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# The Jersey SIERRAN

Vol. 40, No. 4

Roughly 20,000 Members in New Jersey

October-December 2011

## Sierra Club Endorses Legislative Candidates

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

On November 8th, the entire State Legislature will be elected from New Jersey's 40 Districts - both the 40-member State Senate and the 80-member State Assembly. This election is special, in that it follows a national census used to redraw the boundaries of many districts, weakening the power of incumbency, and generating more than the usual opportunity to rebalance political party strengths in Trenton, particularly in the State Senate.

These are interesting times for the environment, with a controversial Governor, the state approaching land-use buildout, global warming that will raise sea-level, job uncertainty, and limits within sight for many resource staples, including energy and water supplies.

The Chapter has won some recent legislative victories - most notably a bill banning hydraulic fracturing (fracking) - although Gov. Christie has conditionally vetoed it - so we have reason to be optimistic that the choices we make in the polling booths will make a difference in solving major energy problems, water quality problems, air quality problems, waste problems, etc.

Club volunteers completed the endorsement process on August 14th, considering questionnaire responses from many candidates, and personal interviews with some of them. We considered positions on these issues:

1. Support for regional planning in the Pinelands and Highlands to protect

water supplies.

2. Support for home solar energy installations, and other energy efficiency projects.

3. Opposition to draft legislation that would increase atmospheric pollution.

4. Support for family planning services - both to improve healthcare, and to reduce pressure on the environment.

5. Support for NJ's Green Acres program to protect open space.

6. Support for passage of a major beverage container recycling bill.

7. Protecting our coast by banning offshore drilling in State waters.

8. Support for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a multi-state, market-based regulatory program for limiting Global Warming.

### Endorsed Candidates

It would be impossible in this space to provide particulars for each endorsed candidate. Club members (and other readers) are invited to direct questions to the appropriate Group Political Chair, identified in the middle pages of this newsletter. The list of those endorsed is below. Races that we expect to be competitive (very close) are highlighted in grey.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT! If you are unsure of your election district, or want to know more about the races in your district, or would like to help us campaign for a candidate, please call me (Richard Isaac) at my home number: 973-716-0297.

### 2011 LEGISLATIVE ENDORSEMENTS

Senate/				Senate/			
Dist.	Assem.	Party	Candidate	Dist.	Assem.	Party	Candidate
02	S	D*	Jim Whelan	18	A	D*	Peter Barnes, Jr.
07	S	D*	Herb Conaway	18	A	D*	Patrick Diegnan, Jr.
07	A	D	Troy Singleton	19	S	D*	Joseph Vitale
07	A	D	Gail Cook	19	A	D*	John Wisniewski
11	S	D	Raymond Santiago	19	A	D*	Craig Coughlin
11	A	D	Marilyn Schlossbach	22	A	D*	Linda Stender
11	A	D	Vin Gopal	23	A	D	Karen Carroll
12	A	D	Bill Spedding	27	A	D*	John F. McKeon
14	S	D*	Linda Greenstein	27	A	D*	Mila Jasey
14	A	D*	Dan Benson	30	A	R*	Sean Kean
15	S	D*	Shirley Turner	33	A	D*	Ruben Ramos, Jr.
15	A	D*	Reed Gusciora	36	A	D*	Gary Schaer
15	A	D*	Bonnie Watson Coleman	37	S	D*	Loretta Weinberg
16	S	R*	Christopher "Kip" Bateman	37	A	D*	Valerie Huttle
16	A	D	Marie Corfield	37	A	D*	Gordon Johnson
17	S	D*	Bob Smith	38	S	D*	Bob Gordon
17	A	D*	Upendra Chivukula	38	A	D*	Connie Wagner
18	S	D*	Barbara Buono	38	A	D	Tim Eustace

\* Incumbent

Competitive Race

## Online NJ Sierra Club Resources

Chapter Website <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/> : your central Club information resource

Chapter Action Center <http://scnj.convio.net/> : sign up for our biweekly e-mail newsletter, and for Action Alerts which call on YOU to help make a difference

Chapter press releases <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/PressReleases/> : current issues from Trenton

Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Jersey-Sierra-Club/60532255171>: be a friend, get frequent updates on what we are doing and what you can do to help!

Renew your membership at <http://sierraclub.org/membership>

Sierra Green Home <http://sierraclubgreenhome.com/> : tips for environmentally-conscious consumers

RSS news feeds are available for web pages with the RSS icon. For a tutorial on news readers, see [http://reviews.cnet.com/4520-10088\\_7-5143656-1.html](http://reviews.cnet.com/4520-10088_7-5143656-1.html)

Report from Trenton:

## We Criticize Gov. Christie's Energy Master Plan

### Environment, Economy and Jobs Are at Risk

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

At three public hearings in July and August, State legislators, environmentalists and clean energy industry leaders testified before members of the NJ Board of Public Utilities - opposing the cuts to clean energy incorporated in Governor Christie's Energy Master Plan.

New Jersey Sierra Club members and staff, and many business representatives, were joined by Senator Linda Greenstein, Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula and Assemblyman Daniel Benson in calling for a stronger Energy Master Plan (EMP) that would continue to grow the State's renewable energy industry and maintain New Jersey as a national leader in clean energy.

The elected officials criticized the Christie Administration's abandonment of clean energy goals in favor of increasing dependency of polluting fossil fuels.

"The Governor's plan is an uninspiring endorsement of the status quo when we should be investing in making the state a hub for the green energy industry and high paying green jobs," said Senator Greenstein. "We should be doing all we can to stimulate growth in renewable and alternative energy technologies rather than focusing on fossil fuels."

The 2008 (previous) EMP called for 30% of New Jersey's energy to come from renewable sources by 2020. New Jersey is on track to meet that goal. The 2011 EMP proposes to reduce that goal to 22.5%, which would jeopardize funding for renewable energy projects for homeowners and small businesses, impacting over 200 solar companies in New Jersey.

The 2011 EMP calls for the expansion of natural gas, meaning increased dependence on polluting fossil fuels. Earlier this year the Governor signed legislation calling for more national gas plants - offering subsidies for their construction. Natural gas pipelines are being sited through sensitive areas of the state. Gas extraction from the Marcellus Shale regions of Pennsylvania and New York threatens the state's water supply from the Delaware River.

Solar industry representatives along with elected officials spoke about the success of New Jersey's clean energy industries. "The New Jersey solar industry has created 5,000 jobs, and the cost of solar technology has come down rapidly, including substantial reductions just in the last few months," said Lyle Rawlings, President of the Mid-Atlantic Solar Energy Industries Association (MSEIA). "But the state's solar program is in crisis right now. This is the time to

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## SIERRA CLUB BALLOT

### 2011 Election of Officers of the New Jersey Chapter, and its Groups and Sections

The Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) meets monthly (on second Saturdays, mostly in the Trenton or New Brunswick areas) for discussion of state and regional issues, to take policy positions (including legal actions) and make political endorsements, hear reports from staff and volunteer issue coordinators, elect the Chapter Chair, and consider matters arising. It consists of nine members elected at large (just below!) for three-year terms, plus delegates from each of our 12 regional Groups. (In addition to Groups, the Chapter loosely houses five specialty (optional) Sections: for Singles, Seniors, Young Sierrans, Students, and folk who provide Inner City Outings.)

**Chapter Ballot:** Please vote for UP TO THREE candidates for Chapter Executive Committee. Name-order has been randomized. All are "Nominating Committee" candidates, i.e. none are "Petition" candidates. (Those whose terms are expiring are Ken Johanson, Lee Snyder and Bonnie Tillery.) 100-word candidate-statements are on page 2. PAIRS of boxes are to enable JOINT members to cast separate votes. Then please vote your GROUP ExCom ballot, below, and SECTION ballot(s) for sections in which you are active; then clip the ENTIRE ballot (including your address label, which will be obscured before counting!) and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Dec 1, to Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618.

Vote for UP TO THREE (Name order has been randomized.):

- Lee Snyder       Ken Johanson  
 Joe Testa  
 Write-in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

### Group and Section Ballots:

Please also vote your GROUP ExCom ballot, below, and SECTION ballot if you consider yourself a member of the SINGLES SECTION, returning it as

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described above. Again, PAIRS of boxes are to enable two members of family memberships to cast separate votes. Club rules require two more candidates than the number of openings; when an insufficient number of candidates is on offer, write-in slots are provided.

**Group Ballots:**

**Hudson-Meadowlands Group:**

Candidates for two-year terms on the Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO THREE.

- Gil Hawkins       Helen Manogue
- Mirjana Zivkovic
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gateway Group:** Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO THREE.

- David Yennior       John Beadle
- ZaSah Khademi
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

(David is Chair of the Gateway Group, Recycling Issues & Passaic River Issues Coordinator for the Chapter, and resides in Belleville. John is Program Chair for the Gateway Group and resides in Nutley. ZaSah is the Conservation Chair for the Gateway Group and resides in West Orange.)

**Loantaka Group:** Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO FOUR.

- Paul Sanderson       Eric Hausker
- Meiling Chin
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Central Jersey Group:** Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO FIVE.

- Rob Benjamin       Kip Cherry
- Malcolm McFarland       Lynne Weiss
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Raritan Valley Group:** Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO TWO.

- Roomi Nusrat
- Daphne Speck-Bartynski
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ocean County Group:** Candidates for Group ExCom. 2-year terms. Please vote for UP TO FOUR.

- Joyce M. Isaza       Sierra Palmer
- Margit Meissner-Jackson
- A. Gregory Auriemma
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**West Jersey Group:** Candidates for Group ExCom. 2-year terms. Please vote for UP TO TWO.

- Gina Carola       Trish Clements
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**South Jersey Group:** Candidates for Group ExCom. 2-year terms. Please vote for UP TO TWO.

- Julie Akers
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Singles Section:** Candidates for Section ExCom. 1-year terms. Please vote for UP TO SEVEN.

- Joe Testa       Joyce Haddad
- Joe Prebish       Ron Pate
- Joyce White       Jeff Sovelove
- Susan Browne
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

# Ballot Statements

(Name-order has been randomized)

**LEE SNYDER:** As a Life member of the Club, I have served for eight years as Pinelands Coordinator for both the New Jersey Chapter and the West Jersey Group, and served on Chapter ExCom for the past seven years. I work with the NJ Pinelands Commission, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and others to protect New Jersey's natural treasures. As a volunteer, my participation in Sierra Club and Pinelands-related meetings, hearings and seminars, including the Sierra Club Training Academy, have been a great learning experience. I was re-elected to the ExCom three years ago, and would like proudly to continue to represent the interests of the NJ Chapter. Thank you.



**KEN JOHANSON:** I currently serve as chair of the New Jersey Chapter, as well as chair of the legislative, fundraising and personnel committees and a member of the finance committee. So I spend quite a bit of time on Sierra Club matters. But in my mind it's time well spent. The New Jersey Chapter is fortunate to have a small but excellent staff and well over a hundred knowledgeable and committed volunteers. Working together we get the job done. I am proud to have been part of this effort and I look forward to continuing to contribute in the years to come.



**JOE TESTA:** In NJ we've seen our state losing many of its areas of natural beauty. I joined the Sierra Club 25+ years ago to support its mission of lobbying to defend our environment and to learn from others. As Singles Section Chair and Conservation Chair, I've helped bring our members together to enjoy what the Club works so hard to protect. As an Excom member I will be proud to continue help make hiking lobbyists count. I hope to use my technology expertise to help our great Trenton staff to communicate the Club's message to our members, government, and the public.



## POPULATION ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

# Your Vote this November Can Support Women and the Environment

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@msn.com)

Have you been appalled by the actions of Gov. Christie and Republican legislators who feel that low-income women and families don't deserve the same rights as everyone else in voluntarily deciding whether to have smaller families and healthier children? If so, now is your chance to send them a message.

Several times over the last months funding has been found by our legislative champions, especially Sen. Loretta Weinberg (LD37), to provide \$7.4 million for family planning and reproductive health services for low-income women. Republican legislators (with the exception of Senator Jennifer Beck - LD12) have consistently fallen in line with the Governor in voting against this funding. Although the Assembly and Senate in New Jersey are controlled by Democrats, they do not have a veto-proof majority. Consequently the legislation that passed was vetoed by the Governor.

To send the Governor and these legislators the message that you support voluntary family planning and reproductive health care, cast your votes for those who have stood up and said that women should be able to voluntarily choose the size of their families, and have only the number of children they wish and can afford to feed, clothe and educate.

When women have a choice, they tend to choose smaller families so that each child has the opportunity to grow as a productive citizen of his or her community. Furthermore, smaller families mean less stress on environmental resources.

Other environmental champions who have joined Senator Weinberg as prime sponsors of legislation to restore funding for reproductive health care include: Senator Joseph Vitale (LD19), Senator Linda Greenstein (LD14), Assemblywoman Linda Stender (LD22), Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt (LD6), Assemblywoman Valerie Huttle (LD37), and Assemblywoman Celeste Riley (LD3). But these legislators need help in overriding a funding veto by the Governor. Ask your representatives where they stand, then vote for those who stand by women and the environment.

**FILMS and FUN: Friday evening, October 7, 2011**

Banff Mountain Film Festival: RADICAL REELS TOUR at Princeton University

More information in Central Jersey Group News, p.8, inside

**Delaware River Issue Coordinator's Report:**

# Beverly City is a Cool, Clean Place to Live

By Gina Carola, Chair of our West Jersey Group (ginacee@verizon.net)

On the banks of the Delaware River in Burlington County is the charming little town of Beverly City, pop. 2670. Though just a small community of 0.8 square miles, a quarter of which is water, Beverly is big on environmental protection.

Beverly's environmental programs emphasize environmental justice. Proudly, at the July 26 meeting of the Common Council, Mayor Dr. Gail G. Cook joined the U.S. Conference of Mayors by signing the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement - making Beverly City the latest municipality in the West Jersey Group to join the Sierra Club's Cool Cities Campaign.

Beverly is a member of the New Jersey Clean Communities Program and Sustainable New Jersey, and is in the process of working toward Sustainable New Jersey's Certification "for municipalities . . . that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term".

That's not all. Every road reconstruction or drainage improvement project is

designed to improve water quality; a new park under development will have a rain garden and provide habitat and food for wildlife. City Engineering and Planning Office professionals are improving pedestrian safety at Beverly's light rail station. Smart Growth initiatives are also on the agenda.

The school district is also getting "greener": interior lighting is being upgraded with LED technology, and exterior lighting has gone from mercury vapor to high pressure sodium or compact fluorescent lamps where practical. Integrated Pest Management has reduced the use of chemical agents. Several years ago the schools began an aggressive recycling program; now the program is being expanded to include milk/juice cartons, with a possible switch to compostable materials.

The Beverly Sewerage Authority, which also accepts wastewater from nearby Delanco Township, has installed reed beds for the treatment of sludge, instead of the standard sludge drying beds. Used



in Europe, Asia and Australia, this technology helps to reduce sludge volumes by 85 to 95%. The sludge is dewatered and transformed chemically into mineral and humus-like substances, a process that requires no energy. The reed beds were one of the first two in New Jersey, and are now one of only nine.

All this adds up to making Beverly City a clean, green and cool place to live, work and play. Congratulations to its savvy citizens for having elected such a progressive and forward thinking mayor and council.

**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.

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



# Editorial

## Why State Pensions are an Environmental Issue



photo: James Mendelsohn

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

Aside from our founder John Muir's assertion that the environment, as an issue, is connected to all other issues, and the Gaia Hypothesis: that the planet's ecosystem consists of all the land, water, atmosphere, and all of life, including human politics and economics - e.g. pensions, I suggest there are more practical reasons why this past Summer's marches on Trenton, by opponents of Gov. Christie's environmental cuts, and by opponents of his attempt to balance the state budget by reducing its contributions to the pensions of state employees, were linked by more than temporal coincidence.

One reason is signed and sealed: an agreement by the Club's NJ Executive Committee to support the New Jersey Work Environment Council, an "alliance of labor, community, and environmental organizations working together for safe, secure jobs and a healthy, sustainable environment" (taken from the mission statement). If we can call on labor unions to engage in "our" issues, why can't they call upon us to engage in theirs?

More fundamentally, and more controversially, it seems to me incumbent on any petitioners for limited state funds to broaden their argument to include a COMPARATIVE analysis: to explain why their request for funding is MORE IMPORTANT than competing requests for funding. I suggest we need to defend our budgetary requests - to members of the legislative and executive branches of state government - by PRIORITIZING them with respect to all the other requests for limited public funds.

The process of budget construction has been famously likened to the manufacture of sausage. We can assume that the usual starting point each year is not a

fresh and unbiased overview of public needs, but rather the constricting aim of preserving as many existing jobs, programs and organizational hierarchies as possible. It's rare for a crusading Governor to take on the establishment, open up the system, and allow principles of need to motivate the budget process. The clout of the entire lobby industry would be against it.

But that should be our approach. A strength of the environmental movement, and particularly of the Sierra Club, is its use of "grass roots" public demand to counteract private interests, and "motivate" the Legislature to support important environmental programs - at the expense of competing programs.

I'd like to see us arguing that public employment (including school-teaching) offers the spectacular benefits of tenure, daily novelty and intellectual satisfactions, which compensate substantially for salary, and should entitle public sector retirees to no more than very modest pensions. (My previous editorial explained how a happy retirement is possible on \$10,000 a year.)

Long ago, Plato argued that a just society requires the harmonious separation of functions and benefits (powers, if you like) into two classes: a governing (public sector) class rewarded with political power but not wealth, and a commercial (private sector) class rewarded with the possibility of wealth, but not power.

Public employees, both before and after retirement, should advocate and practice sustainable lifestyles: living in walkable communities (without cars!), and making minimal demands on energy and other resources, including the public purse.

# Chair's Message

## Thanksgiving



By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)

Thanksgiving is almost here, a day to reflect and give thanks for all that we have received.

But what exactly do we as environmentalists have reason to be thankful for? After all, Congress, after initial encouraging signs, has abandoned all efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions and address global climate change. And here in New Jersey Governor Christie has launched a campaign to weaken or eliminate key environmental protections, has vetoed bills to provide women in need with essential health care and family planning services and has weakened governmental accountability and transparency by orchestrating the demise of NJN, the State's only nonpartisan source of in-depth television news coverage for the citizens of this State.

But let me suggest that despite all the bad news, we do have reason to be thankful. Here are a few of the reasons why I for one am thankful:

I am thankful that George Bush is no longer in the White House, that Sarah Palin is not our vice president and that Rupert Murdoch does not appear to be having a good year.

I am thankful that President Obama had the foresight to appoint Lisa Jackson as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Lisa Jackson has been a true friend of the environment, standing up to intense pressures from the business community and those in Congress who seek to cripple her agency, while at the same time fighting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, limit harmful emissions from dirty coal-burning power plants in the Midwest, increase motor vehicle fuel economy standards and impose long overdue restrictions on mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia.

I am thankful for those members of our Congressional delegation, members of the State legislature and other elected and appointed officials who have resisted efforts at the state and national levels to roll back vital environmental protections.

I am thankful that our own Jeff Tittel, Kate Millsaps and Nicole Dallara, as well as dedicated environmentalists from other organizations, have been willing to give so much of themselves, including their considerable talents, their commitment and their passion, to protect and preserve the environment of this State, the nation and the world.

I am thankful for the opportunity to have worked with so many dedicated and talented volunteers, including Terry Stimpfel, who leads the Chapter's efforts to address the environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing, a procedure used to extract natural gas from shale deposits, Greg Auriemma, who has done so much to protect and restore Barnegat Bay, Steve Lanset, who is actively working to promote mass transit, as well as other environmentally friendly transportation initiatives, Victoria Pan, a high school student who has worked tirelessly to promote energy efficiency and conservation among young people, both here in New Jersey and throughout the nation, and Lee Snyder, who closely monitors the Pinelands Commission to ensure that the over 1,000,000 acre Pinelands National Reserve is protected from those who seek to pave over this national treasure.

And I am thankful for the continued support the New Jersey Chapter receives from our many members and friends.

So yes, despite all the bad news, we do have reason to be thankful. And we do have reason to hope for - and work for - better times in the years ahead.

### Resolutions Adopted by ExCom in June, July and August

We appointed Terry Stimpfel as Hydrofracking Issues Coordinator. (June)

We endorsed candidates for the State Legislature. See Rich Isaac's article on page 1. (July, August)

Our Skylands Group has lost most of its leadership and was placed into reorganization. (August)

We petitioned our parent National Sierra Club, which endorses the use of natural gas an "interim" fuel for producing electricity, to permit Sierra Club chapters, including the New Jersey Chapter, to oppose the use of "fracking" for producing natural gas in their geographic regions. (August)

## ENERGY MASTER PLAN

(Continued from page 1)

ramp up the renewable energy goal, not scale it back."

"New Jersey is already one of the leaders in clean, renewable energy through the state's solar policies," said Assemblyman Benson. "That being said we must continue to make strides in order to encourage private sector investments that will create jobs and begin to reduce our state's high-unemployment."

The 2011 EMP also supports the possibility of building a new nuclear power plant in New Jersey, but fails to address siting and waste management issues. The EMP also calls for more transmission lines to bring dirty coal power from Pennsylvania and blight the pristine landscape of the Delaware Water Gap.

The Administration's EMP also proposes eliminating the rebate-based Societal Benefits Charge (SBC) in favor of a loan

program. This would discourage families and low-income residents from making energy efficiency improvements.

Energy efficiency is the most cost-effective way to reduce greenhouse gases, lower energy costs and create jobs. Energy efficiency cuts peak demand, which prevents blackouts and reduces air pollution.

Transportation is the largest single energy-use in New Jersey, but is almost completely neglected by the proposed EMP. There is nothing about clean transportation options or infrastructure for electric vehicles or increased access to and expanded public transportation. Transit-oriented development projects should be a priority, instead of allowing more suburban sprawl to consume our rural areas. The EMP should also prioritize the establishment of a Clean Fuel Standard to reduce oil consumption.

### High School Coordinator's Report:

## Receiving the Joseph Barbosa Earth Fund Award

By Victoria Pan (vpan2012@gmail.com)

For the past few years, I have had the honor of working with the Club's Executive Committee as the Chapter's High School Coordinator: promoting student involvement in many high schools, especially with a project called Students Saving Energy (SSE: www.studentssavingenergy.org).

When I entered high school I joined the environmental club. Seeing how much energy is wasted inspired me to start the "Turn off the Lights" project, by which club members turn off all the classroom lights every Friday after school. Besides saving money we raise environmental awareness. Now we're finding other ways to reduce our school's energy consumption and educate students. SSE is a network of schools that work together to create more energy-efficient communities, not just in New Jersey but across the nation. I have communicated with student leaders in many schools to help them start their own initiatives. I also focus on youth engagement in the Chapter by encouraging high school environmental groups to become more involved in the Sierra Club's activities.

This past Spring I was nominated by a member of the ExCom to receive the Joseph Barbosa Earth Fund Award, given annually to a member



under the age of 30 who has a demonstrated record of strong and consistent service to the environment and the Club, and who plans to continue such work. In the Summer I found that I was chosen to receive this honor, and it has broadened my perspective and strengthened my desire to continue my work. I plan to use the award-money to develop the SSE network, and am working with club members to organize an event at a local (Bergen County) park for students to "meet and greet" and share ideas.



*Reports from Trenton*

## Legislature Votes to Ban Fracking and Keep New Jersey in RGGI

From a press release issued by our Chapter staff

On June 29th the Legislature overwhelmingly approved two pieces of important environmental legislation. One will protect New Jersey's precious water resources for future generations by banning the controversial natural gas drilling technique of hydraulic fracturing - or "fracking."

The Legislation will also help curb the proliferation of gas pipelines across environmentally sensitive areas and densely populated communities. And it promotes renewable energy, by turning away from Governor Christie's plan to increase our fossil fuel dependence through building additional natural gas plants in the State.

We think fracking is too dangerous. The technique pumps a watery mixture of toxic chemicals and sand, under high pressure, into shale formations to release natural gas. The shale is located in Pennsylvania and New York States, in the upper portion of the Delaware River Basin, and is the same geological formation from which New Jersey obtains much of its drinking water.

The Legislature's action was especially important because the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) has been considering natural gas development rules that will lift the moratorium currently in place in the Delaware River watershed. Governor Christie has an ex officio vote on the DRBC; passage of the Fracking Ban Bill sends him a strong message to take the side of New Jersey residents in opposition to the DRBC's proposed rules.

The DRBC's proposed rules will not adequately deal with the threat to the environment from fracking, including water withdrawals and disposal of fracking wastewaters. The rules are not comprehensive and do not look at the cumu-

lative and secondary impacts of fracking.

The second piece of legislation supports New Jersey's involvement in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). A4108 (McKeon/Chivukula) prohibits New Jersey from leaving RGGI, and resolution ACR195 affirms the Legislature's support of, and commitment to, RGGI. Leaving RGGI, as Governor Christie has called for, will cause New Jersey to lose jobs and increase the pollution in New Jersey's air.

RGGI is an agreement between ten northeastern states to cut carbon emissions from electrical power plants. It works through a surcharge on carbon emissions, as well as mandating a 10% cut in carbon pollution from the plants. The concept is to put a fee on dirty power to get utilities and others to move towards cleaner power. The surcharge is affordable: less than one half of one percent of our electricity bills. The average household in New Jersey sees about a \$6 per year increase on their energy bill because of RGGI. The money is used to expand renewable energy infrastructure, and help middle class families with their electricity bills.

New Jersey's exit from RGGI will harm our environment and economy, and threaten clean energy jobs, the fastest growing job sector in the state. Companies that receive RGGI funds have been able to make energy efficiency improvements or build on-site clean energy projects. These projects help companies save energy and money and also support local jobs, putting people to work retrofitting buildings or installing solar arrays and other projects. RGGI has also helped start up and expand hundreds of clean energy businesses, and move them from elsewhere to New Jersey.

## Oyster Creek Fish Blenders: Sierra Club Sees Need for Cooling Towers

### *Examines Impacts of Electric Power Plants on Aquatic Life*

By Chapter Director Jeff Tittel ([Jeff.Tittel@Sierraclub.org](mailto:Jeff.Tittel@Sierraclub.org))

On August 9th, the Sierra Club issued a report detailing the devastating impacts power plants have on the wildlife in our rivers and bays, and showing why cooling towers must be retrofitted at these facilities. The report, *Giant Fish Blenders: How Power Plants Kill Fish & Damage Our Waterway*, was released weeks after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued draft rules citing cooling towers as the best available technology to reduce fish kills, and making it easier for states to require cooling towers at these facilities. In New Jersey, the Oyster Creek and Salem Nuclear Power facilities continue to pollute the surrounding waterways and kill billions of fish and other aquatic life each year. The report examines the enormous impacts such facilities have on the local waterways and show why it is critical that Governor Christie utilize the draft EPA rules to require cooling towers at Oyster Creek and Salem.

Every day, 165 million gallons of cooling water, about 3 percent of the total volume of Barnegat Bay, circulates through the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant. Fish and other aquatic life are killed in three ways: on the intake screens, in the plant itself, and by the heated water released to the Bay. In the years since the plant began operating (1969), Barnegat Bay has experienced a near collapse of its shellfish industry. Additional damage to aquatic life is done

by plant outages, when sudden lowering of cooling water temperature gives a thermal "shock" to nearby organisms, also known as major fish kills! In July a power outage killed 1800 fish; in 2007 over 5,000 fish were killed.

The two nuclear reactors at Salem use 3 billion gallons of water from the Delaware River each day, killing millions of fish. The neighboring Hope Creek reactor has a cooling tower which recirculates water in the plant so it needs to draw only about 58 million gallons of water per day from the river.

Salem 1 and Salem 2 have experienced reliability problems resulting from clogged water intakes and pump failures. A recent pump failure at Salem 2 resulted in the need for an auxiliary pump system to provide water to cool the reactor. An occurrence such as this would be minimized in a closed loop system with cooling towers. The reactors' cooling water intakes get clogged with grass and wildlife. In April and May, the Salem 1 Nuclear reactor was shut down three times in two weeks because of vegetation clogging the water intakes. This would not happen if cooling towers were required.

Any plant that uses 2 million gallons per day of cooling water will fall under the draft EPA rules - including manufacturers, refineries and other power plants such as the PSE&G plants in Jersey City and Trenton, and the BL England plant in Cape May County.

### *Book Review:*

## How the Government Got In Your Backyard

by Jeff Gillman and Eric Heberling

Reviewed by Joe Testa

Getting started can be the hardest part of writing a book review, but the authors of this book have made it easy. They nicely summarize the purpose of the book in their final chapter, titled "Balancing Nature and Politics": forming and discussing your positions on political decisions is "more effective ... when you know what you're talking about, and not only understand the merits of your own position, but know enough about the opposing perspective that you can intelligently refute it."

This book focuses on how government makes decisions about zoning laws, regulating pesticides, fertilizers, and plants, alternative energy, genetic engineering, patenting plants, and climate change.

Each chapter is devoted to one broad topic and is divided into three parts. The first, and most valuable, part is a description of the (almost) undisputed science and history surrounding the subject, and the political dynamics surrounding the issue. This is presented in a mostly objective manner. How did organic regulations come to be such a tangled mess?

How have good fertilizers and pesticides become a problem? What's the difference between "noxious weeds" and "invasive species", and how are they treated differently? This book gives simple, but not simplistic, explanations of these topics and more.

The second part of each chapter presents three "Policy Options," deliberately written as Right-Wing and Left Wing rants. The final, short part of each chapter ("The Bottom Line") switches to the authors' sensible compromises.

The facts/history sections alone would make this an excellent book for quickly learning (or brushing up on) the background for many important environmental concerns. Adding the partisan policy sections gives you something to think about, and sometimes scratch your head. ("How can someone think THAT?") But it gets you to realize that someone somewhere is scratching THEIR head, wondering how YOU can think the way you do.

[ISBN 978-1-60469-001-9, Timber Press; list price \$23.95]

## Sierra Club Opposes PATH Fare Hike as an Attack on Middle Class

### *Questions the Toll Hike as Well*

From a press release issued by our Chapter staff

The New Jersey Sierra Club announced on August 15th that it will vigorously oppose the 40% fare hike proposed for New Jersey commuters on the Port Authority's Trans-Hudson tubes (PATH). The increase from \$1.75 to \$2.75 will hurt the ability of working people to get to their jobs in Manhattan and New Jersey. It will also hurt businesses that are trying to attract new employees.

PATH is the largest interstate community rail system in the country, with about 250,000 users each workday. The hike would raise the PATH fare to more than the cost of a SingleRide New York City subway journey for the first time since 1962. The Port Authority is also looking to increase the cost of 30-day PATH passes from \$54 to \$89, a 65% increase.

#### **Toll Increases**

The Port Authority also proposes to raise its bridge and tunnel tolls from \$8 to \$12. They have not justified this fare increase as a need to repair bridges and roadways or to repair or expand our

rail system. Instead it seems to be another attack on the wallets of the people of New Jersey. There is no discount for off peak travel or car pooling. The Christie Administration should first investigate the Port Authority to see if there is any waste or mismanagement, as it did with the Passaic Valley Sewage Authority.

The Port Authority is currently rebuilding the Pulaski Skyway and raising the Bayonne Bridge, projects that will only promote more sprawl, more traffic, and more pollution, without alleviating congestion. We suspect New Jersey is using Port Authority money to subsidize its Transportation Trust Fund so that Governor Christie did not have to raise the gas tax. If so, it is a hidden tax - a back-door method of replenishing New Jersey's Transportation Trust Fund. Instead, the Port Authority and Governor Christie should be supporting projects like the Gateway Rail Tunnel to get more commuters into New York City and alleviate New Jersey's congestion.

**ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:**

# Another Gas Pipeline Across the New Jersey Highlands?

By Bob Moss (bobmossnj@verizon.net), our Green Acres Issues Coordinator

On July 25th I attended the Green Acres scoping meeting for Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's application to expand their capacity to carry Marcellus Shale natural gas across the NJ Highlands - by laying a new pipeline next to their existing one. This meeting applied to the portions of the route through the Passaic River Coalition property and municipal property in Ringwood. Since these lands are protected by the State's Green Acres Program, a "diversion" must be granted by the State's Department of Environmental Protection.

I was disappointed by the minimal amount of information presented, making it difficult to evaluate and comment on the application - especially to explore the possibility that a cheaper and more land-intensive alternative would disturb fewer acres of Highlands.

For example, alternate routes were proposed around the two parcels. Their extra length, and their spatial separation from the existing pipeline, were given as

reasons for rejection, but these disadvantages do not in and of themselves render these routes "not feasible."

The justification of the project was that it would increase the supply of "clean" energy (compared to coal and oil), but this is a mere generality. Most energy projects attempt to increase supply and/or substitute cleaner energy for dirtier. Therefore, the Club's NJ Chapter doubts whether this meets the intent of the "compelling public need" standard in the State regulations.

The determination of "compelling public need" is more complicated for an interstate pipeline than it is for the siting of a school or nursing home. It implicates all the questions of energy policy: clean v. dirty, fossil fuels v. renewables, supply increases v. conservation. I would suggest that, in the absence of a balanced national energy program, passed by Congress, there is no "compelling public need" for this pipeline, in the sense intended in New Jersey's Green Acres regulations.

# White House Advisor Visits Newark's Nat Turner Park

by David Yennior, Gateway Group Chair (dyennior@msn.com)

Nat Turner Park was 30 years in the making. The idea for this nine-acre park was born in 1970, as Newark's Central Ward lacked a recreation site to call its own. Through a partnership between the Trust for Public Land, the City of Newark, Newark Public Schools, and the community, funding for the park began in 2002. The new Central High School, located on 18th Avenue in Newark, opened in 2008. The Park is named after Nat Turner, who led a slave rebellion in 1831. It features a practice field surrounded by a track, olympic-sized swimming pool, playground, and amphitheater, and was dedicated in 2009. The Park and new High School are centerpieces for the rebirth of Newark, founded in 1666.



Mayor Cory Booker and White House Advisor Nancy Sutley (left front) tour Newark's Nat Turner Park across from Central High School

President Obama's primary environmental advisor, Nancy Sutley, toured the Park in June with Newark's Mayor Cory Booker. Sutley said the Park stands as an example of how to make a place where children can play, families can swim, school teams can practice, and that a community can take pride in. "Urban parks can often get forgotten as we think

about outdoor spaces. But, they're just as important and maybe more important to the communities that they serve. So, it's great to see a city, as cities around the country are taking on the hard task, really providing green spaces for the community." Sutley went on to say that she hoped Congress would provide funding for more such parks.

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## Member's Report

# The Smart Grid: Will it Help the Environment?

By Scott McCarthy (hi\_risescott@earthlink.net), a member of our Loantaka Group's ExCom

Many consumers of electricity are unfamiliar with the term "Grid," both as a geographical place and a concept; many fewer could explain improvements that would make it a "Smart Grid."

The Grid is a euphemism for the network of high-voltage transmission lines that criss-cross North America, collecting power from coal, nuclear, natural gas, oil and hydroelectric generating plants, wind turbines, and photovoltaic panels, and supplying it to regional delivery companies such as (in New Jersey) PSE&G, JCP&L, ACE, Rockland Electric, and several municipally-owned utilities. The Grid in our region is "owned" and operated by PJM Interconnection (Pennsylvania-Jersey-Maryland). It is supposed to be able to survive major plant outages, but failed spectacularly in November, 1965, and on at least one occasion subsequently.

Smart Grid refers to add-on hardware and software to enhance security and reliability, lower overall demand, and reduce carbon emissions. These include devices that:

Shift, balance or reduce load where and when needed, to prevent power outages and reduce overall demand (and the need for more power plants).

Provide better information to operators - using narrowband wireless communications.

Improve the speed with which operating decisions can be made.

Improve security against sabotage and terrorist activities.

Here are some Smart Grid concepts that may be expanded upon in future articles:

**Distributed Generation:** Enable more and smaller energy inputs - from renewable sources (photovoltaics, aka solar power; wind; regenerative braking of electric trains).

**Battery Storage:** Some renewable sources are intermittent, i.e. they do not pro-

duce a constant supply. If this energy is stored in batteries, then discharged at later times, grid continuity is maintained.

**Electric Vehicle Charging Stations:** With electric vehicles such as the Chevy Volt and Nissan Leaf arriving on the consumer market, new infrastructure is needed to charge their batteries, both at home and at public locations. There may be the need to restrict charging to times of day when electricity demand is low. Critics claim that EV's are merely transferring carbon emissions from the tail pipe to the power plant.

**Curtable Customers:** Large businesses agree to be "on call" when utilities need to reduce peak demand. "Smart" buildings provide automatic control of HVAC systems, elevators and lighting when needed.

**Home Area Networks:** This is where "smart meters" come into play. With real-time monitoring, the power-consumption of home appliances can be managed to take advantage of time-of-use pricing. A future article will address the question of when smart meters should be implemented; infrastructure and industry standards are required to support them.

**Conclusion:**

While the Smart Grid will not eliminate the need for coal / gas / oil / nuclear-generated electricity, it will facilitate the introduction of renewables to the existing electric grid and facilitate energy conservation. These innovations are not cheap; most of the smart grid initiatives in progress today were started with matching grants from the US Department of Energy, under the American Reinvestment & Recovery Act (ARRA). A significant part of the cost will be borne by ratepayers. In addition, areas like the Northeast will have to invest in replacing parts of our existing electric grid, which are more than 50 years old.



# 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

*(continued on page 6)*



## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 5)

<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Dwight Irving	dwright@dliirving.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>	
<b>Political Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>	
<b>Publicity Chair:</b>	Celeste Martin	oncentral@mac.com
<b>Membership Chair:</b>	William Moody	riversmfever@gmail.com
<b>Energy Coordinator:</b>	Mark Marciniak	mpmplace@ptd.net
<b>Outings Coordinator:</b>	Dave English	dgenglish@hotmail.com
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Dwight Irving	dwright@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 first Wednesdays:

**Sept 7: 7:30 pm** at the Clinton New Jersey Water Supply Authority's Annex Room: 1851 Rte 31, Clinton. Please contact Canny MacGonagle [cmacgonagle@yahoo.com](mailto:cmacgonagle@yahoo.com) if you intend to come.

(Future Excom meetings will be held at 27 Center Street, Clinton, NJ 08809, 2nd floor at the office of Jonathan D. Wall, PsyD)

### GENERAL MEETINGS:

7:30 pm on first or third Wednesdays:

(Tentative Date—Either Sept 21 or Sept 28) Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy will join up with the South Highlands Group for an evening hike on the Highlands Trail with a picnic afterwards. Please email Jonathan or Canny if you are interested in coming. We will post update information on our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=53817136187>)

Either in October or November, the group is planning a talk on the dangers of fracking - with discussion on the gas pipe trespassing through private lands and environmentally sensitive areas of the South Highlands.

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

**OUTINGS:** Hikers and bikers - contact David English, [dgenglish@hotmail.com](mailto:dgenglish@hotmail.com) - Put "Sierra Club Hike and Bike" 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 to clean up EPA proposed superfund site.

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

**Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company:** Proposal into install a pipeline across the South Highlands.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Advocacy for our Environment Works! Speak Up!—Do something important to help make a difference in the world and for the environment! Join the Sierra Club and volunteer! If you are in the Hunterdon or Southern Warren Counties, you are in our group! Get involved to make a difference in your own backyard!

## North Jersey Group

(Bergen, Passaic and northern Morris Counties, approximately)

### OFFICERS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### OFFICERS:

<b>Chair:</b>	Steve Lanset	201-424-6348	slanset@hotmail.com
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Janet Glass	201-868-4216	iguanaj@aol.com
<b>Secretaries:</b>	Judith Courtney	201-868-6575	jaocourtney@netzero.net
	Ruth Olsen	201-868-6575	oof46@msn.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Judith Courtney	201-868-6575	jaocourtney@netzero.net
<b>Conserv'n Chairs:</b>	Mirjana Zivkovic	201-758-8390	tenisko@hotmail.com
	Louise Taylor	201-562-8390	LTAYLOR2@comcast.net
<b>Cool Cities Chair:</b>	Helen Manogue	201-963-3511	
<b>Events Chair:</b>	Janet Glass	201-868-4216	iguanaj@aol.com
<b>General ExCom:</b>	Gil Hawkins	201-944-5799	gilc3d2@aol.com
	Jodi Jamieson	917-804-8390	jodijami@mac.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: September 22 and November 17. These meetings are open to all Sierra Club Members. Please contact the Secretaries, Judith or Ruth, for more information. They will also know of any upcoming General meetings.

### ELECTIONS:

This year we have three open positions for ExCom. Nominated are...

**Gil Hawkins:** Gil is the Executive Director of the Overpeck Preserve and the Environmental Director of the Hudson River Fisherman's Association, and a long-time Sierran. He has been an active member of our ExCom for many years.

**Helen Manogue:** Long time Hoboken resident and environmentalist who heads the Hudson River Waterfront Conservancy of NJ as well as the Hoboken Quality of Life Coalition and the QLC's Committee for a Green Hoboken (the latter initially formed as a Cool Cities project).

**Mirjana Zivkovic:** A long-time resident of Bergen Ridge, she has been a primary supporter of the work against the Riverview project. Mirjana is also currently our Group Conservation Co-Chair.

Hudson-Meadowlands members please cast your votes on the ballot on Page 2 of this Newsletter.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**NEW CHAIR:** We are pleased to announce that Steve Lanset is now Chair of our group. He is a long-time Sierran and is currently State Chapter Transportation Coordinator. He was also recently voted the 2010 Volunteer of the Year by the New Jersey Chapter. Jodi, who has done a sterling job as our Chair for two years recently accepted a job with Hackensack Riverkeeper that is too demanding of her time to serve as both. Jodi, thank you for all your hard and effective work; Steve, welcome aboard.

**CONSERVATION ISSUES:** Our group is involved with protecting open space in our urban area.

We are currently focused on 4 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 250+-unit development, Riverview, currently in planning for this last lot).

The North Bergen Planning Board (NBPB) continues its hearings on the Riverview application to construct three high rise towers and a multi-level garage at River Rd and Bulls Ferry Road in North Bergen. Members of our Group have been tracking this application for years, attending hearings on a regular basis. Despite the Dept of Environmental Protection's revoking Riverview's permit, the NBPB continues. Recently, the developer ceded 50 of its 500+ planned parking spots to the municipality of North Bergen so our job has gotten even tougher.

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 approved (6-0-1) by the NBPB and is now with the Hudson County Planning Board. The Galaxy Towers Condominium Association (GTCA) announced through its lawyer, John Lamb, that it will be appealing the NBPB resolution of this matter and we will be supporting them in any way we can. We created a SC State Chapter Resolution against this development and are reading it into all records.

3) We're protesting the approvals given by the NJ DEP to the **Bayonne Golf Club**. The owners protested fines levied five years ago for numerous severe violations of the Waterfront Permit Act and other waterfront rules and regulations. The recent DEP approvals not only give the Golf Club everything it originally wanted but in addition is also allowing the closing of at least half of the Waterfront Walkway from use by the general public. Just to add insult to injury, it also permits the closing of the entire Walkway from dusk to dawn.

4) Our Group and the State Chapter are opposed to the **High Pressure Gas line proposal in Jersey City**. It is currently going through the various stages of evaluation and approval.

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 Steve or Janet.

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

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

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

### **The Gateway Group Is Representing Newark, Elizabeth, Hillside, and most of Essex County**

*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, but very successful 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. For those who missed this presentation, Loantaka Group will be doing it again this Fall. Dr Franke's factual presentation and good humor was equalled by the hilarity of Eric Hausker's portrayal of Glen Limbaugh. I never laughed so hard while being informed.

In June and July Gateway was represented at an **EPA Brownfields Remediation** presentation attended by New Jersey's US Senators Menendez and Lautenberg, an Obama White House Advisor visit to Newark's new Central Ward Nat Turner Park, the NAACP teach in about the Linden PurGen Plant in Roselle, and NJ Sierra's own Jeff Tittel's debate with tea party leader Steve Lonegan in Teaneck about Governor Christie's decision to withdraw from the 10 State Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, aka RGGI. Tittel was like a sharp shooter, shooting down one Tea Party anti-environment position by Lonegan and questioners from the audience, with THE FACTS, not just propaganda they've heard on Fox News or Right Wing Talk Radio. Bravo, Mr Tittel. Gateway is also represented on the Community Advisory Group for the ongoing remediation of the severely polluted Lower Passaic River.

In the upcoming months Gateway is planning several interesting evenings. Invitations will be sent out to the entire Gateway Group when the dates and speakers are known. Please contact John Beadle, Gateway's Program Chair, if you have any special requests for a program.

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, 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](mailto:dyennior@msn.com) or 973-844-1384.

<b>Officers:</b>			
<b>Chair:</b>	David Yennior	973-844-1384	dyennior@msn.com
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		
<b>Secretary:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Anne Hirs	973-844-1121	annehirs@msn.com
<b>Program Chair:</b>	John Beadle	973-284-1594	jbeadle571@verizon.net

<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	ZaSah Khademi	201-618-8572	zasah@aol.com
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Darius Tullis	908-838-9732	dktullis@gmail.com
<b>Membership Chair:</b>	Steven Yafet	908-354-2537	syafet@gmail.com
<b>Newark Issues Chair:</b>	Bill Chappel	973-623-6490	bchappel1@verizon.net
<b>Water Issues Chair:</b>	Bill Chappel	973-623-6490	bchappel1@verizon.net
<b>Recycling Issues Chair:</b>	Lyle Landon	201-247-0288	lylelandon@aol.com
<b>Passaic River Issues Chair:</b>	Brenda Toyloy	973-856-7056	brendatoyloy@yahoo.com
<b>Elizabeth Issues Chair:</b>	Paula Borenstein	908-289-3584	brdandmkt@aol.com
<b>Outings Chair:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		

### **Loantaka Group**

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

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

#### **OFFICERS:**

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

If you might be interested in getting involved, come to one of our Executive Committee Meetings on the first Tuesday of the month and get to know us. Or come to one of our General Meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. There are no obligations and there will be no pressure.

To find out our activities, go to: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka/>.

To join our e-mailing list, go to: <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/nj-loantaka-news.html>

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** are held on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St, Chatham.

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

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

Come learn something new and make some new friends. We'd welcome the chance to meet you and to introduce ourselves. Please see the schedule, below, and join us!

**DIRECTIONS:** are posted on our website: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka/>.

#### **MEETING SCHEDULE:**

**Oct 12: Open meeting on NJ environmental issues** - The Sierra Club will host a meeting open to the public which focuses on some of the major environmental issues facing New Jersey...these include the State Parks and Forests, Clean Air, Energy, suburbia, the Susquehanna transmission Line, the experimental Pur-Gen coal burning power plant, and the deteriorating condition of Barnegat bay. Come tell us what is your concern, and what you would like to see done about it."

**Nov 9: Wetlands Preservation in the Pine Barrens** - Dr. Daniella Shebitz, Professor of Ecology at Kean University will discuss her work restoring wetlands

**Dec 14: Meet and Greet/Holiday Party** - See our website for additional information as we get closer to the meeting - we may try to steer the party towards a vegan type presentation and ask members to bring their favorite dishes to share. We will still have cheese and crackers and some of our usual fare. We had a great time last year!

**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).

In late May early June, the Loantaka Group had its 7th Annual Auction, bringing in more than \$600, thanks to the following loyal donors:

<b>Chatham:</b>	<b>Morristown:</b>
C'est La Vie Hair Salon	Brick Oven Restaurant
North Jersey Dog Grooming School	Mayo Performing Arts Center
Charley's Aunt Restaurant	Morris Museum
Farley's Place Luncheonette	

*(Continued on page 8)*

## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

Sally Lunn's Tea Room

**Madison:**  
Blue Ridge Mountain Sports  
Sages Pages Bookstore

Also REI in East Hanover and Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway. Please patronize these establishments by way of thanking them for supporting the Sierra Club.

**Westfield:**  
Ahrre's Coffee Roastery  
Westfield Symphony

### Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

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

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

#### OFFICERS:

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

The Central Group is working on local environmental issues to preserve open space, promote effective planning, and protect wetlands and trails. Currently we are working to stop the Meadowbrook Road warehouse/flex space in Robbinsville, to save the former Valley Road School in Princeton, and to ban hydrofracking. We are supporters of the D&R Canal Commission, the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, Princeton Ridge Preserve, and invasive species eradication in the Hamilton Trenton Bordentown Marsh. Central Group opposes the PurGen project in Linden, the Susquehanna-Roseland electric transmission lines, and natural gas pipelines through preserved lands.

We need you NOW! Please contact Terry to be involved. As we rethink the Central Group's 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.

#### SOCIAL EVENT:

**Fri, Oct 7: Banff Mountain Film Festival**, Princeton Univ. McCosh Hall, 7:30 p.m. Dinner at Panera Bread, Nassau St, Princeton 5:30 p.m. Join folks from the Central and Raritan Groups to dine and then view the best in high-adrenaline, action-packed outdoors and nature-oriented films. Tickets \$15.00 Pre-purchase is highly recommended, Banff sells out. Visit 609.258.9220 or [www.princeton.edu/utickets](http://www.princeton.edu/utickets).

**SPECIAL MEETINGS:** To be announced during the quarter. Please subscribe to our email list.

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

### Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

#### OFFICERS:

<b>Group Chair:</b>	Roomi Nusrat	908-429-9017	sierra_nj_rartian@att.net
<b>Group Vice Chair:</b>	Don McBride	732 560-0369	dtmcbride@alumni.haas.org
<b>Conservation Advisor:</b>	Jane Tousman	908-561-5504	jdtous@aol.com
<b>Outings Coordinator:</b>	Denise McClellan		mcclellan09@comcast.net
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Don McBride	732 560-0369	dtmcbride@alumni.haas.org
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		
<b>Recycling Coordinator:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		
<b>Secretary:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Daphne Speck-Barynski	732-390-5311	speckbartyn@comcast.net
<b>Membership:</b>	<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 public television documentary Rescuing the River: The Raritan will be shown at 6:30 pm on Thursday, Sept 15, at the Unitarian Society Congregation 176 Tices Lane, East Brunswick.

The documentary takes viewers on a boat trip down the lower ten miles of the Raritan and gives them a close and unflinching look at four notorious toxic sites to see how our rivers became so abused and why it has been so vexingly difficult to fix the problem. Our awareness and action is needed to continue the clean-up.

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

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

### Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

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

#### OFFICERS:

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

#### Shore Group Happenings:

**Whale Pond Brook** – We have formed a coalition with Monmouth University and all the towns on the Whale Pond Brook watershed 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 have recently held several cleanups in the watershed area and held a special public meeting to show 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. Please join us to help explore, enjoy and protect this beautiful watershed. Contact: Faith Teitelbaum: [faithtei@aol.com](mailto:faithtei@aol.com).

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

**Hydrofracking:** In addition to showing the documentary, Gaslands, Dennis Anderson sent a letter to the editor urging Gov. Christie to sign the anti-hydrofracking bill. The letter was co-signed by Joellen Lundy as President of the New Jersey Friends of Clearwater.

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** In cooperation with Brookdale Community College, we are holding our remaining 2011 general membership meetings at the college's Lincroft campus, 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 meet at 6 p.m. for munchies, and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm.

**Oct. 24** – Our own Faith Tietlebaum will explain how she is saving money by investing in **solar panels**. Faith, a driving force in Sierra's Cool Cities and Rain Garden programs, and the Whale Pond Watershed Association, will take us through her experience of buying solar panels, hiring a contractor, signing up for a solar panel website display, and applying for Solar Renewable Energy Credits through the GATs website. She will be joined by Thomas Matulewicz of GeoGenix, a company that specializes in energy-saving design and construction. He will explain the nuts and bolts of choosing and installing solar panel systems, and the economic payback.

The general meeting will be at a NEW TIME and LOCATION: 6 pm at Brookdale Community College. We're meeting at Brookdale as an experiment in hopes of sharing our speakers with environmentally concerned college students. A buffet will be available for the college students and Sierra Club members at 6 pm. Contributions from Sierra members accepted. The meeting starts at 6:30 pm. To get to Brookdale, take Parkway Exit 109 to Rte 520 West (Newman Springs Road, which becomes E. Main Street at the Lincroft campus). Take the traffic circle into the campus and follow the signs to the Warner Student Life Center (SLC), where the meeting will be in the Twin Lights 1 Room. Use parking lot 7. As you walk towards the building complex, Warner will be on your left. If lot 7 is full, use parking lots 5 or 6. A campus map is at [http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP\\_04\\_08.pdf](http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP_04_08.pdf).

**Nov. 28** – Dr. William B. Gallagher, retired professor, researcher and registrar of natural history at the N.J. State Museum and visiting lecturer at both Rutgers University and Rider University, will discuss **dinosaurs and other remarkable creatures of the Cretaceous Period** that lived and died in New Jersey and how the study of dinosaurs was spurred by 19th Century discoveries in the state's marl pits. He also will note how the local fossil records confirm when dinosaurs became extinct, although the jury is still out on "how." In addition to being a popular speaker, he authored "When Dinosaurs Roamed New Jersey," which will be available for purchase, as well as many scientific papers. The general meeting will be at a NEW TIME and LOCATION: 6 pm at Brookdale Community College. We're meeting at Brookdale in hopes of sharing our speakers with environmentally concerned college students. A buffet will be available for the college students and Sierra Club members at 6 pm. Contributions from Sierra members accepted. The meeting starts at 6:30 pm. To get to Brookdale, follow the instructions in the paragraph just above this one.



Dec. 4 – 3-6 p.m. – Our **traditional holiday party** will be held at Dennis Anderson's house at 6 Maple Avenue off of Middlesex Road, Matawan. Use MapQuest for directions, but if you get lost, call him at 732-970-4327. Everyone is asked to bring hors d'oeuvres, cakes or other hot and cold dishes, as well as soda, wine or beer, but please let Dennis know in advance at dennisaza@aol.com so we don't wind up with 12 string-bean casseroles. If members of other Sierra Groups are in the neighborhood, please stop by and say hello.

## Ocean County Group

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

### OFFICERS:

Chair:	A. Gregory Auriemma, Esq.	732-451-9220	sierraclubOC@aol.com
Vice-Chr, Outings:	Dawn Marie Johns	732-644-6340	sierraclubOC@hotmail.com
Conserv'n Chair:	Margit Meissner-Jackson	609-296-4367	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:	<i>Open Position</i>		
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
Group ExCom Member:	Sierra Palmer		

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

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

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

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

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

MEETINGS AND EVENTS: General Meetings are held bi-monthly (i.e., in alternate months) usually on the FOURTH MONDAY at 7pm at the "Skywalk Cafe" in the Ocean County Administration Building, 129 Hooper Avenue (2nd Floor), Toms River.

Oct 2 (Sun): Please stop by our table at the 17th Annual CATTUS ISLAND NATURE FESTIVAL in Toms River. The event will be from 9am to 4pm and there will be fun for all ages. Show up early to sign up for a kayak or pontoon boat ride. There will be tours and film presentations. To volunteer for our environmental information table to help protect Barnegat Bay or help out at our food concession, please contact our Chair, Greg Auriemma at 732-451-9220.

Oct 8 (Sat): Join us at the PINE BARRENS JAMBOREE at the Wells Mills Park in Waretown where we'll have our environmental information table to continue to garner support to save Barnegat Bay, plus our ever-popular food concession. For information on volunteering either at the table or food concession, please contact Group Chair Gregory Auriemma at 732-451-9220. This event is from 10am until 4pm.

Dec 10 (Sat): Please mark your calendars for our 7th ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY and SILENT AUCTION FUND RAISER. This great event will take place at 7pm at the Skywalk Cafe located in downtown Toms River. Join us for food, fun and a get a jump on your holiday shopping. Last year dozens of merchants in Ocean County made donations to support our auction. If you would like to help out or for more details please contact our Fund Raising Chair Joyce Isaza at 732-604-4583.

## West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

### OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Gina Carola	856-848-8831	ginacee@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.

Oct 12: Asjarai Porreca will present **Heifer International** and describe how families in developing nations benefit from gifts of livestock to help them attain a sustainable living through agriculture.

Nov 9: Andrea Ferich, Director of Sustainable Initiatives at the Center For Transformation will discuss the work being done in Camden, NJ to address **environmental transformation and environmental justice**

Dec 14: Join us for our Year-End Wrap Up and holiday party. Bring a favorite munchie to share as we discuss our successes and ongoing efforts for 2011 and plan for 2012.

## 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	609-432-3280	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. 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](http://www.gehwa.org). If you have topics (and places) for meetings, please let the officers know about them. We welcome general comments from Club members in South Jersey. To be placed on a carefully guarded distribution list for local issues and meetings, please e-mail dick.colby@stockton.edu.

**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 (photovoltaic) 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:

Oct 19, Dec 21, 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.

Oct 20, Nov 17, Dec 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.

Nov 9, 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 forriver@comcast.net. Website: [www.cumauricriver.org](http://www.cumauricriver.org).

Nov 22, 7pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: Members' meeting, open to the public. Watershed awareness presentation. (WFNC\*). 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/>

(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)

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

### OFFICERS:

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

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

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

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

### SOCIAL GATHERINGS:

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

**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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto:azatz@funtravels.com). and invites members to check her web site at [www.funtravels.com](http://www.funtravels.com) for trips and travel information.

## Young Sierrans

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

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

### YOUNG SIERRAN COMMITTEE POSITIONS

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

We need Young Sierran Outing Leaders for all areas, but extra especially for the

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

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

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

## Sierra Student Coalition

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

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

## Inner City Outings Section

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

### OFFICERS:

<b>Chair:</b>	Marty Cohen	201-670-8383	<a href="mailto:martincohen@verizon.net">martincohen@verizon.net</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Anne Dyjak	732-560-0953	<a href="mailto:annedyjak@verizon.net">annedyjak@verizon.net</a>

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](http://ico.sierraclub.org/newjersey).



# Outings

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

### GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

<b>Central Jersey:</b>	Leona Fluck 609-259-3734 (H)	<a href="mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com">leona@pineypaddlers.com</a>
<b>Gateway:</b>	David Ogens 973-226-0748 (H)	64 Elm Rd, Caldwell 07003
<b>Hudson-Meadowlands:</b>	Vacant	
<b>South Highlands:</b>	Susan Schirmer 908-996-7722 (H)	
<b>Jersey Shore:</b>	Mike Verange 908-732-8364 (H)	1497 W Front St, Lincroft, NJ 07738
<b>Loantaka:</b>	Joyce White 908-272-4478 (H)	<a href="mailto:joyce00201@yahoo.com">joyce00201@yahoo.com</a>
<b>North Jersey:</b>	Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417	<a href="mailto:elblumenkrantz@hotmail.com">elblumenkrantz@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Skylands:</b>	Pat Mangino, Pmangino@aol.com	
<b>Raritan Valley:</b>	Vacant	
<b>South Jersey:</b>	Tom Boghosian 609-625-0878 (H)	4794 Andorea Drive, Mays Landing, 08330
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<b>West Jersey:</b>	Vacant	
<b>River Touring:</b>	Fred Tocce 908-453-2205 (H)	Rd 1 Box 277, Washington, NJ 07882
<b>Inner City Outings:</b>	Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H)	NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd, Warren, 07059
<b>Chapter Outings:</b>	Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417	<a href="mailto:elblumenkrantz@hotmail.com">elblumenkrantz@hotmail.com</a>

**Outing Leaders:** Please send Jan-March 2012 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before Nov 3. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it for the previous Sierran, due to the occasional lag in mailing. Also, please send outing rosters or sign-up sheets to the Chapter Office as soon as possible after each outing.

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

**Group Outings Coordinators:** Please submit your Jan-March trip write-ups by Nov 8.

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

Sierra Club outings are arranged by volunteer leaders who are in charge of the trip and responsible for the safety, welfare and enjoyment of all participants. Leaders determine qualifications to participate, adequacy of equipment, routes to be followed, and special precautions to be taken. Please arrive adequately prepared and equipped. If you have any allergies, please remember to bring your medication. The leader has the final word in the conduct of the trip. Your cooperation will help assure a safe and pleasant outing.

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

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

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

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

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







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**High School Coordinator**  
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**Atlantic Coast Ecoregion Delegate**  
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**NY-NJ Trail Conference Delegate**  
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\* Lee Snyder (609) 969-7909  
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**Group Effectiveness Committee**  
Rich Isaac\*\*, Barbara Conover, Cynthia Mackowicz, Greg Auriemma

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

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

**Personnel Committee**  
Ken Johanson\*\*, Joan Denzer, Sunil Somalwar, George Denzer, Lee Snyder

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

**Litigation Oversight Committee**  
Ken Johanson\*\*, Carolyn Freeman

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

**Information Technology Committee**  
Sunil Somalwar\*\*, George Newsome, Bill Martin, Joe Testa, Cynthia Mackowicz

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

**NEW JERSEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP**

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

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

**Clean Air Issues**  
Bob Campbell (973) 761-4461  
bobc2023\_sc@verizon.net

**Coal Campaign**  
Barbara Conover (973) 746-1693  
Bconifer022@gmail.com

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

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

**Genetically Modified Organisms Issues**  
Bill Martin (201) 675-1967  
wp1.martin@gmail.com

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

**Green Acres Issues**  
Bob Moss (973) 743-5203  
bobmossnj@verizon.net

**Highlands Issues**  
Mike Herson (see left column)

**Marine Issues**  
Greg Auriemma (see left column)

**Natural Gas and Fracking Issues**  
Terry Stimpfel (609) 731-7016  
terystimb@hotmail.com

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

**Pinelands Issues**  
Lee Snyder (see left column)

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

**Population Issues**  
Bonnie Tillery (see left column)

**Recycling Issues**  
David Yennior (see above)

**Sprawl Issues**  
Jane Tousman (see left column)

**Tiger Conservation Issues**  
Sunil Somalwar (see left column)

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

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

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

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

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**Chapter Director: Jeff Tittel**  
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**Outreach Coordinator: Nicole Dallara**  
Nicole.Dallara@SierraClub.org

**Program Assistant: Kate Millsaps**  
Kate.Millsaps@SierraClub.org

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

**OUTINGS**

(Continued from page 11)

The 290-acre park features a diverse collection of habitats and terrain, upland forests and meadows. After hiking, we'll take the Victorian Christmas guided tour of the Smithville Mansion (small fee). Option for late lunch at Vincentown Diner. Meet at Smith's Woods at Historic Smithville Park, East Railroad Avenue, Easthampton. Leashed dogs are welcome. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 17 (Sat): Celebrate the Winter Solstice Early - Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. It's our pre-solstice celebration trip from Hawkin Bridge to Evans Bridge. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 18 (Sun): Valley Forge National Park (PA). Meet at 8am. 6 miles at moderate pace. Hike the National Park and experience the hardships of our forefathers. Revolutionary re-enactors will be present to portray life in the early days. We will go to Manayunk Brewery for their breakfast buffet after hike. Meet in rear parking lot of Crown Plaza Hotel on Rte 70 Cherry Hill to carpool/caravan, or meet at upper level parking lot at park's visitors' center by restroom entrance at 9am. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 evenings or pis1@eccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Dec 21 (Wed): Celebrate the Winter Solstice Again - Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. We'll paddle 6 miles from Hawkin Bridge to Evans Bridge. Join us for our annual solstice celebration as the sun begins anew its journey to longer days. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 23 (Fri): Shortest Day and Longest Night Hike (Burl Co). Meet at 7pm. Come out and relieve some of the holiday shopping stress at our Campfire. 7 miles at moderate pace. Enjoy a winter hike in the Pines on the shortest day of the year and return to a roaring campfire. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NC/NP. Meet at Atsion Lake, Burl. Co., From Rte 206 take Atsion Rd west 1 mile to Goshen Pond Group site sign: turn left, go to camping area. Camping is available; call to reserve space. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-463-3593 evenings or pis1@eccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Dec 24 (Sat): Search for Santa on the N. Branch Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 10am. Wear your Santa hat as we look "high and low" for Santa on the 10-mile Canoe Trail from BCCC to Smithville. Meet at the Vincentown Diner - early for breakfast. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 26-31 (Mon-Sat): It's Patriots Week in Trenton (Mercer Co). Are you interested in the history of the American Revolution in NJ? Washington's Crossing of the Delaware? Patriots Week offers fun and history for the entire family. See the First and Second Battles of Trenton Reenactments, join Walking Tours of the Trenton and Princeton Battlefields, register early for a State House Civics Tour, etc: www.patriotsweek.com. Contact leaders to meet-up for event(s) of interest: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

**JANUARY**

Jan 1, 2012 (Sun): Hartshorne Woods, Special interest: Recent History: (Monmouth County). 9am. Moderate 6-mile hike has elevation gains and a lot of scenery. Please bring drinks and snacks. Hiking shoes are suggested. Meet at the Rock Point parking area: Take GSP to exit 117, Rte 36 toward Sandy Hook to Portland Rd, the last street on the right before the Sandy Hook Bridge. Take Portland Rd to the top of the hill. Rock Pt. Parking is on the left. Bad weather (including snow cover) cancels. Confirmation/questions: please call or text leader: Mike Verange: 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com. (JS)

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

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

**October 15, and November 19 -**  
Oct meeting at the New Brunswick Public Library: 60 Livingston Av.  
Nov meeting not yet sited

*The Jersey*  
**SIERRAN**  
Vol. 40, No. 4 • Fall, 2011

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Prospective advertisers:** Contact the advertising manager, John Schofield (jschofield159@comcast.net)

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