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Vol. 41, No. 1 Roughly 17,000 Members in New Jersey January-March 2012

New Jersey's Election Results: boring - but could make a real difference!

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

The 2011 elections were almost a foregone conclusion: continuance of the status quo - except that a potentially large change was almost entirely unnoticed!

The Democratic redistricting plan turns out to have been an Incumbent Retention Plan: all 27 Sierra Club-endorsed incumbent candidates were reelected, whereas only one of the Club's nine endorsed non-incumbents managed to win.

Voter turn-out was very low: even the highly-motivated "tea-party" activists stayed home compared to their turn-out in the primary elections last June. For example, tea-party favorite William Eames upset the mainstream Republican in the 27th LD (Essex Co) in the June primary, but got crushed by Sen. Codey in November, garnering only 38% of the vote - even though the District was one of the few that had been substantially changed by redistricting, gaining many more registered Republicans.

Voters apparently liked their legislators, and were content to keep them in office. For example, the 7th District (Burlington, bit of Camden Cos) is highly competitive, with a Republican State Senator and two Democratic Assemblymen; all three incumbents won re-election.

Statewide, only one incumbent lost: Republican Domenick DiCicco (4th LD, Gloucester Co) - not because of unpopularity, but because he was the only incumbent forced by redistricting to run in a now-Democratic-leaning district.

So: the Democrats kept their 24-16 (60%) advantage in the State Senate, and picked up one seat in the Assembly, where their advantage is now 48-32 (also 60%). It is this slight change which could make a very large difference:

60% is not enough to overcome a Governor's veto of legislation (that takes 67%), but it is just enough to force a vetoed measure onto the ballot as a public referendum. For example, the Democrats could vote to have a ballot measure to block New Jersey from leaving the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

Or the Democrats could place a measure on the ballot to amend the State's constitution to dedicate a water surcharge for preserving open space, or to ban fracking, or to lock 30% renewables into the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard. In the next legislative session, the Sierra Club will consider lobbying for just such measures.

Report from Trenton:

We Criticize Gov. Christie's State Strategic Plan

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

On October 11th, the NJ Dept. of State's Business Action Center released the "final draft" of a State Strategic Plan, updating the 2001 State Plan for Development and Redevelopment. It applies to permitting by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), public and private transport, construction oversight performed by the Dept. of Community Affairs, and many other agencies charged with protecting New Jersey's open space, air quality, water quality, and natural resources. It is available by googling NJ State Strategic Plan.

We think the Plan will promote the opposite of smart growth, and will destroy current environmental protections. It will increase population sprawl into our last areas of open space and undermine redevelopment of our existing cities and towns. The Plan shows the power of builders and the consulting and engineering firms that are the biggest contributors to the campaign funds of politicians such as the Governor. The result will be more flooding, more pollution in waterways, more highway traffic and higher property taxes as we subsidize sprawl and over-development.

Here are the concerns we have with the Proposed State Strategic Plan, which include weakening protections for the Highlands and the Pinelands, blocking Green Acres funding, eliminating the Landscape Project, voiding the Water Quality Management Rules, and violating the State Planning Act:

• **Repeals Water Quality Management Rules** - claiming they hinder economic growth in municipalities by restricting development in environmentally sensitive areas, and because the Rules were recently extended to regulate septic tanks. A third of New Jersey's homes have septic tanks.

• **Eliminates Landscape Project** - The award winning Landscape Project is an important environmental planning tool for protecting flood hazard areas, stream buffers, wetlands, Highlands, Pinelands and habitats of endangered species.

• **Weakens Environmental Protections** - The Plan states that all agencies' plans and rules have to promote economic growth even for projects that are in conflict with environmental protection. At risk are coastal rules (CAFRA), wetlands protections and air toxic rules. We believe this will also violate federal laws

including the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, not to mention NJ's State Planning Act.

• **Blocks Green Acres Funds** - Under this Plan, if a town or county wants to buy a piece of property - in a growth area - for preservation as open space, Green Acres funding would be prohibited. Nor would the Green Acres Program itself be permitted to purchase property in a growth area. The effect would be to prohibit provision of new parks in urban and suburban areas of New Jersey.

• **Weakening Highlands and Pinelands Protections** - Existing "community areas" will now become growth areas under this Plan: promoting their development. In effect, the Strategic Plan will supersede the Master Plans of Highlands and Pinelands communities.

• **Executive Order 78** - implements the Strategic Plan before the public has chance to review it and comment. This EO takes power away from the State Planning Commission and gives it to the Governor's Red Tape Review Team, which has a proven record for weakening standards and environmental protections.

• **Attacks on Labor & Civil Service** - The Plan also goes after labor and civil service, which has nothing to do with planning.

• **Super Commission** - State Strategic Plan and Executive Order is under the Business Action Center not under any planning agency. This sets up a super commission chaired by the Lieutenant Governor acting as if she is a lobbyist for developers.

This is dumb growth, and it is being used by the Governor to undermine good planning, but more importantly to weaken environmental and health protections. This Plan for the first time uses economic growth as an excuse to pave over our last remaining environmentally sensitive areas and farm fields. It will hurt our cities and towns by taking investment and growth that should go into our cities and putting it into suburbs and rural areas.

Report from Trenton:

Hooray! Paterson's New National Park

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

On Nov 7th, Paterson Great Falls National Historic Park became our 397th National Park. The Falls are a national treasure, second in height only to Niagara in the Eastern USA, and now part of a 35-acre park. The designation will bring resources to help protect this area of historic significance as well as the surrounding environment.

We envision this park not only as an urban oasis, but also a living history museum honoring the people who built America. We thank Congressman Pascrell for prime sponsorship of this great achievement. Sen. Frank Lautenberg, who was born in Paterson, and Senator Menendez also led the efforts. Paterson's Mayor Jeff Jones also put many years of effort into the project.

One benefit of National Park status is that Governor Christie is prevented from privatizing it. Christie's plan to privatize State Parks has put all of them in danger. Imagine the construction of golden arches over the Great Falls, or Alexander Hamilton's statue replaced with that of Ronald McDonald.

The only other National Park with an "Historic" designation is in Lowell, Mass,

where water power was also harnessed by early American industries. But Paterson was the first industrially planned city, intended by Alexander Hamilton to bring greatness to the new country, and was home to the Colt Gun Mill, and later the manufacture of railroad locomotives. Paterson's industrial heritage includes the Great Silk Strike of 1911, when workers stood up for their rights. This designation will help revitalize Paterson by drawing thousands of New Jersey schoolchildren and other visitors each day.

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 how you can help!
 Renew your membership at <http://sierraclub.org/membership>
 Sierra Green Home <http://sierraclubgreenhome.com/> : tips for environmentally-conscious consumers

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SIERRA CLUB BALLOT

Group Ballots: Members of the Club's North Jersey and Jersey Shore Groups are invited to choose their Group officers by clipping the ballot below and returning it in their own envelopes, to arrive by the date shown below, and to the address shown below. 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.

North Jersey Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Vote for UP TO FIVE.

- Greg Tondi Laura Coll
 Mary Ellen Shaw
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Send North Jersey Group Ballots with Sierran mailing label or membership ID number, in your own envelope, to arrive by Jan 27, to: Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618.

Jersey Shore Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Vote for UP TO FOUR.

- George Moffatt Faith Teitelbaum
 Alan Roseman Joe DeLuca
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Send Jersey Shore Group Ballots with Sierran mailing label or membership ID number to: Dennis Anderson, 6 Maple Ave. Matawan, NJ 07747 by February 20, 2012.

Delaware River Issues Coordinator's Report: Guest article:

Dredging Spoils Destroy Fish Hatcheries

By George Palilonis; supplied by Gina Carola

More than 100 years ago, when the Delaware River's original channel was only twenty feet deep, the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) began a series of deepening and dredging projects. Now we have a forty-foot channel from the River's mouth to Philadelphia. Thousands of acres of tidal marshes have been filled in with the dredge spoils. As a result, the twice a day incoming tides cannot spread over former marshes. They are instead directed with greater force up the deeper channel. Salty water now reaches farther up-river, where it has killed the minute plants and insects in the fresh water tidelands.

According to Fish and Wildlife Service reports, ninety percent of the fish in the ocean depend on freshwater wetlands at the beginning of their lives. The salt water adult fish go on spawning runs to lay eggs in freshwater wetlands. The wetlands act as incubators to hatch and feed the young fry, which later swim out to sea. But commercial fishing in the ocean has dropped populations so low that severe catch-restrictions have been imposed. This impact was not properly addressed in the current Environmental Impact Study (EIS) that is being used to justify the deepening of the Delaware River. Nor were several other issues.

Hurricane Irene demonstrated one effect of the loss of flood plains: extended flooding into areas that had never been flood-prone before. Our tax dollars are providing federal disaster aid through the Federal Emergency Management Act. The more-forceful tides have caused other washouts: NJ Rte 30 at Moss Mill Run in Logan Township; an island with three houses washed away at Repaupo Creek in Greenwich Township; soil washed away from the bulkhead at the mouth of Raccoon Creek, where the channel is no longer navigable at low tide; a rock jetty no longer connects Chester Island to Monds Island due to washout; piling supporting a railroad bridge over Mantua Creek in Paulsboro washed out so that the bridge collapsed; rows of homes near the Collingwood Circle condemned because of frequent flooding; pumps installed at the Brooklawn Circle in Brooklawn to relieve flooding from Big Timber Creek; a city park at Cooper River and Kaign Avenue in Camden now aban-

doned due to flooding; in Philadelphia, piling washed out under a restaurant on Pier 34. If a class-4 hurricane like Katrina should strike Delaware Bay, the tidal surge would cause severe flooding in Camden and Philadelphia. An aquifer which was the sole source of drinking water for Gloucester County has had so much salt-water intrusion it is now diluted to an acceptable level with water piped from thirty miles up the Delaware River.

Now the ACE is overseeing deepening the Delaware River channel by another five feet: blasting bedrock to make a passageway for super-tankers. This sets the scene for our next disaster. Our last big oil spill occurred when a tugboat pushing a tanker to a dock caused a rupture from an object in the shipping lane.

There should be no further deepening of the Delaware until the original floodplains and freshwater tidal wetlands have been restored. Our federal agencies should uphold the laws that protect our natural resources. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is supposed to police federal project to assure that they follow environmental regulations. CEQ should revoke the current EIS for not properly reporting significant environmental issues. An updated economic survey should be done to determine if this project will provide a net benefit.

There should be a scoping process to produce a list of issues for the new EIS. The new EIS must be carried out by an outside party, following the guidelines set by NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act.

Just because some industries will profit from destroying our environment doesn't justify issuing them contracts. Jobs can just as easily be created to move dredge spoils from existing damaged marshes to fill old strip-mines in Pennsylvania. That way, flood plains, wetlands and fish hatcheries would be restored.

George Palilonis is retired from the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, where his responsibilities were to perform Environmental Impact Studies for many of the large subdivisions in New Jersey. He also reviewed Environmental Impact Statements prepared by other organizations.

POPULATION ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Sierra Club's Population and Environment Program Moving Forward

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@msn.com)

Did you know that the Sierra Club has had activists working on population issues for the past 40 years? There have been changes in the focus of our efforts over this period of time, but the passion to help women, families and the environment has been consistent.

The weekend of the XL pipeline/tar sands rally, the Global Population and Environment Program Committee held its annual meeting to evaluate progress over the past year and consider goals for 2012. Topics were numerous, but among others included the new website (www.sierraclub.org/population) and participation in Good Jobs/Green Jobs conferences to be held around the country in the spring of 2012.

Legislation we would like to see passed in 2012 includes the Global Democracy Promotion Act (HR 2639/S 1585) and the Global Sexual and Reproductive Health Act (HR 1319).

The Global Democracy Promotion Act, which has 104 co-sponsors, would permanently repeal the Global Gag Rule which restricts non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from receiving U.S. funding if they so much as council about abortion, even to save the life of the mother, and even if this procedure is legal in that country. Ironically, while the Global Gag Rule is targeted to end abortion, Stanford University researchers reported, in a study published 9/27/11, that "the number of abortions increased in African countries where U.S. support for NGOs was cut the most" due to implementation of the Gag Rule.

The Global Sexual and Reproductive Health Act calls for support for universal access to sexual and reproductive health and education in developing countries so that the 215 million women who want to

voluntarily determine their family size have access to modern forms of contraception.

Additionally, we will be asking you to urge legislators to fund Planned Parenthood, Title X and international family planning programs. The world's population reached 7 billion in 2011. With population growth linked to increased consumption of scarce resources, including water, as well as the connection to inappropriate development and environmental degradation such as air pollution, we cannot afford to be cutting these important programs that empower women to voluntarily decide the number of children they will have and when they will have them.

To a person, the Committee decided to participate in the XL pipeline/tar sands rally on Sunday afternoon. We all understand that whatever affects the health of the planet - particularly water and soil - affects the health of mothers, children, families and communities. It was encouraging to see that at least half the 10,000 to 12,000 participants who encircled the White House were young people. One particularly moving hand-lettered sign was a quote from President Obama: It read: "I want to make sure the planet is as beautiful for my daughters as it was for me." To which the woman holding the sign had added "Me too, Mr. President."

A supplementary note: In November, to mark the 7 billion, Club student members and staff member Kim Lovell joined more than 500 young people in Durban, South Africa for a UN conference on Climate Change, in which gender and population issues were recognized as critical to environmental protection.

Sustainable Lifestyle

Get to Know Whole Grains

By Suzanne Yacowitz-Dragan, our regular lifestyle columnist

High in fiber, versatile and delicious, whole grains are wholesome complex carbohydrates, essential to a healthy diet. When purchased in bulk, even organic whole grains are economical. I find the fastest and most fail-safe method to cook whole grains is in a rice cooker, but you can soak and boil them as well. Be sure to rinse your grains thoroughly and pick out any little stones before cooking. Whole grains, like legumes, look pretty when stored in glass and displayed on the kitchen counter but use them within a few months. Heat, light and air can turn the oil in grains rancid.

Depending on our age and activity level, 6-11 half-cup daily servings are recommended. Most whole grains are low on the glycemic index, a helpful consideration for people with diabetes, hypoglycemia and other metabolic issues.

Most everyone has eaten oats and barley - but have you tried spelt or rye berries, Khorasan wheat (kamut) or millet? Spelt and rye berries are quite hard and need soaking before cooking with lots of water (1 cup berries to 4 cups water). They add a nutty flavor and chewy texture when added to brown rice or baked into bread.

Khorsan is an ancient Egyptian wheat

with a rich, buttery flavor. You might have seen it advertised as kamut, its registered trademark and brand name in the US. Kamut, in hieroglyphs, means wheat. People who cannot eat wheat can often tolerate kamut.

Other than as birdseed, most people are not familiar with millet. Millet grows well in arid, hot climates and is a staple food to people in many parts of Asia and Africa. Gluten-free and highly-digestible, millet is a whole grain option for people on wheat-free diets.

Here is a super quick and easy meal: Cook some whole grains in a rice cooker while you pressure-cook some beans. Sauté onion, garlic, mushrooms, some chopped greens (mustard/collard), and diced red pepper together in some olive oil till all tender. Mix together; add salt and pepper (and any other favorite spices) to taste for a nutritious one-pot meal. Why not be adventurous and try out a whole grain you have never tasted? For details and recipes, go to: <http://wholegrainscouncil.org/>

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

The Chapter's January Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting, to be held on Jan 14th at the Hamilton Twp Public Library (Mercer Co), is when we decide on issue-priorities for the new year, elect the Chapter Chair, appoint Issue Coordinators, and is generally the most interesting meeting of the year. Join us!

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

Annual NJ Sierran Awards Reception

On Nov 13, the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club hosted its Annual Appreciation Day event at Princeton Day School's Pretty Brook Farm – to recognize the great work done by Club members, lawmakers and other activists to protect New Jersey's environment.

State Senator Barbara Buono (D, 18th LD, Middlesex Co) received our Outstanding Achievement Award. The award was given for the Senator's long-standing leadership on environmental issues. It was presented by Chapter Director Jeff Tittel, in front of a packed room of Sierra Club members representing all of the Chapter's 12 regional Groups.

Tittel commended specifically the Senator's public opposition to Governors and other members of her own party on environmental compromises. She exposed the use of current Governor Christie's Red Tape Review Commission to weaken environmental protections. Senator Buono has also been working to block the implementation of a proposed rule that would allow the DEP to waive vital environmental rules and regulations.

New Jersey Network's environment reporter, Ed Rodgers, also received the Outstanding Achievement Award. Rodgers' comprehensive and unbiased reporting has raised awareness and increased understanding of environmental issues amongst the public and govern-

mental officials.

Terry Stimpfel, Chair of the Chapter's Central Jersey Group, was awarded our Volunteer of the Year Award. In addition to her Group leadership, Ms. Stimpfel has fought many harmful development projects in Central Jersey, and, as our "Natural Gas and Fracking Issues Coordinator," has promoted the Club's efforts in New Jersey to protect the drinking water used by 15 million Americans that originates in the Marcellus Shale formation of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.

Congressman Frank Pallone (D, 6th CD, centered on Monmouth Co), Senator Linda Greenstein (D, 14th LD, Mercer and Middlesex Cos), and Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula (D, 17th LD, Middlesex and Somerset Cos) were also in attendance, celebrating their recent election victories. Congressman Pallone was praised for protecting our coasts from offshore drilling and ocean dumping. Senator Greenstein has worked to preserve open space and farmland and has protected communities against air pollution and toxins. Assemblyman Chivukula is our only Legislator with a professional engineering background, and chairs the Committee that promotes renewable energy in New Jersey. Also acknowledged at the reception were Scott Olson, Mayor of Byram, and Carolyn Freeman, a Sierra Club member (of our Legislative Committee) recently elected to the Council in Bedminster.

Chair's Message Cost-benefit Analysis and the Environment



By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)

Those of us in the environmental community generally agree that existing laws and regulations fall short of what is required if we are to save the planet and provide our children and grandchildren with a world in which they can prosper and enjoy the wonders of nature. But we also recognize that we do not live in a perfect world, that there comes a point where the benefits of a particular regulatory initiative do not justify its costs.

Those on the right offer a solution to our dilemma: it's called cost-benefit analysis. Add up the benefits to be derived from a proposed environmental initiative, subtract the costs, and, voila! If the benefits exceed the costs, proceed with the regulation. If the costs exceed the benefits, forget about it. What could be simpler? Unfortunately, it isn't that simple.

There is an underlying assumption in cost-benefit analysis theory that costs and benefits can be quantified and that the results of this exercise can be expressed in monetary terms. If a benefit is not capable of being quantified and has no impact on economic efficiency it is ignored. There is no place in the equation for the value of preserving open space for its own sake, for protecting endangered species that have no commercial value to man or for addressing environmental justice concerns.

A related problem with cost-benefit analysis is that the benefits to be derived from a proposed regulation frequently are understated, either because of an absence of verifiable data or because of the requirement that benefits be expressed in monetary terms. For example, advocates concede that there is a benefit to be derived from preventing a premature death, but shouldn't the life that will be saved be valued as something more than the impact that life will have upon the economy? Isn't there an inherent value in protecting the lives of our citizens that needs to be taken into account?

While the benefits of a proposed regulation tend to be undervalued in a typical cost-benefit analysis, the same cannot be said of the costs. Sidney A. Shapiro and Christopher H. Schroeder note in an article appearing in the Harvard Law School Environmental Law Review that agencies have little choice but to turn to the regulated community in trying to determine just what the costs of a proposed regulation affecting that community will be. Not surprisingly, these projections frequently turn out to be far greater than the costs that are actually incurred.

It is not surprising that cost-benefit analysis has been embraced by the right, beginning with Ronald Reagan and continuing through Chris Christie. Soon after Christie took office and Bob Martin was sworn in as Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection Martin directed that cost-benefit analyses be performed to ensure that impacts on the economy are considered as part of the State's decision-making process. Impacts on the economy have always been considered. But now that cost-benefit analyses are mandated, short-term economic concerns, rather than longer-term concerns for the public health, safety and environment, will prevail.

Nor is it clear that the current infatuation with cost-benefit analysis is legislatively permissible. Shapiro and

Schroeder note that only two of twenty-two major health, safety and environmental statutes rely on a cost-benefit analysis as the statutory standard. The vast majority of statutes, including the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, while not ignoring economic considerations, give far greater weight to health, safety and environmental concerns.

While the business community and some economists have embraced the use of cost-benefit analysis as the basis for regulatory rule-making, environmentalists and public health advocates have been just as vocal in their opposition. But there is one area where even cost-benefit analysis advocates are beginning to have their doubts. That is the area of global warming and climate change.

The 2007 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects a likely increase in global temperatures of from one to three degrees Celsius if the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increases from 375 to 550 parts per million. While these are alarming figures to many of us, there are others who believe that mankind is capable of adjusting to temperature changes of this magnitude and that only gradually ramped-up measures need to be taken to address global climate change.

But, significantly, the Intergovernmental Panel also concludes that there is at least a 5 percent chance that the temperature increase will be greater than 6 degrees Celsius (10.8 degrees Fahrenheit).

Martin L. Weinstein, a well-respected professor of economics at Harvard University, has concluded that if only gradually ramped-up remedies are adopted, there is a 5 percent chance that the increase in global temperatures from pre-industrial revolution levels will be greater than 11 degrees Celsius (19.8 degrees Fahrenheit) and a one percent chance that the increase will be greater than 20 degrees Celsius (36 degrees Fahrenheit). Temperature increases of this magnitude would be catastrophic and would threaten the very existence of mankind.

Weinstein goes on to note that "conventional [cost-benefit analyses] of climate change do not even come remotely close to grappling with this kind of potential for disasters." The reason, according to Melinda Kimble and Letha Tawney in an article published in the Environmental Forum, is that typical cost-benefit analysis only concerns itself with the likeliest outcomes. Outcomes with less than a 5 percent chance of occurring do not enter into the equation.

At first blush disregarding low probability outcomes may sound reasonable, that a 5 percent chance of a bad outcome is a risk that most of us would accept. But, Kimble and Tawney ask, how many of us would board an airplane if we knew there was a one in twenty chance that the plane would crash?

Weitzman's bottom line (as summarized by Paul Krugman of The New York Times) is that "if there is a significant chance of utter catastrophe, that chance—rather than what is most likely to happen—should dominate cost-benefit calculations" and "that this risk of catastrophe, rather than the details of cost-benefit calculations, makes the most powerful case for strong climate policy." I couldn't agree more.



State Senator Barbara Buono receives the Outstanding Achievement Award from Ken Johanson and Jeff Tittel.



Terry Stimpfel, Central Jersey Group Chair, receives her Volunteer of the Year Award from Ken Johanson.



Happy guests include Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula.



Ed Rodgers (NJN News) receives his Outstanding Achievement Award from Ken and Jeff.



Congressman Frank Pallone says a few words.



Our guests included Leona Fluck, Senator Buono, Gina Carola, West Jersey Group Chair.

Thanks to our photographers, George Fluck and David Yennior

A variety of Club books, notecards, badges and clothing is available from www.sierraclub.org/store

Reports from Trenton

Clean Air Victory! EPA Forces Portland Power Plant to “Clean Up!”

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

On Oct 31st, the EPA announced it will require Gen-On's Portland coal-fired electric power plant, located in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, to reduce its toxic air emissions by 81% over the next three years. The Portland plant is just across the Delaware River from NJ's Warren County, and is probably the single biggest upwind contributor to air pollution in New Jersey. The EPA decision came after the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) petitioned for the clean-up. Sulfur dioxide and airborne mercury levels in Warren County have long exceeded the EPA national air quality standard.

Emissions from this plant affect children with asthma as far away as Bergen County, and people with respiratory illness in Morris County. With this ruling the quality of life for people in Northern New Jersey will get better. This is happening as part of a series of rules proposed by the EPA to reduce dirty pollution from power plants, especially across state lines.

Earlier in October, many East Coast states intervened in a federal lawsuit to clean up the air for their residents. Connecticut, Delaware, New York, Maryland, Rhode Island, Vermont, Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia are all opposing the appeals that have proceeded from the case Kansas vs. EPA, which challenges the proposed Cross-State Air Pollution Rule. The states that produce the pollution, and their corporate polluter allies, oppose this rule.

New Jersey has some of the worst air pollution in the nation, one-third of which comes from out-of-state. The EPA's Cross-State Air Pollution rule protects air quality in downwind states by limiting the amount of pollution that can be produced in upwind states. New Jersey's

Chamber of Commerce, major state utilities like Exelon and PSE&G, and other New Jersey business groups support the intervention.

Sadly, NJ Governor Chris Christie has not joined the intervention. We think his lack of support reflects his national ambitions. We think he calculates that support by the Koch Brothers is more important to him.

For the last 30 years, New Jersey has been the leader on lawsuits that sue power plants, the EPA, or other states to clean up our air. The state has sued individual power companies in the mid-west, especially in Ohio, to force clean-ups. New Jersey sued EPA to get the Cross-State Pollution Rule adopted. More than a dozen such lawsuits have been initiated by both Democratic and Republican governors. Previous Gov. Corzine closed the Martin's Creek Coal Plant in Pennsylvania through a lawsuit. But not Christie.

The EPA decision on Portland comes as the agency has proposed a number of other regulations to clean up our air and reduce pollution from coal-fired power plants. Other proposed rules would regulate coal ash, mercury and nitrogen oxide emissions from power plants.

According to the report "Toll from Coal," 531 people in New Jersey die each year from toxic coal-sourced air pollutants. There are 445 hospitalizations and 987 heart attacks in New Jersey from coal plants.

The EPA reports that New Jersey contains some of the top 20 smoggiest areas in the country. Monmouth and Ocean County are ranked 15th, Middlesex and Somerset are ranked 17th, Trenton ranked 20th, and Camden, which is part of the Philadelphia area, is ranked 8th. Even areas with few smoke stacks, like Monmouth and Ocean County, still have bad air quality due to cross-state pollution.

Sierra Club Applauds First Step in Passaic River Clean-Up But the River Needs a Lot More

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

After 20 years of delay, work is set to begin. The Environmental Protection Agency, Senator Robert Menendez, Congressman William Pascrell and others announced on October 31st that contaminated sediments will be removed from the lower Passaic River and Newark Bay.

Dioxin is the most problematic pollutant, a carcinogen posing risks both to human health and to the marine ecosystem. It is a legacy of Newark's Diamond Alkali Superfund Site, later acquired by Occidental Petroleum Corp, where manufacture of pesticides, weed killers, and Agent Orange, the defoliant used during the Vietnam War, took place. Dioxin is one of the deadliest substances known to man. It accumulates in people and is responsible for fish advisories from New Jersey all the way down to Florida and up to Maine.

Under both state and federal law, companies that discharge toxic chemicals causing a "loss of public use" are assessed with Natural Resource Damages. Public fisheries, aquatic ecosystems, wetlands, rivers, and estuaries belong to all of us. When a company contaminates and prevents the use of these resources, they have to pay damages.

(David Yennior, our Passaic River Issues Coordinator, and Gateway Group Chair, adds:

As a member of the Lower Passaic River Community Advisory Group, representing the Sierra Club, I have been attending monthly meetings and presentations on the clean-up process.

The initial dredging of 40,000 cubic yards will cost \$80M. The corporation that inherited the corporate liability, Tierra Solutions, will then spend several hundred million dollars to treat an additional 160,000 cubic yards of sediment, which will be separated from water by a two-stage filtration system, and sent through a floating pipeline to a treatment plant 1/4 mile away. The



At the clean-up site: Col John Boule - Army Corp of Engineers, Bob Martin - DEP Commissioner, Debbie Mans - NY/NJ Baykeeper & CAG Co-Chair, Judith Enck - Regional EPA Director, Sen Bob Menendez, Rep Bill Pascrell

filtered water will be returned to the river and the treated sediment will be shipped to Oklahoma and Utah for burial. The entire project will remove 60% of the dioxin in the Passaic River.

The dioxin lies as deep as 12 feet beneath the riverbed, may have migrated as far as 8 miles up-stream because the Passaic is a tidal river. As a result, it is illegal to eat fish or shellfish from the river. In addition to this dredging, efforts by the US EPA, NJ DEP, and the NY/NJ Baykeeper continue to get some 70 additional polluters to voluntarily commit to further Passaic River clean-ups of dioxin, PCBs, mercury, DDT, and other pollutants.

The 28-member Community Advisory Group, co-chaired by Baykeeper Debbie Manns and Ana Baptiste of the Ironbound Community Corporation, will continue to advocate for and oversee efforts to clean up the river. The Sierra Club will be part of the monitoring process. The ultimate goal is to restore the Passaic River to safe levels for boating, both recreational and commercial, as well as fishing and crabbing.)

New Jersey Sierra Club RGGI Campaign

Promotes Green Jobs Protecting our Environment and Economy

From a press release issued on Oct 13th by our Chapter Staff

The Chapter has joined a coalition of environmental organizations, including Environment New Jersey, urging reinstatement of New Jersey into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). RGGI is an agreement made in 2003 by 10 Northeastern states, including New Jersey, to reduce greenhouse gas contributions to Global Warming, and to improve air quality.

RGGI Facts:

- New Jersey achieved the RGGI greenhouse gas reduction goal of 10% in the first three years
- RGGI is achieving its goals and more. Due in part to its programs, global warming pollution is down 15%-30% since it was launched.
- The economy in the region has grown by more than \$2.3 billion because

of RGGI.

- RGGI is directly responsible for creating or saving almost 18,000 jobs
- 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
- The first 12 projects in New Jersey funded by RGGI proceeds helped New Jersey businesses generate over 167,000 megawatt hours of clean energy per year - equal to the amount of energy consumed by 19,600 households per year - and reduce annual carbon dioxide emissions by 84,000 metric tons.
- RGGI has also helped lead to hundreds of clean energy businesses - both

large and small - starting up, expanding or moving to New Jersey. These companies employ thousands of New Jerseyans in the growing clean energy market

- Governor Christie eliminated the Office of Climate Change, took over \$400 million in energy funds, and last year took \$63 million from RGGI to balance his budget.
- The Governor's revised Energy Master Plan reduces our renewable energy goals from 30% to 22.5% in favor of more fossil fuels, contributing to climate change pollution.

Our grassroots campaign will target legislators who have opposed RGGI to get them to change their position - by overriding the Governor's veto, as well as initiating an oversight resolution to block New Jersey from leaving RGGI.

Governor Christie would rather appease the right wing and the Koch Brothers than do what is in the best interest for our state and our environment. RGGI is an agreement signed by the ten northeast states to cut carbon emissions from electrical generation power plants. Emissions would be cut through a surcharge on carbon pollution from the electrical generation plants as well as mandat-

ing a 10% cut in carbon pollution from the plants.

The Koch Brothers are the biggest funders of initiatives to stop the regulation of climate change pollution, such as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and the Governor pulled out of RGGI. Christie took the side of fossil fuels over renewables and energy efficiency in his revised Energy Master Plan. He has attacked rebates for weatherization and solar panels as socialism and a redistribution of wealth. He vetoed the fracking ban bill after being praised by the Koch Brothers. All these policies come directly from the Koch brothers agenda.

RGGI helps businesses build combined heat and power systems, helps put solar panels on the roofs of buildings, and helps people weatherize their homes. Governor Christie should never have pulled us out of RGGI. We need our legislators to stand up for the environment and clean energy. It is especially important here in New Jersey, since we are a coastal state threatened with sea level rise and inland flooding: putting people's homes and our tourist economy at risk.

Member's Report on Fracking in the Delaware River Basin

DRBC Revised Rules and November Vote

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

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) proposed revisions to the natural gas drilling rules on November 8, 2011. If adopted they would update those proposed in the draft of December 2010, which received 69,800 comments, breaking all records for public involvement.

Under the new rules, up to 300 wells may be drilled - until the DRBC votes to allow more drilling. After 18 months, the DRBC will reconsider and make revisions. Many of the rules are weak, and could lead to substantial pollution and degradation of the environment by toxic fracking fluids and gas emissions. For example, the DRBC allows companies to monitor surface water contamination. Here's a link to an article that explains the weaknesses, as well as supplying the DRBC's revised draft regulations: http://www.northcountrygazette.org/2011/11/10/delaware_fracking/

Editor's note: On Nov 21, the DRBC postponed a vote on the proposed rules, a temporary victory for us; it looked as if the majority of the five votes would be "no." The two Republican Governors' votes (NJ and PA) were expected to be yes, the two Democratic Governors' votes (DE and NY) were expected to be no, and the Army Corps of Engineers' vote, reflecting President Obama's politics, were expected to be supportive of the Democratic Governors.

If a vote to approve the gas regulations does take place, drilling companies would be able to apply, after 60 days, to drill in the Delaware River basin.

The moratorium on drilling should

remain until the scientific research is published and appropriate environmental protections are in place. The DRBC drafted their regulations before the environmental impact study on fracking was completed by the EPA. The moratorium on drilling should continue until the EPA study becomes available. In addition, there needs to be stronger state and federal laws regulating drilling. The DRBC regulations are inadequate and defer to states, which have weak environmental protections, and are influenced by the natural gas industry. There also needs to be stronger federal laws to regulate drilling, since hydrofracking was exempted from federal water protection laws by the 2005 Energy Policy Act. EPA scientists have said that due to lack of federal regulation of hydraulic fracturing, particularly the disclosure of the chemicals injected, they can't properly investigate fracking pollution cases. Since there aren't adequate laws at the state and federal level to regulate fracking, the moratorium should remain.

With the Occupy Wall Street protests, there is new popularity of mass actions by concerned citizens - standing up to corporations to protect the public interest. The effort to stop the Keystone XL Pipeline united thousands of people. Similarly, there is a growing movement to protect the environment from fracking. For more information visit: occupywellstreet.blogspot.com/p/occupy-wellstreet-101.html, <http://savethedelaware.wordpress.com/>, and Occupy DRBC on facebook.

ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

BPU President Solomon Says No to PurGen

By Barb Conover (bconnifer022@gmail.com), Coal Campaign Coordinator

In testimony to the Board of Public Utilities' August 26th hearing on New Jersey's draft 2011 Energy Master Plan, I urged that coal, a major source of CO₂ emissions, be no longer accepted as a new source of power.

But I noted that there is a loophole: a proposal for construction of an experimental and controversial coal-burning power plant in Linden (Union County), called PurGen, that would sequester and liquefy the CO₂ produced for underground (undersea!) injection and "permanent" storage.

Lee Solomon, president of the BPU, then interrupted me, saying "Stop. You don't have to say anything more about PurGen. There will be no PurGen. That project is not going forward as a coal carbon sequestration plant. The Governor has said 'no' to any coal. That's a done issue. It cannot even be inferred. There is no loophole. I say that

publicly, and on the record, and so did the Governor."

Wow.

Does Solomon's statement have any authority behind it? Will 'no-carbon capture and sequestration' phrasing be clearly added to the EMP? Only time will tell.

And does that mean "we won"? Not quite yet! The DEP still has a preconstruction air pollution permit application for the PurGen plant under review.

And those three Combined Cycle natural gas plants in the draft Energy Master Plan are another issue! The combustion of natural gas to make electricity also produces CO₂ emissions. It's likely that one will be sited on the DuPont brownfield in Linden that was to be PurGen's - and SCS Energy (the applicant for PurGen) could be the company proposing it - and CO₂ emissions sequestration and piped sub-seabed injection could still be part of it... but that will be another fight...

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.

Governors in Review By Dick Colby - with substantial help from Jeff Tittel

Many people hold politicians in contempt, generally, but New Jersey governors have really made a difference to the environment, and we like to think that Sierra Club members contribute importantly to a Governor's environmental perspective.

For example, as a member of the Chapter's Political Committee, I've participated in our interviews of governor-candidates since 1990. In 1998, when Gov. Whitman ran for re-election, I listed the environmental accomplishments of each of the previous four governors, and asked her what would be her legacy. A few days later she announced her plan to save a million acres of open space.

(On the other hand, Gov. Corzine's answer to the same question was an intention to solve the problem of Global Warming, world-wide!)

So here is an environmental scorecard, showing minuses as well as pluses: The early successes came from both Republican and Democratic governors, perhaps at a time when it was "easier" to save open space, and to convince the Legislature to spend money. More recent governors have done more harm, perhaps because the budgets are tighter, but also because open space is less available, and the pressures from lobbyists are more enticing. Comments welcome!

Years	Governor	Party	Achievements	Blunders/Disasters
1954-1961	Robert Meyner	Dem	Green Acres program	
1962-1969	Richard Hughes	Dem	Skylands report (calling for Preservation)	
1970-1973	William Cahill	Rep	Creation of the DEP, Meadowlands, CAFRA, Clean Air & Water Acts	
1974-1981	Brendan Byrne	Dem	Pinelands legislation, Stopped I-95, Pollution Control Act, Spill Act, D&R Canal	
1982-1989	Thomas Kean	Rep	State Plan, Right to Know Legislation, Wetlands protection, Pollution prevention	I-78 & I-287, Incinerators, Sold watersheds, Removed Walkkill River's Protective upgrade
1990-1993	James Florio	Dem	Catrophe Prevention Act	Bad DEP appointments, Logan Twp coal plant
			CAFRA-2, Clean air, ECRA, Toxics legislation, Nominated Walkkill River for Clean Water enforcement, Watershed moratorium, Water Quality Act, Protective Upgrade Permit Extension	
1994-2000	Christine Todd Whitman	Rep	Million acres of Open Space, Cancelled bear hunt	Pension fund scandal, DEP enforcement cut 80%, Removed Walkkill from protective upgrade, Permit Extension Act, ISRA (weakened toxic cleanups), Ended trip-reduction efforts
2001	(4 acting governors)		Donald DiFrancesco - (Rep): Private well-testing	
2002-2004	James McGreevy	Dem	Highlands legislation, 300' buffers, C1 stream protection, Stormwater regs, Restored park funding, Renewable Portfolio standard (22.5%)	En-Cap scandal, Xanadu scandal, Fast Track Bill,
2005	(Acting Gov. Codey)	Dem	Added 400 miles of C1 streams including Shark River, Stopped Fast Track	
2006-2009	Jon Corzine	Dem	Energy Master Plan, RGGI, Global Warming Response Act, Water Quality Planning Act	Pension fund scandal Tried to close state parks Privatize toxic cleanups, Cut DEP budget Removed Walkkill from upgrade Delay Water Quality Plans, Widen Turnpike & Parkway, Permit Extension Act
2010-	Chris Christie	Rep	Opposed Delaware River deepening	Withdrew from RGGI, Licensed Site Professionals, Degraded Energy Master Plan, Park privatization, Weakened clean water regs, Limited state standards to federal standards, Waive all regs, Subsidized Xanadu, Weakened Beach Access Rules, Vetoed Fracking Prevention Bill, Voted Barngeat Bay TMDLs Bill, Permit Extension Act, Bad Streamlining Bill, Overall weakening of environmental regulations



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)

Our Skylands Group has suffered a loss of volunteer officers and so has been placed temporarily into "reorganization." For more information, please contact our Group Effectiveness Chair, Rich Isaac (see the Leader List on p. 12).

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

ACTIVITIES: Worked 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 the website for possible additional information regarding reorganization and relevant activities.

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

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Jonathan Wall	psychologist@jonwall.com
Vice-Chair:	Cinny MacGonagle	cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Secretary & Webmaster:	Dwight Irving	dwight@dilirving.com
Treasurer:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Political Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Publicity Chair:	Celeste Martin	onecentral@mac.com
Membership Chair:	William Moody	riversmfever@gmail.com
Energy Coordinator:	Mark Marciniak	mpmplace@ptd.net
Outings Coordinator:	Dave English	dgenglish@hotmail.com

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: 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: Our next General meeting is planned for January 18th at Hunterdon Medical Center's Auditorium. Program details to follow. For the most up-to-date plans for meetings and outings, checkout our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=53817136187>)

OUTINGS: Hikers and bikers – contact David English, dgenglish@hotmail.com – Put "Sierra Club Hike and Bike" in the Subject Line)

WHERE WE WILL BE:

Do you know of any of our members who have been to the New York City Occupy Protest? As a peaceful civil rights endeavor, the official stance of the Sierra Club is to support the demonstration. If you have been into town, please share your experience at our next meeting.

CURRENT ISSUES:

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

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

Delaware Gap National Park & Preserve:

Supporting efforts to enhance park protections and enhance funding via upgrading the Delaware Gap National Recreation Area status by formalizing it as a National Park and Preserve. Our effort aims to work with local and state governments, outdoor enthusiasts, environmental, hunting & game groups... together with you... to conserve and enhance our local environment and protect it from the pressures of suburban sprawl, power lines, gas pipes and mineral and gas extraction.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Advocacy for our Environment Works! Speak Up! Join the Sierra Club and volunteer! If you are in the Hunterdon or Southern Warren Counties, come to our meetings and bring a friend!

North Jersey Group

(Bergen, Passaic and northern Morris Counties, approximately)

Please VOTE for Group Officers - using the ballot on p.2.

OFFICERS:

Chair:	John Kashwick	jkashwick@optonline.net
Vice Chair:	Mary Ellen Shaw	meshaw.001@gmail.com
Conservation Chair:	Tom Thompson	etrans743@aol.com
Political Chair:	Greg Tondi	gregt75@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Tom Thompson	etrans743@aol.com
Secretary:	Open Position!	
Air Quality Issues:	Laura Coll	lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com
Membership Chair:	Buddy Jenssen	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Outings Chair:	Ellen Blumenkrantz	eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Program Chair:	Open Position!	
Trail Maintenance:	Marty Cohen	martincohen@verizon.net
Webmaster:	John Kashwick	jkashwick@optonline.net
Wildlife Issues:	Mary Ellen Shaw	meshaw.001@gmail.com
Ex-Com Member:	Nancy Wysocki	nape2@aol.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next group Executive Committee will take place on Wednesday, Feb 1, 2012 at 7:30 pm, usually at a local eatery. The meeting is casual and informative. All group members are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about the Club. Exact meeting location will be posted on the group's Web page (<http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/north/>) within two week of meeting date. For more information, please contact John or Mary Ellen (above).

GENERAL MEETINGS

Tues, Jan 24 at 7:30 pm at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Ave in Englewood. Don Torino, currently Education Chairperson of Bergen County Audubon Society will give a talk titled "The Local Natural World and Its Wild Creatures." Don has spearheaded BCAS's efforts to get Audubon's environmental education programs into local schools, reaching upwards of 2000 students in 10 schools around Bergen County. Don is also a leader of many bird walks, both for BCAS and for the Meadowlands Commission. Don blogs about his experiences in a weekly online column titled, "Don's Jersey Birding" for www.wildnewjersey.tv that covers the local natural world and its wild creatures as well as the people who become involved in doing good by them. Don has a keen interest in promoting the restoration of natural habitat starting with your backyard.

February and March programs will be announced soon. Please check our Web page for directions and our latest calendar (<http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/north/>).

GROUP LEADERSHIP CHANGES:

Betsy Kohn, our long time Chair, stepped down in January 2010 and Mike Herson, our most recent Chair stepped down in October of this year. Betsy and Mike are both strong advocates for the environment and key players in the Sierra Club. We thank them for their efforts over the years and will miss their guidance and expertise.

CONSERVATION ISSUES:

Become more involved in the North Jersey group and tell us more about what you are working on. Some issues that we have worked on in the past and continue to work on include keeping the Hackensack and Ramapo pristine and protecting our drinking water, as well as protecting the New Jersey Highlands from electric power lines and gas pipe lines that will impact the view-shed, damage forests and wildlife, and pollute Highlands water. We also support the concept of a National Park and Preserve in the Delaware Water Gap region. For more information about these issues or to become involved, please contact Tom (above).

TRAIL MAINTENANCE:

After Hurricane Irene, Buddy Jenssen and Marty Cohen reconnected our section of the Appalachian Trail and found it to be in excellent shape. As of this writing, we hadn't yet monitored the trail since the Halloween snow storm, so if you would like join our group of trail maintainers and help clear the trail please contact Marty Cohen (above).

OUTINGS: If you have an idea for an outing you would like to lead, please contact Ellen Blumenkrantz (above) to find out how.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: The group has several openings such as secretary and programs chair. To find out how you can help with outings, meetings, conservation issues, environmental justice, or in other ways, please contact John or Mary Ellen (above).

Sign up for North Jersey Group e-mail notices. E-mail John at jkashwick@optonline.net.

Hudson-Meadowlands Group

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

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Steve Lanset	201-424-6348	slanset@hotmail.com
Vice-Chair:	Janet Glass	201-868-4216	iguanaj@aol.com
Secretaries:	Judith Courtney	201-868-6575	jaocourtney@netzero.net
	Ruth Olsen	201-868-6575	oof46@msn.com
Treasurer:	Judith Courtney	201-868-6575	jaocourtney@netzero.net
Conservation Chairs:	Mirjana Zivkovic	201-758-8390	tenisko@hotmail.com
	Louise Taylor	201-562-8390	LTAYLOR2@comcast.net
Cool Cities Chair:	Helen Manogue	201-963-3511	helenmanogue@verizon.net
Events Chair:	Janet Glass	201-868-4216	iguanaj@aol.com
ExCom At-large:	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 its Executive Committee meetings at 7pm on the following Thursdays in 2012: Jan 12, March 15, May 17, June 28, Sept 13, and Nov 15. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CONGRATULATIONS, SIERRA CLUB, NJ CHAPTER! Jeff Tittel received an award on behalf of the Chapter from Bill Sheehan of the Hackensack Riverkeeper at the Nov 19th Wetlands Preservation Concert and Expo in Rutherford featuring Pete and Toshi Seeger and Tom Paxton and Friends.

CONSERVATION ISSUES: Our group is committed to protecting open space in our urban area. We are currently focused on major conservation campaigns and issues, primarily along the Palisades south of the GW Bridge. We attempt to block development efforts that would impact negatively on the Palisades and the quality of life of those who live near them as well as other developments in our territory that violate the environmental needs of our residents and our land.

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. The next hearing is December 20th at 4233 Kennedy Boulevard in North Bergen. Call 201-392-2024 that day to confirm meeting and find additional dates. Parking is available.

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. Sierra is consulting with the Hudson River Waterfront Conservancy to seek a reversal of these approvals.

4) The Churchill Group is trying to get approval at the NBPB to build a new 24-unit rental building 7 stories high on the face of the Palisades.

5) Churchill Estates (Paul Silverman) has already installed netting on the Palisades to catch boulders that have been dislodged by previous construction. Now it wants to construct a new 80 unit high rise in addition to what is already there on the face of the Palisades. The next PB meeting is December 15th at 4233 Kennedy Boulevard in North Bergen. Call 201-392-2024 that day to confirm meeting and find additional dates. Parking is available.

6) A new development group is requesting approval to build at the base of the Palisades famous Suicide Bridge in three stages: 2 story, 51,840 ft retail space with a 3 story garage behind that and a 7 story 210-unit hotel on top of that. This project is just another mass of development that will blot out views of the Palisades forever.

7) Our Group and the State Chapter are opposed to the Spectra 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 especially on the Palisades. Developers are circling to construct hotels, commercial buildings and residential projects that will block any view of these majestic cliffs. We need 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 serves 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 or 973-844-1384.

Officers:

Chair:	David Yennior	973-844-1384	dyennior@msn.com
Vice-Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Secretary:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Treasurer:	Anne Hirs	973-844-1121	annehirs@msn.com
Program Chair:	John Beadle	973-284-1594	jbeadle571@verizon.net
Conservation Chair:	ZaSah Khademi	201-618-8572	zasah@aol.com
Political Chair:	Darius Tullis	908-838-9732	dktullis@gmail.com
Membership Chair:	Steven Yafet	908-354-2537	syafet@gmail.com
Newark Issues Chair:	Bill Chappel	973-623-6490	bchappel1@verizon.net
Water Issues Chair:	Bill Chappel	973-623-6490	bchappel1@verizon.net
Recycling Issues Chair:	Lyle Landon	201-247-0288	lylelandon@aol.com
Passaic River Issues Chair:	Brenda Toyloy	973-856-7056	brendatoyloy@yahoo.com
Elizabeth Issues Chair:	Paula Borenstein	908-289-3584	brdandmkt@aol.com
Outings Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		

Loantaka Group

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

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

OFFICERS:

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

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>

(Continued on page 8)

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

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

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

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Jan 11: Coal Country - Christine Guhl will show a video called Coal Country and give a presentation about the Sierra Club's Coal Campaign. The video centers on problems resulting from the mountain-top removal method of mining. Please come and learn what we can do to reduce New Jersey's use of dirty coal.

Feb 8: Dangers of Hydrofracking (Fracking) - Terry Stimpfel will lead a discussion on hydrofracking, the controversial technique used to get natural gas from shale. She'll discuss what it is, how it works, and why it's so controversial.

Mar 14: Harvesting Rainwater, Reducing Runoff and Preserving Our Waterways - John Olivo, a Licensed Landscape architect, will discuss the interaction of landscaping and water harvesting and water conservation.

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).

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

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

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

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Terry Stimpfel	609-731-7016	terystimb@hotmail.com
Co-Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Conserv'n Chr:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Memb' Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Outings Chair:	Leona Fluck	609-259-3734	leona@pineypaddlers.com
Political Chair:	Terry Stimpfel		
Publicity Chair:	Joanne Pannone	609-443-6992	jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
Program Chair:	Lynne Weiss	732-821-9688	lshari05@gmail.com
ExCom At-large:	Malcolm McFarland	609-448-8699	jmmcfarland81@gmail.com
	Kip Cherry	609-924-4232	kcherry10@gmail.com
	Rob Benjamin	609 587-9069	robert.benjamin@greenwords.net
Outreach:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Secretary:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Webmaster:	<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.

Special Event in January: In conjunction with the Princeton Environmental Film Festival, (<http://www.princeton.lib.nj.us/peff>) which will extend over several weeks this year in January and February, we will meet for a meal, film and discussion. Please subscribe to our email list for further details.

SPECIAL MEETINGS: To be announced during the quarter.

Panel discussion by experts in March.
Please subscribe to our email list.

SERVICE: Mar 24 (Sat): Land Cleanup at Roebing Park in H-TB Marsh (Mercer Co). 9-12pm. Spring Lake / Roebing Park area (end of Sewell Ave., Hamilton). Plan for mud. Wear long pants and sleeves, gloves if possible. Joint with Mercer Co and D&R Greenway.

We need your help on the many service opportunities planned for April! Later in February and March, please check the Sierra outings website and our email list for details and please plan to participate.

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

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Roomi Nusrat	908-429-9017	sierra_nj_rartian@att.net
Group Vice Chair:	Don McBride	732 560-0369	dtmcbride@alumni.haas.org
Conservation Advisor:	Jane Tousman	908-561-5504	jdtous@aol.com
Outings Coordinator:	Denise McClellan		mcclellan09@comcast.net
Webmaster:	Don McBride	732 560-0369	dtmcbride@alumni.haas.org
Treasurer:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Recycling Coordinator:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Conservation Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Secretary:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Political Chair:	Daphne Speck-Barynski	732-390-5311	speckbartyn@comcast.net
Membership:	<i>Open position!</i>		

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

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

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

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

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

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

Please VOTE for Group Officers, using the ballot on p.2.

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

OFFICERS:

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

Shore Group Happenings:

We have had several cleanups with a coalition with Monmouth University, all the towns on the Whale Pond Brook watershed, and the N.J. Friends of Clearwater. Our goal is to clean up the watershed and educate local residents about the detrimental effects of lawn fertilizers and storm water run-off, and the importance of integrated pest management. We have held several hikes along part of the watershed and have shown 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.

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

GENERAL MEETINGS: The general meeting of the Jersey Shore Group will continue at the NEW TIME and LOCATION: 6pm at Brookdale Community College. We're meeting at Brookdale in hopes of sharing our speakers with both the N.J Friends of Clearwater, environmentally concerned BCC college students, and other local organizations. A buffet will be available for the students and adults at 6pm Contributions from non-students are encouraged to defray the costs. The general meeting starts at 6:30 pm.

To get to Brookdale, take GSP 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.

Jan 23: Jeff Tittel, NJ Chapter Director of the Sierra Club, will discuss the systematic political assault on both the state's and the nation's environmental rules and regulations by radical conservative politicians. Since the radicals have captured the US House of Representatives, there have been about 160 votes against environmental regulations on the House floor, and about 85 of them have targeted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. More assaults can be expected to come. In New Jersey, Gov. Chris Christie has opposed many environmental bills, while his environmental commission-

er insists that any evaluation of new regulations must be balanced by their impact on economic growth. Jeff will also explain how pro-development opponents to environmental controls falsely blame them for the nation's economic stagnation. All is not bleak, however. He will close by considering the rays of hope on the horizon.

Feb 27: Clyde Mackenzie, a researcher at the James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory (NMFS) at Sandy Hook, will discuss the health of the marine fisheries in New Jersey and worldwide. About 12 of the world's 13 major fisheries have been over-harvested and the populations of many fish species are in danger of collapsing. Both the environmental and economic consequences are staggering, since UN statistics indicate there are 38 million commercial fishermen and fish farmers, while overall, the fisheries and aquaculture industries employ directly and indirectly more than 500 million people. The Howard Lab has been studying fish and shellfish in the New Jersey and New York estuaries since 1961. While Mr. Mackenzie has specialized in the biology and ecology of mollusks in the eastern United States and Canada, he has made many trips to Latin American and Pacific shores to observe and document both molluscan and marine fisheries.

Mar 26: Why does New Jersey need "rain gardens?" To capture rain runoff for local flora and fauna, recharge ground water supplies, and reduce erosion and habitat destruction. Rain gardens, depressions in the ground that are planted with native trees, plants and flowers, mimic the natural absorption and pollutant filtering activities of a forest. William Sciarappa, head of the County Extension Department and County Agricultural Agent, will discuss his department's plan to develop rain gardens. He will be followed by Thomas E. Matulewicz of the Monmouth County Master Gardeners, who will explain how that group helps design rain gardens, and professional landscaper Laurel Von Gerichten, a certified landscape designer with her own company, Laurelbrook Design. She will explain how homeowners can economically create rain gardens while enhancing the "curb appeal" of their homes.

Ocean County Group

WEBSITE: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean

OFFICERS:

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

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. Information on meetings in Jan-March will be posted on the website: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean.

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

WEBSITE: <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzcv1ujt/>

OFFICERS:

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

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

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

Jan 11: Linda Sauerwein will present **Introduction to Sierra Club National Trips** She will answer the questions....what type of opportunities are available, why choose a service trip, how can I become a national leader?

Feb 8: Mike Richter, Registered Respiratory Therapist will present "The Fight to keep NJ's Air Clean". A review of the historical status of air pollution in NJ, and the milestones in the fight to reverse the increasing pollution levels (from both in and out of the state).

Mar 14: Rain Gardens. Mike Haberland, Environmental and Resource Management Agent for Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Burlington and Camden Counties will teach us how to build rain gardens in our own back yards.

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

Current Issues: In addition to our opposition to the extension of Rte 55 into Cape May County (see article in the previous issue of this Newsletter), two Cape May County campaigns to prevent the use of tropical rainforest wood for rebuilding oceanfront boardwalks, in Ocean City and Wildwood, are being led by Georgina Shanley [shanleyg2001@yahoo.com]. Club officers and staff have been following closely the several studies seeking to determine sustainable water supply levels for southeastern New Jersey, with the hope that findings will be used by planners (such as those employed by the Pinelands Commission) who authorize development. Other hot issues include damage done to sand trails by ATVs, a campaign to promote Community Solar (photo-voltaic) installations (especially in each municipality in Atlantic County), and support for a New Jersey Bottle Bill, known as the Smart Container Act (A930/S1467).

Some Possibly Relevant Meetings of Allied Organizations:

Jan 11 & Mar 14, 6:30 pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries: Meeting place: George Luciano Center, Cumberland County College. Cumberland County development issues are commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Lillian Armstrong (CU) at 609-774-5853 or lillian.armstrong@cumaucricriver.org. Website: www.cumaucricriver.org.

Jan 19, Feb 16 & Mar 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.

Jan 24 & Mar 27, 7pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: Members' meeting, open to the public. Watershed awareness presentation. 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.

Feb 15, 7pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss river management strategies. Open to the public. (WFNC*). Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

Singles Section

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

(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)

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

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

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

OFFICERS:

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

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

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

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

SOCIAL GATHERINGS:

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

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

HIKES AND OTHER OUTINGS:

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

Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

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

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

The mission of this section is to support Sierra Club goals, and to promote activism through letter writing, phone calls, and other active support for environmental issues.

We work through a "List Serve," by which members learn about current environmental issues, and how they can be supported.

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

Young Sierrans

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

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

YOUNG SIERRAN COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Head Chair & Coordinator:	William Sevchuk	wsevchuk@yahoo.com
Vice Chair:	<i>Open Position</i>	Please Contact Us!
Moderator:	Diana Christine Eichholz	MistyAngel22@aol.com
Conservation Chair:	Steve Timmerman	skiingsteve@aol.com

Webmaster:	Julie Garber	journey7@optonline.net
Ex-Com/ YS National Rep. (CA)	Jackie Enfield	jackie@jackieenfield.com
Northern Jersey YS Rep.	Jim DeSantis	green@northjerseygreendrinks.com
Outings Chair: (Northern Jersey)	<i>Open Position!</i>	Please Contact Us!
Outings Chair: (Central Jersey)	Leon Yerenburg	lyerenburg@gmail.com
Outings Chair: (South Jersey)	<i>Open Position!</i>	Please Contact Us!

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

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

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

Sierra Student Coalition

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

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

Inner City Outings Section

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

OFFICERS:

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

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

Ten ICO volunteers and family members participated in our first annual (maybe) bottle hike. Recently ICO purchased a bunch of water bottles emblazoned with both a Sierra Club logo and our own customized NJ ICO logo, to give to the urban youth we take out and to our volunteers. Since the great northeastern Halloween storm not only obliterated our electricity, but also our scheduled hike with Hoboken H.S., our volunteers were the first to receive the bottles.

We enjoyed an absolutely beautiful day in the woods, featuring some great views, some sawing and clearing of branches deposited by the storm, and were witness to the amazing route-finding capability of one of our canine companions.

Special Offer to Club members: Concerts by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

During the month of January, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra will explore the theme of FIRE during its Winter Festival. Because the Chapter is an NJSO Winter Festival partner, 30% of your ticket price will be rebated to the Sierra Club when you order using your exclusive promotion code SIERRA.

To buy online, visit www.njsymphony.org and select the Winter Festival concert(s) you wish to attend. Click the "Buy" button, then enter the promotion code before entering the number of tickets you wish to purchase. For personal assistance, please call the Box Office (M-F, 9-5) at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or 973.624.3713.

For more information about events surrounding the performances below, including panel discussions, classical conversations and lobby displays, please visit the 2012 Winter Festival web page.

Concert 1: YEVGENY SUDBIN, piano: THE HERO'S FIRE (Stravinsky's *Firebird*)

January 6 at 8 pm in Newark, January 7 at 8 pm in New Brunswick,
January 8 at 3 pm in Newark

Concert 2: JACQUES LACOMBE, conductor: BEST OF PLAYING WITH FIRE
(Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* and *The Damnation of Faust*)

January 13 at 7:30 pm in Trenton, January 14 at 8 pm in Red Bank,
January 15 at 3 pm in Englewood

Concert 3: ANSSI KARTTUNEN, cello: FIRE: LIGHT & LEGEND (Haydn's "*Fire*"
symphony and Beethoven's *The Creatures of Prometheus* bookend the
warm sound of Saariaho's *Notes on Light* cello concerto)

January 20 at 8 pm in Princeton, January 21 at 8 pm in Newark,
January 22 at 3 pm in New Brunswick

Winter Festival events begin one hour before most of these concerts. Chapter Director Jeff Tittel will speak before two of them. Details on the website.



Outings

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

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

- Central Jersey:** Leona Fluck 609-259-3734 (H) leona@pineypaddlers.com
Gateway: David Ogens 973-226-0748 (H) 64 Elm Rd, Caldwell 07003
Hudson-Meadowlands: Vacant
South Highlands: Susan Schirmer 908-996-7722 (H)
Jersey Shore: Mike Verange 908-732-8364 (H) 1497 W Front St, Lincroft, NJ 07738
Loantaka: Joyce White 908-272-4478 (H) joyce00201@yahoo.com
North Jersey: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417 eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Skylands: Pat Mangino, Pmangino@aol.com
Raritan Valley: Vacant
South Jersey: Tom Boghosian 609-625-0878 (H) 4794 Andorea Drive, Mays Landing, 08330 boghosian1@verizon.net
West Jersey: Vacant
River Touring: Fred Tocce 908-453-2205 (H) Rd 1 Box 277, Washington, NJ 07882
Inner City Outings: Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H) NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd, Warren, 07059
Chapter Outings: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417 eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Outing Leaders: Please send April-June 2012 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator before Feb. 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 April-June trip write-ups by Feb. 8.

NOTES ON OUTINGS: Local and Chapter Outings are generally open to Club members and non-members alike. Unless otherwise specified, they are free of charge. 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 safe-

ty, 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. |

parking area. The entrance is opposite and just before the Griggstown Causeway on Canal Road. Bring lunch and water. There are no restrooms and rain cancels the trip. Co-leaders: Leona F: leona@pineypaddlers.com or 609-259-3734, and Paul F: hikerpaul@verizon.net - Cell: 732-996-1406, and Beth C: bethcompagnucci@gmail.com - Cell 609-533-1335 (W)

FEBRUARY

Feb 1 (Wed): Clayton Park Hike (Monmouth Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace with some elevation. Hunting season is over at Clayton - let's hike! This rustic 421-acre site in Central New Jersey is located amidst the rolling farmland of western Monmouth County. For info and directions check the Park website: www.monmouthcountyparks.com/page.aspx?Id=2517 Leashed dogs are welcome! After the hike; option for lunch at La Piazza, Allentown, NJ. Leaders: Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

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

Feb 4 (Sat): Whitesbog Village Winter Hike (Burlington Co). 10am. 4-5 miles. Easy pace. Whitesbog is a NJ historic site and was a village built to house workers in the local cranberry bogs. Every year the bogs and ponds in the region near Whitesbog are home to a wintering population of Tundra swans and perhaps we'll see them as we hike around the bogs. Leashed dogs are welcome! Optional guided tour of the Village at 1pm (small fee). Directions: www.whitesbog.org Bring beverage and lunch. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Feb 4 (Sat): Moonlight Hike, Campfire and Campout. (Burlington Co). 7pm. 7 miles at moderate pace. Hike the Pines under the Wolf Moon on a new route and return to a roaring campfire. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NC/NP. Meet at Atsion Lake: From Rte 206 take Atsion Rd west 1 mile, go 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 eves. or pis1@cccnj.net Inclement weather cancels. Contact leader to confirm hike.

Feb 5 (Sun): Clayton Park Upper Freehold Township (Monmouth Co). Special Interest: History. 9am. A moderate 6-mile hike in one of Monmouth County Park System's best kept secrets. Moderate elevation gains. Hiking shoes not required. Bring snack and drink. Meet at the Wawa store near the intersection of County Rte 537 and I-195 in Upper Freehold Township. Bad Weather (including snow cover) Cancels. Confirmation/ Questions call or text Leader: Mike Verange: 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

Feb 10-12 (Fri.-Sun): Social Getaway Weekend at AMC's Mohican Center, Blairstown NJ. Meet at 3pm. Enjoy an all inclusive weekend in a rustic lodge, with modern amenities, situated in the mountains of Northern Jersey. We will hike along the Appalachian Trail on the Coppermine and Rattlesnake trails with their great vistas into the valley. We will do a short hike the next day to explore old mining caves. Cost will depend on number of participants and will cover food and lodging. Snow is a possibility, bring snow shoes and cc skies. Limited openings, contact leader now! Payment due by Feb. 1. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 evenings or pis1@cccnj.net

Feb 12 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am. Meet at Lake Oswego and paddle 8 miles on the "Jewel of the Pinelands". Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

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

Feb 19 (Sun): Social Tundra Swan Hike. 10am. 6 miles. Moderate pace. All are welcome. Hike the wintry beauty among ponds filled with Tundra Swans. Bring binoculars. Dress for the cold weather. NP/NC. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet at Whitesbog Village parking lot. Take Rte 70 east to Rte 530 north (Browns Mills/Ft Dix) go 1 mile, turn right onto Whitesbog Road, go to parking lot. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eves, pis1@cccnj.net Inclement weather cancels.

Feb 19 (Sun): President's Day Weekend Hike at Allaire State Park (Monmouth Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. The Historic Village was known as the Howell Works in the early 19th century. At that time it was a thriving industrial community which produced pig and cast iron. After the hike and lunch, we can tour the village buildings and shop at the Allaire General Store. Bring lunch and beverage. Leashed dogs are welcome! Meet in the village parking lot. Co-leaders: Leona F: Leona@pineypaddlers.com or 609-259-3734, and Paul F: hikerpaul@verizon.net - Cell: 732-996-1406 (W)

Feb 21 (Tues): "Mardi Gras" Hike at Jakes Branch County Park (Ocean Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy "parade" pace. Jakes Branch has a wonderful nature center with interesting hands-on exhibits and an observation deck that offers a 360' view of the Pinelands. Leashed dogs are welcome. Meet at Jakes Branch Park, 1100 Double Trouble Rd, Beechwood. Option for lunch at the Sand Castle Diner, Beechwood. - Food fit for a King". Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Feb 25 (Sat): Clausland Mountain (Rockland Co, NY). 11:15 am. 6 miles. We will climb 700 ft through historic Rockland Cemetery to an old Nike missile base. Bring hiking boots, lunch, 2 quarts of water. Adverse conditions will alter the route. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural, on the corner of Tate & Piermont Aves.) in Piermont NY. Park across the street in parking lot D. Leader: John P. Jurasek: 845-519-4247 (no calls after 10pm), or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

Feb 26 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 10am. We're paddling 9 miles from Penny Pot to Weymouth Furnace. Meet at Georgie's Grill, Rte 54, Hammonton. Arrive early for breakfast!! Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Feb 29 (Wed): Leap Year Hike at the NJAS Plainsboro Preserve (Mercer/Middlesex Cos). 10am. 4-5 miles. Easy pace. The Preserve has wildlife exhibits, a reference library and the Nature Store is a great source for field guides, optics, etc. Dogs are not permitted. Bring water and snacks. Directions: www.njaudubon.org/Centers/Plainsboro/ Option for lunch at a local restaurant after the hike. Co-leaders: Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com, and Joanne P: jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com (C)

MARCH

Mar 3 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am. Join us for a 8-mile paddle on the "Jewel of the Pinelands". Meet at Lake Oswego. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Mar 3 (Sat): Island Pond Loop/Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. Moderate-paced, 8-mile hike includes several ups/downs on variety of trails, with rocky terrain. Rain/snow/sleet, icy trails, or temperatures below 10 deg would cancel. Limited to 12 participants, who must preregister. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (N)

Mar 4 (Sun): Social Hike and Birthday Brunch (Burlington Co). 9am. 5 miles at moderate pace. Hike between two rivers in late winter, wildlife sightings possible. Then help celebrate the leader's birthday as we enjoy an all-you-can-eat buffet at Renault Winery Restaurant. NC/NP. Meet at Atsion Office on Rte 206, between Hammonton and Red Lion Circle. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eves, or pis1@cccnj.net Limited seating, call early to reserve space. Inclement weather cancels.

Mar 9 (Fri): Moonlight Hike, Campfire and Campout (Burlington Co). 7pm. 7 miles at moderate pace. Enjoy a spring moonlight hike in the Pines under the Worm Moon on a new route and return to a roaring campfire. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NC/NP. Meet at Atsion Lake: From Rte 206 take Atsion Rd. west 1 mile, go 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 eve. or pis1@cccnj.net Inclement weather cancels.

Mar 11 (Sun): Guided Hike at Turkey Swamp Park (Monmouth Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. This is our 3rd annual Daylight Savings Time hike at Turkey Swamp Park. This wooded Park is 2,173 acres with miles of trails. David Roche, Monmouth County Park volunteer docent, will be our guide on trails through the Pitch Pines and Oak Tree forests. Park information and directions: www.monmouthcountyparks.com/Turn into the Main Entrance - 200 Georgia Road, Freehold - drive to the Oak Point picnic area parking lot. Bring lunch and beverage. Leashed dogs are welcome! Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Mar 17 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Crosswicks Creek/H-T-B Marsh on St. Patrick's Day (Mercer Co). 9:30 am. Wear Your Green! Paddle today and Party tonight! We'll look for returning waterfowl as we paddle this 8-mile round trip with the tide!! Bring lunch and beverage. After lunch, option for hike to Spring Lake. Meet at Bordentown Beach. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Participants must have their own boats. George & Leona F 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Mar 18 (Sun): Manasquan River Reservoir (Monmouth Co), Special Interest: birds. 9am. Enjoy an easy 5-mile circular hike on one of the largest reservoirs in the area. We may observe water fowl. Bring snacks, (continued on page 12)

JANUARY, 2012

Jan 1 (Sun): Harteshorne Woods (Monmouth County). Special interest: Recent History. 9am. Ring in the New Year. 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. Take Rte 36 toward Sandy Hook to Portland Road. It is 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).

Jan 1 (Sun): New Year's Day Paddle on the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am. Ring in the New Year with the NJ Sierra Club. Meet at Lake Oswego and paddle 7 miles on the "Jewel of the Pinelands". Enjoy a tailgate get together after the trip at Harrisville Lake. Bring something to share. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jan 7 (Sat): Breakneck Pond/Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. 8-10-mile hike at moderate pace to two beautiful lakes in Harriman State Park. Trail conditions will determine exact loop. Rain/snow/sleet or temperatures below 10 degrees would cancel. Limited to 12 participants, who must preregister. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (N)

Jan 7 (Sat): Moonlight Hike, Campfire and Campout (Burlington Co). 7pm. 7 miles at moderate pace. Hike the Pines under the Wolf Moon on a new route and return to a roaring campfire. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NC/NP. Meet at Atsion Lake: From Rte 206 take Atsion Rd west 1 mile, go 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 eves. or pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels. Contact leader to confirm hike.

Jan 8 (Sun): Veterans Park (Mercer Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. Enjoy a winter hike in one of our favorite parks. This 333-acre park was built in 1977 to honor Hamilton Twp's veterans, and it includes an F-4 Phantom Jet. Meet at the Kuser Rd entrance. Leashed dogs are welcome. Option for late lunch at Matoris. Co-leaders: Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com and Joanne P: jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com (C)

Jan 13 (Fri): D&R Canal Hike (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. Friday the 13th - we're not superstitious! - join us for a hike. This will be an opportunity to use the new Lock 1 "swinging bridge" as we walk along the towpath. Meet at the RIVERLINE parking lot in Bordentown City. Option for late lunch at a local restaurant. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Jan 16 (Mon): Canoe/Kayak the N. Branch Rancocas Creek Canoe Trail (Burlington Co). 9am. We begin our day with breakfast at the Vincentown Diner - one of the BEST diners in NJ. The section we paddle will depend on weather conditions. Experienced winter paddlers only. Please contact leaders for trip information. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jan 22 (Sun): Social Hike on Apple Pie Hill. (Burlington Co). 9am. 7-8 miles. All are welcome. Moderate pace. Hike to the highest point in NJ for a great panoramic view of the pines. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. NP/NC. Meet at Carranza Memorial parking lot, 6.7 miles SE of Tabernacle, on Carranza Road. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eves. or pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Jan 28 (Sat): Tallman Mountain State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 11:15 am. 7 miles. We will hike through the Park and view the berms and salt marsh. We will then walk the mile-long Piermont pier halfway across the Hudson! Trails include the Long Path. Bring lunch and water. Adverse conditions will alter the route. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural, on the corner of Tate & Piermont Aves.) in Piermont NY. Park across the street in parking lot D. Leader: John P. Jurasek: 845-519-4247 (no calls after 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net(ACOC)

Jan 29 (Sun): Ten Mile Run Greenway Hike (Somerset Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy/moderate pace. The Greenway features 4 sections that have been preserved. Our hike will include the Bunker Hill Natural Area, with its trails through mature forest and meadows and along Ten Mile Run stream. Meet at the Griggstown Native Grassland Preserve, 1091 Canal Road, Somerset County; proceed along dirt road to



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Chair
* Ken Johanson (908) 464-0442
kjohan@comcast.net
72 Laurel Drive, New Providence NJ 07974-2421

Vice-Chair and Political Chair
* Rich Isaac (973) 716-0297
risaacx@aol.com
47 Fellswood Dr., Livingston NJ 07039-2235

Conservation Chair
*Laura Lynch (609) 882-4642
njsierraclub@gmail.com
11 Lumar Rd., Trenton, NJ 08648-3127

Political Vice-Chair
Greg Tondi
gregt75@yahoo.com

Secretary
Joe Testa
Testa-j@live.com

Treasurer
*George Denzer (609) 799-5839
gdenzer73@yahoo.com
127 Dey Road, Cranbury NJ 08512-5418

Vice-Treasurer
Sunil Somalwar
sunil.somalwar@gmail.com
1015 S Park Av, Highland Park NJ 08904-2954

Outings Chair
Ellen Blumenkrantz (201) 784-8417
EllenBlu@specialistsms.com
43 Carlson Court, Closter NJ 07624

Newsletter Editor
Dick Colby (609) 965-4453
dick.colby@stockton.edu
217 Liverpool Av, Egg Harbor City NJ 08215-1319

Webmaster
George Newsome (732) 308-1518
newsome1@pobox.com

Membership Chair
Cynthia Mackowicz
cmackowicz@comcast.net

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

High School Coordinator
Victoria Pan
vpan2012@gmail.com

Atlantic Coast Ecoregion Delegate
Greg Auriemma (732) 451-9220
sierraclubOC@aol.com

Legal Chair
Bill Singer, Esq. (908) 359-7873
wsinger@singerfedun.com

Other ExCom members at large
* Don McBride (732) 560-0369
dtmcbride@alumni.haas.org

* Lee Snyder (609) 969-7909
pinelands1@hotmail.com

Group Effectiveness Committee
Rich Isaac**, Barbara Conover, Cynthia Mackowicz, Greg Auriemma

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

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

Personnel Committee
Ken Johanson**, Joan Denzer, Rich Isaac, George Denzer, Lee Snyder

Legislative Committee
Ken Johanson**, Carolyn Freeman, Carey Huff, Dave Mattek, 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

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

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

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

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

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)

Chapter Office 609-656-7612
145 West Hanover Street, Trenton 08618
fax: 609-656-7618

Chapter Director: Jeff Tittel
Jeff.Tittel@SierraClub.org

Outreach Coordinator: Nicole Dallara
Nicole.Dallara@SierraClub.org

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.

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

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

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

Jan 14, Feb 11 and Mar 10
All at the Hamilton (Mercer Co) Public Library, Cypress Lane

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

drinks, bird books or binoculars. Hiking shoes are not required. This is a great family hike. Meet at the main entrance to the reservoir on Windeller Rd: Take the GSP to exit 98. Head west on I-195 to exit 28 (Rte 9). Go north on Rte 9. Make first right onto Windeller Rd. The main entrance is 1.5 miles on your left. Meet in the parking area at the far left toward the back. Bad weather (including snow cover) Cancels. Confirmation/questions please call or text Leader: Mike Verange: 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

Mar 20 (Tue): Celebrate the Vernal Equinox with a Hike at Mercer County Park. 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. Welcome spring with a hike on woods trails and along Lake Mercer. Bring lunch and beverage. Leashed dogs are welcome! Meet at the West Picnic Area parking lot, 334 South Post Rd, Princeton Junction. Co-leaders: Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com, and Joanne P: jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com (C)

Mar 24 (Sat): Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh Cleanup (Mercer Co). 9am-Noon. Spring Lake area. Bring gloves if you have them, water to drink; wear long sleeves, long pants, boots. Meet at Spring Lake - Roebling Park (end of Sewell Ave, Hamilton). Contact: Bob Sokol: robert.sokol435@gmail.com or 609-918-1149. (Cosponsors: Friends for The Marsh, Central Jersey Sierra Group, Mercer County Parks, D&R Greenway Land Trust) (C)

Mar 24 (Sat): Anthony Wayne loop/Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY) 10am. 8-10 mile strenuous hike at moderate pace includes several ascents/descents and some great views. Trail conditions will determine exact length of hike. Rain/snow/sleet, icy trails, or temperatures below 10 deg would cancel. Limited to 12 participants, who must preregister. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (N)

Mar 25 (Sun): Hike Wissahickon Gorge, PA. 8:30 am 8 miles at moderate pace over hills and valleys. Hike the Gorge in late winter with its spectacular views. Bring picnic-type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Proper hiking shoes required. Meet at 8:30 am in the rear parking lot of Crown Plaza Hotel (formerly Hilton Hotel) on Rte 70, to carpool/caravan to site or meet 9:30 am at Valley Green parking lot in park. NP/NC. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eve or pis1@cccnj.net. Inclement weather cancels.

Mar 25 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Trip on the D&R Canal (Mercer Co). 10am. The trip is 10 miles from Firemen's Eddy to Lower Ferry Rd. Lunch break will be at Washington Crossing Park - bring lunch and beverage. There are 2 portages; bring portage wheels if you have them. Contact leaders to confirm trip. Rentals are not available. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Mar 25 (Sun): Pine Meadow Lake/Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. Moderate pace, 8-10-mile hike follows two beautiful streams, one somewhat steep ascent to great viewpoint for lunch and loop back past Pine Meadow lake. Trail/weather conditions will determine exact route. Inclement weather would cancel. Limited to 12 participants, who must preregister. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (N)

Mar 29 (Thur): Hike at the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Reserve (Mercer Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. The Watershed Reserve offers trails that explore wetlands, forests, meadows, streams and the four-acre Wargo Pond, which support the Watershed Reserve's vibrant and diverse community of animals and plants. Meet at the Nature Center, Titus Mill Rd, Pennington. The Reserve can be muddy in spring so wear appropriate footwear. Bring lunch and beverage. Co-leaders: Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com, and Joanne P: at jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com (C)

Mar 31 (Sat): Roam Rancocas State Park (Burlington Co). 10am. 5 miles. Moderate hiking pace. See why this area is called Mt. Holly as we hike among the many hollies and view the meandering Rancocas Creek typically obscured by foliage. Follow gentle trails through 50-yr-old grove of Douglas fir and lovely upland and lowland hardwood forests. Bring water, lunch and snacks to enjoy at look outs. Trail may be muddy in spots; wear appropriate footwear. Heavy rain cancels. Maximum 12 participants. Preregistration required. Leader: Terry Stimpfel: terystimb@hotmail.com or 609-731-7016 (C)

Mar 31 (Sat): Hook Mountain Hike (Rockland Co, NY). 10:30 am. 7 miles, with excellent views of the Hudson River and Croton Point. Meet in the Rockland Lake South Parking Lot near the entrance booth. Rockland Lake is in Congers, NY, off Rte 9W. Bring lunch, hiking boots, and water. Adverse conditions will alter the route. Leader: John P. Jurasek: 845-519-4247 (no calls after 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

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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.

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