: Please send April-June 2010 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before February 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 April-June trip write-ups by February 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 Club contributing each outing is given at the end of the write-up, as follows:

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

erty is known for stately stands of red and white oak, beech, ash and birch trees. Park directions: I-195 to exit 11 (Imlaystown/Cox's Corner). Eastbound, turn right and follow to end; westbound, turn left and follow to end. Turn left onto Rte 526 and make immediate right onto Imlaystown-Davis Station Rd. Follow to Emly's Hill Rd., turn left. Follow to Park on left. Leashed dogs are welcome! Bring lunch and beverage. Leaders: Leona and George F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C).

Jan 30 (Sat): Moonlight hike in Wharton State Forest, Burl. Co, plus Campfire and Campout. 7pm. 7 miles at moderate pace. Hike the Pines under the Wolf Moon on a new route and return to a roaring campfire. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NC/NP. Meet at Atsion Lake: From Rte 206 take Atsion Rd. west 1 mile, go to *Gosben Pond Group* site sign, turn left, go to camping area. *Camping is available, call to reserve space.* Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-463-3593 eve. or pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels. Contact leader to confirm hike.

Jan 30 (Sat): Tallman Mountain State Park (Rockland Co., NY). 11am. 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. (building with mural) at 11am. Leader: John P. Jurasek, 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10pm), or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC).

Jan 30 (Sat): Ramapo Reservation (Passaic/Bergen Cos). 10am. 8-mile moderate paced loop connects Ramapo Reservation to Ringwood State Park passing 3 lakes and lunch stop at great viewpoint. Bring lunch & lots of water. Rain/snow/sleet would cancel. Limit 12 people. Opt. pizza/beer stop after hike. Must pre-register. L Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (N).

FEBRUARY

Feb 3 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. The river section we paddle will depend on weather conditions. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting time. George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W).

Feb 6 (Sat): Whitesbog Village Winter Hike (Burlington Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. Whitesbog is a NJ historic site and was a village built to house workers in the local cranberry bogs. Every year the bogs and ponds in the region near Whitesbog are home to a wintering population of Tundra swans and perhaps we will see them as we hike around the bogs. Website for directions: www.whitesbog.org. Bring beverage and lunch. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W).

Feb. 6 (Sat): Voorhees State Park, Lebanon Twp, Hunterdon Co. 10am. The hike will cover 7 miles in 4 hours in moderately hilly terrain. Depending on the ice and snow cover this hike will require Crampons or Stabilicers, or we may try cross country or back country skis. E-mail the leader for the up-to-the-minute details. No beginners. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. Registration required: e-mail the Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: the_hikist@mac.com.

Feb 7 (Sun): Social Tundra Swan Hike in Brendan Byrne State Forest, Burl/Ocean Cos. 10am. 6 miles. Moderate pace. All are welcomed. Hike the wintry beauty among ponds filled with Tundra Swans. Bring binoculars. Dress for the cold weather. NP/NC. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet at Whitesbog Village parking lot. Take Rte 70 east to Rte 530 north (Browns Mills/Ft Dix) go 1 mile, turn right onto Whitesbog Road, go to parking lot. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 eve, pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Feb 14 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River on Valentine's Day (Atlantic Co). 9am. The Great Egg has been designated as a Wild and Scenic River. We'll paddle 9 miles from Penny Pot to Weymouth Furnace. Meet at the Harley Dawn Diner, Rte 322/Black Horse Pike - arrive early for breakfast!! Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W).

Feb 19-21 (Fri-Sun): Social Getaway Weekend at AMC's Mohican Center, Blairstown (Warren Co). Enjoy an all-inclusive weekend in a rustic lodge, with modern amenities, situated in the mountains of Northern Jersey. We will hike the Appalachian Trail's Coppermine and Rattlesnake Trails with their great vistas into the valley. We will do a short hike the next day to explore old mining caves. Cost will depend on number of participants and will cover food and lodging. Snow is a possibility, bring snow shoes and cc skis. Limited openings, contact leader now! Payment due by Dec 31. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evenings, or pis1@cccnj.net.

Feb 20 (Sat) Patriots Path Stroll (Morris Co). 10am. Come take an easy stroll on Patriots Path in Morristown. This 3 - 5 mile stroll will start out from the Speedwell Lake parking lot, across the street from Historic Speedwell. See the Morris County Parks website (<http://www.morrisparks.org/>) for directions. The path is wide, partly paved, partly crushed stabilized gravel with very little in the way of elevation gains. We will be strolling at a very moderate pace. Please bring plenty of water and a light snack. Great for beginners. No pets please. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footwear required (sabilicers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. Optional lunch afterwards. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Feb 24 (Wed): Historic Smithville Park Hike (Burlington Co): 10am. 5 miles, easy/moderate pace. The 290-acre park features a diverse collection of habitats and terrain, upland forests and meadows and also offers beautiful Rancocas Creek vistas and wildlife observation opportunities. It is known for the Smithville-Mount Holly Bicycle Railroad and the Star high-wheeled bicycle. Meet at the Smith's Woods access parking lot, East Railroad Av. Option for lunch at Vincentown Diner after the hike. Leashed dogs are welcome! Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W).

Feb 27 (Sat): Clausland Mountain (Rockland Co, NY). 11am. 6 miles. We will climb up Clausland Mountain (700' climb) through historic Rockland Cemetery to an old Nike missile base. Bring hiking boots, lunch, 2 quarts of water. Drivers meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural). Leader: John P. Jurasek: 845-365-3618 (no calls past 10 pm), or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC).

Feb 27 (Sat): Island Pond Loop/Harriman state Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. Moderate paced 9-mile hike from Lake Skannati to Island Pond and back. This loop has several scenic views, and only some moderate ups and downs. Rain/snow/sleet would cancel. Bring lunch & lots of water. Limit 12 people. Must pre-register. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (N).

Feb 27 (Sat): Moonlight social hike, campfire and campout in Byrne State Forest, Burl/Ocean Cos. 7pm. 6-7 miles. Moderate pace. Hike over roads and trails lit by the Pink Moon with a campfire at end. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. *Overnite camping is available Fri. & Sat, call leader to reserve space.* NP/NC. Meet at parking area opposite Group campsite area, enter forest off Rte 72, 1 mile E. of jct. Rtes 70 & 72. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593, eve, or pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Feb 28 (Sun): Tallman State Park/Piermont (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. Half day, 7-8-mile walk in Tallman State Park and the pier in Piermont that stretches 1/3 way across the Hudson River. After the hike stay to visit the galleries and shops of Piermont. Hike limited to 15 people. Must pre-register. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (N).

Feb. 28 (Sun) Clayton Park Upper Freehold Township (Special Interest: history). 9am. A moderate 6-mile hike in one of Monmouth County Park System's best kept secrets. Moderate elevation gains. Hiking shoes not required. Bring snack and drink. Meet at the Wawa store near the intersection of County Road 537 and I-195 in Upper Freehold Township. Bad Weather Cancels (including snow cover). Confirmation/Questions call or text Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718, or mjverange@aol.com (JS).

Feb 28 (Sun): New Jersey Audubon Society Plainsboro Preserve Hike (Mercer/Middlesex Cos). 1pm. 4-5 miles. Easy pace. Enjoy trails through mature beech woods, wet meadows, and shoreline of scenic 50-acre McCormack Lake. 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!! Bring water and snacks. For directions: www.njaudubon.org/Centers/Plainsboro/. Option for dinner at a local restaurant after the hike. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C).

MARCH

Mar 6 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak on the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am. Join us for a 7-mile paddle on the "Jewel of the Pinelands". Meet at Lake Oswego. Experienced winter pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W).

Mar 6 (Sat): Minnewaska State Park/Lake Awosting (NY). 10am. Moderate-paced, 9-mile scenic loop along trails and carriageways to Lake Awosting. Beautiful views. Optional dinner stop in New Paltz after hike. Heavy rain/snow/sleet would cancel. Bring lunch, snacks & water. Group limit 12 people. Must pre-register. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (N).

Mar 7 (Sun): Breakneck Pond/Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. Moderate-paced 9-mile hike in Harriman State Park. Trail conditions will determine exact route/combination of fire roads and hiking trails to this lake for a lovely picnic lunch spot at old summer camp on lake shore. Heavy rain/snow/sleet would cancel. Bring lunch & lots of water. Limit 12 people. Must pre-register. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com.

Mar 7 (Sun): Social Hike and Birthday Brunch, Burl Co. 9:30 am. 5 miles at moderate pace. Hike between two rivers in late winter, wildlife sighting possible. Then help celebrate the leader's birthday as we enjoy
 (continued on page 12)

