



DATED MATERIAL DO NOT DELAY

Nonprofit Organization-Sierra Club  
U.S. Postage PAID

# The Jersey SIERRAN

Vol. 40, No. 1

Roughly 20,000 Members in New Jersey

January-March 2011

## Results of November's Election

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

While the Republican tide that swept the nation was also felt here in New Jersey, incumbent Democratic Congressman Rush Holt and Frank Pallone managed to hold off stiff challenges. Democratic Rep. John Adler, in the State's Third Congressional District, was the only one of our ten endorsed Congressional candidates to lose. Adler's loss was not totally unexpected, as his district has traditionally been Republican, and his campaign suffered from allegations that he had fielded a fake Tea Party candidate in order to siphon votes from his challenger, Jon Runyan.



While disappointed with the results in NJ-03, we are both relieved and delighted that Rush Holt will be able to continue his strong environmental leadership in the next legislative session. My special thanks to Shahnaz Shahidain, the Chapter's Liaison to the Holt Campaign, and Rachel Morris, the Chapter's Student Campaign Coordinator, who performed a myriad of tasks, including helping collect signatures to get Rush on the ballot, and writing campaign literature.

We also had great results at the state and county levels. Assemblywoman Linda Greenstein won the State Senate seat in the special election held in the State's 14th Legislative District (parts of Mercer and Middlesex Counties), and Kathie Donovan beat incumbent Dennis McNerney for Bergen County Executive.

An environmental champion with a solid record of achievements, State Senator-elect Greenstein has not only opposed sprawl while working to preserve open space and farmland, but has been on the front line identifying contamination and sponsoring legislation to protect school children from toxic dumping. Terry Stimpfel, of our Central Jersey Group, provided much help in this campaign.

Kathie Donovan's victory in Bergen County not only seats a strong supporter of recycling and a proponent of preserving more environmentally sensitive open space, but also ousts an incumbent who had supported the Xanadu and EnCap project boondoggles. Many Club members contributed efforts to Donovan's campaign: Greg Tondi (the North Jersey Group's Political Chair), Mike Herson (North Jersey Group Chair), Betsy Kohn (North Jersey Group Executive Committee Member), and several other members of the North Jersey Group.

### Looking Ahead to Redistricting:

In 2011, New Jersey politics will be shaken up by redistricting - of both the state's legislative and congressional districts - based on 2010 census data.

Consider that, in 2009, the

Sustainable Life-style Articles inside:

Sustainable Eating See page 2

Stratford Becomes a Sustainable Community See page 2



Republicans garnered 52 % of the votes cast for state legislative candidates, but won only 41 % of the State Assembly seats. The disparity is a measure of gerrymandering: manipulation of district boundaries to benefit one party over another.

For many decades, state redistricting has alternately benefited the Democrats and the Republicans. In 2000 the Democrats had their redistricting plan selected, so this time there's a very good chance that the Republican plan will be adopted by the redistricting committee consisting of equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans, plus a Rutgers University tie-breaker.

The congressional districts are currently quite gerrymandered as well. In 2001 the Democrats and Republicans quietly worked out a redistricting plan to make each of the 13 incumbents more secure. This time will most likely be different, because the State will probably lose a seat. So there will probably be a game of "musical chairs" - with one of the delegation's congressmen being redistricted out of a seat in the election of 2012.

### Upcoming State Legislative Elections

In 2011, the entire State Legislature is up for election, including all 40 State Senators and 80 State Assemblymen. I view this as a great opportunity to focus attention on statewide environmental issues. We will pay close attention to the voting and co-sponsorship records of each member of the Legislature. On to the next election cycle!

Report from Trenton:

## Governor Full of Hot Air

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

Governor Christie has decided to back away from sound science and common sense in a move to appease right-wing tea baggers. At a town meeting in Toms River on Nov 9, the Governor said he was skeptical that man is the cause of global warming.

I believe this move to the right, to become a global warming skeptic, is political. It's against science and contrary to the best interests of the people of New Jersey.

Most climate scientists believe that the impacts of climate change on New Jersey will be severe. As a coastal state, New Jersey will be extremely vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surges that occur from climate change. Top scientists at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and Princeton and Rutgers Universities, have provided compelling evidence that the effects of global warming on New Jersey would be devastating. For example, complete melting of the Antarctic ice sheets would raise sea level by 70 feet, submerging Hoboken, Camden, all outer coastal plain communities, and many Raritan basin communities.

(The advance of science is a gradual process in which new concepts, such as Global Warming, become convincing to more and more practitioners. A rough measure of the current balance between believers and skeptics is the 55:1 ratio (or 98% to 2%) of "hits" produced by googling "global warming evidence" and "global warming skepticism.")

Unfortunately, taking into account this administration's record over the last nine months, it is not surprising that the Governor is setting himself up to further dismantle efforts to stop climate change - meaning limiting the burning of fossil fuels by motor vehicles and electric power plants.

The Governor has eliminated funding for programs that promote renewable

energy and energy efficiency. He has supported the proposal for a new power line through the Highlands to deliver more dirty coal-fired power from Pennsylvania, and the proposal to drill in the Marcellus Shale to produce natural gas, another fossil fuel.

During the gubernatorial campaign, Christie criticized previous Gov. Corzine for not doing enough on renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions. But since taking office, the new Governor has produced a dismal record on issues surrounding climate change and on the environment in general.

He has eliminated the Office of Climate Change, and demoted the DEP's Division of Science to a mere advisory board stacked with industry insiders. He has withdrawn more than \$400 million from clean energy programs. New Jersey has seen the loss of 4,000 jobs because of his cuts to clean energy programs just in 2010.

The Governor's war on the environment includes Executive Orders, drastic cuts to the Clean Energy Fund, Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative monies and the DEP budget, a Red Tape Review Task Force, and stakeholder meetings stacked with industry insiders.

New Jersey had previously been a leader in the fight against global warming. Our Legislature bipartisanly passed the Global Warming Response Act and Clean Car legislation. The state sued the Bush Administration for freedom to regulate greenhouse gases. Will Christie change New Jersey's policies to be more in tune with the coal industry and Tea Baggers at the expense of the people?



## Welcoming Nicole Dallara to our Trenton Staff

By means of an interview:

1. Tell us about your educational, geographical and environmental background.

I graduated from Rutgers University a little over a year ago, majoring in Environmental Policies, Institutions and Behaviors, with a minor in Environmental Business. I always knew I wanted to work in the environmental field.

I was born and raised in New Jersey and I have been living in Marlboro for about 15 years. I enjoy living in Monmouth County because you get the best of both worlds with the beach and New York City a short drive away.

2. What other interests and skills do you bring to your new job?



Before coming to the New Jersey Chapter office I worked for the East Brunswick Youth Council, a local nonprofit. There I helped high school students get involved in community environmental events and clean ups. I would love to get the younger generations engaged with New Jersey Sierra Club - because they have a lot to offer, and because showing them that they can make a difference goes a long way.

3. What are your job responsibilities?  
I help with administrative work in the Chapter's Trenton office, and I write press releases. I am still learning about the Chapter's specific environmental issues, and expect to be assigned to help with projects originating within the Chapter's twelve regional Groups.

4. Which environmental issues are of most interest and importance to you?

Protecting the Atlantic Ocean is very important to me since, as a Jersey Girl, I

have enjoyed the beach culture for as long as I can remember.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Planning News: Volunteer Family  
Planning.....2  
Ballot for Singles Section Officers .....2  
Sustainable Lifestyle: Sustainable Eating2  
Sustainable Lifestyle: Stratford.....2  
Chair's Message: We Need Your Help ....3  
Drilling the Marcellus Shale .....3  
Killer Coal .....3  
ExCom's Resolutions,  
September-November, 2010 .....3  
BP: Better Prepared? .....4  
LTE: Drill Baby Drill?.....4  
The Need for Public Oversight .....4  
Red Tape in Trenton.....4  
Chapter Appreciation Day Celebrated.....5  
Our NJ Land Use Guide, Part Four .....6  
Group and Section News..... 6-10  
Winter Outings..... 10-12  
Leader List, Meetings,  
Membership Form .....12

**Singles Section Ballot:**

If you consider yourself a member of the **Singles Section**, please clip this ballot, retaining the address label on the reverse side, vote it, and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Feb 1, to **Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08518**. Club rules require two more candidates than the number of openings; when an insufficient number of candidates is on offer, write-in slots are provided.

**Singles Section:** Candidates for ExCom.  
Please vote for UP TO SEVEN.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joe Testa      | <input type="checkbox"/> Joyce White   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joyce Haddad   | <input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Sovelove |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joe Prebish    | <input type="checkbox"/> Susan Browne  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ron Pate       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____ |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____ |  |

**Sustainable Lifestyle:**

## UN Report Urges Global Shift in Eating

By Suzanne Dragan, our Sustainable Lifestyle columnist

Below are excerpts from a press release issued June 2, 2010 by the United Nations Environment Program International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management, and entitled: "Energy and Agriculture Top Resource Panel's Priority List for Sustainable 21st Century". Unfortunately the study received little US media coverage. The full report is at <http://www.unep.org/resourcepanel/>

"How the world is fed and fueled in large part define development in the 21st century as one that is increasingly sustainable or a dead end for billions of people. A new and hard-hitting report concludes that dramatically reforming, re-thinking and redesigning two sectors—energy and agriculture—could generate significant environmental, social and economic returns..."

"Perhaps controversially, it also calls for a significant shift in diets away from animal based proteins towards more vegetable-based foods in order to dramatically reduce pressures on the environment..."

"Panel member Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of the UN Environment Program states: 'The Panel have reviewed all the available science and conclude that two broad areas are currently having a disproportionately high impact on people and the planet's life support systems—these are energy in the form of fossil fuels, and agriculture, especially the raising of livestock for meat and dairy products.' ...

"Ernst von Weizsäcker, co-chair of the Panel, said the report challenged the widely-held view that rising affluence leads automatically to environmental improvements: 'In the case of CO<sub>2</sub>, a doubling of wealth leads typically to an increase of environmental pressure by 60 to 80 per cent, and in emerging econo-

mies this is sometimes even higher. In the case of food, rising affluence is triggering a shift in diets towards meat and dairy products—livestock now consume much of the world's crops and by inference a great deal of fresh water, fertilizers and pesticides linked with that crop production ...

"The Panel set out to identify those activities or resources that contribute disproportionately to environmental pressures and impacts...It concludes that the priorities for achieving transformational change are:

"1. Agricultural goods, particularly products from animals, which are fed more than half of all world crops. Agricultural production accounts for 70% of the global freshwater consumption and 38% of the total land use. Food production accounts for 19% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions and 60% of the phosphorus and nitrogen pollution and 30% of toxic pollution in Europe..."

"2. Users of fossil fuels...Fossil-fuel production and consumption dominate as the world's leading cause of environmental degradation...The Panel notes that some efficiency gains are possible in terms of reducing the impacts of agriculture. They add that a 50 per cent growth in population by 2050 will overwhelm or offset these gains. Therefore says the report, 'a substantial reduction of impacts would only be possible with a substantial worldwide diet change, away from animal products.'"

Suzanne Dragan ([suzanne.dragan@aphj.org](mailto:suzanne.dragan@aphj.org)) 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@aphj.org](mailto:FoodforLife@aphj.org) or 732-446-6963.)

**Sustainable Lifestyle:**

## Stratford Goes Green

By Gina Carola, Chair of our West Jersey Group ([ginaceee@verizon.net](mailto:ginaceee@verizon.net))

On October 2, 2010, the town of Stratford (Camden Co.) held its 3rd Annual Fall festival. This year the fair had a "Go Green" theme, in order for the town to signal its intent to become a Sustainable Community. Besides the usual lineup of craft vendors and food vendors selling an assortment of delectable treats, there were environmental organizations including the West Jersey Sierra Club, solar installers, and hybrid cars on display. Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs were distributed, and there was an opportunity for residents to join an electric cooperative that supplies energy produced from renewable sources. At a ceremony celebrating the town's commitment to sustainability, Mayor John Gentless signed the US Mayors'

Agreement on Climate Protection. I presented him with the Sierra Club Cool Cities award, and congratulated the residents of Stratford for electing a progressive and forward thinking mayor and council.

The Stratford Business & Civic Association (SBCA) recently met with Lori Braunstein, the champion behind making Cherry Hill a sustainable town. Lori has graciously offered to mentor the SBCA as they work toward becoming certified under Sustainable Jersey. SBCA founder and Board of Director member Jerry Zekas is now in the process of recruiting residents to be a part of the "Green Team". The Team scheduled a residents' meeting on Dec 6th to develop a vision statement, goals, and an action

**POPULATION ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:**

## Providing for Unmet Need Helps People and the Planet

By Bonnie Tillery, ([btl44blt@msn.com](mailto:btl44blt@msn.com))

What if you could invest in something that would save millions of acres of forest containing thousands of species of plants and animals? What if that same investment also helped replenish fisheries everywhere on the planet? And, what if that investment reduced the deaths of mothers and children around the world? Wouldn't you say "Sign me up right now!?"

Well, that investment does exist. It's called **voluntary family planning**. A combined investment of \$1 billion to the U.S. Agency for International Development and the United Nations Population Fund would accomplish all of those goals and even more. However, because our investments in voluntary family planning have lagged, there is a huge unmet need for contraceptive supplies. According to United Nations information published in September 2010, there are 215 million women worldwide who want to avoid pregnancy and plan their families but do not have access to modern, effective contraception. (Note 1, below) An investment of \$1 billion would help over 52 million women avoid unintended pregnancies, reduce infant deaths by over 1.5 million yearly and deaths of mothers by over 505 thousand a year. (2)

Voluntary family planning is especially needed in countries where income is low (\$1 - \$2 a day), but pregnancy rates are high. In the book "Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization," Lester Brown writes about Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa. The population there has tripled since 1950, and will double again by 2050. The country loses more than 351,000 hectares of rangeland every year to spread of the Sahara Desert. This is caused by cutting forests and plowing rangeland to support a growing human population. In country after country, when women are able to chose family size, birth rates shrink. Providing voluntary family planning methods would reduce the need for people to cut down the forests for firewood and lighten the pressure on natural resources overall.

In many coastal areas of the world, fish populations have plummeted due to over-fishing to feed local communities. There has been success in improving catch size and quality by providing nets with larger holes, so that small fish can escape to grow bigger, and limiting areas where fish can be taken. Fishermen and women also see the advantage of being able to plan their family size and space their children so that they are healthier, too.

In a World Wildlife Fund report by Judy Oglethorpe, et al, she writes, "Population growth, health issues and increased resource use often drive the loss of natural habitats and resources and can lead to a spiral of increased poverty and environmental degradation - especially if there are no opportunities for alternative livelihoods. If poverty, natural population growth and poor health are driving environmental degradation, conservation actions alone are very unlikely to stop it because they are not tackling the root causes. Putting up barriers in protected areas and ignoring human needs will only exacerbate problems for the future." (2)

What happens when there is an unmet need that is finally provided for? A recent Sierra Club Global Population and Environment Program study trip to Ethiopia found that in one area use of modern methods of birth control went from 8% in 2005 to 30% in 2009. Amazing growth! Oglethorpe reports that in Khata, Nepal the rate of contraceptive use went from 43% in 2006 to 69% in 2008 - again, amazing results.

With a change in control of Congress in 2011, it is even more important that we let our representatives know that they need to provide \$1 billion in funding for voluntary family planning around the world. It is crucial for the health of people and the health of our planet.

1. "Eight Lives: Stories of Reproductive Health," UNFPA, September 2010
2. Oglethorpe, J., Honzak, C., Margolis, C., "Healthy People, Healthy Ecosystems" World Wildlife Fund, 2008.

plan to make Stratford sustainable. Already on board is the local Council of the Knights of Columbus, which has pledged to help educate families about green programs. The Town Council is conducting energy audits for some of the municipal buildings and is hoping to initiate a sidewalk repair project to make the town more walkable. These initiatives make Stratford a shining example of what other towns can do to improve the quality of life for residents and help make the future brighter for everyone.

### Green News from Gloucester County

Gloucester has become the first county in New Jersey to install solar panels on flashing traffic signals - to reduce energy costs. The county secured a federal grant from the Department of Energy that will cover the cost of putting the solar panels on flashing signals, and some regular signals in several different municipalities, helping them to reduce the cost of operating the signals which can be as high as \$1,000 per year per signal. Freeholder Director Steve Sweeney said he hopes to be able to cut the cost in half while doing something positive for the environment.

Gloucester County has also expanded its E-Waste program to include many more electronic items. Besides computers and related components, residents will be able to drop off stereos, boom boxes, DVD and VCR players, fax machines, typewriters, desktop copiers and phones for free. Televisions will be accepted for a fee of \$10. In order to help reduce the amount of vegetative waste going into the trash stream, the county is offering composters and kitchen buckets for a reduced price of \$50 for both items.



Photo: Left to right in the picture are Jerry Zekas, Stratford Mayor John Gentless and Gina - after presenting the Cool Cities award.

Member's Report:

# Safety Considerations for Drilling in the Marcellus Shale

By Lina Silimkhan (lincue@aol.com), a member of our Loantaka Group

Currently, the Delaware River Basin Commission is drafting regulations to guide drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale Formation of the upper Delaware River Basin, which includes parts of Pennsylvania and New York. The regulations are due by the end of 2010. There are several safety issues that should be considered.

Extracting natural gas from shale has many risks. The process, called slickwater high volume fracking (or hydraulic fracturing), is less than ten years old, so the environmental impacts are still being determined. In this technique, millions of gallons of fracking fluid are used per well, and there is a high well density. Also, compared to conventional drilling, shale drilling produces a high volume of waste fluid. Water from hydraulic fracturing picks up toxic heavy metals including lead, arsenic, and chromium, and can also contain uranium and other radioactive elements of the local "Reading Prong" formation. According to Dr. Tony Ingraffea, who researches complex fracturing processes, as the number of gas wells and volume of fracking waste increases, the probability of the accidental release of toxic material into the air and groundwater increases. About two thirds of fracking fluids are returned to the reserve pit, which can leak. About 20-40% of the fracking fluid stays underground after drilling, putting groundwater at risk of contamination.

Not much is known about the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing. According to the industry, small amounts of chemicals are used. But according to an expert on chemicals in gas drilling, Dr. Theo Colborn, 91 tons of toxic chemicals per 1 million gallon of fluid are used. The industry also claims that the chemicals are diluted by the water, reducing their concentrations. However, dilution

doesn't reduce toxicity because the human body, especially the endocrine system, is sensitive to very low levels of chemicals, and long term health effects can result. Because of exemptions to the Safe Drinking Water Act of 2005, as introduced by the Bush Administration, industry is not required to disclose the chemicals used in the drilling process. More than half of the ingredients used to extract natural gas are not disclosed to the public.

Hydraulic fracturing causes a lot of damage to the environment because large areas of public and private land are required for the many separate wells. Also, there is a high potential for water contamination. There have been over 1,000 cases of drinking water contamination associated with hydraulic fracturing across seven states. In Colorado, between 2003 and 2008, there were 1,500 hazardous spills from drilling, and 300 cases that affected water supplies. Benzene has been discovered in the water supplies in Colorado and in a well in Wyoming - at a concentration 1,500 times the acceptable safety level.

Air pollution can also result from natural gas production. In the Barnett Shale in the Dallas-Fort Worth area there is more smog from the oil and gas sector than from motor vehicles. The same is true of Colorado. Furthermore, according to Dr. Ingraffea, the gases emitted from shale gas development are more potent greenhouse gases than carbon dioxide.

Shale drilling is very risky and can have long term effects on the environment and public health. Drilling in the Marcellus Shale is relevant to our state because it may impact the drinking water for three million residents in New Jersey. If you'd like to learn more about drilling in the Marcellus Shale, the visit the website: [www.damascuscitizens.org](http://www.damascuscitizens.org).

Report from Trenton:

# Clean Air Task Force Reports on "Killer Coal"

From a Press Release by Jeff Tittel and Kara Seymour, Chapter staff

A report released on Sept 9th by the Clean Air Task Force is a devastating indictment of the coal industry and its impact on public health. The report, "The Toll from Coal," shows that, across the nation, people are being hospitalized and dying due to the impacts of air pollution from dirty coal. What is startling in this report is that New Jersey, which has only a handful of coal plants that make electricity, is 10th in the nation for mortality and impacts on health from coal. Pennsylvania is ranked first!

New York/Newark/Edison is the metropolitan area with the most health impacts from coal pollution; Philadelphia/Camden/Trenton is ranked second. Those areas are where New Jersey's coal plants are located. The Ocean City metro area, downwind from the BL England plant, is ranked 14th for mortality. Salem and Gloucester Counties, home to the Deepwater and Logan Township plants, have similarly high mortality rates.

According to the report, 531 people in New Jersey die each year from coal related deaths. We suffer 445 hospitalizations

and 987 heart attacks from coal plants. These societal and medical costs comprise a subsidy to the coal industry.

Most of the health impacts from coal in New Jersey arise, not from our own plants, but from plants upwind in Pennsylvania and the Ohio River valley. But many of our coal plants are located where there are high concentrations of people: in Jersey City and Trenton.

The report suggests to us that BL England and Deepwater should be closed or converted to natural gas. The Hudson and Mercer plants should be converted to gas. But a more important implication is that we should move beyond coal, transitioning to renewable energy sources like wind and solar.

The report doesn't show the impacts coal-fired power plants have on the economy because of missed work due to asthma and other respiratory illnesses, or the impacts to our fish from the mercury in the exhaust of coal plants.

The full text of the report can be found at <http://www.catf.us/resources/publications/vtew/138>.

# Chair's Message We Need Your Help



By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)

Nonprofit organizations throughout the country have been hard hit by the ongoing economic crisis, with many organizations reporting not only a decline in revenues, but also an increased demand for services. So far, due in large part to the support we receive from our members and friends, the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club has been holding its own.

But that doesn't mean that we're out of the woods. If the Chapter is to remain an effective force in protecting and preserving our natural environment, it is essential that our members and friends continue to provide us with the financial support we need in order to fulfill our mission. Here are a few reasons why I believe that the Chapter is deserving of your support:

First, the challenges we face are greater than they have been at any time in recent years. At the state level we have a new governor who appears to be intent on weakening environmental protections and a legislature that is more interested in accommodating the builders lobby than in preserving open space and protecting our natural environment.

At the federal level we have one house controlled by a party that cares more about looking out for big business than looking out for the environment and one house that has been rendered all but powerless by the ongoing threat of a Republican filibuster. And while I believe that President Obama's heart is in the right place, at times he has demonstrated a disturbing readiness to compromise on issues that are too important to give up on.

The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club has made significant progress over the years in protecting our air and water, preserving open space, cleaning up polluted sites and promoting alternative energy sources. These hard-fought victories are now at risk. Even as I write this column efforts are underway to roll back environmental protections at the state and federal levels. I can't overstate how important it is that these efforts be defeated.

Second, we have the tools required to get the job done. The New Jersey Chapter has a small but knowledgeable

staff and over 150 committed volunteers. Jeff Tittel, our chapter director, is an experienced and effective lobbyist. Over the years he has established an excellent relationship with the media and has earned the respect of public officials at all levels of government. As a result of his efforts and the efforts of other staff members and volunteers, we have been able to achieve a number of significant victories. The New Jersey Chapter, with its 18,000 members, its dedicated staff and its corps of activist volunteers, has proven itself to be an effective advocate for the environment and a force to be reckoned with both in Trenton and in Washington.

Third, we're careful how we spend your money. The Chapter operates on a very tight budget. Unlike some organizations, we don't spend money on consultants and studies designed to tell us what we already know. And if there is a project or task that can be handled effectively by one of our experienced volunteers, we opt for the volunteer. We are committed to make certain that our members and supporters receive the maximum bang for their bucks.

And fourth, we need your help if we are to succeed. While we pride ourselves on our ability to hold expenses to a minimum, we do need funds to compensate our three staff members, pay our rent and provide the funds required to publish and distribute our quarterly newsletter. If you are a member or have supported us in the past, you will receive a solicitation letter at some point during the year. This is the only letter you will receive, as we don't believe in flooding our members and friends with urgent appeals for help.

But that doesn't mean that we don't need your support. So please help out if you can. And if you are not a member and have not contributed in the past, please consider making a donation by sending a check to our office at the address provided on page 12 of this newsletter or by making an online donation through our website. And please be assured that your support, whatever the amount, is very much appreciated. As I am fond of saying, we can't do it without your help.

### 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.

## Resolutions Adopted by ExCom in September–November, 2010

We authorized legal proceedings to protect a rail-to-trail conversion in Lacey Twp, Ocean Co, from encroachment by a "connector road." (September)

Kathleen Donovan (R) was endorsed as a candidate for Bergen County Executive. (September)

We resolved to lobby the state Legislature to preserve the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission, which may be under threat from the Governor's streamlining campaign. (October)

We asked Governor Christie to oppose construction of a 30-inch natural gas pipeline through densely populated parts of Jersey City, Hoboken and Bayonne (Hudson Co), especially when a safer but slightly longer route, under

New York Harbor, is available. (November)

[Here also is a resolution adopted in September at the Club's national level, by the Council of Club Leaders (CCL), a body of delegates representing each of the Club's Chapters: "The CCL believes the US Supreme Court decision in "Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission," which permitted unlimited campaign expenditures by corporate lobbyists as "free speech," to be contrary to the principles of representative democracy." The CCL urged the Club's national Board of Directors to support a constitutional amendment that would reverse the effect of the Supreme Court's decision. (Jane Tousman represented the New Jersey Chapter.)]



Report from Trenton:

# BP: Better Prepared? Six Months After the BP Spill, New Jersey Has Not Acted

By Kara Seymour and Jeff Tittel, of our Chapter staff

Six months after an oil-drilling rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico, and caused the worst environmental disaster in our nation's history, our leaders in New Jersey are dragging their feet: failing to protect New Jersey's coasts and to promote renewable energy.

The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club believes we must restrict drilling off our coast, and instill comprehensive protections to safeguard our beaches in the event of a disaster. We should:

- Ban oil drilling in New Jersey waters (which extend only three miles into the Atlantic), and prevent the construction of onshore facilities for offshore oil drilling and exploration.
- Raise the liability limit for oil spills in our waters. The current liability limits are capped at \$65 million for state impact. That cap should be increased to cover \$1 billion in damages. The current liability of \$65M wouldn't even cover the loss of tourism in one beach town for one week.
- Improve New Jersey's coastal spill management plan, which only addresses spills from tankers and barges but should include threats from oil drilling beyond our 3-mile limit.
- Promote renewable energy by sup-

porting programs that enable the development of wind off our coasts.

A spill such as the one in the Gulf would devastate New Jersey. Even drilling off the coast of Delaware would require pipelines through New Jersey waters that could do serious environmental damage. A spill off Delaware's coast would endanger beaches from Cape May to Sandy Hook, not to mention all the shores of Delaware Bay.

We think there is an alternative to drilling: New Jersey should steer away from a reliance on dirty fossil fuels and move towards renewable energy. Instead of risky oil rigs off our coasts, there should be wind turbines that manufacture electricity. Renewable energy would also strengthen our economy by creating thousands of green jobs.

Under current environmental rules, it is easier to put an oil well off our coasts than a wind turbine. That must change. Wind is the most cost-effective and reliable form of renewable energy. Not only is offshore wind environmentally clean, and more reliable than photovoltaic solar panels; in the long run it is more economical and not subject to price volatility. We cannot drill ourselves into energy independence.

Report from Trenton:

# Eliminate Waste, Not Public Oversight

By Trenton staff members Christine Guhl and Jeff Tittel

On Sept 10th the Christie Administration released another report on government efficiency. The report recommends the elimination or consolidation of various boards that oversee the operation of state governmental agencies.

These boards provide an independent voice on government actions and affairs; they are made up of citizens, stakeholders and everyday people concerned about environmental protection. The Sierra Club is concerned that streamlining and cost-efficiency will be used to undermine public participation and the public's right to know.

We need to eliminate waste and duplicity but we cannot do it at the expense of public oversight. Eliminating many of these boards would not save money but would eliminate transparency and accountability.

Combining some boards like the Shellfish Advisory Board and the Marine Fisheries Council makes sense, as does giving the Governor a veto over actions of the Marine Fisheries Council. (That's what it took to get a horseshoe crab moratorium a few years ago.) Giving the DEP Commissioner the power to appoint the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Council is also an improvement in accountability. It may make sense to eliminate some boards like the Wetlands Mitigation Council as well as the Garden State Preservation Trust since Green Acres and other agencies do most of the work of protecting open space. We are glad there is no intention of eliminating the Highlands Council, the

Pinelands Commission and the Natural Lands Trust.

The Sierra Club objects to elimination of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission, which not only helps run the D&R State Park but oversees land decisions that impact the Canal's water supply function. The Tidelands Council is another important regulatory body in which citizens can have input on the development or sale of lands that impact riparian corridors.

We are extremely troubled by the plan to merge the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission with the New Jersey Water Supply Authority. Merging will undermine their independence and reduce water quality. NJDWSC is a well-run organization that has been a leading voice for many years for clean water, and has been willing to stand up to governors. The Commission helped protect Sterling Forest in the Highlands and opposed privatization of water supplies. The NJWSA has worked very hard to protect the watershed - buying land and conducting regional planning. A combined authority will be too big to deal with these issues.

Some of the boards proposed for elimination perform little-known but important work. For instance the Invasive Species Council prods the DEP to deal with invasive species. The Drinking Water Advisory Council was at one time a very strong advocate. It has not been as vocal lately but that is because of the quality of the appointments.

Letter to the Editor:

# Drill Baby Drill? Not Really Necessary

By Sidney J. Goodman, a former Chapter Energy Issues Coordinator, and a Professional Engineer (gizmogink@optonline.net)

We sent patriots into battle in Iraq and Afghanistan. What they saw sparked their next mission - to end our dependence on fossil fuel. Renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and some alternate fuels will reduce climate change while giving us less pollution.

Can we can develop synthetic or bio-fuels that don't rely on imports? Brazil makes bio-fuel from food crops, causing other problems. There are other ways to go.

Several laboratories are working on developing ethanol, a biofuel, that would not be made from corn. Although ethanol burns cleaner than gasoline, getting it from corn is wasteful, and burning it still contributes carbon dioxide to the atmosphere.

The U.S. Army's Natick laboratory produced synthetic oil from vegetation decades ago. They called it "grassoline". It was more expensive than petroleum. That was then. What would a fair cost comparison be now, adding in ALL the hidden costs of oil? Even BP is interested in developing biofuels.

For fair cost comparisons, we must consider the hidden health, environmental, and military costs of all fuels. Before our first war with Iraq, the military cost of securing our supply of Mideast oil was reported as \$50 billion a year by The Center for Defense Information (Washington, DC). They said it would have cost much less to develop clean alternatives to Mideast oil. Oil spills have imposed more costs.

Sunlight, shining on tanks containing vegetable wastes, ferments the greenery

to produce a form of natural gas, which burns cleaner than coal or oil. There are millions such of biogas digesters in China and India, as once reported by the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Solar (photovoltaic) electricity or wind-power electricity can be used to manufacture hydrogen, which burns to form water, not carbon dioxide. A hydrogen economy would free us from fuel imports and would clean the air. Hydrogen is the cleanest fuel for vehicles and generating power. It is the fuel used by fuel cells. A fuel cell makes electricity from the chemical combination of air and hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst.

Hydrogen has its detractors. They claim that it takes more energy to make hydrogen than the energy it yields. That is true if we make hydrogen by burning coal or natural gas. However, once solar or wind-power installations are built, there are no fuel costs for the hydrogen produced. Whenever the wind blows or the sun shines, hydrogen is manufactured. The hydrogen is free. Oxygen, another valuable gas, is also released in this process.

Technological brilliance built American prosperity. We need to harness it with the same urgency that won World War II. World War III is in progress. It is war against the earth inflicted by humans. The earth will lose this war unless we make changes, applying ingenuity soon enough. Doing this is the best way we can truly support our troops, and give us an insurance policy against a possible climate change catastrophe.

Report from Trenton:

# Red Tape in Trenton: The Sequel

(The Environmental Attacks Continue: Sierra Club comments on Executive Order 41)

By Jeff Tittel and Kara Seymour, of our Chapter staff

Acting Governor Kim Guadagno signed Executive Order 41 on Sept 23, making permanent the Red Tape Review Task Force. We believe this Executive Order is part of the Christie Administration's continuing assault on environmental protections and public health.

The original Red Tape Review Task Force was born under Gov. Christie's Executive Order #3, issued early in 2010, with the assignment to "review pending and proposed rules and regulations . . . to assess their effects on New Jersey's economy, and to determine whether their burden on business and workers outweighs their intended benefits."

This original Task Force reported on April 19, recommending the delay or weakening of up to 17 environmental rules, and the elimination of important oversight boards. Most disastrously, perhaps, it urged prohibiting New Jersey environmental standards (for pollutants in air, soil and water) from exceeding federal standards, and weakening public participation in DEP rule-making.

Why should New Jersey want higher than federal standards? Consider how California's "Clean Car" standards (higher than federal levels), for reducing the smog pollution in the Los Angeles basin, were eventually adopted by a consortium

of northeastern states (including New Jersey), and later adopted nationally. That's one reason. Another is that New Jersey's unique geographical features (such as the Highlands, Pinelands, and Barnegat Bay) have sensitivities to pollution that can only be protected by higher-than-federal standards. Another is that federal rules intended for a national average low-density residential population, for example atmospheric ozone levels that reduce the incidence of childhood asthma, shouldn't apply to a high-density state that receives ozone pollution from neighboring up-wind states making electricity by burning coal.

By making this task force permanent, we are concerned that it will promote the dismantling and repeal of important environmental protections, many of which protect public health and safety. The Task Force recommended getting rid of unnecessary and duplicative boards, and now it has become one of those boards.

The new Red Tape Review Task Force created by EO-41 will not include representation from environmental, environmental justice, and community groups. Senator Buono quit the original Red Tape Task Force because of the extreme positions the task force took on the environment.

# Chapter Appreciation Day Celebrated

By Ken Johanson, Chapter Chair; Photographs courtesy of George Fluck, with many thanks

Sierra Club volunteers, staff, members and friends gathered in Princeton on November 14 for the New Jersey Chapter's annual Appreciation Day reception and awards ceremony. Joan and George Denzer did their usual fine job in organizing and coordinating the event. The food, prepared by Joan and other volunteers, as well as the wines, selected and sampled by George, were excellent. But the most enjoyable - and rewarding - part of the reception was the opportunity to spend time with other activists and friends, exchanging ideas and getting to know one another better.

Our distinguished guests included Congressmen Rush Holt and Frank Pallone, both of whom were endorsed by the Sierra Club this past congressional election, and both of whom were victorious. We were also joined by Kathe Donovan, newly elected Bergen County Executive, who had also received our endorsement. Those present welcomed the opportunity to congratulate these public officials on their victories and to

wish them well in the challenging times that lie ahead.

One of the highlights of our annual reception is the recognition of those who have made a significant contribution to the environmental cause. This year the Chapter recognized six individuals, shown left to right, below, holding their certificates: State Senator Linda Greenstein, Assemblyman Peter Barnes, Dr. Michael Kennish, Dr. Kevin Lyons, Rachel Weinrich and Steve Lanset.

Senator Greenstein, who the Chapter endorsed in her successful race for the State Senate, has been a champion for the environment as a member of the State Assembly: promoting public transportation, opposing sprawl development, working to preserve open space and farmland, and protecting communities from air pollution and toxins.

Assemblyman Barnes has also been a great friend to the environment and the New Jersey Chapter. He has led efforts to preserve open space, especially the Dismal Swamp in the central part of the

State, and has been an important ally as a member of the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee.

Rutgers Prof. Michael Kennish was recognized for his work documenting the environmental challenges facing Barnegat Bay, as well as his efforts to save the Bay, and Dr. Kevin Lyons, also a professor at Rutgers, was recognized for promoting green initiatives at the University, and for his leadership in environmentally responsible business practices in New Jersey, nationally, and throughout the world.

Not to be outdone by her professors, Rachel Weinrich, a Rutgers senior majoring in environmental policy, produced three superb videos for the Chapter, opposing the proposed PurGen coal plant in Linden. The videos can be viewed on the Chapter's website. Rachel, together with a classmate, also produced an award-winning video for a Rutgers competition advocating changes in the curriculum that would give greater weight to environmental issues. We hope

these recommendations will be adopted. Rachel hopes to become a filmmaker with a focus on environmental issues.

Our final honoree was Steve Lanset, the Chapter's volunteer of the year. Steve is active with the Chapter's Hudson-Meadowlands Group and also serves as the Chapter's transportation issues coordinator. He organized the Chapter's opposition to damaging cuts to New Jersey Transit, he continues advocacy of a Cross Harbor Freight project, and is untiring in efforts to promote sound transportation policies throughout the State and the NJ-NY metropolitan region.

Those attending the reception were in no rush to leave following the presentation of awards and continued to mingle over coffee and dessert. Clearly a good time was had by all.

*(The photos were chosen by your Newsletter editor, to include as many candid as possible. He apologizes for not being able to identify many of the guests shown.)*



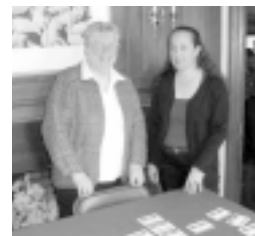
Our venue: Pretty Brook Farmhouse, Jeff Tittel



Congressman Pallone and Ken Johanson



Greg Auriemma and Congressman Holt



Bonnie Tillery and Laura Lynch



Dennis Anderson




Steve Knowlton



Joan Denzer, our provider






**Get 20% and 100% renewable green energy for LESS than you pay now!**

FREE to switch • NO cancel fee • Receive the very same bill and service from your current utility, just pay less

**All you need is a copy of your electric bill to switch!**

PSE&G • JCP&L • ACE • Rockland Electric

To go green and save money, visit:  
[\*\*www.viridian.com/choice\*\*](http://www.viridian.com/choice)



Questions? Email [ribble@optonline.net](mailto:ribble@optonline.net) or call 973-896-6912

\* Independent associate for Viridian

# Our New Jersey Land Use Guide, Part Four

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

In the Spring, 2010, issue of *The Jersey Sierran* we introduced "Land Use and Preservation in New Jersey: A Beginner's Guide," a 20-page handbook that is available on our website. In the Summer issue we discussed some of the rules that the State and municipalities must follow when considering a development application. The Fall issue covered what to do and how to organize when a development proposal is the subject of a public hearing. In this, the final installment of our series, we'll cover the other side of the development argument: open space preservation.

Open space includes farmland, parks, recreational areas, historic sites, and conservation parcels owned by non-profits or the public. Whether parkland or undisturbed forest, open space serves many purposes in a community. Residential property values are higher closer to parks. Open space costs municipalities less to maintain than housing developments do. Aesthetically, open space provides a place to relax and escape the stress of everyday life. Open space can prevent flooding, absorb water-borne toxins, and provide habitat for wild plants and animals.

Recognizing the importance of keeping the garden in the Garden State, and the importance of protecting water supplies and air quality, New Jersey developed a number of planning and regulatory strategies as well as acquisition options, including the Green Acres program. As well as funding state acquisitions, Green Acres matches municipal or county contributions towards the purchase of open space, essentially cutting the cost in half for the purchasing entity.

When a municipality obtains Green Acres funding the use of the land becomes restricted to recreation or conservation. If a parcel of land has been purchased with Green Acres money, it is much more difficult to build upon. This makes it important to put as many acres into preservation as possible. Because municipalities can preserve land at half price or less, many are willing to consider Green Acres to fund land preservation. Suggesting this as an alternative to development is a worthwhile endeavor. Combining Green Acres funding with county, federal, or other acquisition grants can further decrease the municipality's cost.

Another mechanism for preserving

open space is through New Jersey's farmland preservation program. Unfortunately, farming has become less profitable, so many farmers have sold their farms to large housing developers. Some farmers, however, are willing to work with the state to restrict their land to agricultural use in perpetuity. These owners continue to own their property to farm or keep as open space while selling the development rights and thus restricting future uses.

A property owner can also sign a conservation easement, which deeds part or all of the parcel to preservation or to public use (such as a footpath). This is often done if the property abuts a stream or is contiguous with land that is already preserved. Some properties are deed-restricted, confining the parcel to certain uses including preservation.

Every municipality has a Master Plan, which must be reviewed at six-year intervals, and which serves as the basis for each municipality's Development Ordinance. Within the Plan are zones, each carrying specific limitations as to use, lot size, building size, etc. During the Master Plan review process, uses can be revised to limit development in environmentally sensitive areas. Re-drawing zones is called "re-zoning." Recently, municipalities have been changing residential and commercial zoning in order to preserve open space, reduce traffic, promote safety, etc. For example, a municipality might require that residentially zoned land previously allowing one house per acre must now allow one house per three acres. This "downzoning" can be taken even further by requiring the clustering of homes into a small corner of a large property, leaving much of the property as undeveloped open space.

The most effective way to ensure that developments are appropriate for their locations, and that open space is preserved, is to zone properly. The more land that can be preserved by open space zoning, agricultural zoning, and downzoning, the fewer land battles you will have to fight. Being proactive is the most effective strategy.

*This article is a shortened version of our online guide, which includes more details and useful links to other resources. Land Use and Preservation in New Jersey: a Beginner's Guide is at <http://newjerseysierraclub.org>.*

## Skylands Group (formerly Northwest Jersey Group)

(Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

### OFFICERS:

Chair,		
Conservation Chair:	Marie Springer	skylandssierraclub@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Charles Kopp	cgkp@verizon.net
Hospitality & Secretary, Hospitality & Special Events Chair,		
Publicity, Webmaster:	All Open!	

WEBSITE: <http://newjerseysierraclub.org/Skylands/>

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, Bldg 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.

## South Highlands Group (formerly Hunterdon County Group)

(Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties and surrounding areas)

### OFFICERS:

Chair:	Greg Nelson	greggsap@hotmail.com
Vice-Chair:	Cinny MacGonagle	cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair:	Open Position!!!	
Secretary:	Dwight Irving	dwight@dlirving.com
Treasurer:	Open Position!!!	
Political Chair:	Jonathan Wall	psychologist@jonwall.com
Publicity Chair:	Celeste Martin	onecentral@mac.com
Membership Chair:	William Moody	riversmfever@gmail.com
Energy Coordinator:	Mark Marciniak	mpmplace@ptd.net
Outings Coordinator:	Dave English	denglish@hotmail.com
Webmaster:	Dwight Irving	dwight@dlirving.com

WEBSITE: <http://newjerseysierraclub.org/SouthHighlands/>

See us and keep up to date with our Group on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#group.php?gid=53817136187>

~~~~~Happy New Year!!!!~~~~~

We are now on Facebook! Now you have three ways to stay updated on our group and events/activities going on! Go to our Facebook page, visit our Sierra Club Official Website, or get on our email distribution list. Please contact [shighlandssierra@gmail.com](mailto: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. 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 our local area), protecting our environment, and clean energy / energy conservation. GET INVOLVED!

### MEETINGS, OUTINGS, and EVENTS:

Make sure to check our Sierra Club Group site or Facebook page for the latest and greatest on Meetings, Outings, and Events for members and non-members! On both sites you will find the up-to-date schedule as dates and location are subject to change. For more even more information please direct specific questions or inquiries to us at [shighlandssierra@gmail.com](mailto:shighlandssierra@gmail.com).

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Held at the New Jersey Water Supply Authority Annex, 1851 State Rte 31, Clinton 08809. Meetings start at 7:30 PM on FIRST WEDNESDAYS: Jan 5, Feb 2 and Mar 2.

### GENERAL MEETINGS:

Meetings start at 7:30 pm on Wednesdays (either the first or third):

Check our Websites for January - March meeting locations, dates, times, and topics!

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

### WHERE WE WILL BE:

Please check our Sierra Club Group Site or Facebook page for an up-to-date schedule of our events.

### CURRENT ISSUES:

#### 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:

Keep that New Year's Resolution - Do something important to help make a difference in the world and for the environment! Join the Sierra Club and volunteer! If you are in the Hunterdon or Southern Warren Counties, you are in our group! Get involved to make a difference in your own backyard!!!



# 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  
**Gateway Group (formerly Essex County Group):** Essex, approximately  
**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*



**North Jersey Group**

*(Bergen, Passaic and northern Morris Counties, approximately)*

**OFFICERS:**

|                           |                       |              |                            |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Group Chair:</b>       | Mike Herson           |              | mikherson@hotmail.com      |
| <b>Conserv'n Co-Chrs:</b> | Tom Thompson          | 201-848-1080 | ctrans743@aol.com          |
|                           | Mike Herson           |              | mikherson@hotmail.com      |
| <b>Air Quality:</b>       | Laura Coll            |              | lauratracycoll@hotmail.com |
| <b>Outings Chair:</b>     | Ellen Blumenkrantz    |              | eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com  |
| <b>Passaic Issues:</b>    | Tricia Aspinwall      |              | taspinwall@hotmail.com     |
| <b>Political Chair:</b>   | Greg Tondi            |              | gregt75@yahoo.com          |
| <b>Program Chair:</b>     | <b>Open Position!</b> |              |                            |
| <b>Trail Maintenance:</b> | Marty Cohen           | 201-670-8383 | martincohen@verizon.net    |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>         | Tom Thompson          | 201-848-1080 | ctrans743@aol.com          |
| <b>US Public Lands:</b>   | John Kashwick         | 201-660-8820 | johnkashwick@optonline.net |
| <b>Wildlife Issues:</b>   | Mary Ellen Shaw       | 201-906-4062 |                            |

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** Begin at 7:30 pm. Please check our website: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/North> for dates, locations and programs. If you would like to help organize programs, please contact Mike (above).

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

(1) **Hackensack River Watershed.** 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 the riverbank to make way for a paved pathway would greatly harm this fragile ecosystem where the Northern Harrier, Herons, Osprey, and nesting Eagles have been observed. An extremely rare Redheaded Woodpecker and the threatened Black-crowned Night Heron have been confirmed on Van Buskirk Island.

(2) **Ramapo River Watershed.** The Related Companies plans to build 1,196 housing units and 30,000 square feet of commercial space on forested slopes in Tuxedo, NY - which would degrade drinking water for 2.3 million New Jerseyans. Related would destroy critical habitat (especially for the threatened timber rattlesnake), and drastically alter the landscape (extensive tree clearing, blasting, bulldozing). Despite the overwhelming opposition to the project, the Town Board recently approved the final EIS (it's available on the town's website). Stay tuned, the fight continues!

Meanwhile, despite this potential threat to our drinking water supply, Related is still in the running to take over the failed Xanadu project in the Meadowlands and could possibly be receiving a \$175 million subsidy from the State of New Jersey. The company has had ongoing negotiations with the State's EDC and our State tax revenues might be diverted to assist the developer.

(3) **New Jersey Highlands.** Threats include the planned Tennessee Gas Pipeline that will cut through 230 acres containing C-1 streams, exceptional resource wetlands, critical habitat, and conservation priority lands; and PSE&G's 500 kV Susquehanna-Roseland transmission line with 195-ft towers, a project that will pollute Highlands water, damage forests and slopes extensively, and destroy the view shed.

(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; and parkland in Overpeck County Park (Leonia) from plans for a new road. In Clifton, where we continue to monitor Latteri Park, we also support efforts to save the former Schultheis Farm for public access as a community garden and prevent it from losing its Green Acres status.

**TRAIL MAINTENANCE:** We would like to thank Sean Noble and Carl Hagelin of North Jersey's trail maintenance crew for clearing our section of the Appalachian Trail. Maintenance of this extremely popular section, which steeply climbs Wawayanda Mountain, has been the responsibility of our group for the past two years. Sean and Carl sawed and removed brush and poison ivy vines, and did other light clearing. Our next trail maintenance activity will be in the spring of 2011. 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).

**Hudson-Meadowlands Group**

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

**OFFICERS:**

|                                   |                       |              |                           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Chair:</b>                     | Jodi Jamieson*        | 917-804-8390 | jodijami@mac.com          |
| <b>Vice-Chair:</b>                | Helen Manogue*        | 201-963-3511 |                           |
| <b>Secretaries:</b>               | Judith Courtney       | 201-868-6575 | jaocourtney@netzero.net   |
|                                   | Ruth Olsen            | 201-868-6575 | oof46@msn.com             |
| <b>Conservation Chair:</b>        | Mirjana Zivkovic*     | 201-758-8390 | tenisko@hotmail.com       |
|                                   | Louise Taylor*        | 201-562-8390 | LTAYLOR2@comcast.net      |
| <b>Political Chair:</b>           | <b>Open Position!</b> |              |                           |
| <b>Fundraising Chair:</b>         | <b>Open Position!</b> |              |                           |
| <b>Membership Chair:</b>          | <b>Open Position!</b> |              |                           |
| <b>Cool Cities Chair:</b>         | Helen Manogue*        | 201-963-3511 | iguanaj@aol.com           |
| <b>Events Chair:</b>              | Janet Glass*          | 201-868-4216 |                           |
| <b>Palisades Landmark Status:</b> |                       |              |                           |
| <b>Comm. Vice Chair:</b>          | David Kronick         | 201-869-6218 | jktegas@aol.com           |
| <b>Group ExCom Members*:</b>      | Gil Hawkins*          | 201-944-5799 | gilc3d2@aol.com           |
|                                   | Donald Kopczynski*    | 201-224-2641 | Littlechips03@netzero.com |
|                                   | Steve Lansct*         | 201-424-6348 | slansct@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](http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/Hudson/njs_hudson.asp)

**CONSERVATION ISSUES:** Our group is involved with protecting open space in our urban area. We are currently focused on 5 conservation campaigns and issues:

- 1) We're promoting a riverfront park on the last 6 acres of Hudson Riverfront in North Bergen (and we're opposing a 256-unit development currently in planning).
- 2) We're promoting safety over greed by opposing the Applevue development on River Road that abuts a major high pressure gas line;
- 3) We are studying the High Pressure Gas line proposal in Jersey City;
- 4) We have resolved to stop the removal of ROSI land in Edgewater by inadvertence;
- 5) We also propose that the EPA do a more thorough superfund clean-up of the Quantas Site on our beautiful Hudson River than they have just proposed.

There's still some natural beauty in our urban areas. It won't last long without your help! 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.

**2011 EVENTS:** We are working hard to get our 2011 event schedule together...please watch this space or our website. We'll also be reaching out to our membership early in the year with our ideas. We hope to have movies scheduled during the year along with speakers and trips. Hope to have you along for the ride!

**Gateway Group (formerly Essex County Group)**

*(Essex County except for Livingston, Milburn and Roseland; plus Elizabeth and Hillside)*

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

**OFFICERS:** The Gateway Group is in reorganization. To facilitate this, the Chapter Executive Committee has assigned mediators to help rebuild and strengthen the Group. Gateway members will receive a postcard giving the time and place of a reorganization meeting. Questions? Contact Joan Denzer: [jdenzer73@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:sally@eccobella.com) or Linda Stiles at 973-736-2224 or [birdady07052@msn.com](mailto:birdady07052@msn.com) if you want to get involved.

**Loantaka Group**

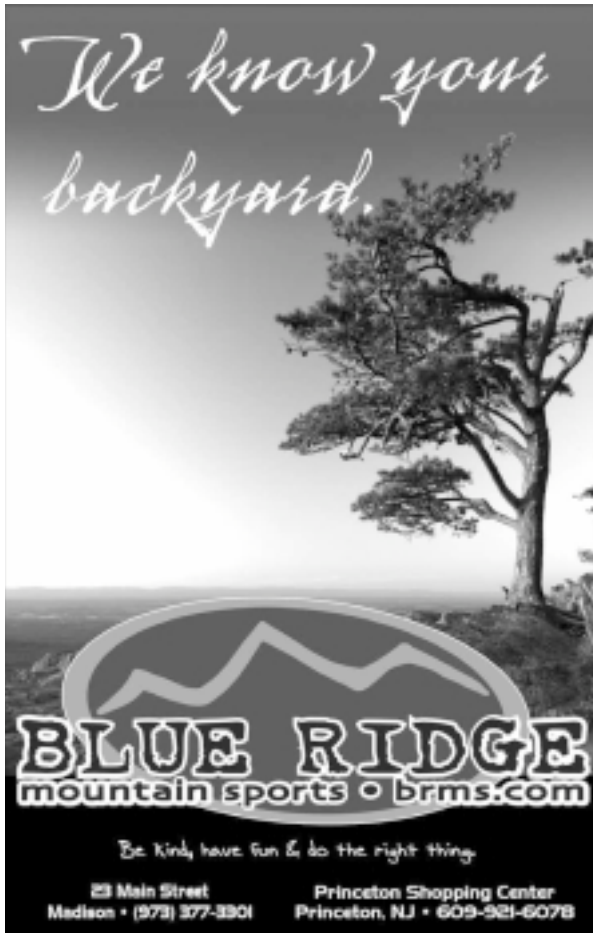
*(Morris and Union Counties (except for Elizabeth and Hillside, plus Livingston, Milburn and Roseland, approximately)*

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

**OFFICERS:**

|                         |                |              |                        |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|------------------------|
| <b>Group Co-Chairs:</b> | Eric Hausker   | 732-669-0719 | hhausker@gmail.com     |
| <b>and</b>              | Paul Sanderson | 908-233-2414 | paulmsanderson@aol.com |

*(Continued on page 8)*



**Members living near Trenton are invited to volunteer time to help run our state office: Call Nicole Dallara.**

## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

|                              |                |              |                         |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Treasurer:</b>            | Joyce White    |              | joyce00201@yahoo.com    |
| <b>Secretary:</b>            | Open Position! |              |                         |
| <b>Conservation Chair:</b>   |                |              |                         |
| <b>Morris County:</b>        | Bill Martin    | 908-604-2505 | WP1.Martin@gmail.com    |
| <b>Union County:</b>         | Eric Hausker   | 732-669-0719 | hhausker@gmail.com      |
| <b>Political Chair:</b>      | Meiling Chin   |              | chinmeiling@yahoo.com   |
| <b>Programs:</b>             | Open Position! |              |                         |
| <b>Education</b>             |                |              |                         |
| <b>Coordinator:</b>          | Jeff Huppert   | 973-263-0344 | jeffhup@optonline.net   |
| <b>Fundraising Chair:</b>    | Eric Hausker   | 732-669-0719 | hhausker@gmail.com      |
| <b>Outreach &amp; Events</b> |                |              |                         |
| <b>Chair:</b>                | Open Position! |              |                         |
| <b>Publicity Chair:</b>      | Wynn Johanson  | 908-464-0442 | johansons@comcast.net   |
| <b>Membership:</b>           | Open Position! |              |                         |
| <b>Air Quality</b>           |                |              |                         |
| <b>Coordinator:</b>          | Bob Campbell   | 973-761-4461 | bobc2023_sc@verizon.net |
| <b>Webmaster:</b>            | Paul Sanderson |              | patulmsanderson@aol.com |
| <b>Greenbrook:</b>           | Bob Muska      | 908-665-2296 | rmuska@erols.com        |

If you might be interested in getting involved, come to one of our Executive Committee Meetings on the first Tuesday of the month and get to know us. 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 Chatham, 214 Main St, Chatham.

All members are welcome at Executive Committee meetings. Right now, we have open positions on it! If you would like to find out more, please contact Paul Sanderson.

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** are held on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at the Library of the Chatham, 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: are posted on our website: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka/>.

### MEETING SCHEDULE:

**Jan 12:** To be announced.

**Feb 9: Coal Country** - Christine Guhl of the NJ Sierra Club Chapter will show a video called Coal Country and give a presentation about the Sierra Club's Coal Campaign. The video centers on problems resulting from the mountain-top removal method of mining. Please come and learn what we can do to reduce New Jersey's use of dirty coal.

**Mar 9:** Jon Jeans, Master Gardener, will give a presentation on **organic gardening**. He will discuss why gardening organically is important not only for our food but also for the backyard area. His presentation will cover why it is a way of life and will include a short discussion on native planting for the back yard. He will include a real tutorial of organic gardening, basically growing food, and a brief discussion on composting and the re-use of natural materials.

**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)

Fundraising note: \$220 (about 1/3 of the annual fundraiser proceeds) has been donated to the Chapter.

## Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

You can find us on Facebook at: Central New Jersey Sierra Club and on the web at <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/central>.

For infrequent email updates, contact doncarlo2@verizon.net to subscribe to the Central Group distribution list.

### OFFICERS:

|                            |                   |              |                           |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Chair:</b>              | Terry Stimpfel    | 609-731-7016 | terystimb@hotmail.com     |
| <b>Co-Chair:</b>           | Open position!    |              |                           |
| <b>Conservation Chair:</b> | Open position!    |              |                           |
| <b>Membership Chair:</b>   | Don Carlo         | 609-586-4357 | documentsdon@gmail.com    |
| <b>Outings Chair:</b>      | Leona Fluck       | 609-259-3734 | Leona@pineypaddlers.com   |
| <b>Political Chair:</b>    | Terry Stimpfel    | 609-731-7016 | terystimb@hotmail.com     |
| <b>Publicity Chair:</b>    | Joanne Pannone    | 609-443-6992 | jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com |
| <b>Program Chair:</b>      | Lynne Weiss       | 732-821-9688 | lshari05@gmail.com        |
| <b>ExCom At-large:</b>     | Malcolm McFarland | 609-448-8699 | jmmcfarland81@gmail.com   |
|                            | Ruth Ann Mitchell |              | ram400500@yahoo.com       |
|                            | Tamanna Mohapatra | 732-801-9629 | tmohapatra@yahoo.com      |
| <b>Outreach:</b>           | Open position!    |              |                           |

**Secretary:** Open position!  
**Webmaster:** Open position!

The Central Group is working on local environmental issues to preserve open space, promote effective planning, and protect wetlands and trails. Currently we have a cooperative effort with the Princeton Battlefield Society to save the D&R Canal Commission and are working to stop the Meadowbrook Road warehouse/flex space in Robbinsville. We are supporters of the Princeton Ridge Preserve and have an invasive species eradication program underway in the Hamilton Trenton Bordentown Marsh. Central Group opposes the Carter Road development in Hopewell, the PurGen project in Linden, electric transmission lines and gas pipelines through preserved lands, and hydrofracking in the Marcellus Shale.

We need you! Thinking of becoming involved? Want to make a difference? Opportunities abound in conservation, Group functioning and more. Volunteer for a few hours or an event! Please contact Terry or Leona.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** All Sierra Club members are invited to find out what's happening and volunteer to help too! Please contact Terry.

**GENERAL MEETINGS** (Public always welcome!)

**Jan 22 (Fri): Princeton Environmental Film Festival** ([www.princetonlibrary.org/peff](http://www.princetonlibrary.org/peff)). We will start the evening at 6pm with dinner at Panera Bread on Nassau St., then at 7pm view the award winning film "Baglt: is your life too plastic?" and join the post screening discussion.

**Feb 15 (Tue): "The proposed PurGen coal project (carbon capture and sequestration) and its ramifications for NJ and America"** Peter Montague, Environmental Research Foundation. 7:30 to 9pm (Pre-meeting social at 7pm). Whisk and Spoon meeting room of Whole Foods Market, Windsor Green Shopping Center, Rte 1 South, Princeton.

**March:** SPECIAL EVENT "Activists' Social" Have a fun evening with Sierrans from Central and several neighboring Groups. Watch our Facebook and webpage for further information. Get all the details via email from the Central list. Not on our list? Send an email to doncarlo2@verizon.net to subscribe.

**CENTRAL OUTINGS:** See the NJ Sierra Outings webpage for information.

## Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

### OFFICERS:

|                            |                  |              |                           |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Group Chair:</b>        | Roomi Nusrat     | 908-429-9017 | sierra_nj_rartian@att.net |
| <b>Group Vice Chair:</b>   | Don McBride      | 732 560-0369 | dtmcbride@alumni.haas.org |
| <b>Conservation</b>        |                  |              |                           |
| <b>Advisor:</b>            | Jane Tousman     | 908-561-5504 | jdtous@aol.com            |
| <b>Outings</b>             |                  |              |                           |
| <b>Coordinator:</b>        | Denise McClellan |              | mcclellan09@comcast.net   |
| <b>Webmaster:</b>          | Don McBride      | 732 560-0369 | dtmcbride@alumni.haas.org |
| <b>Outings</b>             | Open position!   |              |                           |
| <b>Recycling</b>           |                  |              |                           |
| <b>Coordinator:</b>        | Open position!   |              |                           |
| <b>Conservation Chair:</b> | Open position!   |              |                           |
| <b>Secretary:</b>          | Open position!   |              |                           |
| <b>Political Chair:</b>    | Open position!   |              |                           |
| <b>Membership:</b>         | Open position!   |              |                           |

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

Please visit our website for the timing and location of our monthly meetings, usually on a weekday evening of the third week of every month and well as any other special events.

Meetings Location: Bound Brook Memorial Library, Somerset County Library System, 402 E High Street, Bound Brook NJ 08805. Phone: 732-356-0043

The monthly meetings are to keep you informed of environmental and organizational concerns in our communities and to inform you on things you can do to preserve and protect the environment. Because meeting dates and locations change, please attend our meetings as indicated on our web-site: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/RaritanValley/>

We encourage you to attend your town's planning/zoning board or land use board meetings. If you are aware of development proposals in your town that may have a negative environmental impact, PLEASE communicate concerns by attending our meetings and by contacting us via [sierra\\_nj\\_rartian@att.net](mailto:sierra_nj_rartian@att.net).

## Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

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

### OFFICERS:

|                            |                               |              |                       |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Group Chair:</b>        | Dennis Anderson               | 732-970-4327 | dennisaza@aol.com     |
|                            | 6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747 |              |                       |
| <b>Vice-Chair:</b>         | Open Position!                |              |                       |
| <b>Secretary:</b>          | Joe DeLuca                    | 732-389-1835 | joe-deluca@att.net    |
| <b>Conservation Chair:</b> | Faith Teitelbaum              | 732-229-0553 | faithtei@aol.com      |
| <b>Webmaster:</b>          | Lud Lanko                     | 732-462-2199 | lud@pobox.com         |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>          | Pat Fuschetto                 | 732-308-4588 | fusche40@yahoo.com    |
| <b>Political Chair:</b>    | Shahnaz Shahidain             | 732-666-4285 | shahidain@gmail.com   |
| <b>Outings Chair:</b>      | Mike Verange                  | 908-902-0718 | mijverange@aol.com    |
| <b>Membership</b>          |                               |              |                       |
| <b>Co-Chairs:</b>          | Bob Grize                     | 732-892-0684 | nyucwnyppb@aol.com    |
| <b>and</b>                 | April Klimley                 | 917-626-4838 | AprilJeanK@aol.com    |
| <b>Program Chair:</b>      | George Moffatt                | 732-544-1726 | gmoffattg@aol.com     |
| <b>Fund-raising</b>        |                               |              |                       |
| <b>Co-Chairs:</b>          | Lois Blake                    | 732-863-5917 | lqblake@optonline.net |
| <b>and</b>                 | Joellen Lundy                 | 732-741-4756 | jfutey@comcast.net    |



**Shore Group Happenings:**

Along with Monmouth University, we are 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. In this effort, we held a hike along part of the watershed in Ocean Township and plan on showing the documentary film, A Chemical Reaction, which chronicles the harmful effects of common lawn and garden pesticides and one town's fight to ban them.

In the spring we will hold a training session by our Monmouth County Watershed Ambassador and a few more hikes and clean-ups.

Please join us to help explore, enjoy and protect this beautiful watershed. Contact: Faith Teitelbaum: faithtei@aol.com.

Help Needed for Cleanups: 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 20 tons 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>, 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: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/JerseyShore/>.

**Jan 24:** Christine Guhl, field organizer for the Sierra Club's "Beyond Coal" campaign, will present the 40-minute documentary **Coal Country**, spotlighting Appalachian coal mining through the eyes of miners and activists, public officials and coal company executives. The documentary visits people most directly affected by the pollution from mountaintop and strip mining, from miners concerned about jobs and coal company officials concerned the economy. The documentary also examines the real costs of "cheap energy" and "clean coal" and alternatives for future energy. Christine also will give a 30-minute presentation about coal's past and future in New Jersey, including the existing Hudson generating station and the proposed PurGen plant in Linden.

**Feb 28:** Dennis Anderson, our Group's unofficial world traveler, will discuss the success and popularity of **game parks in Zimbabwe and Zambia**, and how commercial "safaris" help to protect threatened wildlife. Not exactly "roughing it," Dennis recently enjoyed daytime and nighttime drives in the parks with experienced game experts, and rafting down the Zambezi River, while learning about poaching problems and game enforcement laws, environmental and conservation efforts by both countries, threats by mining, and even the downside of being a criminal in Zimbabwe.

**Mar 28:** Jim Walsh of Food and Water Watch will discuss his organization's efforts to make it more difficult for the state to privatize a number of traditionally state-run programs, including Gov. Christie's inclination to **privatize our state parks**. His presentation will include many of the state and local functions being targeted and why his organization opposes these proposals. Privatization is a favorite topic among the "less-is-best" deficit hawks, who maintain that many government programs could be more economically run by private enterprise, a claim that opponents such as Food and Water Watch say is often not true.

**Ocean County Group**

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

**OFFICERS:**

|                     |                           |              |                            |
|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Chair:              | A. Gregory Auriemma, Esq. | 732-451-9220 | sierraclubOC@aol.com       |
| Vice-Chr, Outings:  | Dawn Marie Johns          | 732-644-6340 | sierraclubOC@hotmail.com   |
| Conserv'n Chair:    | Margit Meissner-Jackson   | 609-296-4367 | syviaj1910@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 | hirschschwartz@comcast.net |
| Fund-Raising:       | Joyce M. Isaza            | 732-920-9270 | realtymstr@aol.com         |
| Env'l Consultant:   | Helen Henderson           | 908-278-9807 | hhlaceyrailtrail@msn.com   |
| Env'l Educ'n Coord: | Terrance Brown            | 848-333-7331 | terrybrown@comcast.net     |

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Generally held on the SECOND MONDAY of each month at the Ocean County Library.

ACTIVITIES & ISSUES: We're hard at work: Preventing drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and off the Jersey Coast, defending the Endangered Species Act, fighting Mountain Top Removal 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 web site: [www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean](http://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.

**Jan 24 (Mon):** All are welcome at our first general meeting of the New Year. We will recap the events and issues of 2010, and plan for the year ahead.

**Feb 19 (Sat):** Join us for our first outing of the New Year, a **winter wildlife hike**. Please check our web site for more details. To register for the event, please contact Dawn Marie Johns, our Outings Chair.

**Mar 28 (Mon):** Our Main topic will be discussing **local environmental issues**.

**West Jersey Group**

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

WEBSITE: <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzey1uj/>

**OFFICERS:**

|                     |                       |                         |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Group Chair:        | Gina Carola           | 856-848-8831            | ginaceee@verizon.net        |
| Vice-Chair:         | Frank Zinni           |                         | cfzin4@aol.com              |
| Secretary:          | Ellen Zinni           |                         | cfzin4@aol.com              |
| Treasurer:          | Trish Clements        |                         | patri321@comcast.net        |
| Publicity Chair:    | Bud Kaliss            | 856-428-8071            | budkaliss@verizon.net       |
| Political Chair:    | Nancy Rone            |                         | NancyRone@comcast.net       |
| Pinelands Rep:      | Lee Snyder            |                         | pinelands1@hotmail.com      |
| Greenways Coord's:  | Frank and Ellen Zinni |                         | cfzin4@aol.com              |
| Conservation Chair: | Stacey Ayala          |                         | thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com |
| Delegate at Large:  | Aida Ayala            |                         | thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com |
| Membership Chair:   | Mike Brown            | 856-547-9221            | eyebrown@verizon.net        |
| Fundraising Chair:  | <b>Open position!</b> | Call Gina to volunteer. | 856-848-8831                |
| Smart Growth Chair: | <b>Open position!</b> | Call Gina to volunteer. | 856-848-8831                |
| Programs Chair:     | <b>Open position!</b> | Call Gina to volunteer. | 856-848-8831                |
| Outings Chair:      | <b>Open position!</b> | Call Gina to volunteer. | 856-848-8831                |

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

Directions: From I-295, take exit 34B onto Rte 70 West. Follow the signs for Rte 41 South, which is Kings Hwy (you will have to exit to the right into a jug handle and then turn left onto Rte 41 (Kings Hwy)). Cross over Rte 70 and you will be briefly on Rte 154 (Brace Rd). Make the next right and then the next left onto Kings Hwy. After about 1 mile, you will cross Grove Rd (Indian King Tavern is on the right corner). After crossing Grove Rd, go two more blocks and turn right on to Friends Ave. Go one block to the Meeting House. Park in the lot next to the Meeting House and enter the auditorium through the doors on the right side of the building. Do not go into the Meeting House.

**Jan 12:** Christine Guhl, Field Organizer for the New Jersey Chapter of Sierra will present "**Coal Country**", a dramatic look at modern coal mining and the environmental degradation that it brings to the surrounding communities. Learn about the struggle that the activists face when they take on the powerful coal mining companies.

**Feb 9:** Marilyn Eppolite, a holistic energy therapist will present "**Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO'S): Panacea or Pandora's Box?**" The presentation will include information regarding health, biodiversity and the future of food, and effects on the environment.

**Mar 9:** The Pacific Gyre. Come and see this alarming presentation about the damage that plastics are doing to our oceans. Plastic bags, plastic bottles and disposable products of all types are having a profound effect on our food chain.

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

The Cape May County Conservation Committee hosts bi-monthly educational presentations at The Free Meal Center, 1206 Route 9 South, Cape May Court House NJ 08210 (note new location!). 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](mailto: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](http://www.gehwa.org). If you have topics (and places) for meetings, please let the officers know about them. We welcome general comments from Club members in South Jersey. To be placed on a carefully guarded distribution list for local issues and meetings, please e-mail [dick.colby@stockton.edu](mailto:dick.colby@stockton.edu).

**Current Issues:** In addition to our opposition to the extension of Rte 55 into Cape May County (see article in the previous issue of this Newsletter), 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](mailto: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 (photo-

(continued on page 10)

## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

voltaic) installations (especially in each municipality in Atlantic County), and support for a New Jersey Bottle Bill, known as the Smart Container Act (A930/S1467).

### Some Possibly Relevant Meetings of Allied Organizations:

Jan 12 and March 9, 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.cumauricriver.org.

Jan 20 and March 17, 7pm: Atlantic County Friends of the Parks: Monthly meetings of Friends of the Parks, a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Park System. All are welcome. Warren Fox Nature Center (WFNC\*), Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor, Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 3½ miles south of Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

Jan 25 and March 22, 7pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: Membership meeting, open to the public. Watershed awareness presentation. WFNC\*. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

Feb 16, 7pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss river management strategies. Open to the public. WFNC\*. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

## Singles Section

(A chapter-wide, special interest section offering hikes/cleanups, social gatherings, meetings, etc.)

There is a ballot on p.2 of this Newsletter for Singles Section officers. Please send it in.

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!

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

The BEST way to be notified of upcoming events is to join our free listserv. Anyone may subscribe by going to: <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-SINGLES-NEWS.html> and clicking on "Join or leave the list." You may subscribe and unsubscribe at will; directions on how to unsubscribe are at the bottom of each announcement. We recommend joining the listserv as some events are advertised only by email. If you prefer not to receive email, you may view an archive of all prior messages at <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-SINGLES-NEWS.html>

### OFFICERS:

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

**Volunteer Opportunities:** We need volunteers in all areas of the state to run events. Volunteers needed as hike leaders, Fundraising Chair/Co-Chairs, and members of all committees, including planning social events and conservation activities. 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. 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.

### HIKES AND OTHER OUTINGS:

The Singles Section sponsors many outings, ranging from beginners' level to advanced difficulty. Some of these are listed in this newsletter; others are announced only on our listserv. Please join the listserv to receive notification of all of our outings; see above for instructions on how to subscribe.

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](mailto:terystimb@hotmail.com) with your ideas and to learn about short duration assignments.

## 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.

Arlene Zatz is the editor of the Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section. She can be reached at [azatz@funtravels.com](mailto:azatz@funtravels.com) and invites members to check her web site at [www.funtravels.com](http://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!)

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

### YOUNG SIERRAN COMMITTEE POSITIONS

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

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

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

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

## Sierra Student Coalition

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

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

## Inner City Outings Section

(another Chapter-wide special interest activity with the motto: No Child Left Inside!)

### OFFICERS:

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

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

## "Who Else Wants Green Cleaned Carpets & Floors?"

All kinds of carpet, tile, ceramic and stone floors green cleaned and restored like new. Wood floors? No sanding. Happiness guaranteed. Free consults anywhere in Mercer Co, NJ or Bucks. Allstate Cleaning.com

Call 609-586-5833 Now





# Outings

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

## GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

- Central Jersey:** Leona Fluck 609-259-3734 (H) leona@pinypaddlers.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 Andrea Drive, Mays Landing, 08330 boghosian1@verizon.net  
**West Jersey:** Vacant  
**River Touring:** Fred Tozzo 908-453-2205 (H) Rd 1 Box 277, Washington, NJ 07862  
**Inner City Outings:** Anne Dyjak 732-960-0953 (H) NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd, Warren, 07059  
**Chapter Outings:** Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417 eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

**Outing Leaders:** Please send April-June 2011 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before February 1. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it for the previous Sierran, due to the occasional lag in mailing. Also, please send outing rosters or sign-up sheets to the Chapter Office as soon as possible after each outing.

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

**Group Outings Coordinators:** Please submit your April-June trip write-ups by February 5.

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

Sierra Club outings are arranged by volunteer leaders who are in charge of the trip and responsible for the safety, welfare and enjoyment of all participants. Leaders

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

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

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

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

If you are a Sierra Club member interested in becoming an Outing Leader or have suggestions for new outings, contact your Group Outings Chair or the Chapter Outings Chair for assistance and further information. The Sierra 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. |

Imlaxtown-Davis Station Rd. Follow to Emley's Hill Rd, turn left. Follow to Park on left. Leashed dogs are welcome! Option for late lunch at La Piazza, Allentown, NJ. Leaders: Leona and George F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pinypaddlers.com. (C)

**Jan 29 (Sat): Tallman Mountain State Park (Rockland Co, NY).** 11:15 am. 7 miles. We will hike through the park and view the panoramic Hudson River valley from the mile-long Piermont pier halfway across the Hudson! Trails include the Long Path. Bring lunch and water. Adverse conditions will alter the route. Drivers meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural) in Piermont NY. Leader: John P. Jurasek: 845-365-3618 (no calls after 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

## FEBRUARY

**Feb 2 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co).** 10am. It is Groundhog Day and we'll look for "Piney Phil's decision" in NJ. The river section we paddle will depend on weather conditions. Contact leaders to confirm trip, meeting time and location. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pinypaddlers.com. (W)

**Feb 5 (Sat): Whitesbog Village Winter Hike (Burlington Co).** 10am. 4.5 miles, easy pace. Whitesbog is a NJ historic site, built to house workers in the local cranberry bogs. Every year the bogs and ponds in the region near Whitesbog are home to a wintering population of Tundra swans and perhaps we will see them as we hike around the bogs. Directions www.whitesbog.org. Bring beverage and lunch. Leaders: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pinypaddlers.com. (W)

**Feb 13 (Sun): Clayton Park, Upper Freehold Township (Monmouth Co).** (Special Interest: History), 9am. A moderate 6-mile hike in one of Monmouth County Park System's best kept secrets. Moderate elevation hikes. Hiking shoes not required. Bring snack and drink. Meet at the Wawa store near the intersection of County Rte 537 and I-195 in Upper Freehold Township. Bad weather cancels (including snow cover). Confirmation/Questions: call or text Leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com. (JS)

**Feb 13 (Sun): Social Tundra Swan Hike (Burl Co).** 10am. 6 miles at moderate pace. All are welcome. Hike the winter beauty among ponds filled with Tundra Swans. Bring binoculars. Dress for the cold weather. NP/NC. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet at Whitesbog Village parking lot. Take Rte 70 east to Rte 530 north (Browns Mills/Ft Dix), go 1 mile, turn right onto Whitesbog Road, go to parking lot. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 ext. pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

**Feb 14 (Mon): A Sweet Hike on Valentine's Day (Burl Co).** 10am. 5 miles, easy/moderate pace. Historic Smithville Park has 290 acres, and features a diverse collection of habitats and terrain, upland forests and meadows, and also offers beautiful Rancocas Creek vistas and wildlife observation opportunities Meet at the Smith's Woods access parking lot, East Railroad Av. Option for lunch at Vincentown Diner after the hike. Leashed dogs are welcome! Leaders: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pinypaddlers.com. (W)

**Feb 19 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co).** 9am. We're paddling 9 miles from Penny Pot to Weymouth Furnace. Meet at George's Grill, Rte 54, Hammonont. Arrive early for breakfast! Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pinypaddlers.com. (W)

**Feb 19 (Sat): Social Moonlight Hike, Campfire and Campout (Burl Co).** 7pm. 6 miles at moderate pace. Enjoy a winter moonlight hike in the Pines under the Snow Moon on a new route and return to a roaring campfire. Bring picnic-type food to share at our tailgate social after hike. NC/NP. Meet at Atsion Lake. From Rte 206 take Atsion Rd. west 1 mile, go to Goshen Pond Group site sign: turn left to camping area. Camping is available; call to reserve space. Leader: Paul Serdiuk 609-462-3593 ext. pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

**Feb 19 (Sat): Patriots Path Stroll (Morris Co).** 10am. Come take an easy stroll on Patriots Path in Morristown. This 3.5 mile stroll will start out from the Speedwell Lake parking lot, across the street from Historic Speedwell. See the Morris County Parks website (http://www.morrisparks.org/) for directions. The path is wide, partly paved, partly crushed stabilized gravel with very little in the way of elevation gain. We will be strolling at a very moderate pace. Please bring plenty of water and a light snack. Great for beginners. No pets please. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footwear required (sabelicers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. Optional lunch afterwards. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker\_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

**Feb 23 (Wed): Hike at Jakes Branch County Park (Ocean Co).** 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. Jakes Branch is the newest addition to the Ocean County Park System. There is a nature center with interesting displays and an observation deck that offers breathtaking views of the Pinelands. Leashed dogs are welcome. Meet at Jakes Branch Park, 1100 Double Trouble Rd, Beechwood. Leaders: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pinypaddlers.com. (W)

**Feb 26 (Sat): Clausland Mountain (Rockland Co, NY).** 11:15 am. 6 miles. We will climb 700 ft through historic Rockland Cemetery to an old Nike missile base. Bring hiking boots, lunch, 2 quarts of water. Adverse conditions will alter the route. Drivers meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural) in Piermont NY. Leader: John P. Jurasek: 845-365-3618 (no calls after 10pm), or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

**Feb 27 (Sun): Social Hike and Birthday Brunch (Burlington Co).** 9am. 5 miles at moderate pace. Hike between two rivers in late winter, wildlife sighting possible. Then help celebrate the leader's birthday as we enjoy an all you can eat buffet at Renault Winery Restaurant. NC/NP. Meet at Atsion Office on Rte 206 between Hammonont and Red Lion Circle. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 ext., or pis1@cccnj.net. Limited seating, call early to reserve place. Inclement weather cancels.

**Feb 27 (Sun): New Jersey Audubon Society's Plainsboro Preserve Hike (Mercer/Middlesex Co).** 1pm. 4.5 miles, easy pace. In 2010 we had snow on the trails. The Preserve has wildlife exhibits, a reference library and the Nature Store is a great source for field guides, optics, etc. Dogs are not permitted. Bring water and snacks. Directions: www.njaudubon.org/Centers/Plainsboro/. Option: dinner at Romeo's Restaurant. Co-Leaders: Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pinypaddlers.com, and Joanne P. jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (C)

## MARCH

**Mar 6 (Sun): Pine Meadow Lake Hike in Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY).** 10am. Moderate paced hike of 8.9 miles along beautiful streams to 2 lakes in Harriman, some great views. Trails include some rocky terrain and one steep climb. Bring a packed lunch, water, snacks. Optional after hike stop at Kincheys for thin crust pizza/drinks. Limit 12 people. Pre-registration required. Rain/snow would cancel. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

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

**Mar 13 (Sun): Daylight Savings Time Hike at Turkey Swamp Park (Monmouth Co).** 10am. 5 miles, easy/moderate pace. The Park features 2,111 acres with miles of trails. Park directions: www.monmouthcountyparks.com. Turn into the Main Entrance - 200 Georgia Rd, Freehold - drive to the Oak Point picnic area parking lot. Bring lunch and beverage. Leashed dogs are welcome! Leona and George F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pinypaddlers.com. (W)

**Mar 13 (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 GPS to exit 98. Head west on I-195 to exit 28 (Rte 9). Go north on Rte 9, make first right onto Windeller Rd. The main entrance is 1.5 miles on your left. Meet in the parking area at the far left toward the back. Bad weather (including snow cover) cancels. Confirmation/questions: please call or text leader: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com. (JS)

**Mar 17 (Thu): Canoe/Kayak the Crosswicks Creek/H-T-B Marsh on St. Patrick's Day (Mercer Co).** 10:30 am. Wear Your Green! Spring is just around the corner! We'll look for returning waterfowl as we paddle this 8-mile round trip with the tide. Bring lunch and beverage. After lunch, option for hike to Spring Lake. Meet at Bordentown Beach. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734, or Leona@pinypaddlers.com. (C)

**Mar 19 (Sat): Breakneck Pond/Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY).** 10am. Moderate-paced hike along pretty trails and old mining roads in Harriman to some lovely lakes and viewpoints. Bring a packed lunch, water, snacks. Optional after hike stop at Kincheys for thin crust pizza/drinks. Limit 12 people. Pre-registration required. Rain/snow would cancel. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

**Mar 19 (Sat): Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh Cleanup (Mercer Co).** 9am-Noon. Spring Lake area. Bring gloves if you have them, water to drink; wear long sleeves, long pants, boots. Meet at Spring Lake-Roehling Park (end of Sewell Ave, Hamilton). Contact: Bob Sokol: robert.sokol435@gmail.com or 609-918-1149. (Cosponsors include Friends for the Marsh, Mercer County Parks, & D&R Greenway Land Trust) (C)

**Mar 19 (Sat): Lewis Morris Park (Morris Co).** 10am. We'll start at Sunrise Lake, then hike to the parking upper lot and back down to the lake using a combination of the Yellow and Red trails. The pace will be moderate to slow. See the Morris County Parks Commission website (http://www.morrisparks.org/asp-

(continued on page 12)



**Chair**

\* Ken Johanson (908) 464-0442  
kjohnan@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

**Council Delegate**

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

**Student Outreach Coordinator**

Jeff Huppert (973) 263-0344  
hfhupp@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

**Group Effectiveness Committee**

Rich Isaac\*\*, Barbara Conover, Cynthia Mackowicz, Greg Auriemma

**Regional Issues Committee**

Joan Denzer\*\* (jDenzer73@yahoo.com),  
George Denzer

**Fundraising Committee**

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

**Personnel Committee**

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

**Legislative Committee**

Ken Johanson\*\*, Carolyn Freeman,  
Carey Huff, Dave Mattek,  
Tim Palmer, and Kelly-Ann Norgaard

**Litigation Oversight Committee**

Ken Johanson\*\*, Carolyn Freeman

**Finance Committee**

George Denzer\*\*, Sunil Somalwar,  
Ken Johanson

**Information Technology Committee**

Sunil Somalwar\*\*, George Newsome,  
Laura Lynch, Joe Testa

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

## NEW JERSEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

**Facilities (office, meeting sites)**

George Denzer\*\*, Joan Denzer, Paul  
Sanderson, Sunil Somalwar and Laura Lynch

**Issue Coordinators**

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

**Clean Air Issues**  
Bob Campbell (973) 761-4461  
bob2023\_sc@verizon.net

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

**Global Warming**  
Sunil Somalwar (see left column)

**Coal Campaign**  
Barbara Conover (973-746-1693)  
Bconover122@gmail.com

**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  
yennior@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: Nicole Dallara**  
Nicole.Dallara@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!)

**Jan 8 at the Hamilton Twp  
(Mercer Co) Public Library:**  
Cypress Lane  
**Feb 12 at our Trenton Office:**  
145 W. Hanover St.  
**Mar 12: same place as in January.**

Conservation and/or Political Committee meetings usually start at 10am. Lunch is shared at noon. The main meeting starts at 1pm.

## OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

parks/mdir.asp) for directions. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Meet in parking lot. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footwear required (sabelicers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker\_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

**Mar 19 (Sat): Social Moonlight Hike, Campfire and Campout (Burl Co).** 7pm. 6 miles at moderate pace. Enjoy a winter moonlight hike in the Pines under the Worm Moon on a new route and return to a roaring campfire. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NC/NP. Meet at Atison Lake: From Rte 206 take Atison Rd. west 1 mile, go to Goshen Pond Group site sign: turn left to camping area. Camping is available; call to reserve space. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-463-3593 evc. or pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

**Mar 20 (Sun): Celebrate the Vernal Equinox with a Hike at Mercer County Park.** 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. Welcome spring with a hike on woods trails along Mercer Lake. Bring lunch and beverage. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pinypaddlers.com. (C)

**Mar 26 (Sat): Norvin Green State Forest (Passaic Co).** 10am. 8-9 mile, moderate paced hike on rocky trails with several steep ascents/descents and some great views. This is a good workout. Bring a packed lunch, water, snacks. Limit 12 people. Preregistration required. Rain/snow would cancel. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

**Mar 26 (Sat): Hook Mountain Hike (Rockland Co, NY).** 10:30 am. 7 miles, with excellent views of the Hudson River and Croton Point. Meet in the Rockland Lake South Parking Lot near the entrance booth. Rockland Lake is in Congers, NY, off Rte 9W. Bring lunch, hiking boots, and water. Adverse conditions will alter the route. Leader: John P. Jurasek, 845-365-3618 (no calls after 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

**Mar 26 (Sat): Roan Rancocas State Park (Burlington Co).** 10am. 5 miles at a moderate hiking pace. See why this area is called Mt. Holly as we hike among the many hollies and view the meandering Rancocas Creek typically obscured by foliage. Follow gentle trails through a 50yr-old grove of Douglas fir and lovely upland and lowland hardwood forests. Bring water, lunch and snacks to enjoy at look outs. Trail may be muddy in spots; wear appropriate footwear. Heavy rain cancels. Maximum 12. Preregistration required. Leader: Terry Stimpfel, terystimb@hotmail.com or 609-731-7016.

**Mar 27 (Sun): Social Hike in Wissahickon Gorge (PA).** 8:30 am. 6-7 miles at moderate pace over hills and valleys. Hike the Gorge in early Spring with its spectacular views. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Proper hiking shoes required. Meet in the rear parking lot of Crown Plaza Hotel (formerly Hilton Hotel) on Rte 70, to carpool/caravan to site, or meet at 9:30 am at Valley Green North parking lot in park. NP/NC. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 609-462-3593 evc or pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

**Mar 27 (Sun): Island Pond Loop in Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY).** 10am. Moderate paced, 8.9 mile hike along various trails to beautiful lake for picnic lunch stop. Bring a packed lunch, water, snacks. Optional after hike stop at Kinchleys for thin crust pizza/drinks. Limit 12 people. Preregistration required. Rain/snow would cancel. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

**Mar 30 (Wed): Hike in the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Reserve (Mercer Co).** 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. Our group will be accompanied by Education Director and naturalist, Jeff Hoagland. Jeff will guide us down the trails, through meadow and forest, to the pond and the Stony Brook. The Watershed Reserve offers trails that explore wetlands, forests, meadows, streams and the four-acre Wargo Pond, which support the Watershed Reserve's vibrant and diverse community of animals and plants. Meet at the Nature Center, Titus Mill Rd, Pennington. The Reserve can be muddy in spring so wear appropriate footwear. \$5 suggested donation per person to SB-MWA. Co-leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pinypaddlers.com, and Joanne P at jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (C)

## FUTURE

**Sept 4-9 or Sept 11-16 (both Sun - Fri):** September in Western Maine! Location: Bald Mountain Camps, Quosococ, Me. This is an historic sporting camp located on pristine Mooselookmequenic Lake. Many activity options: excellent food and a comfortable warm environment provide relaxation and fun. Internet access available. Outing includes: hiking the AT, guided kayaking or canoeing pristine lakes and rivers with our host and Registered Maine Guide, Steve Philbrick. Log cabins with fireplace, wood, bath, linens, porch, breakfasts and dinners in the lodge dining room, sack lunches for the trail. Check website www.pinyaddlers.com/SIERRA-September-in-Maine. For more information contact leader: Judy Norcross, 609-288-6737 jsnorcross@aol.com. (W)

*The Jersey*  
**SIERRAN**  
Vol. 40, No. 1 • Winter, 2011

**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.)

*Opinions, unless otherwise attributed, are of the writer only.  
Advised products and services carry no Club endorsement.*

**Thank you to all who contributed to this issue!**  
This newsletter is produced mostly by volunteers.

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

**Prospective advertisers:** see instructions:  
[http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/njs\\_sierran/njs\\_advertise.asp](http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/njs_sierran/njs_advertise.asp)

Primary typeface: Garamond, 9.5 point  
Printed by Redmond Press, Denville, NJ  
Addressed by SHM Mailhouse, Princeton, NJ  
Periodical postage paid at Princeton NJ.

*The Jersey Sierran* is published quarterly by the  
Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter,  
145 West Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618

Copyright 2011  
*Permission to reprint (with source  
acknowledgement) is granted to other  
Sierra Club entities.*

## MEMBERSHIP COUPON

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

Mastercard  Visa  American Express

Exp Date / \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose check and mail to:  
Sierra Club,  
P.O. Box 52968,  
Beaumont,  
CO 80522-2968

F94Q **W 4000** -3

| MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES |                                        |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| INDIVIDUAL            | JOINT                                  |
| INTRODUCTORY          | \$25                                   |
| REGULAR               | \$39 <input type="checkbox"/> \$47     |
| SUPPORTING            | \$75 <input type="checkbox"/> \$108    |
| CONTRIBUTING          | \$150 <input type="checkbox"/> \$175   |
| LIFE                  | \$1000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$1250 |
| SENIOR                | \$34 <input type="checkbox"/> \$32     |
| STUDENT               | \$24 <input type="checkbox"/> \$22     |
| LIMITED INCOME        | \$24 <input type="checkbox"/> \$22     |

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet