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The Jersey..... SIERRAN

Vol. 40, No. 3 Roughly 20,000 Members in New Jersey July-September 2011

Member's report:

Update on "Fracking" in the Delaware River Basin

By Lina Silimkhan

The public comment period for the Delaware River Basin Commission's (DRBC's) draft rules for natural gas drilling (hydraulic fracturing or fracking) ended April 15. The DRBC has received over 56,000 public comments, mostly opposing the finalizing of draft rules before completion of scientific studies, some of which will be ready this year.

Many New Jersey state legislators oppose drilling in Marcellus Shale Formation of the Delaware River Basin. Thirty-nine legislators signed a letter to the DRBC, opposing draft rules without scientific evidence. Despite their opposition, the legislature has withdrawn strong bills that would prohibit New Jersey's representative on the DRBC from approving the rules.

New York is asking for strong DRBC rules. New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman has requested that the DRBC prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, before finalizing the draft rules. NEPA dates from 1969, and requires all federal agencies to conduct thorough environmental reviews before approving a project. Schneiderman has warned that he will take legal action if the DRBC doesn't comply with NEPA.

Hydrofracking safety is being studied by the Obama Administration. President Obama strongly supports natural gas as an alternative to oil, and has named a panel of experts to find ways to make hydraulic fracturing safer and cleaner. The panel includes seven experts, and is led by John Deutch, a chemist and professor at MIT, and director of Cheniere Energy, which operates a liquefied natural gas terminal in Louisiana, and many gas pipelines.

In addition, the EPA is currently conducting a comprehensive study on the risks of hydrofracking. A recent New York Times series has revealed that the EPA has been hindered in regulating fracking for about a quarter century by the natural gas industry and political forces. The EPA has hid important safety information, such as the need for appropriate treatment of the wastewater produced. The articles have revealed conflict between scientists and political appointees, and there is sometimes industry censorship of peer-reviewed studies, by employees from the oil and gas industry serving on the panel.

In March, two bills on natural gas drilling were introduced in Congress. The FRAC Act would increase federal regulation of natural gas drilling's effect on water quality, and the BREATHE Act would remove two exemptions under the Clean Air Act.

The Sierra Club's natural gas policy can be found at: <http://sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/NaturalGasFracturing.pdf>

*Sustainable
Life-style
Articles inside:*

**Green Gardening -
and a recipe!**

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How to Compost

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Buying a Green Car

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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/



Two Reports from Trenton:

Sierra Club Slams Beach Access Rules for Restricting Access

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

In April, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) proposed new Beach Access Rules. These rules are supposed to enable public access to beaches, bays, and waterways, but they don't! The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club believes these rules are a violation of the Public Trust Doctrine, since the New Jersey Supreme Court has ruled that all tidal waters belong to the people of New Jersey.

The rules fail to provide standards for towns regarding where or how to provide shore-front parking, as well as requirements for bathroom or changing areas for people using the beaches. There were attempts by Lisa Jackson, former DEP Commissioner, to provide more access. But the latest rules would overturn Jackson's attempts.

The new rules would require each municipality to formulate an access plan. The problem is that they are too vague, and are subject to political games and to abuse, and will be used to get around providing adequate access. The rules as proposed are favorable to developers and special interests rather than the public. In the past, developers who built private

shore-front projects that restricted public access could pay into a fund to provide for that access elsewhere.

This is another example of the Christie Administration's roll-back of environmental protection, joining the bad Waiver Rule, dirty energy monies, and many other programs that try to undo 30 years of environmental protection under previous administrations.

Under these rules existing commercial and industrial buildings, sewer plants and other large facilities are exempted from the need to mitigate loss of beach access. When former industrial or commercial sites are redeveloped, access should be required.

There was a semantical change in the rules that is symbolic. The phrase "public trust" was removed and replaced by the term "public access."

These rules allow for bars on the beach in Atlantic City, but limit the right of day trippers to get access to the beaches or bays. They limit access in urban areas more than anywhere else by being used to wall off our waterfront from the public. This not only undermines access, but hurts urban revitalization.

Senator Paul Sarlo Brews a Nasty Pot of Tea

By Chapter Director Jeff Tittel

Senator Paul Sarlo, Tea Party Democrat from southern Bergen County, along with Steve Lonegan, the New Jersey Director for Americans for Prosperity, held a press conference on April 20th to oppose the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

RGGI is an agreement between ten northeast states to cut carbon emissions from electricity generating plants. Carbon Dioxide emissions would be cut through a surcharge on the carbon in coal and other fossil fuels, as well as mandating an outright 10% cut in carbon pollution from the plants. The surcharge in New Jersey, where we have cleaner energy, is 1/2 of 1% percent of electricity bills; states which burn more coal have 1% surcharges. The income from the surcharge goes to remediating the effects of greenhouse gases and promoting clean energy. RGGI was a bipartisan agreement with support from Republican Governors including Whitman (NJ), Pataki (NY), and Romney (MA).

Getting states to pull out of RGGI has become the number one campaign priority for Americans for Prosperity, a right wing organization funded by the Koch brothers. Sen. Sarlo is the only Democratic legislator of the 42 who have signed on to the repeal effort. Sarlo has

sponsored many Red Tape and Tea Party bills including S6 (streamlining environmental permits, and delaying and weakening water quality planning), a law vetoed by Governor Corzine, and many other bills on the corporate polluter agenda.

Contrary to the claims of Sarlo and Lonegan, RGGI is achieving its goals and more. According to a report out in March, global warming pollution in the region is down 15-30% since RGGI took

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Sustainable Lifestyle (two articles below):

Book Review: "Growing Green"

by Jenny Hall and Iain Tolhurst; Chelsea Green Press

By Suzanne Dragan, our regular columnist

Knowing that 51% of all greenhouse gases are attributed to animal agriculture (World Watch Magazine 11/09), I was hoping to find alternatives to blood, bone, fish meal and cow manure for my garden this year.

"Growing Green" proved to be an inspiration, packed full of ways to have a "stockfree" garden. "Stockfree" describes a method of growing food that optimizes land use without synthetic nutrients, chemicals or animal-based products. These techniques came into commercial farming use in 1990s Britain for strictly economic reasons. Farmers in manureless, arable counties were resistant to converting to organic grain production. "Stockfree" techniques were developed enabling these farmers to grow organic crops. Because the fertility and benefits of animal manure and slaughterhouse byproducts originate from the grasses and grains consumed by livestock, "stockfree" techniques make the soil fertile from plant sources. How to use "green" manures, plant-based composts, mulches and chipped branch wood to create fertile soil are detailed. Using rotation techniques achieves a balance between vegetables, grains and nitrogen-fixing legumes, clovers and alfalfas. Encouraging natural flora and fauna create sustainable pest-control systems.

Unlike many other books on sustainable, organic farming or gardening, "Growing Green" offers ways to help maintain and preserve wildlife habitat while still growing food. I especially

liked the part about hedgehogs (the book is decidedly British!) and the recommendation to mow from the center of the field outwards to enable unfledged birds and mammals to escape to uncut refuges. We can still garden and enjoy our backyard wildlife. For help in NJ with "problem", orphaned or injured wildlife, contact the (certified) Animal Rehabilitators Alliance of NJ Helpline: 1-877-472-8945 or www.animalra.com.

Experienced and novice organic gardeners alike striving for sustainability with a positive ecological impact can reap the benefits contained in "Growing Green."

Tahini-Kale Salad (makes 10 cups; save energy - don't cook! Try this raw, calcium & protein-packed salad):

1 bunch fresh, raw kale, stemmed and thinly sliced
1-2 carrots, grated
1 cup purple cabbage, thinly sliced
½ grated raw beet
1 cup raw mushrooms, sliced

Mix all veggies in large bowl. Mix ½ cup tahini with the juice of 2 fresh lemons and water enough to make a creamy dressing. Add garlic powder to taste. Drizzle over salad.

(Suzanne Yacowitz Dragan is a NJ Sierra member, a nurse nutrition educator & a former WCTC radio talkshow host. You can reach her on Facebook, or at suzanne.dragan@aplntj.org.)

The Importance of Composting

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

We Americans are used to a certain way of living, and no matter how much we want to or don't want to, we generate a lot of waste. Some of it is market driven, and some is peer pressured, such as changing hand-held electronic gadgetry every 3-6 months, which leads to piles of e-waste; some is energy related such as all the driving we do, and home-heating in the absence of good home insulation; then there is food waste. Composting is a good way to reduce this last type of waste. Its popularity has increased over the last few years for a number of reasons:

It's relatively quick and easy.

The compost product is a great alternative to chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

We can rationalize that we relieve municipal and corporate landfills of a burden.

It contributes to a sustainable lifestyle.

Compost can be added to house plants, garden flower and vegetable beds, lawns and around trees.

Here are the basics of composting:

Step One: Choose A Compost Bin: There are commercially or homemade square- or cone-shaped plastic bins or rotating tumbler-style bins, available at farm markets, hardware stores, Sears and Home Depot and similar stores (see below), sometimes available by on-line purchase. There are smaller, apartment-friendly versions as well. Or you can fill a pit dug in a secluded corner of your garden (risking the attraction of rodents and other scavengers).

Step Two: Select a Location for Your Compost Bin: For outdoor bins, choose a site that is level, well drained, and easily accessible year-round. Place the bin over bare soil (not concrete), so that earthworms can make their way into the pile. Turn the soil to a depth of about 6-8 inches.

Step Three: Add Good Composting Materials: Generally, compostable substances are either brown (leaves, hay, coffee grounds and tea bags, straw and paper), or green (grass clippings, weeds, vegetable trimmings and most green plant cuttings). Don't add (unless directed otherwise by instructions): meat and bones, poultry and fish, fatty meat trimmings, whole eggs, dairy products, human and pet feces, pernicious weeds, and treated lumber.

Step Four: Proper ratios: Try to alternate layers of greens and browns, moistening each layer by misting it lightly with a garden hose. Once you have a full bin, turn the pile every 14 days or so. The more you turn the pile the faster you will have finished compost!

Step Five: Using Your Compost: It can take anywhere from 14 days to 12 months to produce finished compost, depending on the materials and methods used. Finished compost is dark and crumbly, with a pleasant, earthy, soil-like smell to it. For most uses it is acceptable to have some recognizable leaves or pieces of straw remaining.

On-line options and some prices: www.gaiam.com is one good site.

Spinning composter- gives the end result faster. About \$200.

Countertop kitchen composting-Both crocks hold an activated carbon filter in the lid to prevent odors and are Dishwasher safe. \$75.

Indoor composter- handles meat, fish and dairy. \$400.

Bokashi compost bucket- Developed in Japan, the All Food Recycling Compost Kit quickly and odorlessly converts your organic waste into a high-grade soil conditioner through the use of effective microbes or Bokashi — a Japanese word meaning "fermented organic matter." Similar to the process used to make wine,

POPULATION ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Giant Leap Backward

By Bonnie Tillery, (blt44blt@msn.com)

Our country prides itself in being a leader; but, when it comes to helping women so they can take care of their families, the community and the environment, the conservatives in our midst are trying to drag us back to developing-nation status – to a time when a woman's main role in life was to "be fruitful and multiply." Well, we women have done our job all too well and it is now time to think of how we can all live sustainably in this world of 7 billion human beings.

Under the guise of "stopping abortion," the Governor of NJ has cut off reproductive health care funding for low-income women; and nationally the House of Representatives tried to eliminate this funding in the 2011 budget. The battle to maintain funding for reproductive health care and voluntary family planning at the national level, through Title X and Medicaid, now moves to the 2012 budget.

These misinformed legislators don't want to hear facts – that providing affordable voluntary family planning reduces the incidence of abortion by almost half – they seem determined to roll back the clock to a time before the Supreme Court case of *Griswold v. Connecticut* when married couples could not even obtain contraceptives. That, after all, is their goal – to eliminate contraceptives which our own Representative Chris Smith (R, 4th District) calls "baby pesticide."

In an October 12, 2010 on-line article, Frances Beinecke wrote, "According to research done by the National Center for Atmospheric Research and the Futures Group, simply by giving women the

tools to plan the size and timing of their families, population growth will slow and global carbon emissions will be reduced between 8 and 15 percent – the equivalent of stopping all deforestation today." So, not only is providing reproductive health care good for women and families, it is also good for the environment.

What you can do: Keep apprised of what is happening here in New Jersey at www.womenshealthmattersnj.org. On Facebook go to Women's Health Matters - New Jersey. Contact your legislators at both the state and federal levels and let them know you feel it is important to fund family planning and reproductive healthcare, especially for low-income families.

Living sustainably in this world is more than providing family planning information and supplies for those who wish to voluntarily use them, it is also looking at our own consumption here in the United States. We all know the statistics: the U.S. makes up about 5% of the world's population, but uses roughly 25% of the world's resources. Our high school coordinator, Victoria Pan, has inspired me to DOT (Do One Thing). Each day I will look at my consumption of resources and see how I can do just one thing to try and reduce it. Do I really need to use a hair dryer or would air drying my hair work just as well? Do I need a light to read if I get just as much light sitting by a window? If we all do just one thing a day to reduce our consumption, it will add up to great savings for the environment. As John Muir said: "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

New Jersey Leads the Nation into a Clean Energy Future

By Christine Guhl, Sierra Club Field Organizer

What is the energy future of New Jersey? Right now the state is at a turning point. Will New Jersey continue to be the polluted view that people get from the Turnpike? Or will it be a clean, bright and innovative future that will make New Jerseyans proud and make the rest of the nation take notice.

The Garden State's past has been checkered with pollution and dirty industry. Coal plants like PSEG Mercer and Hudson, and BL England continue to spew unhealthy emissions into the present day. Chemical companies and manufacturing have left a blight of toxic waste in the state. But this does not have to be the direction New Jersey continues to move in. New Jersey has great potential to be a national example for protecting the environment and the public health while promoting economic growth.

New Jersey is already leading the rest of the nation into a clean, healthy energy

future. The state has strong standards that protect air and water quality. New Jersey is second in the nation for solar power installations. Atlantic City is the home of the first costal wind farm in the United States. The governor recently signed the Offshore Wind Economic Development Act, which could help make New Jersey the first state to have a full-scale offshore wind farm.

Wind, solar and energy efficiency will help move the state away from its dependence on the dirty fossil fuels of the past. Coal and oil are crutches that New Jersey and the rest of the nation have leaned on for far too long. They are crutches that make children and families sick with asthma and heart disease. They are crutches that New Jersey and the rest of the nation do not need. It is time for New Jersey to kick away those crutches and lead the nation into a clean energy future.

this system relies on fermentation to decompose the matter rather than putrefaction, so no offensive odor is produced. \$89.

Retail options: Sears has medium range options (\$45 to \$70), Home Depot has a much wider variety to choose from and they also help you set it up, and have weekly garden classes to explain the better techniques, and of course sell related products and tools. Lowes is a good place to check out as well.

Water and other needs: There's not much need for water except at the initial stage of building the compost pile.

Ideally, home compost piles should contain 40-60% moisture. It should feel as moist as a wrung-out sponge. Dry carbon layers can be watered as the pile is built; then, with each turning, add more water as necessary. Sunshine is necessary (for warmth) as is periodic aeration.

Government support: Your county's branch of Rutgers' Agricultural Extension Service offers information booklets, telephone advice, and suggestions for purchasing a low-cost home compost bin.

A good composting website is: <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/compost/fundamentals/>

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

Book Review “My First Summer in the Sierra”

by John Muir, Centenary Edition

Reviewed by your Editor, Dick Colby (dick.colby@stockton.edu)



photo: James Mendelsohn

Sierra Club members are all indebted to John Muir as the founder (in 1892) of our Club. In turn, John Muir's inspiration for preserving wilderness was cast in the "living stones" he first explored between June 3rd and Sept 22nd, 1869, when the 31-year-old explorer accompanied a sheep rancher and his 2050 "woolly locusts" to summer pastures in Tuolumne Meadows, giving Muir a first opportunity to experience both the valley and the high country of what is today Yosemite National Park.

Muir spent many days and nights on his own, examining every species of tree, shrub, wildflower, mammal, bird and insect, and also describing (with obvious preparatory learning) the geological details of the rock formations and their glacial histories. We learn on every page that he credits God for what he is able to see.

His journal describes everything and more: the appearances and customs of the Native Americans he encountered, the habits of sheep, bears, squirrels, even houseflies, grasshoppers and tourists, weather patterns, clouds, ecological relationships, and the intelligence of his companion Saint Bernard. One chapter is devoted to a supernatural event: his sudden (correct) notion that a particular

friend had entered the valley, compelling him to descend and find the friend.

Muir waited until 1911 to publish his journal. The new edition includes facsimiles of his original pages, including many sketches, but is adorned with a set of new photographs taken along the route he describes, many showing the same landscapes as his sketches.

Here are a few sentences from p. 104, describing the landscape in general: "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe. One fancy a heart like our own must be beating in every crystal and cell, and we feel like stopping to speak to the plants and animals as friendly fellow mountaineers. Nature as poet, an enthusiastic workingman, becomes more and more visible the farther and higher we go; for the mountains are fountains - beginning places, however related to sources beyond mortal ken."

Whether you are old like me, with early memories of Yosemite that will be refreshed, or young and still strong enough to follow in Muir's footsteps, or anywhere in between, taking enjoyment from the description of nature in words or photograph, this book is for you.

[ISBN 978-0-618-98851-8, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, lists for \$30.]

Letter to the Editor

Has Governor Christie Abandoned the Environment?

About a year and a half ago it was reported to the DEP that a resident who had reported others for various zoning violations had himself cleared and filled several acres of wetlands with 600 tandems of dirt. This on the residential property located in a Land Conservation zone for which he had received a variance to run his heavy construction business.

While the DEP responded and went through the motions and took the complaint and even sent a guy to talk with me, and in spite of my offer of evidence including but not limited to, testimony from the person who delivered the 600 tandems of dirt, historical satellite imagery clearly showing the clearing of old growth trees and filling, and the first-hand accounts of a municipal official

with intimate knowledge of the property, the DEP has decided that too much time has lapsed to prosecute.

So I ask...has this Governor imposed some sort of budgetary driven statute of limitations on environmental crimes? On other crimes? Does this mean those with old illegal storage of buried drums can rest easy? Will he next cut funding to the superfund sites in my town?

Perhaps he needs to apply his investigative skills and look for corruption within the DEP. It seems to me payola is the only other plausible excuse for turning a blind eye to such a blatant crime against nature by the agency charged with its protection.

Paul J Schlaflin, Marlboro NJ

Chair's Message Buying a Green Car

By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)



Life was simpler when my wife Wynn and I first decided to buy a green car. Green cars were, by definition, hybrids. And there were only two hybrids on the market, the Insight and the Prius. The Insight got great mileage and, for the purists amongst us, was the obvious choice. But the Insight had limited seating capacity and was cramped and uncomfortable. We opted for the Prius.

But life has become more complicated now that the warranty on our second generation Prius is about to expire and we are ready to buy a new car. Not only are there more hybrids on the market, there are also plug-in hybrids, electric cars, diesels, a Honda model that runs on compressed natural gas and, for those who really want to make a statement, the Mercedes-Benz F-Cell that runs on hydrogen. And with recent improvements in technology and fuel efficiency, it would be a mistake to rule out the traditional gasoline-powered car that we all grew up with.

Faced with the daunting task of trying to make sense out of all of this, I decided to turn to the Environmental Protection Agency's Green Vehicle Guide for help. The EPA evaluates each model on the basis of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and assigns a score of from zero to 10 for each category. Only four models, the Mercedes-Benz F-Cell, the Nissan Leaf and two Smart cars, received a perfect overall rating of 20.

But the EPA bases its ratings entirely on fuel efficiency and tailpipe emissions, which explains why a fuel cell vehicle and three electric models received perfect scores. In order to make an informed decision, don't we also need to take into account the pollutants and greenhouse gasses generated in manufacturing both the vehicle and the fuel that powers it, the natural resources consumed, the destruction of natural habitats, the effects of natural resource extraction and manufacture upon local communities and the costs and risks associated with disposing of scrapped vehicles and components?

So I checked out the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy site. ACEEE attempts to assess the environmental impacts of motor vehicles "from cradle to grave," a process it calls "lifetime assessment," and then rates the various models on a scale of from zero to 100.

ACEEE's top pick, with a score of 54, was the Honda Civic GX, a limited production model that runs on compressed natural gas. Number 2 on the list, also with a score of 54, was the Nissan Leaf, an electric car. The Toyota Prius hybrid came in 5th with a score of 52, and the Chevrolet Volt, a plug-in hybrid, came in 14th with a score of 48. Interestingly (as

noted in a recent New York Times article), seven of the 14 vehicles included on the list are powered entirely by traditional gasoline engines.

As with any ranking of products, so much depends upon the assumptions made and the criteria used in arriving at the rankings. While I do not question ACEEE's good faith in attempting to arrive at a fair and unbiased assessment of environmental impacts, I do question whether ACEEE, in picking a compressed natural gas car for its number 1 pick, considered the amount of methane, a far more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, that escapes into the atmosphere during the extraction process, or the threats to our water supply posed by hydraulic fracturing, the process used to extract natural gas from shale deposits.

And in choosing an electric car for its number 2 pick, I wonder whether ACEEE gave sufficient consideration to the source of the electricity used to recharge the batteries. Here in New Jersey PSE&G relies primarily upon nuclear power, followed by natural gas and coal. Nuclear power clearly has its problems, as highlighted by recent events in Japan, and I have already mentioned my concerns with regard to natural gas.

Coal, the third ingredient in the mix, is not only the dirtiest of all commercial fuels, it is also responsible for massive habitat destruction and human suffering in Appalachia, where mountain tops are removed and dumped into streams, entire ecosystems are destroyed and residents, many of whom have resided in the area for generations, are forced to abandon their homes, their livelihoods and their way of life.

But in all fairness to ACEEE, there are no easy answers. And my concerns with regard to the source of electricity for ACEEE's number 2 pick, the Nissan Leaf, can be fairly easily addressed by switching from PSE&G or JCP&L to an electricity provider that relies primarily upon wind, solar and other renewable energy sources. This option also enhances the attractiveness of a plug-in hybrid for those who are concerned with range limitations, a lack of public charging stations and the time it takes to charge an electric vehicle.

So if you are thinking of buying a green car, do your homework, figure out what features are important to you and, since there will be negatives associated with whatever choice you do make, try to identify those negatives that you can live with and those that are deal-breakers. For while the ratings and comparison information provided by the EPA, ACEEE and other organizations are very useful, ultimately choosing a green car is a subjective decision and, to a significant extent, a very personal decision.

Resolutions Adopted by ExCom in March-May, 2011

Our Gateway Group (formerly known as the Essex County Group) was elevated out of reorganization, under the acting officers named in the Group News section of this Newsletter. (March)

John Schofield was appointed as Advertising Manager of the "Jersey Sierran," and David Yennior was ratified as the Club's representative on Essex County's Open Space Trust Fund Commission. (April)

Laura Lynch, our Chapter Conservation Chair, was appointed liaison to "Save Hamilton Open Space"

(Mercer Co), an organization that litigates in site fights and does neighborhood outreach. (May)

We authorized an amicus brief in an appeal opposing a residential high-rise building on a steep slope on River Road in North Bergen (Hudson Co) (May)

We resolved to ask Green Acres (an agency of the Department of Environmental Protection) to deny approval for the conversion of scarce passive open space to ball-field enlargement in Union City's (Hudson Co) Washington Park. (May)

Candidates Sought for Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom)

The next (Oct-Dec) issue of this Newsletter will include our annual ballot for the election of three members of our Chapter governing body (ExCom), as well as members of the ExComs of each of our 12 active Groups, and some Sections. (ExCom members whose three-year terms are ending are Ken Johanson, Lee Snyder and Bonnie Tillery.) To nominate yourself, or someone else, please contact Sunil Somalwar (sunil.somalwar@gmail.com) by August 1.

And Volunteers are always welcome to fill all the vacant positions noted in the officer lists of our Group News section. Please get involved!

Reports from Trenton:

Congress Threatens our Coast

House Takes the Side of Big Oil and Allows Drilling Off New Jersey's Coast

By our Trenton staff

On May 12th, Congress put all of our coasts and beaches at risk, by passing HR 1231 by a vote of 243-179, with only nine Republicans voting no. This bill will open up the Gulf of Mexico and virtually the whole Atlantic and Pacific, and northern Alaskan, coasts to off-shore oil drilling. Congress has sided with big oil, and put New Jersey's coast at risk.

HR 1231 would (if approved by the US Senate and signed by Pres. Obama) lift the moratorium in the Gulf of Mexico, and begin a 2012 to 2017 lease plan setting a production goal of 3 million barrels of oil per day by 2027. The legislation also mandates that at least half of the unleased areas in the region be put up for lease sales every time the government puts the outer continental shelf territory up for lease. Ninety percent of leases are not actively being drilled by oil companies, so this is another way for them to grab more areas off our coast.

All of New Jersey's Congressman voted no except for Congressman Garret (R, 5th CD). We thank Congressmen LoBiondo, Smith, Frelinghuysen, Lance and Runyan for voting against their Republican Party position. We also thank all of the New Jersey Democrats for their no votes. With the leadership of Senators Menendez and Lautenberg, we hope to stop this bill in the Senate.

Earlier in May, the House of Representatives voted on two bills to speed up and expand off-shore drilling including the mid Atlantic off the coast of Virginia, not far from New Jersey. HR 1229 will fast-track new offshore drilling in the ocean waters. Under this legislation it will be easier to drill oil wells than to erect windmills.

HR 1230 will fast-track new offshore drilling in the ocean waters of the Gulf and off of Virginia, threatening our coast and its fishing and tourism industries. Since no regulations have been strengthened in response to the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico on 20th April 2010, the likelihood of a disaster off our coast is very real. Shell Oil Company has said it plans to run a pipeline from the Virginia drilling sites to New Jersey's coast. Even though most of our Republican congressmen voted against drilling directly off our coast, they all voted for drilling off of Virginia.

We think Congress has been bought by big oil. Instead of allowing drilling off our coast, we should end the \$4 billion in federal subsidies for big oil and use that money to build clean energy alternatives. We should also try to reduce oil usage by raising automobile efficiency (CAFE) standards, improving mass transit, and raising the tax on gasoline.

Ringwood Manor: Theft Shows Budgets Have Consequences

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

The break-in and theft of irreplaceable artifacts, paintings, and even guns, from Ringwood Manor (Passaic Co) in the night of March 3rd, is not only a tragedy and loss for the people and State of New Jersey, but it shows the incompetence and stupidity of the DEP and the Legislature for not adequately protecting these historical artifacts. We blame budget cuts for the loss of the staff needed to protect Ringwood Manor, which was a gift of the Hewitt and Cooper families.

Park funding is down 30% from two years ago. Park staffing continues to drop despite the state's growing open space roster and the need to steward more public land. In 1995, there were 850 employees in the Parks and Forestry program. Now the program is down to about 450 employees, and changes to the pension programs could lower staff further, including 40% of the park police. Cutbacks to parks will affect tourism in New Jersey, hurt the economy and encourage crimes such as this one.

My family has owned property in

Ringwood for three generations. I first visited Ringwood Manor when I was 4 years old and was fascinated by the Civil War-era guns. It is a place I still visit frequently, and that I have worked to protect, leading efforts in the mid 1990s to protect the view-shed of the building from three radio towers that would have obscured the historic view. I remember many summer concerts on the lawn, art shows, and plays performed at the Manor. I have been active with several groups that raised money to keep the Manor going.

Ringwood Manor is a National Historic Landmark, considered first in the northeast, and second only to Mount Vernon in historical importance. Robert Erskine, Surveyor General of the Continental Army, made many of the maps used in the Revolutionary War at Ringwood Manor. George Washington stayed there many times, and the Battle of Yorktown was planned there. The house was Victorianized in the 1880s, and donated to the state in 1936, along with the property.

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.

Highlands Act Opponents Approved for Highlands Council

From a press release issued by Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director

The drinking water supply for 5.4 million state residents came under attack on April 28th, when the Senate Judiciary Committee voted to release three of Governor Christie's nominations to the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council. The Governor has nominated 10 individuals, many of whom are outspoken opponents of the Highlands Act, and have challenged the law's constitutionality in the past. Governor Christie is using these appointments to end run the Legislature: to repeal Highlands protections. The Sierra Club is concerned that six of his ten appointments will take the side of developers and corporate polluters over the protection of New Jersey's water supply.

Lopatcong Councilman James Mengucci and Hunterdon County Freeholder Robert Walton support growth over water supply protection, and have opposed the Highlands Act, DEP Highlands Rules, and the Highlands Regional Master Plan.

Freeholder Walton was quoted in the Hunterdon County Democrat saying he is "diametrically opposed to the Highlands Act." He has also stated that he would vote against Hunterdon County submitting a conformance petition to the Highlands Council.

In the three years before the passage of the Highlands Act, Councilman Mengucci supported continued growth and sprawl development in Lopatcong as the community's population grew by over 500%. In 2000, 1,400 people lived in Lopatcong; there were 7,200 in 2003. Mengucci continues to support inappropriate growth, calling for the development of the Ingersoll-Rand tract, a critical habitat for threatened bird species, and one of the few open spaces remaining in the township.

Morristown Mayor Tim Dougherty was also confirmed. He has been a leader on historical preservation and open space issues in Morristown.

The Christie Administration's nomination of Highlands Act opponents to serve on the Council emphasizes his desire to restrict implementation of the Highlands Act, eliminate the Council's funding, stack the board with pro-development members and weaken DEP regulations, making the Highlands regulations essentially meaningless.

At a town-hall meeting in March, in Hoptacong, Governor Christie stated that the Highlands Act "was based on a lie" and as the Democratic legislature prevents him from repealing the Highlands Act, appointing "commonsense" individuals to the Council is the only recourse he has to weaken the Highlands regulations. These appointments are the Governor's opening salvo in achieving his objectives.

There remain seven vacant or expired seats on the Council, and the Governor has nominated individuals to fill those seats. Still awaiting confirmation by the Senate Judiciary Committee are Bergen County Surrogate Michael Dressler, Roxbury Mayor Jim Rilee, White Township Mayor Sam Race, Sussex County Freeholder Richard Vohden, former West Milford Planning Board Chairman Michael Tfrank, aquatic biologist Michael Sebetich, and Passaic County Freeholder Bruce James. No women, no minorities, no environmentalists.

We hope the remaining nominations will be held up - until the Governor nominates a balanced slate that includes individuals who actually believe in protecting the Highlands. Diverse opinions are needed, but open opponents of the regulations should not serve on the Council.

Dangerous Drilling Rules Must Be Withdrawn Now

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

Hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"), a new technique for extracting natural gas from shale, threatens the Delaware River Basin and the water supply for millions of people in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York. More than 35,000 New Jersey residents including many Sierra Club members, submitted comments in April to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), which has proposed weak natural gas development rules that do not protect the Basin from the pollution of hydraulic fracturing.

The Sierra Club urges the DRBC to withdraw or put the rules on hold, and keep the moratorium on drilling in place, as more scientific studies are being released every day, and federal studies are currently underway by both the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the US Department of Energy (DOE). The Sierra Club calls on the DRBC to prepare an environmental impact statement on the draft natural gas development regulations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The DRBC is releasing weak rules prematurely, ending the moratorium on drilling before the full impacts to the environment and public health and safety are known.

A recent study found the greenhouse gas footprint for extracting shale gas by hydraulic fracturing is at least 20% greater than that of mining coal, and at least 30% greater than that of producing conventional fuel oil. The EPA is currently preparing a study on the impacts hydraulic fracturing has on drinking water, which will be completed in 2012. More than 260 chemicals used for fracking in Pennsylvania and West Virginia have been identified, many of them known carcinogens and endocrine disruptors. The DOE will issue a report by July specifying steps that might be taken to make fracking safer.

The DRBC's proposed rules are not based on the best available science, and do not assess all primary, secondary, and cumulative impacts to the watershed. The Sierra Club is concerned that wells could be constructed in flood plains, stream buffers, and critical habitat. There are no limits on water withdrawal for fracking, endangering aquatic ecosystems and drinking water supplies. The rules do not regulate which chemicals can be used in the fracking process, and will allow New Jersey wastewater treatment facilities to accept fracking wastewater and discharge it into the state's waterways.

More Reports from Trenton:

Sierra Club Calls on Christie Administration to Pull Proposed DEP Waiver Rule

DEP Holds Public Hearing on New Rule

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

A new waiver rule proposed by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), that would continue the weakening of critical environmental protections under the Christie Administration, was scrutinized at a public hearing on April 14th.

The waiver rule would enable the Commissioner of the DEP to waive virtually any section of any existing rule, on a case-by-case basis, when a regulation is unduly burdensome, conflicts with other DEP, state, or federal rules, or when a "net environmental benefit" can be achieved. The conditions of "unduly burdensome" can include hardship, alternative compensation, and excessive cost. "Net environmental benefit" is undefined and will lead to developers cleaning up a polluted site in exchange for the ability to avoid other DEP regulations.

The waiver rule would create loopholes and open environmental protections to political abuse and pay-to-play negotiations for polluters and developers. Undue influence by politically connected developers and polluters will push through projects to the detriment of the environment. This rule will result in more flooding, sprawl, overdevelopment, and pollution.

The proposed waiver rule is not limited. Already, 98 current rules can be waived in emergency situations defined by the Legislature, impacting hundreds of permits. The waiver rule would create more work for an already overburdened DEP staff, and less transparency and predictability in permitting. This rule is not a response to problems faced by regulators; it's to allow DEP and developers to side-step environmental protections.

The proposed waiver rule would not require public notice for all waiver requests, only that waiver requests be included in any other public notice an applicant is required to provide. No public comment periods are required. The DEP will announce it is reviewing a waiver request, and the decision it makes, on its website, but neighbors of proposed projects won't be checking online and may not realize that environmental regulations no longer apply to a development near their homes.

Federally delegated programs, criteria that protect human health, and some other regulations would be exempt from the waiver rule. However, under Gov. Christie's Executive Order 2, which prevents state agencies from adopting standards stricter than federal standards, regulations can be waived down to the less-strict federal standards instead of New Jersey's. For example, the lax Army Corps of Engineers standards will be used in permitting wetlands instead of stricter New Jersey standards. On toxics in drinking water, the federal standard is

for levels producing cancer rates of one in 10,000 people, whereas the New Jersey standard is for one in 1 million people.

The DEP has compared the waiver rule to a municipal zoning variance, saying that provisions will be waived for "public benefit". However, zoning variances are based on the legally defined standard of "public good," which includes no detriment to the public from the project, such as an increase in pollution, flooding, or traffic. To achieve a public good, the project must overall further the goals of the community's master plan and municipal zoning and promote public health and safety. "Public benefit" as defined in the new waiver rule does not include such protections from negative impacts. Instead, a "public benefit" could be increased profit for the property owner, or the creation of jobs.

We are concerned that the waiver rule would be used to eliminate the 300-foot buffers that protect pristine (C1) streams, allowing stormwater detention basins to substitute for buffers in developments that would extend all the way to the bank of a river.

Other "targets" of waivers include allowing extension of a roadway over wetlands, where Department of Transportation rules are less environmentally protective than DEP rules. Or, if the State Planning Commission targets an environmentally sensitive area as a growth area, environmental regulations will be waived to allow development.

The development community has emphasized the need for transparency and predictability in the permit application process, but these proposed rules do neither. Some politically-connected developers will benefit from waivers, while smaller businesses will not, which leads to abuses such as "pay to play." Large corporations that can afford the legal teams to apply for waivers will benefit, while small businesses will be at a disadvantage. The DEP may show favoritism to one developer and not others, resulting in litigation. As staff at the DEP continues to decline, litigation against the DEP will further tie up what few resources the DEP has.

We predict that the waiver rule will weaken environmental protections by allowing:

- More houses to be built, promoting sprawl and allowing destruction of more critical natural resources
- Waivers for enforcement violations and fines, letting polluters off the hook.
- Waivers that resolve a contested case or dispute
- Development on threatened and endangered species habitat
- Costs to be included in "burdensome"

have built on-site clean energy projects and made energy efficiency improvements. This not only benefits the companies and the environment, but has stimulated the founding of hundreds of clean energy businesses in New Jersey.

According to tax disclosures exam-

Christie's Budget Bad for the Environment and Economy

From a press release issued by Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director

The Governor's proposed budget for the fiscal year starting July 1st continues the damage done by last year's budget, and harmful policies that weaken environmental protections and hurt the economy. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) budget will shrink by 9.8% to \$353 million, down from \$392 million last year, with some modest increases in operational and program funding.

The proposed budget projects a \$38 million drop in fines and site remediation funds, meaning that the DEP will be doing less enforcement, and that polluters will be off the hook. There is also a slight increase in development permit fees, indicating that more permit approvals will be granted. This combination rolls back the enforcement process that protects public health and the environment. The proposed budget predicts, for the first time in New Jersey, that no toxic spills will occur - since there will be no increases to the Spill Fund. Polluters will have no deterrent as there will be no enforcement for violating environmental laws.

The funding for DEP staff will be \$214 million, a less-than-2% increase after a 15% cut last year - from \$248 million in FY2008. The \$4 million increase does not keep up with inflation, healthcare costs, promotions, and the cost of living. DEP staff have been cut by almost 40% since the mid-1990's, when the operating budget was \$329 million, and is close to the lowest level in its history. A hiring freeze continues in place. As staffing has been cut drastically, major programs have been added, including clean cars, Highlands, and responding to global warming.

Governor Christie emphasizes the need to streamline permitting, but refuses to hire the staff needed to get permit applications through the DEP quickly. Businesses and individuals pay fees to get their permit applications processed; currently the money coming in from permit fees is more than the cost of processing the permits. The Governor wants to divert this excess revenue to the General Fund instead of investing in hiring more staff to improve efficiency and technology at the DEP. Land-use staff have on average 40 permit applications on their desks and only one in four have GIS [Geographic Information System] programs on their computers. This slows down permit approvals for businesses and individuals and hurts our economy. The Governor is causing the delays in permit review by not properly funding the DEP to hire the necessary staff - so he can later blame it for being inefficient and call for the rollback of critical environmental protections.

A \$17.4-million increase to the DEP budget is mandated by an increase in corporate tax revenue and a reduction of debt service costs. More money will be available for watershed management, brownfield redevelopment, diesel programs, and parks capital improvements. Of the modest increase, \$461,000 will be going to the Department's Division of Economic Development, which basically supports industry lobbyists' interests.

Debt service cost reductions, from \$63 million down to \$6.8 million, is a result of

moving them into the Treasury Department. Approximately \$42 million of that savings is because debt service was transferred, not paid off. The saving from refinance was about \$14 million, which should stay in DEP to increase funding for core environmental programs.

\$52 million will be diverted from the Clean Energy Fund, with \$42.5 million going to pay for energy costs for state buildings and \$10 million going toward energy efficiency in state buildings. These cuts reduce the funding available for solar installations and high efficiency appliances, and will cost the state 4,000 jobs. Further diversions may be made in negotiating other cuts to education, law enforcement, and municipal aid. The Clean Energy Fund is dedicated by the Legislature, so the Governor's diversion of funding is ultimately a hidden tax.

The proposed budget increases Parks and Forestry funding by \$6 million, after slashing the program by 40% last year. The current funding is down by 30% from previous years. Park staffing continues to drop despite the state's growing open space roster. In 1995, there were 850 park employees; now the program is down to about 450 employees. In April the lack of staffing in parks resulted in the theft of historic artifacts from Ringwood Manor. Cutting parks will affect tourism and hurt the economy as 17 million people visit New Jersey's parks every year, contributing \$3.9 billion to the economy.

Additionally the Governor has:

- Allocated about \$80-85 million to Green Acres, about the same as last year, after a 50% reduction from 3 years ago. \$250 million went to Green Acres in FY2005. The Garden State Perseveration Trust which averaged \$230 million a year from FY1998-FY2008 is now averaging about \$125 million a year.
- Projected a substantial drop in park entrance fees and permits, signaling that privatization may occur.
- Eliminated the Retail Margin Fund, cutting \$14 million a year to businesses for clean energy programs.
- Not diverted further money from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), after \$68 million in programs was eliminated last year.
- Diverted \$20 million from recycling funds that go to municipalities for education and enforcement.
- Diverted \$4.4 million from the Forest Restoration Fund into the General Fund.
- Transferred \$18 million from the Hazardous Discharge Fund into General Fund.

As the Governor rolls back funding for environmental programs, he is making development a priority. Despite his constant claims that the state is broke, his budget includes a \$260 million subsidy for a casino in Atlantic City and \$180 million for Xanadu.

This budget proposal continues Christie's attacks on the environment and the DEP, rollbacks to various DEP programs, and stakeholder processes dominated by industry as a cover to weaken environmental programs. Essentially this budget is another step in turning the DEP over to industry.

SARLO

(Continued from page 1)

effect, almost 18,000 jobs have been created or saved, and the region's economy has grown by more than \$2.3 billion. Companies which receive RGGI funds

ined by ThinkProgress, Americans for Prosperity is supported by this country's largest mountain top coal mining company, one of the biggest polluters in United States.

The impacts of climate change on New Jersey are real and cannot be denied. As a

coastal state, New Jersey is extremely vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surges that occur from climate change. Top scientists at DEP, Princeton University, and Rutgers have provided compelling evidence that the effects of global warming on New Jersey would be devastating.



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

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.

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

South Highlands Group (formerly Hunterdon County Group) (Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties and surrounding areas)

OFFICERS:

Chair: Jonathan Wall psychologist@jonwall.com
Vice-Chair: Ciny MacGonagle cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair: Open Position!
Secretary: Dwight Irving dwight@dliirving.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 mpmpplace@ptd.net
Outings Coordinator: Dave English dgenglish@hotmail.com
Webmaster: Dwight Irving dwight@dliirving.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>

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:

June 1: Executive meeting & Hike will be held at the Musconetcong Watershed Association's River Resource Center. 5:30 hike followed by picnic and 7:30 mtg., Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA), River Resource Center, 10 Maple Ave Asbury NJ, musconetcong.org. (Future Excom meetings will be held at 27 Center Street, Clinton, NJ 08809, 2nd floor at the office of Jonathan D. Wall, PsyD). Meetings start at 7:30 pm on FIRST WEDNESDAYS

GENERAL MEETINGS:

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

The Next General Meeting will be on June 22nd 7:30 to 9pm. We will have a **presentation on organic food** including the health and nutritional benefits, meal suggestions and so much more!. Presented by and at Shop Rite of Flemington (South 202/31 just after the traffic circle). The speaker is Shop Rite's LiveRite Merchandiser expert Susan Lang-Saponara. She has a B.S. in Nutritional Science and has worked in the field since 1993.

Check our Websites for other 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.

Portland power plant: <http://connect.sierraclub.org/80/ActivistNetwork/home>

Highlands Council appointments: Urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to Oppose Christie's Highlands Council Nominations!

Waiver rule <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/PressReleases/0218.asp>

Fracking and new gas pipeline will be addressed in Hike & Meet

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:

Group Chair:	Mike Herson	mikeherson@hotmail.com
Conserv'n Co-Chrs:	Tom Thompson	201-848-1080 etrans743@aol.com
	Mike Herson	mikeherson@hotmail.com
Air Quality:	Laura Coll	lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com
Outings Chair:	Ellen Blumenkrantz	eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Passaic Issues:	Tricia Aspinwall	taspinwall@hotmail.com
Political Chair:	Greg Tondi	gregt75@yahoo.com
Program Chair:	Open Position!	
Trail Maintenance:	Marty Cohen	201-670-8383 martincohen@verizon.net
Treasurer:	Tom Thompson	201-848-1080 etrans743@aol.com
US Public Lands:	John Kashwick	201-660-8820 johnkashwick@optonline.net
Wildlife Issues:	Mary Ellen Shaw	201-906-4062

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

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

(1) **Hackensack River Watershed.** We continue to oppose any disturbance to the Hackensack River's vegetative riparian corridors north of Route 4: they are essential for habitat, flood control and the health of the river. Bulldozing the riverbank to make way for a paved pathway would greatly harm this fragile ecosystem where the Northern Harrier, Herons, Osprey, and nesting Eagles have been observed. An extremely rare Redheaded Woodpecker and the threatened Black-crowned Night Heron have been confirmed on Van Buskirk Island.

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

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

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

(4) Still under threat: **Quinn Road in Clifton**, now that Montclair State University is building a 2,000-unit dormitory; Soldier Hill wetlands in Paramus with the headwaters of a C1 brook that flows into the Oradell Reservoir; and parkland in Overpeck County Park (Leonia) from plans for a new road. In Clifton, where we continue to monitor Latteri Park, we also 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: On May 1, Buddy Jenssen, Sean Noble, Marilena Noble,

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.

Kimberly Noble, and Marty Cohen from the North Jersey Group climbed the Appalachian Trail up Wawayanda Mountain - to do our semi-annual trail maintenance activity, assuring that this section of the trail remains in great shape.

Hudson-Meadowlands Group

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

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Jodi Jamieson	917-804-8390	jodijami@mac.com
Vice-Chair:	Helen Manogue	201-963-3511	
Secretaries:	Judith Courtney	201-868-6575	jaocourtney@netzero.net
	Ruth Olsen	201-868-6575	oof46@msn.com
Treasurer:	Judith Courtney	201-868-6575	jaocourtney@netzero.net
Conserv'n Chairs:	Mirjana Zivkovic	201-758-8390	tenisko@hotmail.com
	Louise Taylor	201-562-8390	LTAYLOR2@comcast.net
Cool Cities Chair:	Helen Manogue	201-963-3511	
Events Chair:	Janet Glass	201-868-4216	iguanaj@aol.com
General ExCom:	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 in 2011: June 23; September 22 and November 17. These meetings are open to all Sierra Club Members. Please contact the Secretaries, Judith or Ruth, for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

GROUP OUTING - Nature trails, sports fields, a boat launch, picnic grounds, fishing, and much more can now be found in Bergen County at Overpeck Park. We have scheduled an outdoor event at this park in Leonia proposed for Saturday, June 11th, with a rain date of Saturday, June 18th. It includes a nature tour, talk and picnic and begins at 10:30 am. For details please contact Janet Glass; her info is listed above.

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, Riverview, currently in planning);
- 2) We're promoting safety over greed by opposing the Appleview development on River Road that abuts a major high pressure gas line. The Appleview development was just approved (6-0-1) by the North Bergen Planning Board; we are going to track this and fight it through the Hudson County Planning Board process and beyond, if necessary.
- 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)

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

The Gateway Group has been Reorganized and Returned to Function

By Dave Yennior, Gateway Chair

The Gateway Group is the reincarnation of the former Essex Group with the addition of Elizabeth and Hillside. The Group resumed function with a Jan 11 presentation on the Linden Purgen Coal Plant, held in Maplewood. With a snowstorm threatening there was a small but well-motivated turnout. Those few Sierrans have become the core of the new Group. Our goal is to service the Gateway area and partner with other community groups advocating for the environment.

Since being voted full status by the NJ Chapter, Gateway participated in an April 4th People's Organization for Progress march to Newark City Hall and rally at Essex County College in Newark. On April 16th we tabled at Essex County's Earth Day Event. On April 20th we demonstrated on the steps of Newark City Hall to protest Mayor Cory Booker's plan to privatize the famed Newark Water System. Executive Director Jeff Tittel and Gateway's Brenda Toyloy spoke at the Newark City Council meeting. Then on May 17th we sponsored our first event at the Verona Park Boathouse in Verona: "How to argue with a climate change denier," with a presentation by Dr. Mira Franke, a physicist, and Loantaka's Co-Chair Eric Hausker playing the role of the denier.

The Gateway Group invites you to join in the activism and asks your support as we strive to address the many issues facing the urban as well as suburban communities. There are several vacant positions listed below, along with a full list of officers. For further information about upcoming activities, volunteer opportunities, or to discuss any concerns please contact me at dyennior@msn.com or 973-844-1384.



Demonstrating on the steps of Newark City Hall to protest Mayor Cory Booker's plan to privatize Newark's Water System: includes Jeff Tittel, Brenda Toyloy, Bill Chappel and Dave Yennior.

Officers:

Chair:	David Yennior	973-844-1384	dyennior@msn.com
Vice-Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Secretary:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Treasurer:	Anne Hirs	973-844-1121	annehirs@msn.com
Program Chair:	John Beadle	973-284-1594	jbeadle571@verizon.net
Conservation Chair:	ZaSah Khademi	201-618-8572	zasah@aol.com
Acting Political Chair:	Darius Tullis		dktullis@gmail.com
Interim Membership Chair:	Darius Tullis		dktullis@gmail.com
Newark Issues Chair:	Bill Chappel	973-623-6490	bchappel1@verizon.net
Water Issues Chair:	Bill Chappel	973-623-6490	bchappel1@verizon.net
Recycling Issues Chair:	Lyle Landon	201-247-0288	lylelandon@aol.com
Passaic River Issues Chair:	Brenda Toyloy	973-856-7056	brendatoyloy@yahoo.com
Elizabeth Issues Chair:	Paula Borenstein	908-289-3584	brdandmkt@aol.com
Outings Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		

Loantaka Group

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

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

OFFICERS:

Group Co-Chairs:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
	and Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
Treasurer:	Joyce White		joyce00201@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Scott McCarthy		hi_risescott@earthlink.net
Conservation Chair:			
Morris County:	Bill Martin	908-604-2505	WP1.Martin@gmail.com
Union County:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
Political Chair:	Meiling Chin		chinmeiling@yahoo.com
Programs:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Education			
Coordinator:	Jeff Huppert	973-263-0344	jeffhup@optonline.net
Fundraising Chair:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
Outreach & Events			
Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Publicity Chair:	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
Membership:	Bill Martin	908-604-2505	WP1.Martin@gmail.com
Air Quality			
Coordinator:	Bob Campbell	973-761-4461	bobc2023_sc@verizon.net
Webmaster:	Paul Sanderson		paulmsanderson@aol.com
Greenbrook:	Bob Muska	908-665-2296	rmuska@erols.com

(Continued on page 8)

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

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

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:

July 13: No meeting

August 10: No meeting

Sept 14: Responding to a Climate Change Denier. Dr. Mira A. Franke has a PhD in Applied Physics from the University of Michigan. A Fulbright Fellow and is involved in a wide range of environmental issues. She is currently working toward becoming a LEED Green Associate. Eric Hausker is both Co-Chair & Conservation Chair of the Loantaka Group of the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club. Eric will play the role of the Denier. Come hear the dialogue and learn how to respond to those who deny climate change. Should be informative and fun.

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).

On Apr 30th, Edison celebrated saving the historic site called the Oak Tree Pond Park. Many organizations, including our Group, participated with environmental projects such as green sustainable and eco-friendly exhibits. We planted trees, flowers, and other vegetation.

The citizens who saved this property demonstrate that Democracy is alive and well in this country. This site is a history lesson to all who visit it, demonstrating that our forefathers and mothers fought the most powerful country in the world (England) and won. - contributed by Jane Tousman

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 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:

Chair:	Terry Stimpfel	609-731-7016	terystimb@hotmail.com
Co-Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Conserv'n Chr:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Memb' Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Outings Chair:	Leona Fluck	609-259-3734	leona@pineypaddlers.com
Political Chair:	Terry Stimpfel	609-731-7016	terystimb@hotmail.com
Publicity Chair:	Joyanne Pannone	609-443-6992	jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
Program Chair:	Lynne Weiss	732-821-9688	lshari05@gmail.com
ExCom At-large:	Malcolm McFarland	609-448-8699	jmmcfarland81@gmail.com
	Ruth Ann Mitchell		ram400500@yahoo.com
	Tamanna Mohapatra	732-801-9629	tmohapatra@yahoo.com
Outreach:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Secretary:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Webmaster:	<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 (Free. Public always welcome!)

There are no general meetings in July and August. Enjoy your summer.

Sept 20 (Tues, 7:30 to 9pm (Pre-meeting social at 7pm)): Special event - **Fracking Panel**, presented by the NJ Fracking Team and special invited guests. An opportunity to listen to the experts who are working at the forefront on these complex issues. An event not to be missed. For details, subscribe to the Central news email also check us Facebook. Whisk and Spoon meeting room of Whole Foods Market, Windsor Green Shopping Center, Rte 1 South, Princeton.

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

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

OFFICERS:

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

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

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.

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

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

Shore Group Happenings:

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.

Now that the spring temperatures are rising, we will be holding a training session by our Monmouth County Watershed Ambassador and a few more hikes and clean-ups.

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

Help Needed for Cleanups: If you would like to participate in cleanups of our local waterways, please contact Laura Bagwell at l.bagwell3@verizon.net. In this vital effort, our Group joins forces with the Navesink Swimming River Group which, since 2002, has removed more than 20 tons of debris from our local banks and streams.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 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, we held two successful general membership meetings at the college's Lincroft campus in April and May, 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. We hope to return to the college for our Sept. 26 general membership meeting if scheduling permits.

July 17: Noon to 3 p.m. Our **annual summer pot-luck picnic** will be held on Sunday, July 17 at Turkey Swamp Park, 200 Georgia Tavern Road, Freehold. Meet in the picnic area behind the main building. No speakers, just a lot of good conversation. Check with Joellen Lundy on what to bring and to get other details. From Route 9, take Rt. 524 west to Georgia Road (Rt. 53), turn left (south) on Georgia and follow the signs to the park. From I-95, at Exit 22 take Jackson Mills Road north to Georgia Road, turn left (west) on Georgia and follow the signs.

August: No meeting this month. Relax and enjoy!

Sept. 26 - Dr. Mike Kennish, research professor at the Institute of Marine and Coastal Science at Rutgers University, will describe the **impact that rising bay and ocean levels will have on coastal marine habitat**. His wide-ranging research includes using the legendary deep-sea research vessel Alvin and the shallow-water research vessel Clelia. He also is associated with the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve in Tuckerton, and the Barnegat Bay Partnership in Toms River. Dr. Kennish is a key speaker in our Group's program to learn about the impact of rising ocean levels. In May we heard Eric Anderson, a global information systems expert for Monmouth County, discuss the impact major storms and rising sea levels will have on the infrastructure of coastal Monmouth County and the state. September LOCATION to be announced..

Ocean County Group

WEBSITE: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean

OFFICERS:

Chair: A. Gregory Auriemma, Esq.	732-451-9220	sierraclubOC@aol.com
Vice-Chr, Outings: Dawn Marie Johns	732-644-6340	sierraclubOC@hotmail.com
Conserv'n Chair: Margit Meissner-Jackson	609-296-4367	sylviaj1910@yahoo.com
Secretary: Jill Palmer	732-928-0988	palmer2x2@aol.com
Treasurer: Gregory Auriemma	732-451-9220	sierraclubOC@aol.com
Political Chair: Nancy Brown	732-892-6089	nancybrown624@comcast.net
Publicity Chair: Howard Schwartz	609-242-9304	hschwartz@comcast.net
Fund-Raising: Joyce M. Isaza	732-920-9270	realtymstr@aol.com
Env'l Consultant: Helen Henderson	908-278-9807	hhlaceyrailtrail@msn.com
Env'l Educ'n Coord: Terrance Brown	848-333-7331	terrybrown@comcast.net

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

ACTIVITIES & ISSUES: We're hard at work: Preventing drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and off the Jersey Coast, defending the Endangered Species Act, fighting Mountain Top Removal and supporting expanded recycling legislation.

We've also targeted critical local open space, sprawl, and air and water quality issues with special emphasis on the massive "over-development" of Jackson Township and Lakewood. We're also involved in the campaigns to create a new park at "Anchor Reef" on Barnegat Bay and to stop "nitrogen pollution" of the Bay. Protecting the Ocean County Hiking Trail in Lacey. We're watching the progress of the first Wind Turbine erected in the County which resides in Ocean Gate. We're also involved in creating a greener and sustainable environment in Ocean County.

Volunteers are needed to help with these all issues, membership outreach, tabling at local events, fund-raising and a computer-based voter education program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about our activities and events, please visit our web site: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean.

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.

July 23 (Sat): Get your tickets now for our 6th ANNUAL BBQ FUND RAISER at Windward Beach in Brick. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 per child age 6-10 and children 5 and under are free. We will have great food, swimming, volleyball and giveaways. Come out, have some fun and support the environment. To purchase tickets please contact Fund Raising Chair Joyce Isaza at 732-604-4583. If you cannot make it, donations are gladly accepted and greatly appreciated!

Sept 19 (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.

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Gina Carola	856-848-8831	ginaceee@verizon.net
Vice-Chair: Frank Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Secretary: Ellen Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Treasurer: Trish Clements		patri321@comcast.net
Publicity Chair: Bud Kaliss	856-428-8071	budkaliss@verizon.net
Political Chair: Nancy Rone		NancyRone@comcast.net

Pinelands Rep: Lee Snyder	pinelands1@hotmail.com
Greenways Coord's: Frank and Ellen Zinni	efzin4@aol.com
Conservation Chair: Stacey Ayala	thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Delegate at Large: Aida Ayala	thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Membership Chair: Mike Brown	856-547-9221 eyebrown@verizon.net
Fundraising Chair: <i>Open position!</i>	Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Smart Growth Chair: <i>Open position!</i>	Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Programs Chair: <i>Open position!</i>	Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Outings Chair: <i>Open position!</i>	Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831

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.

Sept 14: Jessica Franzini from the New Jersey Tree Foundation will talk about the **Urban Airshed Reforestation Program**.

The West Jersey Group does not meet June, July or August. Please join us on a hike or paddling outing. See you in September!

Planting Urban Forests

On Saturday, April 9, Group officers Frank and Ellen Zinni joined other volunteers in assisting the New Jersey Tree Foundation in planting trees and shrubs and spreading mulch in Camden, NJ to help improve the environment and air quality. This project, organized by the New Jersey Tree Foundation, was part of an Urban Airshed Reforestation Program. The mission of the foundation is to help improve air quality in New Jersey's inner cities.



Volunteers are needed for the fall plantings in several cities throughout the state. If you are interested in helping out, please call Jessica Franzini at 856-287-4488 or email Jessica at jfranzini.njtf@gmail.com. Visit www.newjersey-treefoundation.org to learn more about the program or to make a donation toward the reforestation of New Jersey.

South Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:

Group, Outings Chair: Tom Boghosian	609-625-0878	boghosian1@verizon.net
Vice-Chair: Douglas Jewell	609-780-7129	jewellrea@comcast.net
Conservation Chair: <i>Open Position!</i>		
Pol. Chair, Calendars: Dick Colby	609-965-4453	dick.colby@stockton.edu
Membership Chair: <i>Open Position!</i>		
Secretary/Treasurer: Julie Akers	856-697-3479	julie_akers@hughes.net

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, 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. 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.

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]. 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:

July 13 and Sept 14, 6:30 pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries: Meeting place: George Luciano Center, Cumberland County College. Cumberland County development issues are commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Jane Galetto (CU) at 609-774-5853 or forrivers@comcast.net. Website: www.cumauriceriver.org.

(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)

Jul 21, Aug 18 and Sep 15, 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, 609-432-3280.

July 26, 5:30pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: Members' meeting, open to the public. **Annual Picnic in the Park** for good food, company and storytelling, Weymouth Furnace Park*. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

Aug 17, 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.

Aug 27, 10am-4pm: Atlantic County Friends of the Parks' **Annual Folk Arts Festival**. Entertainment, food, crafts, history, exhibits. All are welcome. Atlantic County Park at Lenape East, 753 Park Road, Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

Sept 27, 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: Members' meeting, open to the public. **Annual Evening River Paddle**, location TBA*. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

Singles Section

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

Please join us! The NJ Singles Section was specifically created to offer a variety of singles-oriented activities to NJ Sierra Club members and those who would like to know more about us. We are not a local group; we are a statewide additional "layer" of Club involvement. Everyone is welcome to attend our events. Come out and meet fellow Club members and others who care about the environment. We can only offer as many activities as we have volunteers to run them - if you have the slightest urge to get involved, please give in to it!

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

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

OFFICERS:

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

Volunteer Opportunities: We need volunteers in all areas of the state to run events. Volunteers needed as hike leaders, Fundraising Chair/Co-Chairs, and members of all committees, including planning social events and conservation activities. Please attend an executive committee meeting or email any of the officers if you are interested. You may co-chair any position with a friend, if desired. We're happy to help you learn the ropes.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Casual pizza gathering, introduction to club issues and activities, speakers, and letter-writing at the Chatham Library. Dates and topics will be announced on our listserv; see above for subscription information.

ExCom MEETINGS take place once a month at various locations. All welcome. Contact any officer for location.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS:

SOCIAL DINNER: FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month at 7pm. Join us for dinner in Morristown at the Famished Frog. RSVP required; join our listserv for further details.

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

HIKES AND OTHER OUTINGS:

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

Consider volunteering with the Cool Cities Campaign. The message and method of empowering groups to manage carbon dioxide emissions are relevant for public and private school systems, nonprofit community operations, etc. in New Jersey. Volunteers with diverse skills and contacts are important for environmental success. Sign on now. Want to promote the Cool Cities goals but have limited free time? Contact Terry Stimpfel at terystimb@hotmail.com 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

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

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

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

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

Sierra Student Coalition

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

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

Inner City Outings Section

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

OFFICERS:

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

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



West Jersey Group members planting trees in Camden

