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The Jersey..... SIERRAN

Vol. 39, No. 3 Roughly 20,000 Members in New Jersey July-September 2010

Sierra Club Opposes Bear Hunt

By our Chapter Director, Jeff Tittel
(Jeff.Tittel@Sierraclub.org)

The Sierra Club strongly opposes the NJ Fish and Game Council's Black Bear Management Plan, which is not a plan. It is an excuse for a hunt that will provide "recreation" to hunters, but will not solve the problem of our black bear population. The Club prefers a management plan that combines non-lethal relocation of problem bears, and public education, including the proper storage of garbage.

The NJ DEP has been stripped of funds for bear management, including the bear warden program, conservation officers, and education programs - for both people and bears. (Bear-aversion therapy trains bears to be afraid of humans and thus to avoid them.) DEP Commissioner Martin has never met with groups favoring non-lethal management techniques.

Most bear-related complaints are due to single nuisance bears which take up residence behind suburban sheds or under decks; they will not be targeted by hunters prowling the forest.

The most important component in an effective bear management plan is education. More than half a million New Jerseyans live in bear country. Few of them know how to avoid confrontations with bears. These people need to be taught that bears are wild animals, to be treated with respect and at a distance, and that feeding bears as they would pets is dangerous and will lead to aggressive behavior.

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Sustainable Life-style
Articles inside:

Food Choices to Reduce Global Warming - with Recipes!
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New Rules for Disposing of Batteries Page 4

Managing Community Shade Trees Page 5



Candidates Sought for Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom)

The next (Oct-Dec) issue of this Newsletter will include our annual ballot for the election of three members of our Chapter governing body (ExCom), as well as members of the ExComs of each of our 11 active Groups. (Members whose terms are ending are Michael Herson, Richard Isaac and Jane Tousman.) To nominate yourself, or someone else, please contact Sunil Somalwar (sunil.somalwar@gmail.com), Nominating Committee Chair, by July 9. The Committee will present its nominations to ExCom on July 10, following which additional candidates may submit petitions to Sunil, signed legibly by 15 members, by August 10. Ballots must be received by Dec 1; they are traditionally counted at our Holiday Party in December.

Governor Christie's First Hundred Days: Fifty Environmental Attacks

By our Chapter Director, Jeff Tittel (Jeff.Tittel@Sierraclub.org)

In his first 100 days, the Governor has opposed offshore drilling for oil and liquefied natural gas - but in federal waters where he has no jurisdiction. In the same 100 days he repeatedly attacked the environment of New Jersey's mainland, where he does have jurisdiction, granting rollbacks in environmental protections that will affect New Jersey for the next 100 years.

The Governor's transition teams were unbalanced by a 3:1 ratio of polluters and developers to environmentalists. Their recommendations led to a series of Executive Orders that impose overdevelopment and sprawl.

EO 1 imposed a moratorium that prevented the implementation of more than 28 environmental rules, including a drinking water standard for perchlorate, associated with thyroid disorders, that has been adopted by other states, and a more stringent standard for the sulfur content of heating oil.

EO 2 mandates that no New Jersey rule can be stricter than the federal government's. Most of New Jersey's rules are stricter than the fed's, because of circumstances unique to New Jersey, such as high air pollution from our many automobiles. EO 2 also creates a "Time of Decision," which grandfather development approvals despite changes in rules or regulations.

EO 4 cancels health and safety mandates to towns if they are unfunded.

EO 5 sets up a red tape task force whose job is to find more creative ways to weaken environmental protections.

EO 14 slashes funds from clean energy, green jobs, public transit and the DEP.

EO 17 calls for privatization of parks and state forests, and considers giving state forests to lumber companies.

The Governor's red tape review and privatization task forces, coupled with the "stakeholder" process, have been structured so that special interests can now bypass existing regulations that were put in place to protect the environment and the health and safety of the people of New Jersey.

The Red Tape task force recommended the review and potential repeal or weakening of 17 environmental rules including flood hazard, stream buffers, contaminated site cleanup, beach access, Toxic Catastrophe Prevention Act, clean air, Title 5 permits and others.

Red Tape review wants to eliminate the Environmental Justice Advisory Board, which protects people who live in areas of New Jersey that share a disproportionate amount of pollution.

The Red Tape task force recommends giving the DEP Commissioner authority to readopt and change rules without public comment.

"Red Tape" recommends giving the office of the Secretary of State authority over planning and development in areas such as the Highlands and the Pinelands.

What we see in this process is not only the elimination of funding for programs that create environmental jobs and reduce pollution, but direct attacks on clean water, the Highlands and protection of open space. Governor Christie's budget cuts for FY2010 and proposed cuts for FY2011, put the environment, the economy and the health and safety of New Jersey families on the chopping block. In the governor's first 100 days, the administration has eliminated more than \$600 million in environmental, clean energy and transit programs.

The FY2010 budget slashed \$158 mil-

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Land-Use and Preservation in New Jersey: a Beginner's Guide, Part 2

By Laura Lynch, Chapter Conservation Chair (njsierraclub@gmail.com)

In the Spring 2010 issue of this newsletter we introduced "Land-Use and Preservation in New Jersey: A Beginner's Guide," a 20-page handbook that can be found on our website, <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org>. In this issue of the Sierran we'll delve into some of the rules that the State and municipalities live by when planning a development. This article is a shortened version of our online guide, which includes useful links to other resources.

Anyone who has ever attended a Planning Board hearing when a proposal for an outsized building has come up has witnessed the seemingly endless litany of regulations, justifications, and supplications that developers and Planning Board officials toss back and forth over the course of several long evenings. What we are witnessing is the Municipal Land Use Law, or MLUL, in action.

When a development proposal comes along, everyone is required to play by the MLUL rule book. The better you know

these rules, the better off you will be in catching the players in violations and in making suggestions to make a project more environmentally responsible.

Not all development is bad. If the plans follow the MLUL, fit in with the zoning, and aren't detrimental to the environment, then there isn't much reason to be opposed. The "NIMBY" (Not in My Back Yard) argument is generally ineffective unless one can prove that harm will come to the community if the project is permitted. That having been said, there's often room for improvement.

Every municipality has a Master Plan, written by the Planning Board, a document assigning land uses to each parcel (zone) of land. Zoning can be for commercial uses, office parks, varying densities of housing, open space, or for a mixture of these. Examine your municipality's Zoning Ordinance as well; this is a document approved by the governing body, which must "apply" the land uses specified in the Master Plan. It goes into

detail about what is allowed in each zone. So find out what the zoning is for the land the proposed development will be on, and then consider whether the proposed development is appropriate for the site.

The law requires public notice of each development application. Unfortunately, very few people make a habit of reading legal notices in local newspapers. Depending on the type of development and the municipal rules, residents within several hundred feet of the property might be notified by mail. Sometimes the plans are reported in local newspapers, occasionally even before the application process begins.

In addition to Planning Board approval, there are many specialized permits that a developer might be required to obtain, such as for soil disturbance, transportation impacts, and affordable housing. A list of them, and the current status of each, is normally included in

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Ballot for Members of our Raritan Valley Group

If you are a member of the Raritan Valley Group, please cut out this ballot on the dotted lines, retaining the membership information on the reverse side (which will be obscured before the ballot is counted) - to indicate whether or not you approve a change in the Group's Bylaws to raise the size of the Group Executive Committee from 7 to 9 members. This change was endorsed by the

Chapter ExCom on May 8. The two boxes are so that FAMILY members can exercise separate votes.

Approve Disapprove

Please return the cut-out ballot in your own envelope, by August 1, to: **Ballot, Sierra Club, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618.**

Sustainable Life-style

Some (don't) Like it Hot! A review of "Diet for a Hot Planet: The climate crisis at the end of our fork" by Anna Lappé

By our regular columnist, Suzanne Dragan (suzanne.dragan@aplNJ.org)

Thanks to a lack of babysitters, I got to see "Some Like it Hot" (my most favorite movie of all time) as a child. The "hot" in the title refers to jazz. I remember how the audience roared with laughter at the closing line. People walked out of the theatre ebullient, smiling and chattering about the film. The antics of Marilyn Monroe, Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis made a lasting impression and I was hooked.

Although "Diet for a Hot Planet" may not evoke the same enthusiasm, it is definitely a "must-read" for all environmentalists concerned about global warming and our "hot" planet.

An all-inclusive synopsis of our climate crisis, Lappé details the environmental and social impacts of our food choices. She gives the reader insights, hope and specific tools for adopting a more climate-friendly diet.

In many ways this book is a sequel to "Diet for a Small Planet" by Frances Moore Lappé, written by the author's mother in 1971. Unlike the parent book, Anna exposes the machinations of large agri-businesses and their carefully orchestrated publicity campaigns to make them appear "green".

The author's clarification of nitrogen production and its impact in the second half of the twentieth century is especially enlightening and explains why we are losing topsoil faster than Nature can make it.

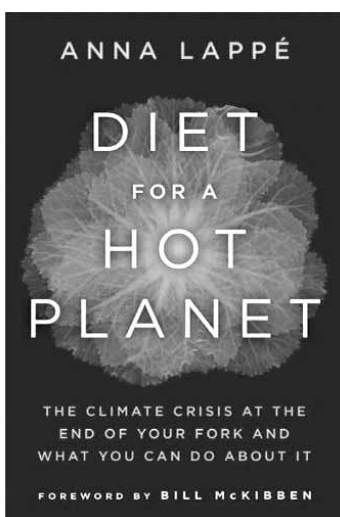
She discusses the effects of palm oil plantations and how products like granola bars, potato chips, cookies, crackers, cosmetics, soaps, shampoos and fuel (all containing palm oil) are destroying Asian rainforests and peat lands.

The Seven Principles of a Climate-friendly Diet (eat whole foods, eat more plant-based, go organic, eat locally-grown, compost, reuse/recycle and grow your own food) are not unfamiliar to most environmentalists.

The section on how to identify organic produce and how to differentiate between various labels and food certifications I found especially helpful. Lappé neglects to mention that raising animals locally and organically does not reduce the amount of food or water required to produce meat or that the animals produce as much waste as factory farmed animals.

The book has extensive footnotes, a bibliography, and an action and resources section, so the reader will be well-equipped to pursue climate-friendly eating.

Perhaps by following the precepts suggested in "Diet for a Hot Planet," like



Marilyn's character "Sugar," we can avoid getting the fuzzy end of the lollipop.

Here are some 'hot' recipes to enjoy:

Quick & Easy Black Bean Salsa

Splash or two of red wine vinegar, to taste
Salt & pepper, to taste
1/8 teaspoon Tabasco sauce or to taste (red is hotter than green)

1 16 ounce can black beans: Drain liquid, then fill can with fresh water, let it sit 10 minutes, drain again & rinse. You've just removed 70% of the salt in the beans. Or use 2 cups cooked black beans.

1 16 ounce can Mexican style corn, drained

1/4 cup sliced green onions/scallions
1 large ripe red tomato, diced or 1/2 pint cherry/grape tomatoes, diced
2 ripe avocados, halved, pitted, peeled & diced. Use one avocado, pureed for less calories.

Fresh lemon juice to taste

In a large bowl, mix together the vinegar and Tabasco. Add the drained beans, corn, scallions and lemon juice. Toss together then stir in tomato and avocado. Add ground pepper & salt to taste. Mix well & serve with baked tortilla or pita chips or crackers. Use this versatile dish in a green salad, as an appetizer, side dish or in a whole grain wrap. Heat it up and serve over whole grain pasta or rice as an entrée.

Rainbow Barley Salad

2 cups cooked pearl barley
1/2 - 3/4 cup dried cranberries
1/2 cup frozen shelled cooked edamame (soybeans) blanched for 3 minutes
1/4 cup diced celery
1/4 cup diced carrots, blanched for 3 minutes
1/4 cup chopped red cabbage
3 teaspoons olive oil
Salt & pepper to taste

Add all ingredients in large bowl and mix well. Serve at room temperature as a salad, or warm and serve as a side dish or entrée.

(Suzanne Dragan is a nurse, Sierra Club member and director of Food for Life, a program of the 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.)

POPULATION ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

The Sierra Club in India

By Bonnie Tillery, (blt44blt@msn.com)

The driver wrenched the wheel of the jeep back and forth, keeping his hand on the horn the whole time, passing without concern for oncoming traffic and then whipping back into his lane at the last second. It was like being on a terrifying amusement ride, but it wasn't amusing. We were on the road to a SEWA (Self-Employed Women's Association) Processing Facility outside of Ahmedabad, India, on a Global Population and Environment Program study trip. A few days later I read in the *India Today Magazine* that India has the highest number of deaths from road accidents of anywhere else in the world - 13 an hour! After this hellacious ride we were welcomed by singing women who placed a bindi (a red dot) on our foreheads in greeting.

Still disconcerted from the morning's trip, we walked into a large meeting room where about 50 women in colorful saris sat in a circle on the floor. They began to chant in unison, their voices quietly soothing, and the agitation from the morning's ride disappeared. They had gathered from a 25 to 30 kilometer radius to speak with us, and to meet together and share ideas. They are part of an organization that the Sierra Club recognized in 2009 for their Green Energy and Green Livelihoods initiatives. SEWA's goals include fighting poverty by working with the poorest rural villages, and in promoting green and clean technology. SEWA has trained women in water conservation, solid waste recycling and vermicomposting for organic gardening, among other initiatives.

SEWA works in 9 of the 28 states in India, bringing women out of poverty, raising the living standards of families and villages, and doing so in an environmentally sustainable way.

As we talked with the women, their cell phones rang and they got up to take calls from brokers with whom they were negotiating to get the best prices for their crops. These women, we were told, had come a long way from barely being able to speak their names to now arguing for the best price for their produce.

They told us how global climate change has affected their livelihoods. Rain has been coming in the dry season, and the monsoons are lighter than in the past. Our visit coincided with the wheat season, but it wasn't cold enough so they had to plant their wheat three times. This

used to be a tobacco growing area, but tobacco use is now discouraged, so they have shifted to other crops such as potatoes, bananas and vegetables.

With increased incomes, the women have seen a reduction in malnutrition in the villages where SEWA groups work. Some women felt the few rupees it costs to join SEWA was too expensive, but these same women now realize that membership is a good long-term investment.

As women's education and income increase in India and around the world, they are choosing to have smaller families. One of the women in this SEWA meeting said, "Consumption (may) increase, but the size of the land is the same."

The processing center also has a room where women are trained to use computers, and other areas where spices, teas, salt, chili peppers, rice, dhal (dried beans and lentils) and other produce are processed and packaged under the RUDI brand name. Working at a processing center such as this is another source of fair-wage employment for women.

The Sierra Club's international program in India, under the direction of Stephen Mills, is supported through funds raised specifically for this work. Steve commented, "India has a huge, growing population and an economy that is growing faster than America's. If they follow our environmentally unsustainable development path, then we are all toast. As Americans we're largely responsible for the climate calamity that will hit India quite hard, and India is an important country in the international climate treaty negotiations. I believe the Sierra Club's credibility in international negotiations has been strengthened by the fact that we have this program to create green livelihoods in India."

With development and population growth comes pressure on the environment. The Sierra Club is trying to encourage programs in India that highlight sustainable development and a sustainable population.

To learn more about the Self-Employed Women's Association, go to: www.sewa.org. To find out about the Sierra Club's "Green Energy & Green Livelihoods" program to support and encourage renewable energy initiatives and create sustainable livelihoods for India's citizens, and to read about the other award recipients, go to: www.sierraclub.org/india.

Land-Use Guide

(Continued from page 1)

the application distributed to members of a Planning Board.

Since much of New Jersey consists of wetlands or is close to wetlands, many developers try to build on or near them, and many development applications have been successfully fought on arguments for the protection of wetlands. There are both federal and state laws and regulations that restrict disturbance of wetlands. One of an environmentalist's most valuable tools is the map prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the 50- and 100-year flood plain in each municipality, within which

development should be highly restricted.

For more discussion of wetland considerations, arguments regarding stormwater drainage, stream encroachment, disturbance to steep slopes, tree-replacement, historic preservation, threatened and endangered species, and the need for proper environmental assessments or impact statements as a condition for a Planning Board approval, please see the more complete version of our Land-Use Guide: on the main menu of Chapter's website: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org.

In the next issue of the Sierran we'll cover what to do and how to organize when a development proposal is the subject of a public hearing.

Saving Bears

(Continued from page 1)

The current strategy for getting rid of problem bears is working. It includes euthanizing the most aggressive bears, and instructing people in bear country to bear-proof their property: moving bird feeders out of reach, and putting electric fences around compost piles. Food and

anything else that attracts bears need to be secured.

The black bear is a symbol that we still have wild places in New Jersey and the whole state has not been paved over with subdivisions and strip malls. As New Jersey continues to suburbanize and more people move into bear country, we should be managing bears and protecting their habitat instead of getting rid of them.

Chair's Message

Plastics

By Chapter Chair Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)



Mr. McGuire had one word of advice for Ben when he took him aside in the opening scene of *The Graduate*: "Plastics." Ben was more interested in other pursuits, including his pursuit of Mrs. Robinson. But Mr. McGuire turned out to know what he was talking about. If only Ben had listened.

These days it seems that most everything we buy is made from or packaged in plastic. The World, and this country in particular, produce and consume vast quantities of plastic products and packaging materials. And while some of these materials are recycled, most end up in landfills or, if not disposed of properly, in stormwater runoff, in rivers and streams and, ultimately, in our oceans.

So why are environmentalists so alarmed? After all, the human race has been dumping its waste in the oceans for thousands of years and somehow the oceans and their inhabitants have managed to survive.

But this is different. This isn't your garden variety of human waste. While most of the waste that we've been dumping into the oceans over the years biodegrades within a fairly short period of time, petroleum-based plastics do not biodegrade, they photodegrade. Sunlight breaks them down into smaller and smaller particles, but they retain their original composition, even at the molecular level.

So plastics, including coffee cups, plastic bags, water bottles and fishing nets, continue to accumulate in the world's oceans, both in their original forms and, as they photodegrade, in smaller and smaller pieces. As a result of ocean currents, they accumulate in gyres, the most famous of which has been dubbed the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. No one knows the size of the Garbage Patch, but estimates range from 270,000 square miles to 5,800,000 square miles, twice the size of the continental United States. A similar patch is said to exist in the Atlantic Ocean.

In 2004 United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan reported that marine trash, mainly plastics, was killing more than a million seabirds and 100,000 mammals and sea turtles each year. Marine mammals and sea turtles mistake plastic bags for jellyfish and suffocate, albatross and other seabirds feed plastic bottle caps and other debris to their young, resulting in their death, and sea lions, seals, dolphins and whales get entangled in discarded fishing nets. Unless they are able to work themselves free, an unlikely scenario, they eventually die from strangulation, from starvation or from wounds inflicted by the nets.

But marine mammals and seabirds are not the only ones at risk. As the plastic debris photodegrades, it absorbs organic pollutants from seawater, including PCBs and DDT. Many of these particles also leach endocrine-disrupting chemicals. The toxin-containing particles are eaten by marine creatures and gradually work their way up through the food chain. Eventually they end up on our dinner tables.

The breakdown of plastics into smaller and smaller particles also has a significant impact upon the distribution of phytoplankton and zooplankton. In concentrated plastic particle areas these minute plants and animals have been shown to be largely displaced by plastic particles. This is a very serious concern, as phytoplankton and zooplankton constitute the critical base of the oceanic food chain. Also, oceanic phytoplankton, not terrestrial forests, are the primary producers of atmospheric oxygen.

The accumulation of plastics in our

oceans is a huge problem that does not lend itself to an easy solution. But there are steps that we as individuals and as a society can take.

Most plastics in use today are petroleum-based. These plastics are favored by manufacturers and distributors because they are relatively inexpensive to produce, because of their durability and because they do not biodegrade. But do we really need these characteristics in plastic bags, single-use food containers and other packaging materials?

Alternatives to petroleum-based plastics do exist, including biodegradable plastics made from vegetable oils, corn starch and other organic substances. These products bring with them their own set of problems, including greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, soil erosion and the depletion of already stressed water resources. But despite these drawbacks, on balance biodegradable plastics are superior to their petroleum-based brethren, especially when one considers their impact upon the world's oceans and the creatures the oceans support.

But switching from petroleum-based plastics to biodegradable plastics is only part of the answer. We also need to reduce the amount of plastics that we consume and, wherever possible, reuse or recycle those products that we do consume. There are a number of steps that we as individuals can take, including using reusable bags at the grocery store and at other retailers, avoiding the use of bottled water and purchasing products from companies that are taking steps to reduce their use of plastics, especially petroleum-based plastics.

But individual action is not enough. Several bills have been introduced in the New Jersey legislature which, if enacted, would reduce the amount of plastics, including petroleum-based plastics, that enter the waste stream. One bill, A-2121, sponsored by Assemblyman Chivukula, together with its companion bill, S-456, sponsored by Senator Smith, would require that retailers impose a 15 cent fee for every plastic or paper bag they provide to customers, that all such bags be compostable or, in the case of paper bags, recyclable, that retailers reduce the volume of carryout bags they use by 75% by 2014 and that retailers make reusable bags readily available to their customers.

Another bill, A-930, sponsored by Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttie, Greenstein and Stender, would augment the State's existing recycling program, a program that, unfortunately, is ignored by a large segment of our population, by requiring 10-cent and 20-cent deposits on plastic and glass bottles and aluminum cans. This bill, if enacted, would provide a financial incentive for customers to turn these containers in for recycling, rather than throwing them in the trash or out their car windows.

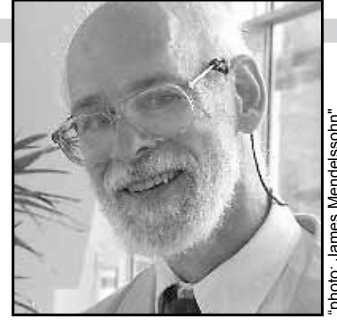
The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club actively supports these bills and continues to lobby for their passage. But despite our efforts, to date the legislature has failed to act. This is where you come in. If you care as deeply as I do about this issue, I urge you to contact the two members of the General Assembly who represent the district in which you live, as well as your State senator, and let them know not only that you support these bills, but also that you expect them, as your elected representatives, to take whatever action they can to ensure that these bills are signed into law.

Ordinary citizens sometime feel that they are powerless, that their opinions have no impact on the legislative process.

Editorial

Results of our Reader Survey

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



Many thanks to the 79 members who responded to the survey questionnaire in our January-March issue, either by mailing in paper or responding electronically. Most importantly, the vast majority (68%) of you are satisfied with our quarterly paper issues mailed through the US Postal Service. There was some (17%) interest in higher frequency, and less (12%) preference for intermediate electronic issues.

As editor, I'm delighted to find my inclinations for content, and the advice that has been coming from members of our Editorial Board, vindicated, with overwhelming reader satisfaction with the Reports from Trenton, Sustainable Lifestyle News, Issue Coordinators' Reports, Group News, and Editorial Page materials.

Perhaps more interesting to me was the discovery of how OLD our membership is: nearly half (45%) of the respondents were 60 or over, and 51% were between 30 and 60. Does that mean that the younger generation doesn't "join," or joins OTHER organizations, or perhaps doesn't respond to reader surveys?

80% of our members see the Club's primary function as political, and 73% see education as another primary function, whereas only 43% regard the Club as a provider of recreation, and 22% regard its social opportunities as important.

It was not surprising to me that only 5% admitted Republican Party orientation, even though several of our statewide officers are committed to that Party, and New Jersey's Republicans are traditionally an environmentally responsible class apart from the more conservative mainstream of American Republicans. But I thought it interesting that, of the remainder, only 61% admitted Democratic Party commitment, meaning that 39% claimed neither preference. It's interesting because so much of environmentalism requires political action at the polls, and independents are not permitted to vote in primary elections.

Here's our residential distribution: 57% "automobile" suburban, 13% "railroad" suburban, 9% urban, 9% town, and 12% rural. That makes us less urban than New Jersey's population average, more "townish," and about on-average for the census designation of "rural." The 1990 census reported about 80% of New Jerseyans as suburban; our membership reported as

70% suburban. The difference may well be insignificant.

I hope you'll be happy to know that 73% of us regard the Club as "constructive" in our lobbying, with another 16% thinking that our lobbying is only marginally effective, and only 4% thinking that our lobbying is extremist. The Club has a long history of internal (and measured) debate over the extent to which we (volunteers) should rely on professionals for our lobbying, with a clear trend toward professionalism, and our members would seem to "ratify" that trend with an 87-13% split over regarding our current efforts as professional rather than grassroots. Similarly, the split was 67-33% over a regard for the Club as primarily national in activity rather than local.

My attempt to rank order our issue-priorities by percentages yields the following "scores":

- 69% regard land-use issues as highly important for us,
- 62% regard health and pollution issues as highly important for us,
- 59% regard climate change as highly important for us,
- 34% regard population issues as highly important for us, and
- 28% regard environmental justice issues as highly important for us.

An encouraging 57% of us report engagement by responding to our Action Alerts; 68% admit discussing environmental issues with family, friends and colleagues; 21% attend our Group meetings, and only 17% participate in our outings.

More than half (51%) have been members for more than 10 years, but 23% for fewer than 2 years. The implication is that membership is fickle enough to require our continued residential canvassing for new members.

To the extent that the sample is representative, 10% of our members live without cars, 78% have installed Compact Fluorescent Light-bulbs, and 7% have installed solar panels. 29% use public transport. 16% expressed interest in investing in a Community Solar Array, a prospect still opposed by some power companies because they haven't figured out how to meter the electricity. But the NJ Board of Public Utilities continues to promote pilot projects, and will continue to be lobbied (at least by me) to impose the concept on the power companies, if necessary. Stay tuned!

Resolutions Adopted by ExCom in March-May, 2010

We appointed Barbara Conover (Essex County Group) to be our Chapter Coal Campaign Coordinator (March)

We appointed Rich Isaac (Essex County Group) to be our Chapter Water Quality and Habitat Issues Coordinator, to facilitate his efforts to lobby for national legislation that would require cigarette filters to be made of

biodegradable materials. (May)

We approved changes to the national Sierra Club's Wildlife Conservation Policies that will strengthen language that deplores the trapping of wildlife by leg-hold traps. (May)

We approved changes to the bylaws of our Raritan Valley Group that allows an enlarged Group Executive Committee. (May)

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.

This is a big mistake. If there is one thing I've learned since I first became active in the environmental movement, it is that you and I can make a difference. If our

elected representatives hear from enough of us, they will take action. So write those letters and make those calls. The issue is too important to ignore.

ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Wilderness in the Spotlight

By John Kashwick, our Wildlands Issues Coordinator (jkashwick@optonline.net)

Each year I spend time attending at least one event related to wilderness. I've attended several of the Club's "Wilderness Weeks" in Washington DC - to lobby on behalf of Utah or Alaska wilderness; I participated in a clean-up in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (Arizona) where I saw, first-hand, the effects of our national immigration policy; and I attended wilderness retreats in Moab, Utah to work with other activists on campaign planning for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. This year, for three days in April, I attended a Western Wilderness Conference in Berkeley, California, sponsored by the Club and by the Calif. Wilderness Coalition.

"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." This is the definition of wilderness from the federal Wilderness Act of 1964, which was often quoted at the conference. There were far too many workshops for any one person to attend, so I sampled the ones on issues I knew least about.

One session titled "Freedom to Roam" explored the quest to save North America's large wild animals from extinction. Bear, wolverines, and pronghorn antelope are threatened when large tracts of land are despoiled by the effects of climate change, habitat fragmentation, and sprawling developments. For me, the key plan for the future is the concept of "migratory corridors" which connect parks and other wilderness areas to allow large fauna to travel to new habitats in search of food.

In the 1960s and 1970s, both Democrats and Republicans supported wilderness, designating more than 109 million acres into the Wilderness System,

the majority of which is managed by the National Park Service. Unfortunately, that bipartisan aspect of wilderness preservation has eroded.

In New Jersey, however, we are fortunate to have members of both parties who are strong advocates for wilderness. Nearly all of our representatives in Congress are co-sponsors of such wilderness legislation as America's Red Rock (Utah) Wilderness Act, the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Protection Act, and the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act. We are especially lucky to have Rep. Rush Holt (12th CD), who champions wilderness as a member of the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, and as a speaker at many Congressional hearings. He was the prime sponsor of the Omnibus Lands Bill of 2009.

The greatest threat to wilderness is public complacency. We have strong proponents for wilderness representing us in Congress because it reflects the values and urgings of New Jersey's voters. To continue the progress we need keep reminding our representatives of these values. To learn more about these issues, or get more involved in wilderness issues from right here in New Jersey, please contact me at john@njwild.net.

(John is also a member of the national Sierra Club's National Parks and Monuments Team and the Utah Wilderness Team.)



Sustainable Life-style

Changed Regulations for Disposing of Household Batteries

By Tamanna Mohapatra, of our Central Jersey Group (tmohapatra@yahoo.com)

It's official folks: a new federal law has been passed that makes disposing toxic items much easier, and increases our exposure to toxic substances. This time it's household alkaline batteries. Here's what's changed, how it will impact us, and next steps from a consumer's point of view:

Changes to the law:

Due to the decrease in the amount of mercury in alkaline batteries, the requirements contained in the federal "Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act" (P.L. 104-142), no longer apply to them. Therefore, they have been declared safe for disposal in regular household trash. Included are "single-use" household AAA, AA, C, D and 9-volt batteries, and heavy duty Carbon Zinc batteries. In New Jersey, however, it is still illegal to knowingly dispose of nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cd) batteries and associated products as household waste.

New Jersey's county household hazardous-waste coordinators met late in 2009 and decided to discontinue collecting alkaline batteries - to cut costs. An additional reason is that manufacturers of alkaline batteries get little re-useable material from them. There have also been fires started by batteries that short-circuited during transport, resulting in a requirement for packing them in insulating containers.

What does it mean?

Now only rechargeable and other batteries considered "hazardous but single use" can be recycled. If batteries contain any of the following compounds: Ni-Cd, Nickel-Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium ion (Li-ion), Ni-Zinc, and Small Sealed Lead Acid (Pb) weighing up to 11 lbs/5 kg of battery, they should be recycled by any of the following means:

1. Organizations like www.call2recycle.org (they list available recycling facilities based on zip code). Call2recycle is the only free rechargeable battery and cell phone collection program in North America. It operates through a network of about 1700 retailers, businesses and

public agencies in New Jersey alone.

2. Local hardware stores (Loews, Home Depot, Ace Hardware etc.)

3. Check your county or municipal utilities authority's (or municipality's) website for battery recycling days and venues.

Other batteries:

Non-rechargeable and large (over 11 lbs) lead-acid batteries, such as are used to start motor vehicles: The proper management for these batteries is to take them to a household hazardous waste disposal facility.

Button Cell Batteries - Most of these batteries still contain mercury and should be taken to a household hazardous waste facility.

I'm disappointed with the new regulations, for the following reasons:

1. Although mercury levels have been reduced dramatically in alkaline batteries, they still contain trace amounts of other toxic metals such as nickel and cadmium, which will now contaminate the gases emitted from solid-waste incinerators, or the groundwater under landfills.

2. The new law will confuse people and be likely to result in the wrong kinds of batteries discarded into household waste.

3. If damaged or mishandled, the potassium hydroxide in alkaline batteries may leak out of the battery cell and cause chemical burns to skin or eyes.

4. Disposable (single-use) lithium batteries (AA, C, 9 volt and coin), mainly used in computers and cameras, are reactive with water, and can cause serious fires. These kinds need to be delivered to a hazardous waste facility.

More information:

<http://environmentalblog.blogspot.com/2010/04/confused-about-battery-recycling-read.html>

<http://earth911.com/news/2010/02/01/single-use-vs-rechargeable/>

<http://www.ebso.com/ebshome/batteries.php>

http://www.mcmua.com/HazardousWaste/FAQ_Batteries_household.htm

News from West Jersey:

Reuse of Wastewater on a Golf Course; An Award for Open Space Preservation; Managing Camden's Urban Forest

From Gina Carola, West Jersey Group Chair (ginaacee@verizon.net)

Gloucester County officials have announced plans to build a water-reuse plant to irrigate a county-owned golf course. Purchased in the mid '90s with Green Acres funds, the Pitman Golf Course attracts more than 40,000 golfers each year, and uses more than 21 million gallons of water. This presents quite a challenge because the course is limited to drawing only 3.85 million gallons from the aquifer. The rest has to come from rainwater and stream sources which are not always sufficient during dry years. The new plant will "polish" effluent from the county sewage treatment plant.

On May 4, the Heritage Collaborative Inc., a South Jersey advocacy organization, presented the Whitman Preservation Award to Gloucester County for its Land Preservation Program. County Freeholder Director Stephen Sweeney noted that it is an honor to have this recognition. Last year, 35 properties totaling more than 2,268 acres of farmland and open space

were saved bringing the total to 16,600 acres since the program began.

The City of Camden is set to adopt a 5-Year Community Forestry Management Plan in order to help care for the city's urban forest. Once the plan is approved and adopted by City Council, Camden will be eligible for a grant of up to \$25,000 a year to help implement the goals of the Plan. The plan will include a tree inventory, new tree plantings and tree maintenance. Anyone interested in helping out by becoming a member of the Camden Pruning Club or Shade Tree Advisory Board can call Jessica Franzini at 856-287-4488.



Sierra Club Response to PSE&G on Power Lines through the Highlands

Jeff Tittel, NJ Sierra Club Director
April 22, 2010

PSE&G has announced plans to start construction on the Susquehanna-Roseland power line project this summer. The Sierra Club is outraged by PSE&G's arrogant attempt to push their project forward.

The Sierra Club and other interveners are appealing the Board of Public Utilities decision and PSE&G is trying to circumvent the appeals process.

By starting construction, PSE&G is putting unfair pressure on the National Park Service to approve the line which will

cross the Delaware Water Gap and the Appalachian Trail. PSE&G is trying to use this as leverage by saying that construction has begun and money has been spent. It is outrageous that the National Parks Service is just starting the environmental impact statement. This is the height of arrogance!

It is all the more shameful that this was done on Earth Day because PSE&G will stop at nothing to put this power line through the Highlands and bring in dirty coal power from Pennsylvania.

Report from Trenton:

GAO Report Raises Questions about Delaware Deepening

By Kara Seymour and Jeff Tittel, Chapter Staff

In March, the Government Accountability Office released its assessment of the Army Corps' proposal to deepen the Delaware River from its mouth to the ports of Camden and Philadelphia. The report raises serious questions about the need for the project.

The GAO criticizes the economic impacts considered by the Army Corps: they fail to include changes in economic conditions such as the closing of refineries and the lessening of steel imports.

The report says there needs to be better guidance for public input and for the submission of environmental documents, as recommended by the Sierra Club and other environmental groups. The report notes much continuing opposition to the deepening and impending legal challenges by the states of Delaware and New Jersey.

Government agencies are not usually this critical of each other. Reading

between the lines, the GAO is saying the Army Corps hasn't done its job.

The project includes blasting bedrock at the bottom of the Delaware River, which could cause fissures in the bedrock and allow salt water intrusion into the drinking water aquifers of New Jersey, including those used for irrigation of South Jersey farms.

Moreover, eight of the nine dump sites for dredged materials are to be sited in New Jersey, posing an additional risk to our ground water from leached toxins.

In the absence of evidence of significant economic benefits to New Jersey, and in the presence of evidence for many risks to the state's farming, fishing, blue crab and oyster industries, as well as of health risks from the dredged materials, we think the Army Corps has not justified the \$400 million in public expenditures that will go toward this project.

Christie's Hundred Days

(Continued from page 1)

lion from the Clean Energy Fund and the FY2010 cuts an additional \$52 million, reducing programs that reimburse residents for solar installations and high efficiency appliances.

The DEP's funding is at an historic low. Parks were cut by more than one-third.

The budget eliminated \$10 million of payments in lieu of taxes to communities that have open space.

The Highlands lost \$18 million in the FY2010 budget cuts, and FY2011 spending is slashed from \$12 million to \$4.4 million.

Direct aid to municipalities in the Highlands and Pinelands is cut by \$7.6 million.

The 2011 budget eliminates the Office of Climate Change, taking direct aim at clean energy program and efforts to fight climate change.

The budget eliminates non-lethal bear management programs - see p. 1.

New Jersey Transit subsidies were cut, resulting in a record-high fare hike and cuts to bus service. The 22% overall increase in transit fares will strain working families and put more cars on the road, increasing traffic and pollution. But funding for widening highways, like the one through the Pinelands, is retained. \$10 million was diverted from tree planting for widening the Turnpike and Parkway

\$12 million is cut from state inspection stations, causing some stations to close and delaying inspection requirements. Cars that get inspected regularly are maintained properly and produce less pollution. Enhanced inspections were part of state's implementation plan for the Clean Air Act, so we could lose federal transportation dollars as well as increase pollution.

Here are some other environmental insults that mark Gov. Christie's first 100 days in office:

Approval of the Susquehanna-Roseland power line: see article on p.4.

DEP Commissioner Martin waffled on pollution in Barnegat Bay, and the need to install a cooling tower at the Oyster Creek nuclear plant.

The BPU decided to allow development of Holly Farm, Cumberland Co, one of the most environmentally sensitive areas in the state

Approval of the first bear hunt since

2004 and only the second in 40 years. (See article on p. 1.)

The DEP reorganization plan is a special interest wish-list that not only undermines environmental protections, but pushes the developer and polluter agendas. Christie has created an assistant commissioner for economic growth, and moved planning and policy functions under permitting so that the permit writers will not have to listen to professionals who understand planning and natural resource protection. There's a new office of economic analysis to conduct a cost-benefit analysis on DEP programs which may not consider public health and environmental factors. Water programs are moved away from land use, creating more silos within DEP and separate programs that don't communicate with each other.

Several new proposals will weaken the DEP's environmental protections, promote sprawl, and jeopardize public health and safety:

Creation of a "Business Ombudsmen" (lobbyist) in DEP to facilitate permits for developers at the expense of taxpayers.

Weaken the Division of Science even further and do away with the Office of Policy.

The administration is looking to revisit the energy master plan - which could lead to backing away from New Jersey's commitment to clean and renewable energy and more nuclear power.

The governor has said he does not want to weaken the environment. But by failing to adopt regulatory standards for drinking water, or rolling back protections of our waterways, he has weakened the environment. His cutting of programs that not only create thousands of green jobs but limit pollution and greenhouse gases is an environmental weakening. His cutting of funds for transit so that more people must use their cars, which contributes to more pollution, is an environmental weakening. His spending billions to widen highways in the middle of nowhere, and his withdrawal of money to mitigate the environmental damages from those projects - that is an environmental weakening. When he mandates that New Jersey's pollution standards be reduced to weaker federal standards - that is an environmental weakening.

Paying for Superfund Cleanups by Restoring an Industry Tax

By Lina Slimkhan, of our Loantaka Group (lincue@aol.com)

This March, EPA administrator Lisa Jackson visited two of New Jersey's worst Superfund sites: in Newark and Pompton Lakes.

In Newark, the Diamond Alkali Chemical Plant produced Agent Orange, a carcinogenic defoliant sprayed on Vietnamese forests during the 1960s, contaminating Newark Bay with the potent carcinogen dioxin; the site has been on the Superfund list since 1984.

In Pompton Lakes (Passaic County), the former E.I. DuPont Company explosives plant, which operated from 1886 to 1994, released 150 different toxic substances including carcinogens, into the soil and groundwater. Because of the high level of contamination, DuPont has installed "vapor mitigation systems" to remove chemical vapors from 450 nearby homes. Long-term exposure to pollution has resulted in locally higher-than-average rates of kidney cancer in women and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in men. Despite \$130 million spent on cleanup efforts, pollution persists in Pompton Lakes and continues to harm residents.

Cleaning up Superfund sites is very complicated and expensive. One highly contaminated site in Toms River (Ocean County) requires additional cleanup despite decades of effort. Ciba-Geigy Corporation (now Novartis) operated a dye-manufacturing plant from 1952 to 1990, neglecting its toxic industrial waste. In 1989 the EPA discovered that the waste was leaching into the ground-

water, and ordered the company to clean up the site. In next-door Dover Township the chemical corporation Union Carbide, responsible for the Bhopal disaster in India, illegally dumped thousands of drums of toxic waste at Reich Farm in the early 1970s. The waste contaminated 148 nearby private wells, which were subsequently closed. Between 1979 and 1995, 90 children in the Township were diagnosed with cancer, including leukemias and brain tumors at much higher than the national rate.

The Garden State leads the nation in the number of Superfund sites, with 112. Cleanups have been very slow: 50 of New Jersey' sites have remained on the National Priorities List since 1983. To accelerate progress, Senator Frank Lautenberg and Representative Frank Pallone (6th Cong. Dist.) have introduced a bill to reinstate a "polluter pays" tax on chemical and oil companies - to pay for the cleanup of sites abandoned by corporations ("orphan sites"), which comprise 30% of all Superfund sites.

Corporations like DuPont and Ciba-Geigy have mismanaged toxic waste for many years, damaging the environment, economies, and the health of many communities. Under the Bush administration, corporate responsibility was withdrawn, so taxpayers had to pay the bills. The proposed tax on corporations will raise \$1.3 billion annually and hopefully speed the cleanup of Superfund sites and protect affected communities.

Report from Trenton:

Wind vs. Oil: The Choice Is Now

By Christine Guhl and Jeff Tittel, Chapter Staff

When it comes to electrical energy, we are at a crossroads both in New Jersey and the nation. We can either go down the path of clean, renewable energy sources, or continue the mistakes of the past.

Offshore wind is the most reliable and cost effective form of renewable energy. Once installed, it costs very little to run and operate compared to coal, oil or nuclear, where you have to keep buying fuel. It costs a tenth of what it does to operate those forms of energy.

Right now decisions are being made in Washington, on whether to continue with the fossil foolishness of the past, or move to clean energy. April of this year saw both the approval of a wind farm off Massachusetts, and a catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The choice should be obvious. We can't have it both ways. The USA consumes 25% of the World's energy but has only 2% of its fossil fuel reserves.

If a Louisiana-sized oil spill happened off the coast of New Jersey, it would devastate not only our beaches and wildlife refuges, but also a \$39 billion tourism economy, and a \$750 million per year fishing economy. If oil were discovered off the coast of Delaware, pipelines would bring it to New Jersey's refineries, another prospect for serious environmental damage.

One action being taken to clean up the

Louisiana spill is to burn the oil at sea. Based on a daily spillage of 5,000 barrels, the burning will produce 2,000 tons of CO2, plus other air toxins, each day. This is the equivalent of adding 125,000 cars to New Jersey's roads.

The big oil companies have spent millions trying to sell the public on offshore drilling. They should have put that money into safety equipment and valves that close. Big oil has said "trust us, new technology will avoid spills," but the Gulf of Mexico suggests otherwise. One quart of oil pollutes a million gallons of water. We cannot trust big oil with our energy future. Even if the odds of a catastrophe were one in a million, the risk to our economy and to our environment would not be worth taking.

Under current New Jersey permitting requirements it is easier to drill an oil well off our coasts than to install a windmill. We need to change that. One problem is the lack of rules for siting offshore wind; that process may take three years. Then, conducting an environmental analysis may take up to six years. Under the current system, three different environmental analyses are required. So the soonest we could have windmills is 2016, but it will probably be more like 2018. By contrast, offshore drilling for oil could start in 2012. Our state legislators need to be reminded of this regulatory insanity.



Group News

FROM
AROUND
THE
STATE

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

Skylands Group: Sussex & northern Warren
South Highlands Group: Hunterdon and southern Warren
North Jersey Group: Passaic & most of Bergen
Hudson-Meadowlands Group: Hudson & SE Bergen
Essex County Group: Essex
Loantaka Group: Morris & Union
Central Jersey Group: Mercer
Raritan Valley Group: Somerset & Middlesex
Jersey Shore Group: Monmouth
Ocean County Group: Ocean
West Jersey Group: Gloucester, Camden & Burlington
South Jersey Group: Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland & Salem

These designations are approximate: members are welcome to participate in whichever Group(s) they find convenient

Skylands Group (formerly Northwest Jersey Group)

(Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Marie Springer	aikidomarie@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair:	Marie Springer	aikidomarie@yahoo.com
Secretary:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Treasurer:	Charles Kopp	ccgkp@verizon.net
Hospitality & Special Events Chair:	Pat Mangino	patmangino@optonline.net
Publicity Chair:	Marilyn Finley	marfin@earthlink.net
Webmaster:	<i>Open Position!</i>	

ACTIVITIES: Presently working with other grassroots organizations to support efforts to preserve open space and maintain water quality, and to preserve the views and natural resources of the Appalachian Trail and the Delaware Water Gap by opposing efforts to replace existing 80' tall power lines with 195' monster towers.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Generally held on the first Wednesday of every month, 7:30 pm, at Sussex Community College, Building D in the Auditorium. Shuttle Bus runs regularly from all parking lot areas.

Please see our website for the latest general meeting schedule, information on scheduled guest speakers, monthly meeting topics and conservation issues our group is focusing on: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/skylands/>.

South Highlands Group (formerly Hunterdon County Group)

(Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties and surrounding areas)

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Greg Nelson	gregsap@hotmail.com
Vice-Chair:	Cinny MacGonagle	cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair:	James Brightwell	james_brightwell@comcast.net
Secretary:	Dwight Irving	dwight@dilirving.com
Treasurer:	<i>Open Position!!!</i>	
Political Chair:	Jonathan Wall	psychologist@jonwall.com
Publicity Chair:	Celeste Martin	oncentral@mac.com
Membership Chair:	William Moody	riversmfever@gmail.com
Energy Coordinator:	Mark Marciniak	mpmplace@ptd.net
Outings Coordinator:	Dave English	dgenglish@hotmail.com
Webmasters:	James Brightwell	james_brightwell@comcast.net
	Dwight Irving	dwight@dilirving.com

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

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), protecting our environment, and clean energy / energy conservation. GET INVOLVED!

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.

Meetings are held at the New Jersey Water Supply Authority Annex, 1851 State Rte 31, Clinton 08809. Please check our Facebook page for meeting updates as dates and location are subject to change - For more information please e-mail Greg Nelson at shighlandssierra@gmail.com.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Meetings start at 7pm on the first Wednesday of every month.

GENERAL MEETINGS:

General Meeting Topics:
 July-August - no meetings
 September - Energy
 October - Winter Birds
 November - Fall Harvests

OUTINGS: We are in need of hike leaders - if you are interested, please contact David English, dgenglish@hotmail.com - Put "Sierra Club Hike Leader" in the Subject Line)

WHERE WE WILL BE:

Please check our Facebook page for an up-to-date schedule of our events.

CURRENT ISSUES:

Spruce Run Office Building

Construction of a new three story, 10,000 square foot office building adjacent to the Spruce Run Reservoir in the strictly protected Highlands Preservation Area of the Township will degrade water quality in the Spruce Run Reservoir and two major water supply intakes in the area, and create a loophole for future development.

The building would be situated on Lot 3, Block 68, near Echo Lane in the northernmost part of the Township. That area is now zoned RC (Rural Conservation), but under the agreement would become OB-1 (Office Business). The proposed three story building will be sandwiched between Spruce Run State Park property on its northerly boundary and the nearby New Jersey Water Supply Authority property to the south and west.

Millford Mill Cleanup

Georgia Pacific and International Paper have stepped up to the plate to take responsibility in the clean-up of the Mill prior to the designation by the EPA of the Mill as a superfund site. What this means is still unclear and the effort the companies will put forth will still have to be seen. The community advisory group will remain active overseeing the project. We are hoping that the project will lead to an environment clean and safe for the residents. As well, we do hope the site is used for something benefiting the community - whatever it may be.

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 and Warren Counties, New Jersey, the United States, and the World. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Contact our group (shighlandssierra@gmail.com) to learn more about the Sierra Club and to join our Group.

North Jersey Group

(Bergen, Passaic and northern Morris Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:

Group Co-Chairs:	Betsy Kohn	201-461-4534	BetsyKohn@aol.com
	Mike Herson		mikeherson@hotmail.com
Conservation Co-Chairs:	Tom Thompson	201-848-1080	etrans743@aol.com
	Mike Herson		mikeherson@hotmail.com
Air Quality:	Laura Coll		lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com
Outings Chair:	Ellen Blumenkrantz		eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Passaic Issues:	Tricia Aspinwall		taspinwall@hotmail.com
Political Chair:	Greg Tondi		gregt75@yahoo.com
Program Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
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	201-906-4062	

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 7:30 pm; dates and locations below. Please contact Betsy (above) to make sure the program is on as planned. Sign up for e-mail notices at <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-NORTH-JERSEY-NEWS.html>

No meetings in July and August.

Sept 23: at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood: Program TBA.

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

(1) Hackensack River Watershed. Good news! A long-threatened riverfront parcel of open space in Teaneck has been saved and will become part of the Hackensack River Pathway through Teaneck. It took years of persistent efforts by a dedicated few who managed to win over the Township, the DEP and finally the County open space trust fund. Hats off to Marty and Norma Goetz and the other Teaneck stalwarts!

We continue to oppose any disturbance to the Hackensack River's vegetative riparian corridors north of Route 4: they are essential for habitat, flood control and the health of the river. Bulldozing them for a paved pathway would greatly harm this fragile ecosystem where the Northern Harrier, Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Osprey, and nesting Eagles have been observed. An extremely rare Red-headed Woodpecker has been spotted on Van Buskirk Island.

(2) Ramapo River Watershed. The Related Companies wants to build 1,196 housing units and 30,000 square feet of commercial space on forested slopes in Tuxedo, NY, a project that will degrade drinking water for 2.3 million New Jerseyans, destroy critical habitat (particularly for the threatened timber rattlesnake), and drastically alter the

Find out if your community has proponents for a Community Solar Farm - that will accept residential subscribers.

landscape (extensive tree clearing, blasting, bulldozing). Hundreds turned out in opposition at the SEIS hearings. We are still waiting for Related to respond.

(3) NJ Highlands. Things look very ominous for the Highlands. The DEP has scheduled a series of stakeholder meetings with a chosen few invited by the Christie Administration, virtually ignoring the more than FIVE MILLION New Jerseyans who depend on the Highlands for their water. The stakeholder process - which is closed to the public - puts at risk the current regulations that protect our water resources.

(4) Still under threat: Quinn Road in Clifton, now that Montclair State University is building a 2,000-unit dormitory; Soldier Hill wetlands in Paramus with the headwaters of a C1 brook that flows into the Oradell Reservoir; open space in Clifton at Latteri Park and Schultheis Farm; parkland in Overpeck County Park (Leonia) slated for a park-and-ride lot and new roadway; and the Highlands from the proposed 500kV Susquehanna-Roseland power line with 190-foot towers.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE: If you'd like to help maintain a hiking trail and can commit to do this at least once a year, 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 cartridges, please. Thanks!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: To find out how you can help with conservation issues, outings, public programs, environmental justice, or in other ways, please contact a group officer (above).

Hudson-Meadowlands Group

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

OFFICERS/CHAIRS:

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
	Ruth Olsen	201-868-6575	oof46@msn.com
Conservation Chair:	Mariana Zivkovic*	201-758-8390	tenisko@hotmail.com
	Louise Taylor*	201-562-8390	LTAYLOR2@comcast.net
Political Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Fundraising Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Membership Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Cool Cities Chair:	Helen Manogue*	201-963-3511	
Outings Chair:	Scottie Perry*	201-320-1758	scottieperry@optonline.net
Palisades Landmark Status			
Comm. Vice Chair:	David Kronick	201-869-6218	jktejas@aol.com
Group ExCom			
Members*:	Gil Hawkins*	201-944-5799	gilc3d2@aol.com
	Donald Kopczynski*	201-224-2641	Littlechops03@netzero.com
	Steve Lanset*		slanset@hotmail.com

MEETINGS: The Hudson-Meadowlands Group holds their meetings during the last week of each month. Please contact the Secretaries, Judith or Ruth for more information about the next meetings and/or check out our web page: http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/Hudson/njs_hudson.asp. Our Open Meeting in February featured two speakers on evolution and habitat: Janet Glass on her National Geographic Charles Darwin tour of the Galapagos and Alison Evans-Fragale speaking about our very own monk parakeets of Edgewater. We had a major presence at Liberty State Park's Earth Day Celebration on April 24th promoting our own group projects including getting many signatures for the conversion of a planned condo development into a riverside family park (see below) and we were joined with fellow Sierran Barbara Conover of the "COALition to Stop PurGen," a group that is working to stop an experimental "clean coal" plant from being built in Linden, NJ. We were right next door and supporting our friends, the "Coalition to Preserve the Palisades Cliffs." It was an exciting day packed with exhibitors and visitors and a half dozen raptors to boot.

CONSERVATION ISSUES: We focus on local issues that need our immediate attention and stay with them until they are resolved - for the good of the environment, we hope! The most important issues facing us are saving open space on the Hudson River shore and protecting the glorious New Jersey Palisades south of the George Washington Bridge. Get involved in the fight to save some of this last open space in Hudson County. To find out how you can take some action call Jodi or Helen. We continue to support the Coalition to Preserve the Palisades Cliffs. The Coalition is opposed to the destruction of the unprotected portion of the Palisades Cliffs south of the George Washington Bridge.

We are also opposed to a 256-unit development proposed on the last parcel of open space on the Hudson River in North Bergen. The oversized residential plan's application was "denied without prejudice" at a Hudson County Planning Board meeting in October which means they can bring it back at any time. The plan is still before the Town of North Bergen Planning Board and we continue to attend these meetings to dispute the application. As planned this development will cause many traffic issues on an already congested roadway plagued with flooding problems and it will destroy the view of the Hudson River for many current residents. We would like to see this space become permanent parkland as it had been designated in the Hudson County Master Plan. We feel that it is much needed open space in this urban environment.

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 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.

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
	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
	Joyce White		joyce00201@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Secretary:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Conservation Chair:			
Morris County:	Bill Martin	908-604-2505	WP1.Martin@gmail.com
Union County:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	hauskerr@aol.com
Political Chair:	Meiling Chin		chinmeiling@yahoo.com
Programs:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Education			
Coordinator:	Jeff Huppert	973-263-0344	jeffhup@optonline.net
Fundraising Chair:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	hauskerr@aol.com
Outreach &			
Events Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Publicity Chair:	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
Membership:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Air Quality			
Coordinator:	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.

(Continued on page 8)

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GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

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:

July, August: No meetings will be held.

Sept 8: To be announced.

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 us 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
Program Chair:	Lynne Weiss	732-821-9688	lshari05@gmail.com
ExCom At-large:	Malcolm McFarland	609-448-8699	jmmcfarland81@gmail.com
ExCom At-large:	Ruth Ann Mitchell		ram400500@yahoo.com
ExCom At-large:	Tamanna Mohapatra	732-801-9629	tmohapatra@yahoo.com

The Central Group is working in the greater Mercer area on local environmental issues to preserve open space, promote effective planning, and protect wetlands and trails as well as on state-wide and national issues. We also have an invasive species eradication program underway in the Hamilton Trenton Bordentown Marsh. We oppose the Westerly Road Church development on Princeton Ridge, the Carter Road development in Hopewell, and the Meadowbrook warehouse/flex space in Robbinsville, also the PurGen project in Linden and hydrofracking in the Marcellus Shale.

We need you! Want to help out? Thinking of becoming involved? Opportunities abound. We are looking for people to focus on particular conservation issues as well to assist with Group functioning as Secretary, Treasurer, Events and Outreach. Try volunteering for a few hours or an event! Please contact Terry (609-731-7016) or Leona (Leona@pineypaddlers.com).

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

GENERAL MEETINGS: No general meeting in July and August.

Sept 21 (Tue): Updates On Local Issues. As fall starts and election season gets into swing, come hear updates on issues important to Central New Jersey. There will be time for open discussion. So bring your ideas and topics of concern to you and your community. Meet at the Whisk and Spoon meeting room of Whole Foods Market, Windsor Green Shopping Center, Rte 1 South, Princeton, from 7:30 to 9pm (pre-meeting social at 7).

SPECIAL EVENTS: July 24 (Sat): Summer Potluck Social at Washington Crossing Open Air Theatre (Mercer Co). 5pm. Enjoy a summer evening with the Sierra Club. We'll have a Potluck Picnic at Washington Crossing State Park and then enjoy a live theater performance of FEELIN' GROOVY: a 60s revue. It was the era of bell bottom jeans and fringe vests! A time of peace, love and happiness. Revisit a time gone by, fondly remembered by a generation of flower children who embraced the idea of just feelin' groovy! Tickets: \$10 adults \$7 children. For meet-up details contact George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com

July 25 (Sun): New and beginning as well as experienced paddlers are invited to join the **Canoe/Kayak Skills Refresher on Lake Oswego** (Burlington Co). 9am. Knowledgeable paddlers from the Sierra Club will share information about boats, equipment, safety practices, self-rescue, paddling techniques and efficiencies. Then we'll practice on the lake. Rental boats available from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak 800-281-1380 or www.mickscanorental.com/ Get details and confirm participation with George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com

CENTRAL OUTINGS: For descriptions see Outings Section of Chapter website. ALWAYS check with leaders for cancellations, etc.

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	kdgeoffroy@gmail.com
Group Vice Chair:	Don McBride	732 560-0369	dtmcbride@alumni.haas.org
Conservation Advisor:	Jane Tousman	908-561-5504	jdtous@aol.com
Outings Coordinator:	Denise McClellan		mcclellan09@comcast.net
Webmaster:	Don McBride	732 560-0369	dtmcbride@alumni.haas.org
Treasurer:	Roomi Nusrat		rnusrat@att.net
Recycling Coordinator:	Adele Pudner		adele1214@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Secretary:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Political Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Membership:	<i>Open position!</i>		

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

Raritan Valley Group members should please vote the ballot on page 2.

Please see the website for news of meetings and events. 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're interested in getting involved in our group, please don't hesitate to reach out.

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:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Secretary:	Joe DeLuca	732-389-1835	joe-deluca@att.net
Conservation Chair:	Faith Teitelbaum	732-229-0553	faithtei@aol.com
Webmaster:	Lud Lanko	732-462-2199	lud@pobox.com
Treasurer:	Pat Fuschetto	732-308-4588	fusche40@yahoo.com
Political Chair:	Shahnaz Shahidain	732-666-4285	shahidain@gmail.com
Outings Chair:	Mike Verange	908-902-0718	mjverange@aol.com
Membership Co-Chairs:	Bob Grize	732-892-0684	nyucwnyppb@aol.com
	and	April Klimley	917-626-4838
		AprilJeanK@aol.com	
Program Chair:	George Moffatt	732-544-1726	gmoffattgt@aol.com
Fund-raising Co-Chairs:	Lois Blake	732-863-5917	lqblake@optonline.net
	and	Joellen Lundy	732-741-4756
			jfutey@comcast.net

Shore Group Happenings:

The Shore Group is working on getting **Green Teams** formed in all the towns in our area. These teams help towns to become more sustainable and thereby increase our quality of life. We are working with the Sustainable Jersey program which gives points to towns for forming Green Teams. Contact Lois Blake (lqblake@optonline.net) if you want us to help you with your green team. See www.SustainableJersey.org for more info. It's a great program!

Along with Monmouth University, we are in the process of forming a coalition of all the towns on the **Whale Pond Brook Watershed**. Our goal is to clean the watershed and keep it clean by educating the surrounding towns about fertilizers, integrated pest management and storm water run-off. Our first project on the watershed is to help build a rain garden in Long Branch with the Long Branch Environmental Commission.

Help Needed: If you would like to participate in cleanups of our local waterways, please contact Laura Bagwell at l.bagwell3@verizon.net. In this vital effort, our Group joins forces with the Navesink Swimming River Group which since 2002 has removed more than 40,000 pounds of debris from our local banks and streams.

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/>.

July 18 (Sun): Noon to 3pm: Our annual **summer pot-luck picnic** will be held on Sunday, July 18 at Turkey Swamp Park, 200 Georgia Tavern Road, Freehold. From Rte 9, take Rte 524 west to Georgia Road (Rte 53), turn left (south) on Georgia and follow the signs to the park. From I-95, at Exit 22 take Jackson Mills Road north to Georgia Road, turn left (west) on Georgia and follow the signs. Meet in the picnic area behind the main building. No speakers, just a lot of good conversation. Check with Joellen Lundy on what to bring and to get other details.

August: No meeting this month. Relax and enjoy!

Sept 27: 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 Ocean** on a NOAA research vessel during a special "Teachers on the Seas" environmental studies program. Dave, who was joined by a number of other teachers on the cruise, 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-Chair,
Outings: Dawn Marie Johns 732-644-6340 sierraclubOC@hotmail.com
Conservation
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 nancybrown624@comcast.net
Publicity Chair: Howard Schwartz 609-242-9304 hrschwartz@comcast.net
Fund-Raising: Joyce M. Isaza 732-920-9270 realtymstr@aol.com
Co-Membership
Chair: Sandy Brown 609-242-9304 sandylbrown@comcast.net
Environmental
Consultant: Helen Henderson 908-278-9807 hhlaceyrailtrail@msn.com
Env'l Education
Coordinator: 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 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.

July 24 (Sat): Get your tickets now for our 5th ANNUAL BBQ FUND RAISER at Windward Beach in Brick. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 per child age 6-10 and children 5 and under are free. We will have great food, a live "DJ", swimming, volleyball and giveaways. Come out, have some fun and support the environment. To purchase tickets please contact Fund Raising Chair Joyce Isaza at 732-604-4583. If you cannot make it, donations are gladly accepted and greatly appreciated.

Sept 20 (Mon): GENERAL MEETING held at 7pm at the "SKYWALK CAFE" in TOMS RIVER. The main topic of the meeting will be on the Congressional Election.

Special thanks to Mike Balducci and "Veggie Brothers" for their generous vegan food donation at our March 22nd General Meeting. For more information on "Veggie Brothers", please visit their web site www.veggiebrothers.com or call 201-954-0055.

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 efzin4@aol.com
Secretary: Ellen Zinni efzin4@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 efzin4@aol.com
Conservation
Chair: Stacey Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Delegate at Large: Aida Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Membership Chair: Mike Brown 856-547-9221 eyebrown@verizon.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.

The West Jersey Group does not meet June through August. Please join us on a hike or paddle trip. See you in September!

Sept 8: Less Snyder will present **Grizzlies, Glaciers and Climate Change**. Learn about glaciers and climate change and see the spectacular scenery of Glacier National Park.

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: Douglas Jewell 609-780-7129 jewellrea@comcast.net
Conservation Chair: *Open Position!*
Political 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 within the Sierra Club and in the Watershed Association (GEHWA) that "spun off" from the South Jersey Group. Very few of our local members seem interested in the meetings we once scheduled. For now, we'll continue to be listed in this Newsletter, and offer a point of contact for Club members in South Jersey who want help with local issues. We strongly recommend GEHWA's website for keeping up with local issues, and for links to many other local, regional, state and national environmental organizations: www.gehwa.org. To be placed on a carefully guarded distribution list for local issues and meetings, please e-mail dick.colby@stockton.edu.

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

July 14 and Sept 8, 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.

Aug 18, 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.

July 27, 5:30 pm: Members' meeting of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Assn, open to the public. Pot Luck Picnic and campfire stories at Weymouth Furnace Park, Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

Sept 28, 6pm: Members' meeting of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Assn, open to the public. Sunset canoe and Kayak (BYO) at watershed location TBA. 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

(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)

Social Chair:	Joe Prebish	Joe.Prebish@kraft.com
Vice Social Chair:	Jeff Sovelove	Hiker_Dood@Yahoo.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:	<i>Position Open</i>	Contact us! We need you!
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, Fundraising Chair/Co-Chairs, and members of all committees, including social event planners. Please attend an executive committee meeting or email any of the officers if you are interested. You may co-chair any position with a friend, if desired. We're happy to help you learn the ropes.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 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! Please Contact Us!</i>	
Moderator:	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! Please Contact Us!</i>	
Outings Chair: (Central Jersey)	Leon Yerenburg	lyerenburg@gmail.com
Outings Chair: (South Jersey)	<i>Open Position! Please Contact Us!</i>	

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 Marty at the above e-mail address. To learn more, visit our webpage at <http://www.sierraclub.org/ico/newjersey/>.

In April we took the Hoboken High School Outdoor Club out for a hike and trail maintenance. The students did a great job of clearing a much overgrown trail in Harriman State Park.



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
West Jersey:	Vacant	
River Touring:	Fred Tocce 908-453-2205 (H)	Rd 1 Box 277, Washington, NJ 07882
Inner City Outings:	Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H)	NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd, Warren, 07059
Chapter Outings:	Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417	eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Outing Leaders: Please send Oct-Dec 2010 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before Aug 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 October-December trip write-ups by Aug 5.

NOTES ON OUTINGS: In general, 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 safe-

ty, welfare and enjoyment of all participants. Leaders determine qualifications to participate, adequacy of equipment, routes to be followed, and special precautions to be taken. Please arrive adequately prepared and equipped. If you have any allergies, please remember to bring your medication. The leader has the final word in the conduct of the trip. Your cooperation will help assure a safe and pleasant outing.

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

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

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

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

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

JULY

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

July 4 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River Independence Day (Mercer Co): 9:30 am. Join our "patriotic river parade" paddling 15 miles from Frenchtown to Lambertville. We'll stop for lunch at the famous Hot Dog Man's river "restaurant"; bring or buy lunch. Kayaks must be at least 12 ft; spray skirt and helmet recommended. Rentals not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Care for more Club involvement? You can sample (and subscribe to) several specialist Club national electronic newsletters by logging on to: insider@sierraclub.org, currents@sierraclub.org, www.sierraclub.org/population, and www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming.

July 8 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak the Crosswicks Creek/Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh (Mercer Co): 9:30 am. The 1250-acre Marsh occupies an ancient meander of the Delaware River. Enjoy a leisurely 8-mile tidal paddle from Bordentown to John A. Roebling Park. Bring lunch and beverage. Optional walk to Spring Lake after lunch. Meet at Bordentown Beach. Contact leaders to confirm participation and trip. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

July 10 (Sat): Singles Hike at Jockey Hollow (Morris Co). 10am. We will do a variety of trails including parts of the Grand Loop, Blue Trail, and Yellow Trail with a stop at the reproduction Soldiers' Huts at Jockey Hollow National Park in Morristown. See <http://www.nps.gov/morr/planyourvisit/directions.htm> for directions and information. Bring lots of water, a light snack, and wear hiking boots. Meet at the visitors' center. Heavy/steady rain cancels. Optional lunch at a local eatery if we get done in time. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove, Hiker_Dood@Yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

July 10 (Sat): Singles Coppermine Trail Hike & Swim, Blairstown (Warren Co). 10am. 5 miles in 5 hours (including swimming time). Very hilly terrain, with a 500-ft vertical ascent. The Trail is in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The lake and camp is <http://www.outdoors.org/lodging/mohican/>. We will life-guard ourselves as we swim in the clear waters of Catfish Pond. There's a port-a-john at the parking lot before the hike. There are flush toilets and indoor changing rooms at the camp. No beginners, no pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Swim suits are optional. Bring a lunch. Registration required: Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: The_Hikist@Mac.com. If you haven't hiked with The Hikist before, send a brief description of your hiking experience to the hike leader. Directions for the meeting place will be sent to registrants via e-mail.

July 10 (Sat): Singles day on the beach by Shepherd Lake in Ringwood State Park, Passaic Co). 9:30 am. Count on spending all day there (or you can leave at mid-day). Shepherd Lake offers swimming, boating, kayaking, canoeing, hiking, biking, volleyball (bring net and ball), talking, reading (bring book), sun-bathing, picnicking, playground sports, and a cafeteria for fast-food. The more adventurous of us will go in the morning for an easy hike (4 miles, 400-ft altitude gain/loss, about 3 hours at slow smell-the-flowers pace); sturdy hiking boots recommended but not required. After lunch (around 1pm), the biking commando may go for a 5-6-mile-loop bike ride, while others continue to swim, play volley-ball, etc. Bring appropriate equipment, clothing, food, sun-screen, and most importantly a cheerful attitude. Well meet at the lake side of the Park Office; look for a guy in a green Sierra t-shirt. Don't be late (when the parking lot fills up they close the gate). There is an entrance fee of \$10 per car for people under 62 (bring proof of age and of New Jersey residency). Register and get directions by Wed, July 7, with the leader, George Ekel: GeorgeEkel@aol.com or 201-444-2096. Rain day: Sun, July 11. NOTE: Because of the beach nature of the event it will go on only with VERY GOOD WEATHER(warm and sunny; not just no rain), so please check the weather forecast and if in doubt check with me by phone the morning of the event (7-8:30 am).

July 10 (Sat): Introduction to Flatwater Kayaking on Lake Oswego (Burlington Co). 9am. Open to new and experienced kayakers. Come out and learn about this exciting sport or learn new skills. ACA (American Canoe Association) certified instructors will be teaching kayaking skills. Learn about types of kayaks, practice paddling strokes, self and assisted rescues, water safety, equipment, survival techniques and on water etiquette. New and beginning paddlers are welcome. Bring lunch and water. Kayaks can be rented from Bel-Haven Paddle Sport @ 1-800-445-0953. Contact leader for additional information and activity confirmation. Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 eve. or pis1@cccnj.net

July 11 (Sun): Social Kayak Trip (Atlantic Co). 9am. We will do the majestic and wild Egg Harbor River. This is a pristine river that is always a pleasure to paddle. We will have a pizza party after trip as well as a volleyball game. Call leader to confirm participation and for trip information. Meet at Palace Restaurant, Rte 322, Weymouth. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evenings only or pis1@cccnj.net

July 12 (Mon): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek to Barnegat Bay (Ocean Co). 9am. Cedar is one of the loveliest Pines streams in the Barnegat Bay Watershed. Learn what you can do to protect the watershed and our NJ coast. The trip is 10 miles from Ore Pond into the Bay. Meet at Double Trouble Park headquarters. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

July 14 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River on Bastille Day (Mercer Co). 10am. We'll paddle 15 miles from Kingwood Access to Lambertville. Bring lunch and beverages or buy lunch at the famous Hot Dog Man's river "restaurant" for paddlers. Kayaks must be 12 ft or longer; spray skirt and helmet recommended. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting logistics: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

July 17 (Sat): Singles Hike & Lunch in North Jersey (Passaic/Bergen Cos). 9:30 am. Easy 2-hrs' hike at leisurely pace, altitude gain/loss 300 ft, at Campgaw Mountain County Park, followed by buffet lunch (65 dishes to choose from, or sample them all) at fabulous Chinese restaurant (Grand Buffet, on the Top Ten Readers Choice, The Record list). Meet at the Grand Buffet parking lot, Lincoln Plaza, 875 Rte 17 South, Ramsey (between Franklin Tpk & Lake St exits). From there we will carpool 10-min to Campgaw Mountain County Park. Sneakers are OK. All you need is two legs and a cheerful disposition (like Mary Poppins). We'll return to Grand Buffet between noon and 12:30. All-you-can-eat lunch \$11 (cash only!), includes tip & tax; Chinese tea (hot) or coffee; ice-tea, soda (free refills) additional \$2. OK to bring your own wine or beer. Register by Wed, July 14, with the leader, George Ekel: GeorgeEkel@aol.com or 201-444-2096. Rain day: Sun, July 11. Bad weather both days cancels. If in doubt, check with me by phone the morning of the event (7-8:30 am).

July 23 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak with your Pooch on the Wading River (Burlington Co). 9am. Fortunato invites his "cousins" and dog lovers for a fun day paddling 10 miles from Hawkin Bridge to Beaver Branch. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental: 800-281-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

July 23 (Fri): Social Moonlight Kayak Trip, Burlington/Atlantic Cos. 5 pm. Paddle the Mullica River under a full moon with a BBQ afterwards. Some paddling experience required. Limited space, so contact leader to reserve. Please bring picnic-type food to share afterwards. Meet at Bel-Haven Paddle Sport on Rte 543, 12 miles east of Hammonton. Bring flashlight and whistle. PFD's must be worn. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evenings only or pis1@cccnj.net

July 24 (Sat): Potluck Picnic in Washington Crossing Park, then Open Air Theatre (Mercer Co). 5pm. Enjoy a summer evening with the Sierra Club. After the picnic: a live performance of FEELIN' GROOVY: a 60s revue. It was the era of bell bottom jeans and fringe vests! A time of peace, love and happiness, fondly remembered by a generation of flower children. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$7 children. Contact leaders for meet-up details. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

July 24 (Sat): Social Moonlight Hike, Burl. Co. 7:30 pm. 6 miles at moderate pace. Hike dirt roads lit by moonlight in the Pines. Bring swimwear, chair, or blanket. Bring snack-type food to share at tailgate social after hike, and swim wear. NP/NC. Meet at Lake Oswego parking lot, on Lake Oswego Road, off Rte 563, 8 miles south of Chatsworth. Inclement weather cancels. Contact Leader for additional info. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evenings or pis1@cccnj.net

July 24 (Sat): Singles day on the beach by Shepherd Lake in Ringwood State Park, Passaic Co). 9:30 am. See the description above for July 10. Register and get directions by Wed, July 21, with the leader: George Ekel, GeorgeEkel@aol.com or 201-444-2096. Rain day: Sun, July 25. NOTE: Because of the beach nature of the event it will go on only with VERY GOOD WEATHER(warm and sunny; not just no rain), so please check the weather forecast and if in doubt check with me by phone the morning of the event (7-8:30 am).

July 25 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Skills Refresher on Lake Oswego (Burlington Co). 9am. New and beginning paddlers are welcome. Knowledgeable paddlers from the Sierra Club will share information about boats, equipment, safety practices, self-rescue, paddling techniques and efficiencies. Then we'll practice on the lake. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental: 800-281-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com/ Contact leaders to confirm participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

July 27 (Tue): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 9am. Enjoy a 10-mile summer paddle on the "egg" from Penny Pot to Weymouth Furnace; option for additional 7 miles to Lake Lenape. Rentals are available from Palace Restaurant and Outfitters: 609-625-8552 or www.palaceoutfitters.com Meet at Palace Restaurant, 6924 Black Horse Pike, Weymouth. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

July 31(Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River Water Gap (Sussex Co). 10am. We'll paddle 10 miles in one of our nation's most popular Park systems. Learn about the Sierra Club's opposition to the proposed PSE&G plan to replace the 80ft towers with 195ft monster towers. We'll paddle from the Bushkills Falls access to Smithfield Beach and see the current towers. Kayaks must be over 10ft in length; spray skirt and helmet recommended. Contact trip leaders to confirm trip and logistics: Leona & George F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

July 31 (Sat): Singles Hike & Lunch in North Jersey (Passaic/Bergen Cos). See description above for July 17. Register by Wed, July 28, with the leader, George Ekel: GeorgeEkel@aol.com or 201-444-2096. Rain day: Sun, Aug 1. Bad weather both days cancels. If in doubt, check with me by phone the morning of the event (7-8:30 am).

Historic Speedwell. See the Morris County Parks website (<http://www.morrisparks.org/>) for directions, or put the following address into your preferred map engine: 300 Speedwell Avenue, Morristown NJ 07960. The path is wide, partly paved, partly crushed stabilized gravel, with very little elevation gain. We will be strolling at a very moderate pace. Please bring plenty of water and a light snack. Great for beginners. Heavy/steady rain cancels. Optional lunch afterwards. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove, Hiker_Dood@Yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Aug 8 (Sun): Harteshorne Woods, (Monmouth Co): (Special interest: Recent History). 9am. Moderate 6-mile hike has elevation gains and a lot of scenery. Please bring drinks and snacks. Hiking shoes are suggested. Meet at the Rock Point parking area: Take GSP to exit 117, Rte 36 toward Sandy Hook to Portland Road, the last street on the right before the Sandy Hook Bridge. Take Portland Rd to the top of the hill, Rock Pt. Parking is on the left. Bad weather (including high heat index) cancels. Confirmation/questions: please call or text Leader, Mike Verange: 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

Aug 8 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh (Mercer Co). 11:30 am. We'll enjoy a leisurely 8-mile round trip from Bordentown Beach to John A. Roebling Park. The Marsh was featured in the NJN documentary, "Turning the Tide." Bring lunch and beverage. Optional walk to Spring Lake after lunch. Meet at Bordentown Beach. Contact leaders to confirm participation and trip: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Aug 12 (Thu): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am. Enjoy a summer paddle in the cool amber waters of Cedar Creek from Dover Forge into Barnegat Bay. Option to takeout at Dudley Park (10 miles). Learn what you can do to protect our NJ coast. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and meeting location: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Aug 13 (Fri): Meteor Shower & Anniversary Hike, Wharton St Forest (Burl. Co). 7:30pm. 6 miles, moderate pace. A short hike on sandy roads and return to watch the Perseid Meteor shower, a solar system spectacular. Bring snack-type food to share at our tailgate social afterwards, a chair or blanket to sit on. NP/NC. Meet in open field next to Atsion Office on Rte 206, 10 miles south of Red Lion Circle (Rtes 70 & 206), and 6 miles north of Hammonton. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evenings only, or pis1@cccnj.net

Aug 14 (Sat): Singles: Lake Sonoma Hike & Swim, Norvin Green State Forest (Passaic Co). 10am. 7 miles in 5 hours (including swimming time), in hilly terrain. We will life-guard ourselves as we swim. There are no facilities at this venue but we will set up a privacy screen changing room. No beginners, no pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Swim suits are optional. Bring a lunch. Registration required: Leader: Jimi Oleksiak, The_Hikist@Mac.com. If you haven't hiked with The Hikist before, send a brief description of your hiking experience to the hike leader. Directions to the meeting place will be sent to registrants by e-mail.

Aug 15 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Mullica River (Burlington Co): 9am. Summer is a beautiful time of year on the Mullica. This is an all day trip for experienced Pines paddlers; expect downfalls and portages. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Aug 20 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am. The Oswego is a favorite destination for paddlers as it winds through diverse and varied Pinelands forests and savannas. Meet at Lake Oswego. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental: 800-281-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com/ Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Aug. 20 (Fri): Social Moonlight Kayak Trip on the Mullica River (Atlantic/Burl. Cos). 5:30 pm. Paddle under a full moon with a BBQ afterwards. Some paddling experience required. Limited space, so contact leader to reserve. Please bring picnic-type food to share. Meet at Bel-Haven Paddle Sport on Rte 543, 12 miles east of Hammonton. Bring flashlight and whistle. PFD's must be worn. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evenings only or pis1@cccnj.net

Aug. 21 (Sat): Social Moonlight Hike in Penn State Forest (Burl. Co). 7:30pm. 6 miles, moderate pace. Hike dirt roads lit by moonlight in the Pines. Bring swimwear, chair, or blanket. Bring snack-type food to share at tailgate social after hike and swimwear. NP/NC. Meet at Lake Oswego parking lot, on Lake Oswego Road, off Rte 563, 8 miles south of Chatsworth. Inclement weather cancels. Contact Leader for additional info: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evenings or pis1@cccnj.net

Aug 21(Sat): Tallman Mountain State Park - Geocaching Hike (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. 6 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! All while using a GPS to guide us and find some treasures! Bring lunch, water, and GPS if you have one. Drivers meet in front of 450 Piermont Av (building with mural). Leader: John P. Jurasek, 845-365-3618 (no calls after 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

Aug 23 (Mon): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). Enjoy a 10-mile summer paddle on the "egg" from Penny Pot to Weymouth Furnace; option for additional 7 miles to Lake Lenape. Rentals are available from Palace Restaurant and Outfitters: 609-625-8552 or www.palaceoutfitters.com Meet at Palace Restaurant, 6924 Black Horse Pike, Weymouth. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Aug 28 (Sat): Kayaking Eco-Tour on Cheesecake Creek (Middlesex Co). 9am. Join us for an educational eco-tour led by a Park Naturalist. Highlights include the habitat of ospreys, egrets, fiddler crabs and historical aspects of the area. We will kayak for approximately 2+ hours in occasional strong current, wind and hot sun. Space is limited so contact leaders early for reservations and eco-tour details: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

SEPTEMBER

Sept 2 (Thu): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River from Bordentown City to Burlington (Burlington Co). 9am. During the trip we'll talk about the negative impacts of the Army Corps' dredging project on the Delaware. This is a 10-mile tidal trip - we begin in B'town City and takeout in Burlington. We then catch the RiverLINE back into B'town for our cars and return to Burlington for our boats. This trip is for experienced paddlers; expect power boat traffic and boat wakes. Kayaks must be 14ft or longer; bring spray skirts. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Sept 5 - 10 (Sun-Fri): September in Western Maine! Location: Bald Mountain Camps, Oquossoc, Me. This is an historic sporting camp located on pristine Mooselookmeguntic Lake. Many activity options, fine dining and a comfortable warm environment provide relaxation and fun. Internet access available. Check the website www.baldmountaincamps.com. Trip includes hiking, guided kayaking or canoeing lakes and rivers with our host and Registered Maine Guide, Steve Philbrick. Log cabins with fireplace, wood, bath, linens, porch, first class breakfasts and dinners in the lodge dining room, sack lunches for the trail. More information: Judy Norcross, 609-288-6737 or jnornorcross@aol.com, or Leona Fluck, Leona@pineypaddlers.com or 609-259-3734. (W)

Sept 5 (Mon): Canoe/Kayak the Crosswicks Creek/Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh (Mercer Co). 10:30 am. Labor Day weekend - spend the day on the water! Enjoy a leisurely 8-mile tidal paddle from Bordentown to John A. Roebling Park and back. Bring lunch and beverage. Optional walk to Spring Lake after lunch. Meet at Bordentown Beach. Contact leaders to confirm participation and trip: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Sept 10 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 8:30am. It's the end of the summer and a perfect time to enjoy a long paddle on the "egg"! We'll paddle 16+ miles from Penny Pot to Lake Lenape. Meet at George's Grill and Dairy Bar, Rte 54, Hammonton; arrive early for breakfast. Contact leaders to confirm trip: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Sept 12-17 (Sun-Fri): September in Western Maine! Location: Bald Mountain Camps, Oquossoc, Me. Same description as above, for Sept 5 - 10.

Sept 12 (Sun): Thompson Park (Monmouth County). 9am. Moderate 6.5-mile hike, that follows the Swimming River Reservoir. Please bring drinks and snacks. Hiking shoes are suggested. GSP Exit 109, then west on Monmouth County Rte 520 toward Brookdale Community College. Go approx. 1/2 mile past the College. Thompson Park is the next left. Parking area is on the right. Bad weather (including high heat index) cancels. Confirmation/questions please call or text leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

Sept 12 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 10am. It's George's b'day! We'll eat cake and paddle 7 miles from Ore Pond to Dudley Park. Cedar Creek is one of the prettiest Pines streams. Meet at Double Trouble Park Headquarters. Please contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Sept 16 (Thu): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am. Meet at Lake Oswego and enjoy a 7-mile paddle on the "Jewel of the Pinelands". Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental: 800-281-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Sept 17 (Fri): Pine Meadow Lake/Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. Scenic 9-10 mile hike on various trails to/from Pine Meadow Lake, including some rocky outcrops, scenic views, streams. Group

(continued on page 12)

AUGUST

Aug 7 (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



Chair
 * Ken Johanson (908) 464-0442
 kjohan@comcast.net
 72 Laurel Drive, New Providence NJ 07974-2421

Vice-Chair and Vice-Treasurer
 Sunil Somalwar
 sunil.somalwar@gmail.com
 1015 S Park Av, Highland Park NJ 08904-2954

Conservation Chair
 *Laura Lynch (609) 882-4642
 njsierraclub@gmail.com
 11 Lumar Rd., Trenton, NJ 08648-3127

Political Chair
 * Rich Isaac (973) 716-0297
 risaac@aol.com
 47 Fellswood Dr., Livingston NJ 07039-2235

Political Vice-Chair
 Greg Tondi
 gregt75@yahoo.com

Secretary
 * Bonnie Tillery (609) 259-6438
 blt44blt@msn.com
 389 Sawmill Rd, Hamilton NJ 08620

Treasurer
 *George Denzer (609) 799-5839
 gdenzer73@yahoo.com
 127 Dey Road, Cranbury NJ 08512-5418

Outings Chair
 Ellen Blumenkrantz (201) 784-8417
 EllenBlu@specialistsms.com
 43 Carlson Court, Closter NJ 07624

Newsletter Editor
 Dick Colby (609) 965-4453
 dick.colby@stockton.edu
 217 Liverpool Av, Egg Harbor City NJ 08215-1319

Webmaster
 George Newsome (732) 308-1518
 newsome1@pobox.com

Membership Chair
 Cynthia Mackowicz
 cmackowicz@comcast.net

Group Effectiveness Chair
 Rich Isaac (see above)

Council Delegate
 *Jane Tousman (908) 561-5504
 jdtous@aol.com
 14 Butler Rd., Edison NJ 08820-1007
 Alternate: Rich Isaac - (see above)

Student Outreach Coordinator
 Jeff Huppert (973) 263-0344
 heffhup@optonline.com

Environmental Education Coordinator
 Leia Sims
 leia@bized.com

Atlantic Coast Ecoregion Delegate
 Greg Auriemma (732-451-9220)
 sierraclubOC@aol.com

NY-NJ Trail Conference Delegate
 *Mike Herson
 mikeherson@hotmail.com

Legal Chair
 Bill Singer, Esq. (908) 359-7873
 wsinger@singerfedun.com

Other ExCom members at large
 * Don McBride (732) 560-0369
 dtmcbride@alumni.haas.org

* Lee Snyder (609) 969-7909
 pinelands1@hotmail.com

Regional Issues Committee
 Joan Denzer** (JDenzer73@yahoo.com),
 George Denzer

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

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 Laura Lynch, Joe Testa

Facilities (office, meeting sites)
 George Denzer**, Joan Denzer, Paul
 Sanderson, Sunil Somalwar and Laura Lynch

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

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Issue Coordinators

Alaska Issues
 Jonathan Wall (908) 295-1890
 psychologist@jonwall.com

Clean Air Issues
 Bob Campbell (973) 761-4461
 bobc2023_sc@verizon.net

Delaware River Issues
 Gina Carola (856) 848-8831
 ginaceee@verizon.net
 534 Elberne Av, Westville NJ 08093-1715

Global Warming
 Sunil Somalwar (see left column)

Cool Campaign
 Barbara Conover (973-748-8054)
 Bconifer022@comcast.net

Cool Cities
 Faith Teitelbaum (732-229-0553)
 faithtei@aol.com

Highlands Issues
 Mike Herson (see left column)

Marine Issues
 Greg Auriemma (see left column)

Passaic River
 David Yennior (973) 844-1384
 dyennior@msn.com

Pinelands Issues
 Lee Snyder (see left column)

liaison to Pinelands Preservation Alliance:
 Mike Gallaway (M.Gallaway@comcast.net)

Population Issues
 Bonnie Tillery (see left column)

Recycling Issues
 David Yennior (see above)

Sprawl Issues
 Jane Tousman (see left column)

Tiger Conservation Issues
 Sunil Somalwar (see left column)

Transportation Issues
 Steve Lanset (201) 860-9870
 slanset@hotmail.com

Trail Issues
 Dave Mattek (609) 737-1342
 MattekDC@aol.com
 4 1/2 Park Av, Pennington NJ 08534-2313

Utah, Wildland Issues
 John Kashwick (201) 660-8820
 jkashwick@optonline.net

Water Quality and Habitat Issues
 Rich Isaac (see left column)

Chapter Office 609-656-7612
 145 West Hanover Street, Trenton 08618
fax: 609-656-7618

Chapter Director: Jeff Tittel
 Jeff.Tittel@SierraClub.org

Outreach Coordinator: Grace Sica
 Grace.Sica@SierraClub.org

Program Assistant: Kara Seymour
 Kara.Seymour@SierraClub.org

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

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

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

July 10 at the Chatham Public Library (124 Main St).

August 14 and September 11 at the New Brunswick Public Library (60 Livingston Av).

Conservation and/or Political Committee meetings usually start at 10am. Lunch is shared at noon. The main meeting starts at 1pm. We sometimes continue discussions informally over dinner at a nearby restaurant, at 5pm.

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

limited to 12 people. Must bring lunch and lots of water. Rain will cancel. All hikers must pre-register and will then be notified of exact meeting location. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (NJ)

Sept 17-19 (Fri-Sun): Assateague Island Camp & Beach Weekend, Maryland/Virginia. Camp at the Federal campground on Assateague Island. Enjoy a relaxing weekend on the beach along with some light hiking and optional group dinner in town. Fiddlers Festival and Kite Festival are options. Contact leader to confirm trip participation and campground information. Participants will be responsible for their own campsite reservations. Trip will only run with a minimum confirmed group. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evenings only or pis1@cccnj.net

Sept 18 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River Water Gap (Sussex Co), 9am. Kittatinny to Belvidere. Trip is for experienced paddlers. Spray skirts and helmets are required. Rentals not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and logistics: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Sept. 18 (Sat): Ramapo Reservation Hike - Northern NJ. 10am. Moderately paced 8-10 mile loop hike from Ramapo reservation to Ringwood State Forest. Loop may involve several small stream crossings, lakes, view points, just 2-3 hills. We'll have our picnic lunch at an old scout camp. Group limited to 12 people. Must bring lunch and lots of water. Rain will cancel. All hikers must pre-register and will then be notified of exact meeting location. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (NJ)

Sept 18 (Sat): Singles Rockaway River Wildlife Management Area Hike, Jefferson (Passaic Co). 10am. 7 miles in 4 hours in rugged terrain with great views. There are no facilities at this site. No beginners, no pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. Registration required: Leader: Jimi Oleksiak - The_Hikist@Mac.com. If you haven't hiked with The Hikist before, send a brief description of your hiking experience to the hike leader. Directions for the meeting place will be sent to registrants by e-mail.

Sept 19 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak with your Pooch on the Wading River (Burlington Co), 9am. Fortunato invites his "cousins" and dog lovers for a fun day paddling 10 miles from Hawkin Bridge to Beaver Branch. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental: 800-281-1380 or www.mick-scanoerental.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Sept 19 (Sun): Island Pond Loop/Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. Moderate paced, 9-10 mile hike with a few small climbs to beautiful spot on Island Pond for our picnic lunch. Return loop finishes with one of the loveliest view points in the park. Group limited to 12 people. Must bring lunch and lots of water. Rain will cancel. All hikers must pre-register and will then be notified of exact meeting location. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (NJ)

Sept 25 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Mercer Co), 9am. It's officially Fall now but the Delaware is inviting! Join us for the 15-mile trip from Kingwood to Lambertville. Bring lunch and beverages. Kayaks must be 12 ft or longer; spray skirt and helmet recommended. Rentals not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and logistics: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Sept 25 (Sat): Singles: Lewis Morris Park (Morris Co), 10am. We'll start at Sunrise Lake, then hike to the upper parking lot and back down to the lake using a combination of the Yellow and Red trails. The pace will be a moderate one. See the Morris County Parks Commission website http://www.morrisparks.net/aspparks/lmmain.asp for directions. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Meet in Sunrise Lake parking lot. Heavy/steady rain cancels. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove, Hiker_Dood@Yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Sept 25 (Sat): Tallman Mountain State Park (Rockland Co, NY), 10am. 6 miles through Tallman Mountain State Park to 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). Leader: John P. Jurasek, 845-365-3618 (no calls after 10pm), or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

Sep 30 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak the D&R Canal and the Delaware River (Mercer Co), 9am. Join us for a 10-mile shuttleless paddle that begins on the canal at Washington Crossing State Park - to Firemens Eddy. We'll then portage to the Delaware River and float. George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

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

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

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

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Thank you to all who contributed to this issue!
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