The public comment period for the Delaware River Basin Commission’s (DRBC)’s draft rules for natural gas drilling (hydraulic fracturing or fracking) ended in April. The DRBC has received over 50,000 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 legere oppose drilling in Marcellus Shale Formation of the Delaware River Basin. Thirteen state 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 Despite their opposition, the legislature has withdrawn strong bills that would prohibit New Jersey’s representative on the DRBC from approving rules.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 Chinciere 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 hydraulic fracturing. 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 had important safety information, such as the need for appropriate treatment of the wastewater produced. The articles have revealed conflicts between scientists and political appointees, and there is sometimes industry censorship of peer-reviewed studies, by employees from the oil and gas industry working 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 national gas policy can be found at: http://sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/NaturalGasFracturing.pdf
Sustainable Lifestyle (two articles below):

Book Review: “Growing Green”

by Jenny Hall and Iain Tolhurst; Chelsea Green Press

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... (Article continues on page 4.)

Book Review: “Growing Green”

by Jenny Hall and Iain Tolhurst; Chelsea Green Press

“Growing Green” proved to be an inspiring read. It introduces the concept of “stockfree” garden. “Stockfree” describes a method of growing food that optimizes the stage of building the compost pile. It’s relatively quick and easy.

Where We Live

New Jersey Leads the Nation into a Clean Energy Future

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

Step Three: Add Composting Materials: Generally, compostable substances are either brown (leaves, hay, coffee grounds and uncoated newsprint, straw or hay), or green (grass clippings, weeds, vegetable trimmings and most green plant matter). Don’t compost... (The rest of the article continues on page 4.)

The Importance of Composting

By Tammanna 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 trash. Some of this trash is organic waste, and some is pressed, such as changing hand-held electronic gadget every 4-6 months, which leads to piles of e-waste; some is energy related such as all the energy we spend winterizing our home; others are... (The rest of the article continues on page 4.)
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 “livelihood” of our Chapter’s Open Space Trust Fund. (March)

In 1869, Muir reported to the Wisconsin State Geologic and Natural History Survey the “yellow stones” he first explored between June 3rd and Sept 22nd, 1869, when the 51-year-old explorer accompanied a sheep rancher and his 2050 “woolly sheep” 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 (obviously) great joy and enthusiasm the geological details of the rock formations and their glacial histories. We learn on every page of his diaries that he credit them with what is possible 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 relations, and even the poetry of a drowsy panion 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 fancies 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 might fellow mountaineers. Nature as poet, an enthusiastic workingman, becomes more and more the visible farther and higher we go; for the mountains are fountains—beginning places, however, related to sources beyond mortals.”

Whether you are old like Muir, 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.


Car

The EPA bases its ratings entirely on efficiency, a concept that rose to prominence when the oil embargo of the 1970s made us all think twice about how we used our resources. Here are a few sentences from p. 104, 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 gases 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 use on local and national communities and the costs and risks associated with disposing of scrap 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 “life-time assessment,” and then rates various models on a scale of from zero to 100.

ACEEE’s top pick, with a score of 54, was the Toyota Prius. The Prius was followed by the Ford Fusion Hybrid with a score of 52, and the Honda Civic Hybrid with a score of 50.

The EPA relies primarily upon manufacturers to provide the necessary data, and as you can see (on ACEEE’s website), the attractiveness of a plug-in hybrid for you may depend upon which state you live in and what your electric utility does to provide what is called grid support for a plug-in hybrid car. ACEEE reports that power clearly has its problems, as highlighted by recent events in Japan, and I can hardly imagine my concerns with regard to nuclear power.

But in all fairness to ACEEE, there are no easy answers. And my concerns and 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 electric utilities that rely upon renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar and other renewable energy sources. This option also enhances the attractiveness of this vehicle for those who are concerned about 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, rate 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.

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 at the Intro Limited Edition, going for a month and selling 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 gas-powered car that we all grew up with.

Faced with the daunting task of trying to make sense of all the cars on the market today, 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 100 for each category. Only the ACEEE’s top three models, the Mercedes-Benz F-Cell, the Nissan Leaf and two Smart cars, received a perfect overall rating of 100.

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 can hardly imagine my concerns with regard to natural gas.

Coal, the third ingredient in the mix, is no better. And in choosing an electric car, it is also responsible for massive habitat destruction and human suffering worldwide. When we remove logs 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 and 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 electric utilities that rely upon renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar and other renewable energy sources. This option also enhances the attractiveness of this vehicle for those who are concerned about range limitations, a lack of public charging stations and the time it takes to charge an electric vehicle.
On May 12th, Congress put all of our coasts and beaches at risk, by passing HR 1291 and repealing the moratorium in 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 1291 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 the outer continental shelf territory unleased areas in the region be put up for lease. Ninety percent of leases are puts the outer continental shelf territory 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 actually being drilled by oil companies, so this is another way for them to grab more areas off our coast. All of New Jersey's Congressmen voted no for HR 1291 (Jeff Tittel, Jeff, 5th CD). We thank Congressmen Lofisimio, 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 lift the moratorium and expand off-shore drilling including the mid Atlantic off the coast of Virginia, not far from New Jersey. HR 1292 will lift the moratorium on offshore drilling in the ocean waters. Under this legislation it will be easier to drill oil wells than to erect windmills. HR 1290 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 indications have been strength ned 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 New Jersey congressman 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.

The break-in and theft of irreplaceable artifacts and antiques at Ringwood Manor, from Ringwood Manor (Passaic Co) in the night of March 3rd, is not only a tragedy years ago. Park staffing continues to drop 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 plans could lower staff further, including 40% of the park police. Cutbacks to parks will affect tourism in New Jersey, put a strain on local budgets, 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 8 years old and was fascinated by the Civil Warera guns. It is a place I still visit fre quently, and I learned that I have worked to protect, leading efforts in the mid 1990s to protect the viewshed of the building from three radio towers that would have disrupted the view-shed of the building. 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 north east, and second only to Mount Vernon in historical importance. Robert Erskine, Superintendent 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.

Ringwood Manor: Theft Shows Budgets Have Consequences

From a press release issued by our Chapter Director, Jeff Tittel
( jeff.tittel@sierraclub.org) The Sierra Club is concerned that wells 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 nata Vu, development regulations that would 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. More scientific studies are being released every day, and federal studies are currently underway by both the 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. It is delaying the moratori um 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 natural gas by hydraulic fracturing is at least 20% greater than that of mining coal, and at least 30% greater than that of producing convention fuel oil. The EPA is currently preparing a study on the impacts hydraulic fracturing has on drinking water, which will be com pleted in 2012. More than 260 chemicals used for fracking in Pennsylvania and West Virginia are known to be harmful, 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 joined the group inter dents who could be constructed in flood plains, stream buffers and critical habitat. There are no limits on water withdrawal for fracking, and endangered aquatic ecosys tems. The DRBC's rules do not regulate which chemicals can be used in the fracking process, and water treatment facilities to accept fracking waste water and discharge it into the state’s waters.

Highlands Act Opponents Approved for Highlands Council

From a press release issued by Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director

The drinking water supply for 5.4 mil lion state residents came under attack on April 28th, when the Senate Judiciary Committee voted to approve 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 drinking water supply. It’s a clear signal that the Governor is putting the needs of big oil and the wealthy supporters of the Christie Administration ahead of the needs of the people of New Jersey. HR 2815, introduced by Congressman Menendez and Lautenberg, we hope to pass the Senate in March, in Hopatcong, Governor Christie stated that the Highlands Act “was based on a lie,” and as the Democratic legislature prepares to repeal the Christie Act, appointing “commonsense” individu als 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.

Moorstown Mayor Tim Dougherty was also confirmed. He has been a leader on historical preservation and open space issues throughout New Jersey. The Christie Administration’s nomination of Highlands Act opponents to serve on the Council emphasizes his desire to restrict implementation of the Highlands Act, thereby rendering the Council’s funding, stack the board with pro-development members and weaken DEP regulations, making the Highlands regulations essen tially meaningless. At a town-hall meeting in March, in Hopatcong, Governor Christie stated that the Highlands Act “was based on a lie,” and as the Democratic legislature prepares to repeal the Christie Act, appointing “commonsense” individu als 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 Senator, John Ruxby Mayor Jim Rilie, White Township Mayor James Race, Sussex County Freeholder Robert Wallace, former West Milford Planning Board Chair Michael Stebbe, and Passaic County Freeholder Bruce James. No women, no minorities, no former public officials.

We hope the remaining nominations will be held up - until the Governor nomin ates a balanced slate that includes individu als who actually believe in protecting the Highlands. Diverse opinions are need ed, but open opponents of the regula tions should not serve on the Council.

Dangerous Drilling Rules Must Be Withheld Now

By Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director ( jeff.tittel@sierraclub.org)
Sierra Club Calls on Christie Administration to Pull Proposed DEP Waiver Rule

By Chapter Director Jeff Tittil (jeff_tittil@sieracclub.org)

The Governor’s proposed budget for the fiscal year starting July 1st continues the damage done by last year’s budget, and further polishes New Jersey’s weakened environmental protections and hurt the economy. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) budget will shrink from $461 million to $412 million, a 10.7% cut that would result in 120 DEP positions and almost $1 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 permitting, meaning that any permits that are not met will be granted. This combination rolls back the enforcement process that protects the health of 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 - $248 million in FY2008. The $4 million decrease 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 $629 million. It is clear that we have reached the lowest level in its history. A hiring freeze continues in place. As staffing has been drastically, mainly, in critical areas have been added, including clean cars, Highlands, and responding to global warming.

For Christie’s Administration to require: 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 through the application process, but the proposed rules cut staff to a bare minimum in staffing. Other “targets” of waivers include extension of a roadway over wetlands, where Department of Transportation rules are less environmental than DEP rules. And, 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 the proposed rules: neither. Some politically-connected developers will benefit from waivers, while others will be cut off, and 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:

- A government to own and develop properties that will not be required to pay for site restoration, and be required to keep up with costs necessary to maintain them.

- Development of threatened and endangered species habitat.

- Costs to be included in ‘burden-some’

- Transferred $18 million from the Hazardous Discharge Fund into General Fund.

- Diverted $4.4 million from the Forest Restoration Fund into the General Fund.

- Transferred $52 million from the forest restoration fund to the General fund.

- Diverted $20 million from recycling programs that go to municipalities for education and enforcement.

- Diverted $2 million for recycling from funding for core environmental programs.

- Further money from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), after $68 million in programs was eliminated last year.

- Diverted $10 million from the Forest Restoration Fund into the General Fund.

- Diverted 73 million from the Climate Protection Fund.

- Diverted $42.5 million from the Clean Energy Fund.

- Diverted $14 million from the Climate Protection Fund.

- Diverted $42 million from the DEP.

- Diverted $18 million from the DEP.

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As the Governor rolls back funding for environmental programs, he is making development a priority. Despite his constancy to the state that he broke, his budget includes a $260 million subsidy for casinos in Atlantic City, or $80 million for Xenadu.

This budget proposal continues Christie’s attacks on the environment and the DEP, rollbacks to various DEP programs, and overall privatization of the state’s environmental programs. In the last step in turning the DEP over to industry.

The Jersey Sierran: July-September 2011

SARLO

Waiver Rule

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

By Chapter Director Jeff Tittil (jeff_tittil@sieracclub.org)

The Governor’s proposed budget for the fiscal year starting July 1st continues the damage done by last year’s budget, and further polishes New Jersey’s weakened environmental protections and hurt the economy. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), that would allow the Governor to waive 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 burden -some” can include hardship, alternative -to-paperwork, and strategic. “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. Under this rule, already overburdened 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 limit -ed. Already, 9 current rules can be waived in emergency situations (as defined by the legislature, impacting hundreds of permits. The waiver rule would create more opportunities for DEP staff, and less transparency and predict -ability in permitting. This rule is not a response to problems faced by regula -tors; it’s to allow DEP and developers to sidestep regulations.

The proposed waiver rule would not require public notice for all waiver requests. The rule can be included in any other public notice an applicant is required to provide. No pub -lic comment periods are required. The DEP will announce it is reviewing a waiver request, and the decision it makes, on its website, for no longer than 3.5 months. Projects won’t be checking online and may not realize that environmental regu -lations 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. For example, the Governor’s Executive Order 2, which pre -vents state agencies from adopting stan -dards that are more stringent than those imple -mented by the US EPA, can be waived down to the less -strict federal standards instead of New Jersey standards. 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 detri -ment 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 munici -pal 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 3000-foot buffers that protect pristine (C)1 streams, and for the development of public water detention basins to substitute for buffers in developments that would extend all the way to the banks of the streams.

Other “targets” of waivers include allowing extension of a roadway over wetlands, where Department of Transportation rules are less environmen tally 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 applica -tion process, but the proposed rules cut both. One politically-connected developer will benefit from waivers, while others will be cut off, and small businesses will be at a disadvan -tage. 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.

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- A government to own and develop properties that will not be required to pay for site restoration, and be required to keep up with costs necessary to maintain them.

- Development of threatened and endangered species habitat.

- Costs to be included in ‘burden-some’
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 9:00 pm. We will have a presentation on organic food including the health and nutritional benefits, meal suggestions and so much more! Presenters 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, denglish@hotmail.com – Put “Sierra Club Hike Leader” in the Subject Line)

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

CURRENT ISSUES:
Millford Mill Cleanup: Geojca Pacific and International Paper have stepped up to the plate to take responsibility in the cleanup of the Mill prior to the designation by the EPA of the Mill as a superfund site.

Portland power plant: http://connect.sierraclub.org/30/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

VOLUNTARY 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!

SKYLANDS GROUP (formerly Northwest Jersey Group) (Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

OFFICERS:
Chair: Jonathan Wall
Conservation Chair: Marie Springer
Treasurer: Charles Kopp 973-770-7718 ckopp@optimum.net
Hospitality, 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
Vice-Chair: Genny MacGonagle
Conservation Chair: Open Position!
Secretary: Dwight Irving
Treasurer: Open Position!
Public Officer: Open Position!
Publicity Chair: Celene Martin
Membership Chair: William Moody
Energy Coordinator: Mark Marchak
Outings Coordinator: Dave English
Webmaster: Dwight Irving

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

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

You now 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.

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 riparian corridor north of Route 4. Critical for habitat, flood control and the health of the river. Bulldozing the riverbank to make way for a paved pathway would greatly fragment this fragile ecosystem where the Northern Harrier, Herons, Ospreys, 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 2.5 million New Yorkers. 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 250 acres containing C-1 streams, exceptional wetlands, critical habitat, and conservation priority lands; and PSEG’s 500 kV Susquehanna-Roseland transmission line with 195’ 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 unit apartment; Soldiers Hill wetlands in Paramus with the headwaters of a C1 brook that flows into the Oradell Reservoir; and parkland in Overpeck County Park (Eliz) from plans for a new road. In Clifton, where we continue to monitor Lambert Park, we also applaud the successful efforts to save the former Schultes Farm for public access as a community garden and prevent it from losing its Green Acres status.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE: On May 1, Buddy Jensen, Sean Noble, Marilena Noble, and others will be 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.

This election will be critical. As New Jersey faces a $2.5 billion shortfall in the pension fund, our legislators will be looking to the budget for their next elections. This is our chance to create a legacy of strong leadership for the state, for our families, and for future generations.

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.

FROM AROUND THE STATE

Skylands Group (Sussex & northern Warren Counties)
South Highlands Group (Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties and surrounding areas)
North Jersey Group (Bergen, Passaic and northern Morris Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:
Chair: Jerri Wallace
Vice-Chair: Open Position!
Conservation Chair: Open Position!
Secretary: Dwight Irving
Treasurer: Open Position!
Public Officer: Open Position!
Publicity Chair: Open Position!
Membership Chair: William Moody
Energy Coordinator: Mark Marchak
Outings Coordinator: Dave English
Webmaster: Dwight Irving

WEBSITE: http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/Skylands/

ATTEND THE MEETINGS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR GROUP: Meetings start at 7:30 pm on FIRST WEDNESDAYS

Meetings will be held at the Musconetcong Watershed Association’s River Resource Center, 5.9 mile hike followed by picnic and 7:30 mng., Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA), River Resource Center, 10 Maple Ave Ashbury NJ, musconetcong.org. (Future Excom meetings will be held at 27 Center Street, Clifton, NJ 07012, 2nd floor at the office of Jonathan D. Wall, PsyD). Meetings start at 7:30 pm on FIRST WEDNESDAYS

WEbsite:
http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/SouthHighlands/

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

You now 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.

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 riparian corridor north of Route 4. Critical for habitat, flood control and the health of the river. Bulldozing the riverbank to make way for a paved pathway would greatly fragment this fragile ecosystem where the Northern Harrier, Herons, Ospreys, 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 2.5 million New Yorkers. 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.

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TRAIL MAINTENANCE: On May 1, Buddy Jensen, Sean Noble, Marilena Noble, and others will be 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.
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.
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 more about our activities, go to http://newjersey.sierrclub.org/loantaka/.

To join our e-mailing list, go to http://lists.sierrclub.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.sierrclub.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 air quality, transportation, and environmental legislation. Volunteers are always welcome!

September 14 Meeting – 7:30 pm.
Meet you and to introduce ourselves. Please see the schedule, below, and join us!

Meetings Location and Updates: Because meeting dates and locations change, please subscribe to our E-mail List: NJ-RARITAN-VALLEYNEWS after creating a password on http://lists.sierrclub.org/.

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-VALLEYNEWS after creating a password on http://lists.sierrclub.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_raritan@att.net.

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 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 Tounson
Universalist Meetinghouse, 1475 West Front Street, Lincolntown. Please check the congregation's website for directions at http://www.uscscm.org, or use Google or MapQuest. Contact: Ray to reserve and end the advertisements. For additional directions or information, please contact Dennis Anderson or Faith Teitelbaum (above), or visit our web site: http://newjersey.sierrclub.org/JerseyShore/.

However, in cooperation with Brookdale Community College, we held two successful general membership meetings at the college's Lincolntown 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 37: Noon to 5 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 Arlen Landy for more information and directions. July 30th: 9 a.m. Take Rt. 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, exit 22 take John Mitchell Roads 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 leg- enary deep-sea research vessel Alvin and the shallow-water research vessel Ceia. 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.

NY Location to be announced.

OCEAN COUNTY GROUP

WEBSITE: www.newjersey.sierrclub.org/ocean

OFFICERS: Chair: Gregory Auerstma, Esq 732-451-9220 sierrclubOC@aol.com Vice-Chair: Dawnie Johns 732-644-6549 sierrclubOC@hotmail.com Conser’v Chair: Margit Meissner-Jackson 609-296-4367 sylviaj1910@yahoo.com Secretary: Bill Palmarino 732-728-0988 palmarino22@aol.com Treasurer: Gregory Auerstma 732-451-9220 sierrclubOC@aol.com Secretary: Nancy Brown 732-892-0889 nancybrown6224@comcast.net Publicity: Howard Grotz 732-942-9004 hfgrotz91@yahoo.com Fund-Raising: Joyce M. Isaza 732-920-9270 realtymstr@aol.com Env’l Consultant: Helen Henderson 908-278-9807 hfllaceyralr@aol.com Ed’ul/Educ’n Coordinator: Terry Brown 732-453-7511 terrybrown@comcast.net

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

ACTIVITIES & ISSUES: We’re at work at 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 local open space, sprawl, and air and water quality issues with special emphasis on the massive “over-development” of Jersey Township and Lakewood. We’ve also involved the programs in creating a new park at “Amherst Road” 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.sierrclub.org/ocean.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS: General Meetings are held bi-monthly (i.e., in alternate months) usually on the FOURTH MONDAY at 7 pm at the “SKYWALK CAFE” in the Ocean County Administration Building, 120 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 for child age 6-10 and children under age 6 are free. We will have great food, swimming, volleyball and give-aways. So come and support these programs. To purchase tickets please contact Fund Raising Chair Joyce Isaza at 732-604-5983. If you cannot make it, donations are gladly accepted and greatly appreciated! Please contact Fund Raising Chair Joyce Isaza at 732-604-5983 or e-mail Joyce at sierrclubOC@aol.com (continued on page 10)

**West Jersey Group**

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

WEBSITE: http://mysite.verizon.net/vervju/t/

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Gail Carola 856-408-8851 ginalucee@verizon.net

Vice-Chair: Frank Zinni 856-547-9221 eyebrown@verizon.net

Secretary: Ellen Zinni 856-547-9221 eyebrown@verizon.net

Treasurer: Trish Clemens 856-428-8071 trishclemens@comcast.net

Publicity Chair: bud Kalis 856-428-8071 budkalis@verizon.net

Political Chair: Nancy Rone 856-408-8851 NancyRone@comcast.net

GREENWALLS COORD.: Frank and Ellen Zinni

CONSERVATION CHAIR: Stacey Ayal

DELEGATE AT LARGE: Aida Ayal

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: Jane Moore 856-547-9221 eyebrown@verizon.net

FUND-RAISING CHAIR: Joyce Isaza sierrclubOC@aol.com

SMART GROWTH CHAIR: Open position/Calls 856-848-8851

PROGRAMS CHAIR: Open position/Calls 856-848-8851

PUBLIC READINESS CHAIR: Open position/Calls 856-848-8851

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held at 7-10 pm on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month, September thru May at the Quaker Meeting Hall on Friends Ave in Haddonfield.

For more information, please visit our website at www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean.

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 cit- ies throughout the state. If you are interested in helping out, please call Jessica Franzini at 856-287-4488 or email Jessica at jfranzini.nj@gmail.com. Visit www.newjersey- treefoundation.org or call 856-917-2611 to find out how you can make a donation toward the reforestation of New Jersey.

The Cape May County Conservation Committee hosts bi-monthly educational programs at The Free Meeting Hall, 1206 Route 9 South, Cape May Court House NJ 08210 (note new location!). Our get-togethers are 7-8:30 pm, each with a guest speaker covering environmental, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Jane Galetto for more information. 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 the Urban Airshed Reforestation Program. The mission of this foundation is to help improve air quality in New Jersey’s inner cities.

The central conservation issue, for which the South Jersey Group was founded in the late 1970’s, continues to be the Protection of the Great Bay/Wilk and Scenic River and continues to consume the energies of those few officers who remain active both with the Sierra Club and in the Watershed Association (GEHWA) that “span 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@colbyton.com.

Current Issues: In addition to our opposition to the extension of Rt. 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 oceancreatenorthforsouth.org, or the Jersey Coast, are being led by Georgina Shanley [shan-egy2001@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 in the vicinity in Cape May and Atlantic Counties, and support for a New Jersey Bottel 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 (CT) at 609-771-5885 or forvertrees@comcast.net. Website: www.cumauricriver.org.
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 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 TBD*. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

Singles Section (A chapter-wide, special interest section offering hikes/cleanup, 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 us a call!

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

The BIST 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 subscribe are at the bottom of each announcement. We recommend joining the newsletter as some events are advertised only by email. If you do not 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@iive.com
Outings Chair: Joyce Haddad jkhaddad@juno.com
Conservation Chair: Joe Testa  testa@iive.com
Treasurer: Joyce White  joycewhite@netzero.net
Webpage designer: Tom Miller  Joe.Prehish@kraft.com
Social Chair: Joe Prebish  Joe.Prehish@kraft.com
Vice Social Chair: Jeff Novello  Hiker_Dood@hotmail.com
Programs: Position Open. Contact us! We need you!
Publicity: Position Open. Contact us! We need you!
Cool Cities Coordinator: Terry Stimpfel  terrystimb@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 Morristown restaurant. Location will be announced 2 weeks before the social. RSVP is required to jkhaddad@juno.com or 973-364-7575 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 listerv 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 up now to promote the Cool Cities goal but have limited free time? Contact Terry Stimpfel at terrystimb@hotmail.com with your ideas and to learn about short duration assignments.

Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

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

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

The mission of this section is to support Sierra Club goals, and to promote activism through letter writing, phone calls, and other active support for environmental issues. We work through a “List Serve,” by which members learn about current environmental issues, and how they can be supported.

Arlene Zatz is the editor of the Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section. She can be reached at arlene@suntravels.com, and invites members to check her web site at www.suntravels.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
Chair: Jackie Enfield jackie@jackieenfield.com
Vice Chair: Chris Eichholz bcuy22@aol.com
Moderator: Steve Timmerman steve@steveaol.com
Conservation Chair: Julie Garber journey7@optonline.net
Webmaster:
Ex-Com/
YS National Rep. (CA) Jackie Enfield jackie@jackieenfield.com
Northern Jersey YS Rep. Jim DeSantis green@northjerseygreendrinks.com
Outing Chair: (Northern Jersey) Open Position! Please Contact Us!
Outing Chair: (Central Jersey) Leon Yerebun lyerebun@gmail.com
Outing Chair: (South Jersey) Open Position! Please Contact Us!

We need Young Sierra 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 Sierra 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 email to YoungSierrans@yahoo.com with subject heading “Young Sierrans E-Mail List” – or to subscribe directly go to http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/ NJYOUNG-SIERRANS-NEWS.html. Events for 20’s only are available for those wanting to volunteer to host 20’s only events. Young Sierra 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 201-670-8883 martincohen@verizon.net
Treasurer: Anne Dijak 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
by moonlight in the Pines. Bring swimwear, chair, or blanket. Bring snack-type food to share at tailgate with a bbq after the paddle. Some paddling experience required. Open to all members. Limited
July 15 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the North Branch of Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 9am. Paddlers appreciate the work of the Burlington County Parks Dept. for maintaining the Rancocas Creek Trail from RCCCO to St Rose. Meet at St Rose Church parking lot at 9am. 12.5 miles. Think twice about this trip if you have any allergies, please remember to bring your medications. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and meeting location. George & Leona F. 609-259-5734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

July 19 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak with your Pooch on the Wading River (Burlington Co). 9am. Fortunato invites his "cousins" and their dog lovers for a fun paddling trip. 10 miles from Hancock Bridge. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation. George & Leona F. 609-259-5734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

July 24 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Skills Refresher on Lake Ohowego (Burlington Co). 9am. New and beginning paddlers can take a break from the clock, develop or refresh skills in paddling, self-rescue, navigation, equipment, safety practices, stemwizing, padding techniques and efficiencies. We’ll practice on the lake to refine your skills in a setting that is safe and free of distractions. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation. George & Leona F. 609-259-5734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jul 29-Aug 2 (Fri-Mon) Berkshires hiking weekend (Western Massachusetts). Staying at a lovely private home on the grounds of a bed and breakfast in the Berkshires, plus a few rooms in the main house of the B&B. We will be doing various hikes of 2-7 hours, including Mt. Greylock. Option to attend evening concerts at Tanglewood – just 90-120 minutes away (admission extra an extra charge). Group limit 14 people. Maybe be possible to leave for just 2-3 hours at a time to see Tanglewood. Cost is around $365 per person including lodging (double occupancy), full hot breakfast daily, packed lunches, 5 dinners (we’ll be eating out at local restaurants). Accommodations and most meals are prepaid. Leader Ellen Blumenkrantz eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

August

Aug 4 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Osaac Co). 9am. Enjoy a long summer paddle in the cool amber waters of one of the State’s less explored rivers. Meet on the north side of Great Bay Blvd. Tuckerton. Contact leader for confirmation of participation and trip details: Paul Serdiuk: 609-927-2383 or ps@pike.com.

Aug 4 (Sat): Sunfish Pond/Del. Water Gap (Sussex Co). 10am. 10-11 mile hike at moderate pace. starts at Lake Okoboji and ends at the Del. Water Gap. Great views and great scenery. Bring appropriate clothing and hiking gear. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and meeting location: George & Leona F. 609-259-5734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)


Aug 7 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River Water Gap (Sussex Co). 10am. Learn about the proposed Lake Okoboji/Delaware River Dam Project, which would have disastrous effects on the Delaware River. Take a 5-mile paddle through scenic river in the Del. Water Gap. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and meeting location: George & Leona F. 609-259-5734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Aug 7 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 9am. 8 miles from Lake Elsinor, New Jersey. Meet at the Sandy Hook Bridge. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and meeting location: George & Leona F. 609-259-5734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Aug 11 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh (Mercer Co). 11:30am. We’ll paddle 6 miles along the mirror image of the Delaware River. Portages are possible. Stay alert for the moose and other wildlife. “Jewel of the Pinelands”, “Morgan’s Island,” “Great Bay Blvd.” etc. Bring binoculars for occasional leaders. Note: please submit it for the previous Sierran, due to the occasional leaders. Conformation questions please call or text Mike Vorazer: 908-202-0740 or vorazermp@optonline.net (J)

Aug 13 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Mullica River (Burlington Co). 9am. Summer is a beautiful time of year on the Mullica. This is an all-day paddle for experienced paddlers. Meet on Great Bay Blvd. Tuckerton. Helmets are required for kayakers. Knowledgeable paddlers from the Sierra Club will share information about boats, paddling, navigational aid, safety practices, self-rescue, paddling techniques and efficiencies. Then we’ll practice on the Mullica. This is an all day trip for experienced Pines paddlers; expect downfalls and portages. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and meeting location: George & Leona F. 609-259-5734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Aug 14 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak on the Delaware River (Sussex Co). 10am. Meet at Ft. Mott, Salem Rd., Rte 70, Medford Lakes. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and meeting location: George & Leona F. 609-259-5734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Aug 17 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 9am. 8 miles from Lake Elsinor, New Jersey. Meet at the Sandy Hook Bridge. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and meeting location: George & Leona F. 609-259-5734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Aug 20 (Sat): Mount Tammany (Passaic Co NY). 10am. Moderate. 6 miles, a long uphill but at a moderate pace and with spectacular views of the Hudson. Take the Bear Mountain Bridge to Rte 9D North, 7 miles west of Lake Katrine, N.Y. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and meeting location: George & Leona F. 609-259-5734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Aug 24 (Sat): Westmoreland County (PA). 9am. 10 miles from Ft. Mott in New Jersey to the Westmoreland Park in Portersville PA. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and meeting location: George & Leona F. 609-259-5734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Aug 26 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Sussex Co). 10am. We’ll paddle 8 miles from Lake Okoboji to the Delaware Water Gap. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Mick’s Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental 800-281-580 or www.mickspinepaddlers.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and meeting location: George & Leona F. 609-259-5734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Aug 30 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River on Labor Day Weekend (Burlington Co). 9am. Meet at Lake Hopatcong, NJ. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and meeting location: George & Leona F. 609-259-5734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

August

SEPTEMBER

Sep 3 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River on Labor Day Weekend (Burlington Co). 9am. Meet at Lake Hopatcong, NJ. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and meeting location: George & Leona F. 609-259-5734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Our Action Alerts (bulletins on New Jersey environmental issues) are on our website (www.newjersey.sierraclub.org). Click “Take Action.”
OUTINGS (Continued from page 19)

Sep 6-7 Sept 13-16 (Sun-Fri): September in Western Maine Located: Bold Mountain Camps, Ogogoss, Me. This is an inviting sporting camp located on pristine Moosehead Lake. Many activities, options, fresh food and a comfortable environment provide relaxation and fun. Activities include hiking, boating, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, wildlife photography, arts and crafts, and guided tours. Autumn includes hiking the AT, guided kayaking or canoeing Maine lakes and rivers with their host and registered Maine Guide, Steve Phillips. Expect wildlife, foliage, birding, fishing and excitement in the lodge dinner room, each with their mixture. For travel assistance, please contact www.nps.com. For more information contact L.H. 702-265-5745 or lmclaren@sierraclub.org (W)

Sep 10 Sat: Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Ck, N.J.) It’s George’s birthday! We’ll eat cake and paddle 7 miles from I-95 to Pond to Dudley Park. Cedar Creek is one of the prettiest Pines streams. Meet at Double Trouble Parkheadquarters. Please contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leonora F. 609-259-5743 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Sep 14 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Bear Branch Run Creek (Burlington Co.) 9am. It’s the first day of Autumn – shrub foliage should be turning a beautiful orange. We’ll paddle a 2-mile trail with the trip from Bordentown to Templeton Park in Greenville, return to Bordentown after lunch. Five stops. Kayaks must be 12 ft or over. Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park Rd. Paddle with the tide. Lunch is shared at noon. The main meeting starts at 1pm. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leonora F. 609-259-5743 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Sep 24 (Sat) Tallman Mountain State Park (Rockland Co NY) 10:45am. Moderate 6-mile hike. We will hike along the South Ridge Trail of Tallman Mountain State Park. We will exit the trail at the Catskill Creek Road. Continue on Pierson hillway across the Hudspeth Trail! Bring lunch and water. Meet in front of the Piscko bookstore at 10:45am. Contact leaders: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

Sep 30 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 8:30am. A perfect time to enjoy a long paddle on the “Egg”! We’ll paddle 17 miles from Penny Pot to Lake Marietta pier halfway across the Hudson! Trails include the Long Path. Bring lunch and water. Meet in front of the Piscko bookstore at 8:30am. Contact leaders: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

Oct 31: (Fri-D) Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 8:30am. It’s the end of the summer and a perfect time to enjoy a long paddle on the “Egg”. We’ll paddle 17 miles from Penny Pot to Lake Marietta. Meet at George’s Grill and Dairy Bar, Rte 54, Hammonton; arrive early for breakfast. Contact leaders: Mike Verange, 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

Upcoming Excursions Meeting:

All members are welcome to attend these meetings at any time. An annual policy deliberation, held on SECOND SATURDAYS. Details, including agenda, and travel instructions, are available from Ken Johanson, the Chapter Chair. (Best confirm)

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

Make reservations for the next meetings by calling 609-656-7618. For further information contact: Director: Jeff Tittel, 908-902-0718 or jeff.tittel@sierraclub.org (JS)

September Program:

Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leonora F. 609-259-5743 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Upcoming Meeting:

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NJSI Meeting:

Meeting Tents will be located at the Chapter Building, 145 West Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618 (jschofield159@comcast.net)

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