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Vol. 40, No. 2 Roughly 20,000 Members in New Jersey April-June 2011

West Orange Zoning Board Hands Seton Hall Prep an Urban Old Growth Forest

Objectors to file appeal in Superior Court

by Sally Malanga, of our Gateway Group

It was sports vs. the environment, and sports prevailed.

On November 8th, the West Orange Zoning Board voted to grant Seton Hall Prep School six variances to build two baseball fields, five tennis courts, a practice field, and a parking lot in the McClellan Old Growth Forest in West Orange. This approval allows Seton Hall Prep to cut 1,400 trees in the remaining 17 acres of a 44-acre site, including 50 trees that are more than 150 years old.

In twenty-five hearings spanning more than two years, the objectors to the project, led by attorneys Kevin Malanga and Herbert Waldman, presented compelling arguments in opposition to the misconceived project: ongoing flooding of local homes, excessive tree cutting in violation of the township's environmental impact ordinance, traffic and safety concerns, violation of New Jersey's Municipal Land Use Law, and violation of NJDEP stormwater regulations.

The hearings were well-attended by West Orange residents and other concerned citizens who sought to save the old growth trees and Olmsted-designed gardens on the site. Seton Hall Prep relied upon the mantra of sports, sports, sports - and drew support from long-graduated alumni for whom trees represented the raw materials for baseball bats.

Throughout the hearings, Zoning Board members were overtly rude and hostile to expert witnesses who testified in opposition to the project. These Zoning Board members repeatedly interrupted and attempted to discredit a top-credentialed environmental consultant, a learned local historian, a stormwater engineer with a master's degree from MIT, and even a US Fish and Wildlife Service official who sought to explain the importance of testing for the presence of the endangered Indiana bat. One Zoning Board member stated, "There are 50 reasons to deny this application, but none of them is enough to do so."

This is a project with a long history of wrongdoing by Seton Hall Prep. In its first phase, without approval from the Township, the school imported tens of thousands of cubic yards of dirt fill, raised the elevations of the site by more than six feet, and cut down acres of trees including a 300-year-old oak.

In January, attorney Kevin Malanga heard the low hooting of owls carried on the frigid early morning air. Those owls rely on the old-growth forest as their habitat. So he began preparing an appeal of the Zoning Board's decision - to protect this special place, a true urban old growth forest in West Orange.

Sustainable Life-style 
Articles inside:

Community-Supported Agriculture *See page 2*

Living Sustainably on \$10,000/year *See Editorial on page 3* 


Online Resources for New Jersey Chapter Members

The New Jersey Chapter information is available electronically in a variety of forms.

The Chapter Website, at www.newjersey.sierraclub.org, is a one stop shop for all the items mentioned below. You can locate a group, join or donate to the club, check on outings, read press releases or the Sierran and so much more. The Website is frequently updated, so check for more information regularly.

Our Trenton staff maintains the NJ Chapter presence on Facebook www.facebook.com/pages/New-Jersey-Sierra-Club/60532255171. They provide frequent, up-to-date notes on Chapter actions and events. Many of these events occur on short notice, so they can't be announced in The Sierran. Sign up to "like" us and you will receive brief news items, including what is happening at the State House and DEP, any new developments on major issues or projects the Club is working on, and events the club is hosting around the state. This information is also available via RSS, as mentioned below.

The Chapter regularly issues Press Releases, which can be read at www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/PressReleases/ or via RSS.

RSS: don't want to visit the sites that much? Anywhere you see the RSS icon, you are able to subscribe that page to your favorite news reader. 

Don't know about newsreaders? A quick tutorial can be found at www.reviews.cnet.com/4520-10088_7-5143656-1.html

Want to take action from home? The Chapter Action Center is at www.scnj.convio.net/site/. You can sign up for a bi-weekly e-mail newsletter giving you background info on all types of environmental issues, as well as occasional e-mail announcements and New Jersey Chapter action alerts.

Want to donate to the New Jersey Chapter? Donate online at www.scnj.convio.net/supportus

Lost your Sierran copy? Read it from the website at www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/njs_sierran/

Chapter Election Results: Joan Denzer, Rich Isaac, and Jane Tousman received three-year terms as at-large members of the Chapter Executive Committee based on the ballots in last Fall's Jersey Sierran. Congratulations!

Report from Trenton:

Christie Transportation Plan Going Nowhere

From a press release issued on Jan 6th by our Chapter Director, Jeff Tittel

More New Jersey residents will be stuck in traffic on falling down bridges going nowhere if more serious action is not taken to address the state's empty Transportation Trust Fund.

The Governor announced that \$8 billion will be available over five years for transportation projects. Of this, \$3.6 billion will be borrowed, adding \$2.6 billion to the state's current debt.

The remaining money will come from diverted ARC tunnel funding and Turnpike Authority and Port Authority funding, i.e. increased tolls.

To justify his plan, the Governor said he would be borrowing less money than previous administrations.

The Sierra Club is not alone in urging a far more fiscally-responsible solution to the problem of an empty Transportation Trust Fund: raising the tax on gasoline. It's the method used by virtually every other state. New Jersey currently has the lowest gas tax of any state that does not produce oil. Today every penny of the gas tax goes to the payment of debt from past projects.

Our current bonds won't be paid off for another thirty years - over which time the roads maintained with the money will need to be repaved three to four more times.

New Jersey is ranked 49th in the nation for road maintenance with about 50% of our roads and bridges deficient and in need of repair or replacement.

Currently the New Jersey Transit Rail System is in need of major upgrades, improvements, and expansion including extension of the light-rail River Line into South Jersey beyond Camden, and the Middlesex-Ocean-Monmouth commuter line.

We also suggest other ways of replenishing the Transportation Trust Fund. Besides increasing the gas tax by ten cents, we could extend the state sales tax to cover gasoline. Or include a value added tax on road improvements - that would increase local property values, "cash-out parking" where developers receive incentives for projects that are accessible to mass transit and therefore require fewer parking spaces, and implementing surcharges on parking in urban centers to subsidize transit, similar to a scheme in Boston, Massachusetts.

Precious Trust Fund dollars can also be saved by not investing in capacity-expansion projects (which only promote sprawl and overdevelopment), instead using "flex" or reversible lanes on the Turnpike and other major highways. Only 6% or less of the money should go to new roads and expansions. The majority of the Fund's money should be used to fix dilapidated roads and bridges, and expand mass transit.

NJ should use its stem cell research center to develop backbone implants that will enable the Governor and legislators to increase the gas tax.

Welcome to our Newest Staff Member: Kate Millsaps

Kate replaces Kara Seymour in our Trenton office. We welcome her with the following interview:



1. Tell us please about your educational, geographical and environmental background (or upbringing).

I grew up in Jackson Twp (Ocean Co.) in the Pinelands and always had a deep love of nature. I attended Ramapo College in Mahwah, where I received a joint degree in International Studies and Environmental Studies. I have spent the past year and a half at the New Jersey Highlands Coalition, where I fought major development applications such as the Susquehanna-Roseland transmission line and the Tennessee Gas Pipeline.

2. What is your job title and what are your job responsibilities?

My job title is Program Assistant and I will be continuing to fight inappropriate projects across the state. I will also be working to ensure the Highlands Act and

other critical environmental protections remain in place under the current administration.

3. What environmental causes interest you?
(continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Sustainable Lifestyle: Community Agriculture.....	2
Population News: 7 Billion People!.....	2
Thank You, Donors!.....	2
Chair's Message: 2011.....	3
Editorial: Psychology of Global Warming.....	3
ExCom's Resolutions, January-February, 2011.....	3
Reports from Trenton: Pine Snakes, DEP Cuts, Barnegat Bay Bills, Spectra Pipeline.....	4
Member's Report: Hydrofracking Rules.....	4
High School Coordinator's Report.....	5
Volunteers Needed.....	5-10
Group and Section News.....	5-10
Winter Outings.....	10-12
Leader List, Meetings, Membership Form.....	12

Sustainable Lifestyle:

Community Supported Agriculture: Another Way to Buy Organic

By Suzanne Dragan, our Sustainable Lifestyle columnist

Why are people who buy junk foods rewarded with discount coupons while those of us trying to eat healthy pay full price and top dollar? Maybe this will change now that the new USDA nutritional guidelines are leaning more towards vegetarian/vegan eating:

“... new 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans focus on balancing calories with physical activity, and encourage Americans to consume more healthy foods like vegetables, fruits, whole grains, fat-free and low-fat dairy products, and seafood, and to consume less sodium, saturated and trans fats, added sugars, and refined grains.”

To read the new guidelines in detail, go to: <http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/dietary-guidelines.htm>

Discount coupons can help to reduce grocery costs and we can always buy organic produce in bulk or grow our own, but did you know about CSA? Community Supported Agriculture can help fill your refrigerator with locally grown seasonal organic produce. CSA is like crop sharing (or share cropping) but not in the traditional sense. It works like this: The farmer sells shares to the public. Usually the share is a weekly (in season) box of veggies & possibly other farm produce. By paying an upfront (often pre-season) fee, you get to enjoy the bounty as the farmer harvests it. There is a shared risk - if the weather is too rainy or too dry, if there is a plague of locusts, or crops are lousy, your periodic box of pro-

duce may be less varied or smaller. If you are concerned about the possibility of not getting “your money’s worth,” or only eat certain vegetables, then maybe a CSA agreement is not for you. It is important to thoroughly check out the CSA you are considering and speak with previous years’ participants.

<http://www.localharvest.org/csa/> spells out everything. You can plug in your zip code to find CSAs in your area for the upcoming growing season.

Gingered Yellow Split Pea Soup (from The Vegetarian Shabbat Cookbook)

Olive oil, 2 ribs celery, chopped fine, ½ teaspoon grated fresh ginger, 1 lb. yellow split peas, 5 cups water, 1 cup grated parsnips, pinch of salt.

Lightly oil a large soup pot. Sauté celery & ginger together for 3 minutes.

Add split peas, water & bring to a boil. Lower heat & simmer for about 20 minutes.

Add parsnips, bring water to boil, lower to simmer, cover, cook for another 20 minutes or until peas are done. Salt to taste. Add more grated ginger and or water if necessary.

I had never used yellow split peas or parsnips before I made this soup & now I love them.

Suzanne Yacowitz Dragan is a NJ Sierra member, a nurse nutrition educator & a former WCTC radio talk-show host. You can reach her on Facebook.

KATE

(Continued from page 1)

est you most, and what would you most like to accomplish in your job?

My interest is primarily in natural resource conservation and intelligent land use decision-making. A major issue confronting New Jersey right now is the proliferation of solar panels on prime agricultural land and one accomplishment I would like to achieve is ensuring

that NJ has the necessary regulatory framework in place to prevent our quickly diminishing agricultural land from being permanently destroyed by these installations.

The Chapter's Trenton staff include Jeff Tittel (Chapter Director), Nicole Dallara (Outreach Coordinator) and Kate. Contact Kate at Kate.Millsaps@SierraClub.org.

POPULATION ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Here Come Seven Billion of Us

By Bonnie Tillery, (btl44blt@msn.com)

Sometime later this year – estimates say October – the World will be host to 7 billion people. Kudos to National Geographic Magazine for bringing attention to this event, starting with the January 2011 issue and continuing throughout the year. The magazine highlights population issues, brought to your attention through these columns, such as better health care to reduce child mortality, leading to couples having fewer children; female literacy leading to lower fertility rates; and raising people out of poverty in order to stabilize population numbers.

One of the points brought up in the National Geographic article was that all 7 billion of us could live in the State of Texas. A few years back, when the earth’s population was a “mere” 6.5 billion, Population Connection addressed the issue of carrying capacity, the estimate of “the number of people a certain area of land can sustain without compromising its viability.” They went on to note: A vegetarian diet to feed one person would take 0.17 acres; 2444 billion gallons of clean water per day would be required for just

6.5 billion people, while Texas has 14 billion gallons; the waste disposal issue alone would be overwhelming. “Overcrowding, combined with inadequate sewer systems, resource scarcity and lack of infrastructure would lead to the outbreak of disease, civil unrest, conflict and destitution. People need much more than just the land they are standing on. In order to be healthy and safe, they need space that far exceeds the 0.0265 acres (roughly 1000 sq. ft. or 30 ft. sq.) that Texas would offer each person” (number based on population of 6.5 billion). “We see that questions of cramming people into a small space are not particularly useful because they ignore the human dignity issues of secure living and freedom from pollution, ill health, and cramped living conditions.”

The National Geographic article concludes that “the number of people does matter...but how we consume resources matters (too)...the central challenge for the future of people and the planet is how to raise more of us out of poverty... while reducing the impact each of us has on the planet.”

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

May 8-10; July 16-19; August 6-9; September 11-13; October 16-18

California’s Channel Islands are Galapagos USA! Marvel at the sight of whales, seals, sea lions, rare birds & blazing wildflowers. Hike the wild, windswept trails. Kayak the rugged coastline. Snorkel in pristine waters. Discover reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. These fundraisers benefit Sierra Club’s Global Population & the Environment Program.

Cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68’ Truth. The fee (\$590 for May and Sep & Oct.; \$785 for July & August) includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks & beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes on each island and point out interesting features. To make a reservation mail a \$100 check payable to Sierra Club to leaders: Joan Jones Holtz & Don Holtz, 11826 The Wye St, El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leaders for more information (626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com).



Thank You for Your Support!

Supplied by Ken Johanson, Chapter Chair

The past couple of years haven’t been easy for any of us, but despite the economic downturn our members and friends have come through and have continued to provide us with their financial support. To all who contributed to the Chapter during this past year I offer you my most sincere thanks. We wouldn’t be as effective as we are without the financial support we receive from our members and friends. Listed below are the names of those who contributed \$100 or more during 2010. Space does not permit us to list all gifts, but please be assured that all gifts are very much appreciated, regardless of the amount.

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Anonymous (18)

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

Editorial

The Psychology of Global Warming



photo: James Mendelsohn

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

Many commentators have bemoaned the failure of international conferences to reach agreement on expenditures to save human civilization as we know it, most recently in Cancun, Mexico, in early December, 2010.

We know what needs to be done: world-wide emissions of carbon dioxide must be reduced so that atmospheric levels, now at 390 ppm, level off and drop to below 350 ppm. We know the consequences of not doing so: sea level rise of 70 feet (when Greenland's and Antarctica's ice caps melt), considerable instability of agricultural yields world-wide, and changes in climate that will affect many species besides our own.

The failure of diplomats to agree, and of politicians to act, suggests the functioning of human behavioral principles such as are studied by psychologists and sociologists. (I should admit immediately that I am neither, but I recall fondly my college encounter with the teaching of Socrates: that all knowledge exists a priori in each of our heads, available by proper philosophical questioning!)

One argument for doing nothing about Global Warming is an economic one: that the cost of reducing carbon emissions now would actually be greater than the cost of coping with sea-level rise, etc., when the time comes - within hundreds of years.

But I think there is a more psychological/sociological principle responsible for the World's failure to respond to Global Warming: a fundamental inability for the vast majority of people to be RATIONAL. It's the problem of the three pigs and the big bad wolf. It's the explanation for the popularity of gambling casinos, and the New Jersey Lottery. It's the reason why so many of us are obese, and smoke cigarettes, and why so many of us take all the money we earn and SPEND IT, often accruing huge amounts of credit card debt. A biologist (which I am!) could only conclude that the here-and-now perspective of most people must be genetically programmed into our psyches (nervous systems).

If we can thus excuse most politicians their irrationality (or their "mandate" to represent the popular irrationality), where does that leave the minority of us who see handwriting on the wall, and who feel compelled to try to lead environmentally sustainable lives, and convince others of its prudence?

I suggest it puts us in the position of all teachers and preachers - and editorialists - and, indeed, revolutionaries: charged with the duty of explicating "truth" as we see it, yet knowing that only a few of the seeds we plant will germinate, but hoping that we will someday have made a difference.

In that spirit (and at risk of seeming priggish) I offer the example of my own life-style, which I think comes close to accomplishing the reduction in carbon emissions that is necessary to reverse Global Warming. My most fundamental decision was to live in a walkable town (Egg Harbor City, Atlantic Co), where shops, banks, restaurants, a branch of the

county library, Pine Barrens footpaths, and my commute to work can be accomplished on foot or with NJ Transit trains and buses that stop only a few blocks from my house. (It's ironic that about my only need for my car is to attend Sierra Club meetings!)

I use a fan rather than air conditioning, perhaps because I grew up that way, and I don't mind sweating. (I rationalize that sweating evolved, biologically, as a cooling mechanism.) I heat my house electrically (in winter) only to 60 deg. F, except for the one room where I spend most of my time. The next most costly aspect of my life-style, in terms of carbon, is probably my choice of consumable goods: edibles, clothing, electronics, paper products, etc. By renouncing red meats I repudiate the carbon-cost of raising heavy livestock. I find that supermarket servers are happy to package my fish and cheese purchases minimally. I reduce the transportation and other costs of trash disposal by minimizing my waste, and composting both food waste and discarded cotton and wool clothing, so that I generate less than one bag of trash per year. The fact that my annual expenditures are less than \$10,000 (many times less than my income), including \$4000 in property tax and two trans-Atlantic round trips, suggests that there is plenty of scope for most Americans to consume far less and yet maintain a high standard of living. But how can we convince them to do it?

My trans-Atlantic commutes enable me to spend three months a year with a British best friend, where one answer to this question is made quite obvious: by taxing gasoline until it costs the equivalent of about \$9/gallon, there are fewer and smaller cars driven fewer miles with more passengers. Because scarce open space is protected aggressively, houses are much more expensive, smaller and closer together, often attached, and better insulated, so they cost less to heat. Sales tax (VAT) is now 20% on almost everything. Many more adults ride bicycles and take local buses, and grocery packages are small enough to be carried on such vehicles. The entire society is geared to reduced consumption, largely imposed by benevolent elected officials and bureaucrats. I can't think of other answers to the question. Can you?

*If all the good people were clever,
And all clever people were good,
The world would be nicer than ever
We thought that it possibly could.*

*But somehow 'tis seldom or never
The two bit it off as they should,
The good are so harsh to the clever,
The clever, so rude to the good!*

*So friends, let it be our endeavour
To make each by each understood;
For few can be good, like the clever,
Or clever, so well as the good.*

*Dame Elizabeth Wordsworth
(1840-1932)*

Chair's Message

2011

By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)



This past January members of the Chapter executive committee, other volunteers and staff members met in Hamilton for the Chapter's annual reorganization meeting. Each year we meet in January to evaluate our performance over the prior year, establish priorities for the coming year and decide who will be responsible for carrying out major elements of the Chapter's agenda.

I'm pleased to report that all of our volunteers at the state level have agreed to continue to serve the Chapter in 2011. I think this says something about the commitment and dedication of our volunteers. There have been a few changes though. Rich Isaac, who serves as Political Chair and Group Effectiveness Chair, has agreed to take on the additional responsibility of Chapter Vice Chair. Rich is a valuable member of our team and I look forward to working with him in his new capacity as Vice Chair.

We also created a new position, High School Coordinator. For some time now I have been concerned that the Chapter is not doing enough to reach out to young people. I am pleased that Victoria Pan, a junior at Ridgewood High School, has agreed to address this issue in her new role as High School Coordinator. Victoria's contact information appears on page 12, and she has written an article on p. 5. I urge you to get in touch with Victoria if you think you might be able to help out. Victoria is a gifted young woman who cares passionately about the environment, but she can't do it without our help.

As to the Chapter's performance in 2010, I for one am pleased by all that we were able to accomplish, despite powerful forces trying to capitalize on the continuing economic crisis and the resurgence of anti-environmental sentiment at the national level.

Highlights include the adoption of legislation to promote alternative energy sources, including offshore wind and solar, and the passage of three laws that will help to protect and restore Barnegat Bay and other water bodies throughout the State. These laws regulate the application and content of fertilizers, one of the greatest threats to the Bay, require the restoration of compacted soil following construction, thereby protecting vital water resources, and provide for the repair of malfunctioning stormwater

basins, a major source of nonpoint source pollution.

Priorities for 2011 include building on some of our successes in 2010. We plan to continue to promote the development of alternative energy sources and will continue to support measures designed to improve energy efficiency and conservation.

But we also need to direct our efforts at trying to hold on to victories that we have achieved in the past. Anti-environmental forces, including some within the current administration, are stepping up their efforts to weaken or repeal key elements of the State's environmental laws, including the State's Energy Master Plan and the Highlands Act, a law that plays a crucial role in protecting our State's vital water resources and preventing overdevelopment in the Highlands region of the State. Needless to say, our committed volunteers, as well as our staff in Trenton, will continue to do all that they can to oppose these efforts.

Another issue that has not received much coverage in the press but that we feel needs to be addressed is the diversion of Green Acres lands to other uses, including schools, municipal buildings and commercial development projects. Rules that permit diversions in certain situations need to be tightened and existing requirements need to be more vigorously enforced. When the voters of this State authorized the expenditure of public funds for the acquisition of Green Acres lands they did so in the understanding that these lands would be preserved as open space in perpetuity, not so that municipalities and developers would have access to a pool of undeveloped lands for development projects. But that's what's happening, and that's what we're working to stop.

As in the past, we have an ambitious agenda. But we also have a talented and dedicated group of volunteer activists and a small but highly effective staff. So while I do not expect that we will achieve all of our goals in 2011, I do expect that we will make substantial progress in a number of areas, that we will continue to have a positive impact upon the State's environment and that we will be able to demonstrate to our members and supporters that we are worthy of their continued support.

Resolutions Adopted by ExCom in January-February, 2011

At our January reorganization meeting, Ken Johanson was re-elected Chapter Chair. (He has served since 2005.) The full list of other officers, including Issue Coordinators, is on p.12. Some changes since last year are that Rich Isaac has become Chapter Vice-chair, Victoria Pan is High School Coordinator, Bill Martin oversees Genetically-Modified Organisms Issues, and Bob Moss oversees Green Acres Issues.

Our bylaws were modified such that Groups unrepresented at ExCom for three successive meetings will not be considered part of the quorum. (Jan)

We expressed support for efforts by the National Park Service to expand the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and re-designate it as the Delaware Water Gap National Park and Preserve. (Jan)

We authorized legal proceedings to oppose a proposed diversion of Green Acres-protected land in Stafford Twp (Ocean Co). (Jan)

We resolved opposition to a steep-slope, view-blocking, contaminated soil, gas pipeline-threatening 59-unit condo development on River Road in North Bergen (Hudson Co). (Feb)

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.

Report from Trenton:

Deal for Developers at Expense of Pine Snakes and the Environment

By Jeff Tittel, our Chapter Director, adapted from a press release

The NJ-DEP's latest agreement with Wal-Mart developer Jaylin Holdings LLC emphasizes the Department's continued rollback in protections and giveaways to developers. The proposed Wal-Mart, on the Toms River-Manchester border (Ocean Co) would be located a few yards down Route 37 from an existing Wal-Mart in Toms River Township, and on habitat for the state-threatened Northern Pine Snake.

Northern Pine Snakes are in serious decline in New Jersey due to destruction and fracturing of their habitat by development.

In exchange for destroying the existing pine snake habitat, Jaylin will permanently preserve 212 acres of land whose development potential is already severely limited by the Pinelands Commission and endangered species regulations.

The developer proposes major restoration work to the 212-acre tract, including clear-cutting for snake-basking and nesting. The impacts from these adjustments on other species currently utilizing the landscape have not been studied by the DEP or the developer.

The agreement also requires that a pine snake den area on the new Wal-Mart site be avoided during construction.

The project's CAFRA permit was originally denied by DEP Commissioner Mark Mauriello, under the Corzine administration. Under the new Christie administration, Commissioner Martin had originally upheld his predecessor's decision - until

Governor Christie commented negatively at a town hall meeting in the area.

The Commissioner's decision is particularly galling because there is another, less problematic, redevelopment site nearby on the Route 37 corridor, and because another option would have been to expand the existing Wal-Mart, literally yards east on Route 37.

Environmentalists are concerned that this is a ploy similar to that which occurred at the Ocean Acres Development in nearby Berkeley Township. That site also had pine snake dens and an agreement was made with the developer that the portion of the site would be excluded from construction. However the intense development caused the snakes to abandon the site and now development is being considered for that portion of the site.

The Stafford Business Park in Stafford Township, also nearby, is also located on what was previously Northern Pine Snake habitat. During construction the snakes were moved to an adjacent parcel of land being preserved by the developer. Almost all of the snakes died, and the State House Commission recently approved a diversion of the land for a solar farm.

Last year the builders tried to remove the Pine Snake from the endangered species list. This year Commissioner Martin did it through this dirty deal. Land for Peace does not work in the Middle East and it won't work in Ocean County for our pine snakes.

Report from Trenton:

The Environment is an Endangered Species under Gov. Christie

By Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director, and Kate Millsaps, Program Assistant

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has proposed major rollbacks to the rules protecting New Jersey's threatened and endangered species, that will also impact New Jersey's diminishing open space.

The DEP intends to remove protections for 31,000 acres (more than 50 square miles) of critical habitat, opening them for development. The changes are to the State's Administrative Code: N.J.A.C. 7:25-4.1, 4.13, and 4.17. This is the largest rollback in the history of New Jersey.

The protection of threatened and endangered species habitat is not just about safeguarding animals and plants; it's also important for New Jersey residents' quality of life. The proposed rollbacks would jeopardize water quality, flood protection, and the few remaining contiguous forests and greenbelts in the state. Areas inhabited by endangered species are essential for stream corridor protection, preventing pollutants from entering our aquifers and streams, and providing clean air.

The DEP's own studies have found that dozens of species are in serious decline in New Jersey. But instead of affording

them regulatory protection through inclusion on the "threatened species" list, the Department is creating a new category of "special concern" species, simply conceding that populations are declining and habitat is being destroyed without offering protections. "Special concern" species will continue to decline, since no action is being taken to prevent further degradation and loss of habitat. More than 100 species are slated for the special concern list.

Some species of birds have been added to the "endangered" list, but only for breeding habitat. The golden-winged warbler and black rail will only be protected when breeding. The areas these birds forage and utilize during migration will not be protected. That's no way to protect a species.

Thirty years after NJ's Endangered Species Act was passed, the state still does not have regulations to protect upland forest and grassland species. The health of our ecosystems is reflected in the presence of rare species.

With the Christie administration's continued attacks on regulations and standards, pretty soon the environment will be an endangered species in New Jersey.

Report from Trenton:

Gov. Christie Signs Bills to Protect Barnegat Bay

By Jeff Tittel, our Chapter Director, adapted from a press release

Even in the middle of the winter it is important to protect Barnegat Bay. So the four bills signed into law on January 5th are a victory for the environment.

The Sierra Club also commends the bills' sponsors, Senator Bob Smith (District 17, Middlesex Co) and Assemblyman John McKeon (District 27, Essex Co), for the work that they have done to get these bills passed.

S1411/A2290 - Regulates fertilizer: both its application and content. This bill is a compromise worked out between stakeholders from the environment and the industry.

S1410/A2501 - Develops standards for restoration of soil damaged by construction activities, protecting it from compaction, removal, and alteration. During construction, soil is compacted and can become as hard as pavement. The law regulates failed drainage swales, also

known as retention basins and stormwater basins - that have ceased their function in promoting groundwater recharge. It applies statewide.

S2275/A3606 - Directs the Department of Transportation to conduct studies on state-owned stormwater basins in the Barnegat Bay Watershed, and repair those that are malfunctioning. Roads are a major source of nonpoint pollution for Barnegat Bay, and we believe that, by ensuring that their stormwater basins function properly, pollution in the Bay will decrease.

We still have a long way to go to protect Barnegat Bay. There still need to be strict standards for pollution and a requirement that stormwater systems be retrofitted, as well as regulations that protect the Bay from sprawl and overdevelopment. If these bills are the first four steps, we still have twenty to go!

Report from Trenton:

New Jersey Sierra Club Files for Intervener Status on Spectra Pipeline

From a press release issued by our Chapter Director, Jeff Tittel (Jeff.Tittel@Sierraclub.org)

On January 19th, the New Jersey Sierra Club, along with other organizations, filed for intervener status in a lawsuit challenging the Spectra Energy natural gas pipeline proposed to go through Bayonne, Jersey City, and off the shore of Hoboken into New York City. We are concerned with its potential environmental and public health impacts. The proposed route goes through some of the most heavily industrialized and densely populated parts of New Jersey, an area that is already burdened with excessive pollution.

Construction would unearth already contaminated sites, releasing air pollutants that would further expose these communities to harmful contamination. The construction of this pipeline will also

impact freshwater wetlands, estuaries, and other environmentally sensitive areas.

The individuals at risk from the pipeline will not be those benefiting from the natural gas; its destination will be homes and businesses in New York City. Another risk - to the end-users - has to do with contaminating Radon gas that originates in the Marcellus Shale formation, which will be the source of the natural gas. Radon would be released into residences as the natural gas is burned in cooking stoves and other appliances. The Chapter requests that Spectra Energy be required to analyze the potential public health and environmental impacts that are associated with the elevated levels of Radon in gas produced from the Marcellus Shale basin.

Member's Report

DRBC Releases Rules for Natural Gas Drilling

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

Last December, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), an interstate regulatory agency that oversees the Delaware River watershed, released draft regulations for natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale geological formation of Pennsylvania and New York, a process also known as hydraulic fracturing, hydrofracking, or fracking. These regulations are intended to protect the Delaware River, which collects groundwater from the Marcellus Shale, and supplies drinking water to more than 15 mil-

lion people, including 3 million in New Jersey. However, the regulations have been fast-tracked before the impact of natural gas drilling has been properly studied.

The public has urged completion of an environmental impact study prior to drafting regulations. Last September, 77 organizations concerned about gas drilling signed a letter requesting the DRBC to complete a cumulative impact study and use those findings to develop natural

(continued on page 5)

Planning a High School Event?

By Victoria Pan

I know I haven't formally met anyone in person yet, but my name is Victoria Pan, and I have just recently been appointed the High School Coordinator of the Chapter. I am a junior at Ridgewood High School, as well as the co-president of my school's environmental club, Students for Environmental Action. As the HS coordinator, I deal with boosting student involvement within the club. This past year, I've started an initiative called Students Saving Energy (www.studentssavingenergy.org). It's basically a network of schools joined by the goals of becoming more sustainable and energy efficient. I communicate with student leaders of those schools to help them start their own initiatives.

Now, to kick off the year in this new role, I am working with Nicole Dallara to plan a social event in the spring. It will be jointly hosted by the Sierra club and the RHS Students for Environmental Action club. We're planning a Sustainability Cookout, a gathering where we will serve eco-friendly food in an outdoor environment (like a park...location to be determined). We're thinking about scheduling it sometime in May. We're also going to invite various local organizations/speakers to come and set up tables to provide information and resources about the environment and starting initiatives.

The purpose of this event is: To create a social gathering for students all over the area that will inspire them to join a growing network of students working together to spread a powerful message across the nation about our efforts to achieve sustainability, reach out to those who are motivated to take action in their schools, provide tools and resources to help them get started, boost student involvement in the SSE network and Sierra Club, spread environmental awareness, enjoy nature, eat delicious and sustainable food and HAVE FUN! However, in order to really turn this



event into reality, Nicole and I need the help of as many Sierra club members as we can. What I was thinking was pairing some of you to work with the SEA students at my school to lead a few committees. Here are the committees I had in mind:

FOOD: Reaching out to local businesses to donate food (1-2 students and a Sierra member)

FUNDRAISING: Getting all the funds together (2 students and a 1-2 Sierra members)

SCHOOL OUTREACH: Inviting as many environmental clubs to come (1-2 students and Sierra member)

PUBLICITY: Connecting with newspapers, radio, tv to spread news about the event (2 students and a Sierra member)

RESOURCES: Getting organizations to come and set up booths (2 students and a Sierra member)

By having students paired with adults and working together, this would be a great first step in demonstrating the Sierra club collaborating with students of the local community. In addition, this would be a very efficient way to get things going with the organizing. If anyone can step up and help us out (or if you know anyone who will be good for a certain position), we would greatly appreciate it! And of course, if you have any questions, I'll gladly answer them!

DRBC

(Continued from page 4)

gas regulations.

Public officials have also urged the completion of an impact study. U.S. Representatives Maurice Hinchley of New York and Rush Holt of New Jersey, who co-chair the Congressional Delaware River Task Force, expressed their disapproval of the DRBC's early release of draft regulations before an impact study. In a joint statement, the Congressmen stated "the Commission has moved forward with draft regulations governing natural gas drilling in the Basin without quantifying, examining, or understanding the cumulative impacts that such regulations need to mitigate."

The House Energy and Commerce Committee learned that diesel fuel is a component of hydraulic fracturing fluid. Oil and gas companies have already injected 32.2 million gallons of diesel fuel into wells in 19 states. Diesel fuel is linked to cancer and brain damage, as well as other diseases. In February, Hinchey and Holt sent a letter to Carol Collier, Executive Director of the DRBC,

about the diesel fuel risk, and requested the Commission to evaluate the evidence and make necessary changes to the rules.

Besides not addressing the environmental impacts of natural gas drilling, the draft regulations have many loopholes. One rule would exempt small drillers from a rigorous planning requirement. There are no spacing requirements for wells - that would limit how many wells can be drilled and how close they can be to each other. Another major loophole is the absence of a restriction on the chemicals that drillers can use in gas extraction. In addition, the DRBC rules defer to state regulations, which lack strong environmental protections.

NJ DEP Commissioner Martin has indicated his preference for state regulations. The Sierra Club would prefer regulations to originate, and be managed by, an independent commission such as the DRBC, since state regulatory programs tend to reflect economic interests, in this case the gas industry.

If you want to learn more about community involvement in regulating hydrofracking, visit the Club's website: http://connect.sierraclub.org/Team/Hydrofracking_Team.



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

Volunteer Job Opportunities

All volunteers are provided with free training, and the time involved is flexible, and tailored to the individual needs of volunteers. Finding out more about our volunteer openings is as easy as picking up the telephone and calling our Group Effectiveness Chair, Richard Isaac at 973-716-0297, or emailing him at risaacx@aol.com. Potential volunteers interested in other areas are encouraged to contact Rich as well.

State Level Opportunities

Advertising Editor - Maintain and increase the Jersey Sierran's advertising base. Work and network with a wide range of existing and potential advertisers.

Inner City Outings Volunteers - Conduct and/or support wilderness day trip outings for children (usually hiking on Saturday or Sunday). Free training provided.

Chapter Program Chair - Maintain a list of recent programs arranged by local group program chairs and other environmental organizations and distribute it as requested.

These are just a few of the volunteer opportunities available at the State level. If you have an interest or expertise in an area that is not listed, please contact Richard Isaac at the telephone number or email address provided above.

Local Opportunities

Central Jersey Group (Mercer County,

parts of Burlington, Middlesex and Somerset): Secretary, Vice Chair, Conservation Chair, Membership Chair, Outreach Coordinator, Webmaster

Gateway Group (Essex County and nearby municipalities) Acting Vice-Chair, Acting Secretary, Acting Membership Chair, Recycling Issues Chair. To volunteer, please contact David Yennior, whose phone number and e-mail address is in the Gateway Group News, elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Hudson-Meadowlands Group (Hudson County and southern Bergen County): Fundraising Chair, Publicity Chair, Membership Chair, Political Chair

South Highlands Group (Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties and surrounding areas): Conservation Chair, Treasurer, Political Chair

Jersey Shore Group (Monmouth County, approximately): Publicity Chair, Coordinators for various conservation issues (marine, wetlands, sprawl, toxics, recycling, etc.)

Loantaka Group (Morris and Union Counties, approximately): Secretary, Programs Coordinator, Membership Chair, Outreach & Events Coordinator

North Jersey Group (Passaic & most of Bergen counties): Programs Chair

For opportunities in other Groups, see the "Open positions" notices in Group News.

Skylands Group (formerly Northwest Jersey Group)

(Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

OFFICERS:

Chair,
Conservation Chair: Marie Springer skylandssierraclub@gmail.com
Treasurer: Charles Kopp 973-770-7718 cgkp@optimum.net
Hospitality, Secretary, Special Events, Publicity, Webmaster: All Open!

WEBSITE: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.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.

EVENT: The Skylands Group will host a meet and greet party at the new Turtle Beach facility at the Delaware Gap National Recreation Area on Sunday, June 12, 1-3pm. Free refreshments will be provided!

Directions to the Turtle Beach Facility - Via Old Mine Road NJ from Interstate 80: From I-80 westbound take NJ Exit 1 and bear right to a 3-minute light which controls one-way alternating traffic. From this point Turtle Beach is 7 miles ahead (north) on a scenic route with views of the river. Observe speed limits.

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)

(continued on page 6)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 5)

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Jonathan Wall	psychologist@jonwall.com
Vice-Chair:	Cinny MacGonagle	cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair:	Open Position!!!	
Secretary:	Dwight Irving	dwight@dilirving.com
Treasurer:	Open Position!!!	
Political Chair:	Open Position!!!	
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	dgenglish@hotmail.com
Webmaster:	Dwight Irving	dwight@dilirving.com

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

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

~~~~~**Spring's Around the Corner!**~~~~~  
 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 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.

### 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: Mar 2, April 6, May 4, June 1.

### GENERAL MEETINGS:

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

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

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

### WHERE WE WILL BE:

Please check our 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:

Advocacy for our Environment Works! Speak Up!-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!!!

## North Jersey Group

(Bergen, Passaic and northern Morris Counties, approximately)

### OFFICERS:

|                           |                    |                             |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Group Chair:</b>       | Mike Herson        | mikeherson@hotmail.com      |
| <b>Conserv'n Co-Chrs:</b> | Tom Thompson       | 201-848-1080                |
|                           | Mike Herson        | mikeherson@hotmail.com      |
| <b>Air Quality:</b>       | Laura Coll         | lauratraceycoll@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>     | Open Position!     |                             |
| <b>Trail Maintenance:</b> | Marty Cohen        | 201-670-8383                |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>         | Tom Thompson       | 201-848-1080                |
| <b>US Public Lands:</b>   | John Kashwick      | 201-660-8820                |
| <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.** We continue to oppose plan by The Related Companies 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

(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 supported the successful 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:** Our next trail maintenance activity will be later this spring. 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>Treasurer:</b>         | Judith Courtney  | 201-868-6575 | jaocourtney@netzero.net |
| <b>Conserv'n Chairs:</b>  | Mirjana Zivkovic | 201-758-8390 | tenisko@hotmail.com     |
|                           | Louise Taylor    | 201-562-8390 | LTAYLOR2@comcast.net    |
| <b>Cool Cities Chair:</b> | Helen Manogue    | 201-963-3511 |                         |
| <b>Events Chair:</b>      | Janet Glass      | 201-868-4216 | iguanaj@aol.com         |
| <b>General ExCom:</b>     | Gil Hawkins      | 201-944-5799 | gilc3d2@aol.com         |
|                           | Steve Lanset     | 201-424-6348 | slanset@hotmail.com     |

**ExCom Meetings:** The Hudson-Meadowlands Group will be holding their Executive Committee meetings at 7pm, at the Edgewater Community Center, on the following Thursdays: March 24; May 26; June 23; September 22 and November 17. These meetings are open to Sierra Club Members. Please contact the Secretaries, Judith or Ruth, for more information.

**GENERAL MEETINGS & EVENTS:** Open to Members and the General Public. Mar 15 (Tues), 7pm: Politics and the Environment: Jeff Tittel, NJ Sierra Club Executive Director will speak on the current issues shaping our communities now and into the future, at Our Lady of Grace Church, Willow Ave (between 4th and 5th Sts), Hoboken.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**AWARD!!!** Our very own Steve Lanset, a Jersey City resident, received the Volunteer of the Year award at the New Jersey Sierra Club's Appreciation Day held in Princeton on November 14. In addition to being active in our group, he serves as the Sierra Club state chapter's volunteer transportation issues coordinator. He organized the chapter's opposition to fare increases and damaging service cuts by New Jersey Transit last year.

**COOL CITIES** - In September 2007 H-M introduced Cool Cities to the Hoboken Quality of Life Coalition which led to the adoption in 2008 of the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. With the help of QLC's Committee for a Green Hoboken the city has conducted an audit and implemented a carbon dioxide reduction effort, is reviewing its urban recycling program, exploring wind and solar possibilities, conducting round table discussions on green construction techniques, flooding prevention, recycling and is preparing an April tree planting event. Helen is the contact.

**CONSERVATION ISSUES:** Our group is involved with protecting open space in our urban area. We are currently focused on 3 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 Applevew development on River Road that abuts a major high pressure gas line which the State Chapter has just recognized in a February Resolution (see pg. 3);
- 3) We are studying the High Pressure Gas line proposal in Jersey City.

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.

## Gateway Group (formerly Essex County Group)

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

The Gateway Group has been in reorganization. The New Jersey Chapter ExCom has granted the Group "Acting" status as of February 2011. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please contact David Yennior at dyennior@msn.com, 973-844-1384, who is coordinating this reorganization.

**We're gearing up to endorse candidates for the November elections to the State Legislature. To participate, contact your Group Political Chair, or the Chapter Political Chair.**

**Officers:**

|                                   |                       |              |                        |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| <b>Acting Chair:</b>              | David Yennior         | 973-844-1384 | dyennior@msn.com       |
| <b>Acting Vice-Chair:</b>         | <i>Open position!</i> |              |                        |
| <b>Act. Secretary:</b>            | <i>Open position!</i> |              |                        |
| <b>Act. Treasurer:</b>            | Anne Hirs             | 973-844-1121 | annehirs@msn.com       |
| <b>Act. Program Chair:</b>        | John Beadle           | 973-274-1594 | jbeadle571@verizon.net |
| <b>Act. Conserv'n Chr:</b>        | ZaSah Khademi         | 201-618-8572 | zasah@aol.com          |
| <b>Act. Memb Chair:</b>           | <i>Open position!</i> |              |                        |
| <b>Act. Newark Issues Chr:</b>    | Bill Chappel          | 973-623-6490 | bchappel1@verizon.net  |
| <b>Act. Water Issues Chair:</b>   | Bill Chappel          |              |                        |
| <b>Recycling Issues Chair:</b>    | <i>Open position!</i> |              |                        |
| <b>Passaic River Issues Chr:</b>  | Brenda Toyloy         | 973-856-7036 | brendatoyloy@yahoo.com |
| <b>Act. Political Chair:</b>      | David Yennior         |              |                        |
| <b>Act. Elizabeth Issues Chr:</b> | Paula Borenstein      | 908-289-3584 | brdandmkt@aol.com      |

**Activities:**

The Gateway Group is planning to table at an Earth Day event on April 16th and is planning a future event or program for May. Our Group will address the many environmental issues facing this highly urban area.

**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 | ericbiomass@gmail.com      |
|                              | Paul Sanderson        | 908-233-2414 | paulmsanderson@aol.com     |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>            | Joyce White           |              | joyce00201@yahoo.com       |
| <b>Secretary:</b>            | Scott McCarthy        |              | hi_risescott@earthlink.net |
| <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 | ericbiomass@gmail.com      |
| <b>Political Chair:</b>      | Meiling Chin          |              | chinmeiling@yahoo.com      |
| <b>Programs:</b>             | <i>Open position!</i> |              |                            |
| <b>Education</b>             |                       |              |                            |
| <b>Coordinator:</b>          | Jeff Huppert          | 973-263-0344 | jeffhup@optonline.net      |
| <b>Fundraising Chair:</b>    | Eric Hausker          | 732-669-0719 | ericbiomass@gmail.com      |
| <b>Outreach &amp; Events</b> |                       |              |                            |
| <b>Chair:</b>                | <i>Open position!</i> |              |                            |
| <b>Publicity Chair:</b>      | Wynn Johanson         | 908-464-0442 | johansons@comcast.net      |
| <b>Membership:</b>           | <i>Open position!</i> |              |                            |
| <b>Air Quality</b>           |                       |              |                            |
| <b>Coordinator:</b>          | Bob Campbell          | 973-761-4461 | bobc2023_sc@verizon.net    |
| <b>Webmaster:</b>            | Paul Sanderson        |              | paulmsanderson@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 Chathams, 214 Main St, Chatham.

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

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** are held on the **SECOND WEDNESDAY** of the month at 7:30 pm at the Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St, Chatham.

Come learn something new and make some new friends. We'd welcome the chance to meet you and to introduce ourselves. Please see the schedule, below, and join us! **DIRECTIONS:** are posted on our website: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka/>.

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

**Apr 13: Land Conservancy of NJ** - Barbara McCloskey, Membership Program Manager, will explain how the Conservancy works with municipalities, counties, farmers and homeowners to help them with open space plans, mapping, advising and negotiating land deals. Founded in 1981, The Land Conservancy of New Jersey is a member supported non-profit organization dedicated to preserving open space land and water resources throughout New Jersey. She'll also talk about how the Partners for Parks stewardship program puts teams of volunteers from corporations and civic groups to work on community service projects in state, county and local parks.

**May 11: Wetlands Preservation in the Pine Barrens** - Dr. Shebitz will give a presentation on her work restoring swamps in the Pine Barrens with the NJ Conservation Foundation.

**Jun 8: Water Issues** - James Kennedy, former Mayor of Rahway, will give a presentation on water issues, both locally and internationally, from a political perspective.

**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)

Through our fundraising efforts, led by Eric Hausker, nearly \$700 was raised from our generous donors. As a result, the Loantaka Group decided to share and have given the New Jersey Chapter a check for \$220 to support their activities on a state-wide basis.

**Central Jersey Group**

*(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)*

PLEASE join the Central Group distribution list to receive timely information in infrequent e-mails. E-mail [terystimb@hotmail.com](mailto:terystimb@hotmail.com) to subscribe.

For some notices check us on Facebook at: Central New Jersey Sierra Club and on the web at <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/central>.

**OFFICERS:**

|                         |                       |              |                           |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Chair:</b>           | Terry Stimpfel        | 609-731-7016 | terystimb@hotmail.com     |
| <b>Co-Chair:</b>        | <i>Open position!</i> |              |                           |
| <b>Conserv'n Chr:</b>   | <i>Open position!</i> |              |                           |
| <b>Memb' Chair:</b>     | <i>Open position!</i> |              |                           |
| <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>        | <i>Open position!</i> |              |                           |
| <b>Secretary:</b>       | <i>Open position!</i> |              |                           |
| <b>Webmaster:</b>       | <i>Open position!</i> |              |                           |

The Central Group is working locally 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 construction of the Meadowbrook Road warehouse/flex space in Robbinsville. We are supporters of the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, Princeton Ridge Preserve, and have an invasive species eradication program underway in the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh. The 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 NOW! Please contact Terry to be involved. As we rethink the Central focus and enhance our activities, you can contribute ideas and help bring us up to date. Additionally Central has a critical need for active volunteers to help with membership, and websites.

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

*(Continued on page 8)*

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

## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

**Apr 19 (Tues): Special event - Movie Night:** Volcanoes of the Deep. We are privileged to again have Peter A Rona, Ph.D, Rutgers University Professor of Marine Geology and Geophysics, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, to provide personal insights into the ecology of the oceans. He will provide personal commentary from his first hand experiences as we watch the movie, which focuses on the scientific explorations of the ocean floor. An event not to be missed. 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.

**May and June Meetings: Special Activism and Social Events.** You can help plan these events! Contact Terry. Remember to subscribe to the Central Group distribution list; also join our Facebook page too.

### CONSERVANCY SPECIAL EVENT:

**Apr 3 (Sun): 1-3pm. Nature, Waterfowl and Migratory Bird Walk in Assunpink Wildlife Management Area (Mercer Co.)** Bald Eagles, Owls, American Kestrel and beaver have been spotted in a part of the WMA few people know about. Jenn Rogers, Mercer County Naturalist, along with an expert from Washington Crossing Audubon will help us identify flora and fauna. Easy pace. bring binoculars. Preregister please. Contact Joanne Pannone at jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. Joint with Mercer County Parks. (Directions to Assunpink Wildlife Management Dam Area: Rte 130 N, Robbinsville. Parking lot is the first driveway opening after Gordon Road at 1332 Rte 130 N.)

## 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 Advisor:</b>  | Jane Tousman     | 908-561-5504 | jdtous@aol.com            |
| <b>Outings Coordinator:</b>   | Denise McClellan |              | mcclellan09@comcast.net   |
| <b>Webmaster:</b>             | Don McBride      | 732 560-0369 | dtmcbride@alumni.haas.org |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>             | Open position!   |              |                           |
| <b>Recycling 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/>

Our monthly meetings are usually on a weekday evening of the third week of every month and well as any other special events.

Meetings Location and Updates: Because meeting dates and locations change, please subscribe to our E-mail list: NJ-RARITAN-VALLEY-NEWS after creating a password on <http://lists.sierraclub.org/>

The monthly meetings are to keep you informed of environmental and organizational concerns in our communities and what you can do to preserve and protect the environment.

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>             | <i>Open Position!</i>         |              |                       |
| <b>Secretary:</b>              | Joe DeLuca                    | 732-389-1835 | joe-deluca@att.net    |
| <b>Conservation Chair:</b>     | Faith Teitelbaum              | 732-229-0553 | faithtei@aol.com      |
| <b>Webmaster:</b>              | 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 | mjverange@aol.com     |
| <b>Membership Co-Chairs:</b>   | Bob Grize                     | 732-892-0684 | nyucwnyppb@aol.com    |
| and                            | April Klimley                 | 917-626-4838 | AprilJeanK@aol.com    |
| <b>Program Chair:</b>          | George Moffatt                | 732-544-1726 | gmoffattgt@aol.com    |
| <b>Fund-raising Co-Chairs:</b> | Lois Blake                    | 732-863-5917 | lqblake@optonline.net |
| and                            | Joellen Lundy                 | 732-741-4756 | jfutey@comcast.net    |

### Shore Group Happenings:

We have formed a coalition with Monmouth University and all the towns on the Whale Pond Brook watershed. Our goal is to clean up the watershed and educate local residents about the detrimental effects of lawn fertilizers and storm water run-off, and the importance of integrated pest management. We recently 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](mailto: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](mailto: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:** Traditionally, they are held at 7:30 pm 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 at <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/>. However, in cooperation with Brookdale Community College, our April 25 and May 23 meetings will be held at the college's Lincroft campus, in an effort to develop a co-operative program to share presentations with the college's very active environmental and outdoor clubs, and to impart Sierra's message to the next generation of environmentalists. Directions below. The June 27 meeting will return to the Meeting House.

**April 25, 6pm:** Photographer Albert D. Homer is known for his remarkable **photographs of the N.J. Pinelands National Reserve** and the Pine Barrens in general, a name he dislikes since "there is nothing barren about the Pine Barrens." He recently presented his program, "Pinelands: A Visual Journey" to the NYC Sierra Club, among other environmental organizations. Although primarily a photographer, he interlaces his pictorial journey through the Pinelands with details about the area's unique ecology. Some of his photos are at [www.pinelandsimagery.com](http://www.pinelandsimagery.com). **NEW MEETING LOCATION:** 6pm. at Brookdale Community College. Take Parkway Exit 109 on to Newman Springs Rd (west) to the Lincroft campus. Take the traffic circle into the campus and follow the signs to the Warner Student Life Center, where the meeting will be in the Twin Lights 1 Room (first floor). Use parking lot 7 and enter through rear door. "Munchies" at 6pm., meeting at 6:30 pm.

**May 23, 6pm:** Eric Anderson, a global information systems expert for Monmouth County, will discuss **the impact major storms and rising sea levels will have on coastal Monmouth County** and the state. His analysis of the county's Office of Emergency Management plan in the event of Class 5 hurricanes or extended northeasters found it didn't adequately deal with the impact of sustained coastal flooding. Based on his work, the county and municipalities are revising their evacuation and emergency housing plans. **NEW MEETING LOCATION:** 6:00 p.m. at Brookdale Community College. Take Parkway Exit 109 on to Newman Springs Rd (west) to the Lincroft campus. Take the traffic circle into the campus and follow the signs to the Warner Student Life Center, where the meeting will be in the Twin Lights 1 Room (first floor). Use parking lot 7 and enter through rear door. "Munchies" at 6pm, meeting at 6:30 pm.

**June 27, 7:30 pm:** **Gaslands**, a documentary by film producer and songwriter Josh Fox, describes problems created by a controversial "fracturing" technique that extracts natural gas from underground. Gas companies are exploiting loopholes in the Clean Water Act to use but not identify toxic chemicals that they inject into the ground. Environmentalists claim fracturing is polluting ground-water supplies and causing severe, unexplained illnesses among local residents. In addition, methane gasses seeping into underground water supplies are released into homes when residents open faucets, creating both fire and medical hazards. Underground water supplies in Pennsylvania, New Jersey's Highlands, and New York could be threatened by such uncontrolled drilling. **MEETING LOCATION:** Unitarian Universalist Meeting House (Directions above).

## Ocean County Group

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

### OFFICERS:

|                            |                           |              |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Chair:</b>              | A. Gregory Auriemma, Esq. | 732-451-9220 | sierraclubOC@aol.com      |
| <b>Vice-Chr, Outings:</b>  | Dawn Marie Johns          | 732-644-6340 | sierraclubOC@hotmail.com  |
| <b>Conserv'n Chair:</b>    | Margit Meissner-Jackson   | 609-296-4367 | sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com     |
| <b>Secretary:</b>          | Jill Palmer               | 732-928-0988 | palmer2x2@aol.com         |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>          | Gregory Auriemma          | 732-451-9220 | sierraclubOC@aol.com      |
| <b>Political Chair:</b>    | Nancy Brown               | 732-892-6089 | nancybrown624@comcast.net |
| <b>Publicity Chair:</b>    | Howard Schwartz           | 609-242-9304 | hirschwartz@comcast.net   |
| <b>Fund-Raising:</b>       | Joyce M. Isaza            | 732-920-9270 | realtymstr@aol.com        |
| <b>Env'l Consultant:</b>   | Helen Henderson           | 908-278-9807 | hhlaceyrailtrail@msn.com  |
| <b>Env'l Educ'n Coord:</b> | 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.

**April 2-6 (Sat-Wed):** This time marks the spring **Alaska Wilderness and Mountain Top**



**Removal Week** where citizen volunteers go down to Washington DC to lobby on Mountain Top Removal issues. If you are interested in going down to lobby on our behalf, please contact Group Chair Greg Auriemma at 732-451-9220.

**April 23 (Sat):** Please mark your calendars for our 6th ANNUAL EARTH DAY CLEANUP in Toms River. This is our opportunity to highlight the need for legislation to stop the trash going into our waterways. Meeting place for this event will be on the Marshall's side of the "Seacourt Pavilion". We will meet in the side parking lot at 9:30 am for coffee and bagels. To join us in our efforts to clean up Long Swamp Creek, please call our Outings Chair Dawn Marie Johns at 732-644-6340.

**May 23 (Mon):** Our GENERAL MEETING held at 7pm at the "SKYWALK CAFE" in TOMS RIVER. Our Main topic: TBD. Please check our web site for updates and more details.

**June 4 (Sat):** Please join us for SUMMERFEST in Point Pleasant. If you would like to help with the tabling stand, please contact Group Chair Greg Auriemma at 721-451-9220. Check back for more details.

**June 5 (Sun):** Come visit us at the 14th BARNEGAT BAY FESTIVAL on the Toms River in Island Heights. The festival runs between 10am and 4:30 pm at the Wanamaker Complex in Island Heights. If you would like to help with the tabling or our food concession stand, please contact Group Chair Greg Auriemma at 721-451-9220.

**June 25 (Sat):** Our 6th Annual PINELANDS CANOE and KAYAK TRIP. Please check back for further details. Please bring lunch and sunscreen. To register please call our Outings Chair, Dawn Marie Johns, at 732-644-6340.

## West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

WEBSITE: <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzev1ujt/>

### OFFICERS:

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

**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.

**Apr 13:** 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.

**May 11:** To be announced. Please check our website and local papers. The West Jersey Group does not meet June, July or August. Please join us on a hike or paddling outing. See you in September!

## South Jersey Group

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

### OFFICERS:

|                               |                       |              |                         |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Group, Outings Chair:</b>  | Tom Boghosian         | 609-625-0878 | boghosian1@verizon.net  |
| <b>Vice-Chair:</b>            | Douglas Jewell        | 609-780-7129 | jewellrea@comcast.net   |
| <b>Conservation Chair:</b>    | <i>Open Position!</i> |              |                         |
| <b>Pol. Chair, Calendars:</b> | Dick Colby            | 609-965-4453 | dick.colby@stockton.edu |
| <b>Membership Chair:</b>      | <i>Open Position!</i> |              |                         |
| <b>Secretary/Treasurer:</b>   | 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-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:

**Apr 20, June 15, 7pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council:** Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss river management strategies. Open to the public. 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.

**Apr 21, May 19, June 16, 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. (WFNC\*). Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

**Apr 26, 7pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association:** Special members' meeting, open to the public. The annual Belinda Irizarry Memorial Award will be bestowed. WFNC\*. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

**May 11, 6:30 pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries:** Meeting place: Gant Room, Millville Public Library, 210 Buck Street. Cumberland County development issues are commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Renee Brecht (CU) at 856-305-3238 or [rbrecht.cumaurice@yahoo.com](mailto:rbrecht.cumaurice@yahoo.com). Website: [www.cumauriceriver.org](http://www.cumauriceriver.org).

**May 25, 7pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association:** Membership outdoor meeting, open to the public. Annual Hike for Frogs. Sahara Sands, Piney Hollow Road, Williamstown. Contact Lynn Maun, 856-453-0416 or email [lynnkmaun@comcast.net](mailto:lynnkmaun@comcast.net).

## 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:

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

(continued on page 10)

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

## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

**SOCIAL 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 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.

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

## Young Sierrans

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

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

### YOUNG SIERRAN COMMITTEE POSITIONS

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

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

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

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

## Sierra Student Coalition

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

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

## Inner City Outings Section

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

### OFFICERS:

|                   |             |              |                         |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Chair:</b>     | Marty Cohen | 201-670-8383 | martincohen@verizon.net |
| <b>Treasurer:</b> | 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/>.

### ICO to Hold Training Session April 9

NJ Inner City Outings (ICO) is a community outreach program of the Sierra Club which provides opportunities for inner city youth to explore, enjoy, and protect the natural world. We will be offering an Introduction to ICO and Volunteer Training session on Saturday, April 9, 2011. (A suitable location in north NJ will be chosen).

This session would be an excellent opportunity to learn the details of how ICO operates, and to meet Sierra Club members who dedicate their time and love of the outdoors as ICO volunteers. From 10 am to 1 pm experienced ICO leaders will present information on all aspects of planning and leading an ICO outing. In the afternoon, we will have an optional 2-3 hour hike. Refreshments will be served. Please register as soon as you can, and address any questions to [martincohen@verizon.net](mailto:martincohen@verizon.net).

## "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!

## Rare National Sierra Club Outing to Take Place in New Jersey

Participants are solicited for a "Service Trip": to experience and improve wilderness opportunities in Cape May County

May 15-21

Trip Number: 11301A

Price: \$495 • Deposit: \$50 • Capacity: 10

Leaders: Sandy Raviv & Herb Wolff

### Highlights:

- Enjoy beach, river, and wetland habitat while performing a variety of land protection services
- Observe spring shorebird migration along the Atlantic Flyway
- Explore the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, Pine Barrens, and historic Cape May

### Includes:

- Campsite facilities, including beach in Belleplain State Forest
- Scheduled excursions to historic sites, wildlife management areas, and nature preserves
- All meals

For more information, and/or to register for the trip, go to: [www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/brochure/11301a.aspx](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/brochure/11301a.aspx).

## GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

**Central Jersey:** Leona Fluck 609-259-3734 (H)  
[leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com)

**Gateway:** David Ogens 973-226-0748 (H)  
64 Elm Rd, Caldwell 07003

**Hudson-Meadowlands:** Vacant

**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](mailto:joyce00201@yahoo.com)

**North Jersey:** Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417  
[elblumenkrantz@hotmail.com](mailto:elblumenkrantz@hotmail.com)

**Ocean:** Vacant  
**Skylands:** Pat Mangino, [Pmangino@aol.com](mailto:Pmangino@aol.com)

**Raritan Valley:** Vacant

**South Highlands:** Susan Schirmer 908-996-7722 (H)

**South Jersey:** Tom Boghosian 609-625-0878 (H)  
4794 Andorea Drive, Mays Landing, 08330  
[boghosian1@verizon.net](mailto:boghosian1@verizon.net)

**West Jersey:** Vacant

**River Touring:** Fred Tocce 908-453-2205 (H)  
Rd 1 Box 277, Washington, NJ 07882

**Inner City Outings:** Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H)  
NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd, Warren, 07059

**Chapter Outings:** Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417  
[elblumenkrantz@hotmail.com](mailto:elblumenkrantz@hotmail.com)

**Outing Leaders:** Please send July-Sept 2011 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before May 3. 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 July-Sept trip write-ups by May 8.

**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.

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

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       |
| (G) - Gateway         | (L) - Loantaka            |
| (N) - North Jersey    | (Sk) - Skylands           |
| (RV) - Raritan Valley | (S) - South Jersey        |
| (W) - West Jersey     | (NJ) - NJ Chapter         |
| (RT) - River Touring  | (ACOC) - Atlantic Chapter |
|                       | Outings Comm.             |

## MAY

**May 1 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the N. Branch Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 9am.** Celebrate May Day on our 14 mile trip from BCCC to Mount Holly. Meet at the Vincentown Diner; arrive early for breakfast. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F. (609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com). (W)

**May 1 (Sun): Haddonfield Hike and Tour (Camden Co). Meet at 9:30 am.** 5 miles - easy pace. We will hike through Cooper River Park and then have a guided tour of historic Haddonfield. Fee possible. After the tour: lunch at one of the many local eateries. Meet at Coastline Lounge on Brace Rd, off Rte 561, Cherry Hill to caravan to the starting point. NC/NP. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eve. or pis1@cccj.net, or Joe Russo.

**May 5 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am.** Viva the Fifth of May! Our annual paddle is 10 miles from Hawkin Bridge to Beaver Branch. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Mick's Canoe and Kayak Rental: 800-281-1380 or [www.mickscanoerental.com/](http://www.mickscanoerental.com/). Meet at Hawkin Bridge. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**May 7 (Sat): Wurtsboro Ridge/Long Path (Orange Co, NY). 10:15 am.** 9.5-mile strenuous hike at moderate pace includes several ascents/descents along the Wurtsboro Ridge to start of the Shawangunk Ridge. Great views of gunks and Catskills. Rain would cancel. Car shuttle required. After hike optional dinner at local restaurant in Wurtsboro. Group limit 12 people. Preregistration required. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

**May 8 (Sun): Ramapo Reservation (Passaic-Bergen Cos). 10am.** 8-10-mile loop at moderate pace through Ramapos to 2 different lakes, beautiful viewpoint. Exact route/distance determined by trail conditions. Optional after-hike stop at Kinchleys off Rte 17 for great thin crust pizza. Rain would cancel. Group limit: 12 people. Preregistration required. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

**May 8 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River on Mother's Day (Burlington Co). 10am.** The Oswego is one of the prettiest Pines waterways as it winds through varied landscapes. Meet at Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego Rd. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Rental: 800-281-1380 or [www.mickscanoerental.com/](http://www.mickscanoerental.com/). Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F.: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**May 11 (Wed): Clayton Park Hike (Monmouth Co). 10am.** 5 miles at easy pace. This is a lovely spring hike along meadows and on woods trails. PARK DIRECTIONS: I-195 to exit 11 (Imlaystown/Cox's Corner). Eastbound, turn right and follow to end; westbound, turn left and follow to end. Turn left onto Rte 526 and make immediate right onto Imlaystown-Davis Station Rd. Follow to Emley's Hill Rd., turn left. Follow to Park on left. Leashed dogs are welcome! Bring lunch and beverage. Leaders: Leona and George F.: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

**May 14 (Sat): The Highlands Trail at Norvin Green State Park (Ringwood, Passaic Co). 10am.** The hike will cover 7 miles in 4 hours in hilly terrain. If you haven't hiked with The Hikeist before, send the leader a brief description of your hiking experience. No beginners. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch required. Registration required: e-mail the Leader: Jimi Oleksiak The\_Hikeist@Mac.com.

**May 14 (Sat): Popolopen Gorge-Bear Mountain (Rockland Co, NY). 10:15 am.** Moderate 6 miles. Hike from Bear Mountain Inn through the gorge and back, past Ft Montgomery and Bear Mtn. Zoo. Water, lunch, hiking boots required. Steady rain or threat of thunder showers cancels. Meet in front of the Bear Mtn. Inn. Leader: John P. Jurasek: 845-365-3618 (no calls after 10pm), or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

**May 14 (Sat): Lewis Morris Park (Morris Co). Singles. 10am.** 6 miles. We will 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 a moderate one. See the Morris County Parks Commission website <http://www.morrisparks.net/aspparks/Immain.asp> for directions. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Meet in Sunrise Lake parking lot. Heavy/steady rain cancels. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove (Hiker\_Dood@Yahoo.com). Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

**May 15 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Crosswicks Creek/ Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh (Mercer Co). 11:30 am.** Our trip with the tide begins on the Crosswicks Creek in Bordentown. We paddle to Watson Woods in Roebling Park where we have lunch. Option, walk around Spring Lake and see the Mute Swans before returning to Bordentown. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F.: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

**May 21 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak Cleanup of the D&R Canal (Mercer Co). 10am.** Millions of tons of trash end up in our nation's rivers and streams every year. Join us in a cleanup to protect the Delaware River Watershed and you'll receive a Sierra Club Water Sentinels Program t-shirt! [www.sierraclub.org/watersentinels/](http://www.sierraclub.org/watersentinels/). We'll tow a "canoe barge" to collect trash as we focus on the Whitehead RD area of the D&R Canal. Meghan Keffer, Watershed Ambassador, will participate in the cleanup and test the water quality too! Meet at Cherry Tree Lane, Lawrenceville. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F.: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

**May 22 (Sun): Southern Allaire State Park (Special Interest: Geology). 9am.** 4.5 mile moderate hike is in the northern fringes of the Pine Barrens. Bring drink and snack. Hiking shoes preferred. Meet at the large dirt parking lot on the right, off Hospital Rd in Wall Township. Take GPS to exit 98, turn right on to Allenwood Rd. At "T" intersection (Ramhorn Rd) turn right. Make next left (Hospital Rd); the parking area is approximately 1 mile on the right. Bad weather cancels. Confirmation/Questions: call or text leader: Mike Verange: 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com. (JS)

**May 25 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am.** Double Trouble State Park was established in 1964 to help protect the Cedar Creek watershed and now features over 8,000 acres of Pine Barrens habitats. Our trip is 7 miles: from Ore Pond to Dudley Park. Meet at Double Trouble Park Headquarters. Boat rentals are available from Triple "T" Canoes: 732-349-9510 [www.tttcanoes.com/](http://www.tttcanoes.com/). Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting time: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**May 28 (Sat): Watchung Reservation, Mountainside (Union Co). 10am.** Moderate hike of 5 miles. We will explore some of the sights in the northern end of the park. Steady rain or threat of thunder-showers cancels. Appropriate for beginners. Meet at the Trailside Nature Center parking lot on Coles Av where it intersects with New Providence Rd. Leader: John P. Jurasek: 845-365-3618 (no calls after 10pm), or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

**May 30 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the D&R Canal and the Delaware River (Mercer Co). 10am.** Join us for a 10-mile shuttleless paddle from Washington Crossing State Park to Firemens Eddy. We'll then portage to the Delaware River and float downriver to Washington Crossing. Bring lunch and beverages. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F.: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

## JUNE

**Jun 1 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 9am.** June is Dairy Month in NJ! So, we'll begin the day with breakfast at Georgie's Grill and Dairy Bar, Rte 54, Hammonton. The trip is 10 miles from Penny Pot to Weymouth Furnace. Rentals are available from Palace Outfitters: 609-625-8552. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**Jun 4 (Sat): National Trails Day: Hike to Save the Delaware Water Gap and the Appalachian Trail! (Warren/Sussex Cos.) 10am.** Please join us on a 3-mile hike from Millbrook Village to Van Campens Falls. We will view the existing transmission lines, talk about the watershed impacts, and inspire each other to continue protecting our environment. Bring lunch and water for the day. Contact leaders to confirm participation: Leona & George F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com.

**Jun 5 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am.** We'll see carnivorous pitcher plants and bladderworts during our 7-mile trip from Lake Oswego to Harrisville Lake. Meet at Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego Rd. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Rental: 800-281-1380 or [www.mickscanoerental.com/](http://www.mickscanoerental.com/). Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F.: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**Jun 11 (Sat): Bearfort Mountain to Cedar Pond (West Milford, Passaic Co). Singles. 10am.** The hike will cover 7 miles in 4 hours in hilly terrain with great views. If the weather permits, we may dip our toes in the water. If you haven't hiked with The Hikeist before, send the leader a brief description of your hiking experience. No beginners, no pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch required. Registration required: e-mail the Leader: Jimi Oleksiak The\_Hikeist@Mac.com.

**Jun 11 (Sat): Canoeing/Kayaking Skills Refresher on Lake Oswego (Burlington Co). 9am.** New and beginning paddlers are welcome. Knowledgeable paddlers will share information about equipment, safety practices, self-rescue, paddling techniques and efficiencies. Then we'll practice on the lake. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Mick's Canoe and Kayak Rental: 800-281-1380 or [www.mickscanoerental.com/](http://www.mickscanoerental.com/). Please contact leaders to confirm your participation: George & Leona F.: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

(continued on page 12)

