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

By Richard Isaac, Chapter Political Chair (risaccia@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 statewide districting plan turns out to have been an Incumbent Retention Plan: all 27 Sierra Club-endorsed incumbent candidates were reelectected, whereas only one of the Club's nine endorsed non-incumbent candidates won.

Voter turnout 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, the 7th District (Burlington, November, garnering only 38% of the vote). The political district was one of the few that had been substantially changed by redistricting, gaining many votes from adjacent counties.

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 Assembliesmen; all three incumbents won re-election.

On October 11th, the NJ Dept. of State's Business Action Center released the “final draft” of its State Strategic Plan, replacing the 2001 State Plan for Development and Redevelopment. It is open to permiting by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), public and private transport, construction/redevelopment, 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.

So: the Democrats kept their 24-16 advantage in the State Senate, and picked up one seat in the Assembly, where their advantage is now 48-32. This is a very small change which could make a very large difference.

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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 overdevelopment.

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. A third of New Jersey’s homes have septic tanks. A third of New Jersey’s homes have 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 be consistent with the 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 weak- en environmental and health protections. This is the first time uses economic growth as an excuse to pave over our last remaining environmentally sensitive areas and farmland. 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.

Inside this issue...
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- Report on Delaware River Dredging
- Sustainable Lifestyle: Whole Grains
- Chair’s Message: Cost-benefit Analysis
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- Reports from Trenton: Clean Air Victory
- Reports from Trenton: Clean Air Victory
- Natural Gas Shale, Coal Campaign
- Power Plant Clean-up, RGGI Campaign
- Winter Outings
- Member Reports: Fracking in the
- Group and Section News...
More than 100 years ago, when the Delaware North Jersey Shore Group was founded, there 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 week excursion up the eastern shore over marshes. A number of these are directed without great force up the deeper channels, not the surface waters fast moving upriver, where it has killed the minute channel. The ACE is overseeing deepening the Delaware River channel by another five feet. A certain species of mushroom, which it has never been dug up before. Our taxes are providing federal disaster aid through the Federal Emergency Management Act. The more-forceful tides have caused other washouts: NJ Route 30 at Moss Mill Run in Camden and confident. That is, there is not properly reporting significant environmental issues. An updated economic summary concluded that one effect of the loss of flood plains: extended flooding into areas that had never been flood-prone before. Our taxes are providing federal disaster aid. The new EIS must be carried out by an outside party, following the guidelines set by NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act. CEQ should be taking steps to move dredge spoils from existing damaged marshes to fill old strip-mines in Pennsylvania. That, the bridge collapsed; rows of homes near the Delaware River were damaged. These channels have been restored because of frequent flooding: pumps installed at the Brooklawn Circle in Bordentown and levee flooding from Big Timber Creek; a city park at Cooper River and Kaighn Avenue in Camden were now abandoned.

Did you know that the Sierra Club has had a pet issue with population issues for the past 40 years? There have been changes in the focus of our efforts over the time period of this report. Jobs can justify issuing them contracts. Jobs can be created to move dredge spoils. The ACE should be taking steps to move dredge spoils from existing damaged marshes to fill old strip-mines in Pennsylvania. That is, there is not properly reporting significant environmental issues. An updated economic summary concluded that one effect of the loss of flood plains: extended flooding into areas that had never been flood-prone before. Our taxes are providing federal disaster aid. The new EIS must be carried out by an outside party, following the guidelines set by NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act. CEQ should be taking steps to move dredge spoils from existing damaged marshes to fill old strip-mines in Pennsylvania. That, the bridge collapsed; rows of homes near the Delaware River were damaged. These channels have been restored because of frequent flooding: pumps installed at the Brooklawn Circle in Bordentown and levee flooding from Big Timber Creek; a city park at Cooper River and Kaighn Avenue in Camden were now abandoned.

Chair, appoint Issue Coordinators, and is generally the most interesting meeting of the year. Join us!
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, lawyers 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 on environmental issues amongst the public and government 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 Co), and Assemblywoman Upendra Chivukula (D, 17th LD, Middlesex and Somerset Co) 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 Ferreira, a Sierra Club member of the Legislative Committee) recently elected to the Council in Bedminster.

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

Happy guests include Assemblywoman Upendra Chivukula.

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

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

Chair's Message

Cost-benefit Analysis and the Environment

By Ken Johanson

Those of us in the environmental community generally agree that existing laws and regulations are not enough or are not 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.

Thereon in the right to 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 is not 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 are frequently 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 short span of life we 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 are to be expressed in a type of cost-benefit analysis, the same cannot be said for the costs. Until 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 embroiled 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, Bob 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 overshadow other long-term concerns for the public health, safety and environment, will prevail.

There is another current infatuation with cost-benefit analysis is legislatively permissible. Shapiro and Schroeder note that only two of twenty-two major health, safety and environmental benefits analyses 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.

In the 2007 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects a likely increase in global temperatures of 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 adapting 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 at least a 5 percent chance that the temperature increase will be greater than 6 degrees Celsius (10.8 degrees Fahrenheit).

Martin L. Weinsten, a well-respected professor of economics at Harvard University, has concluded that if only gradually ramped-up strategies 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 it will exceed 20 degrees Celsius (36 degrees Fahrenheit). Temperature increases of this magnitude would be catastrophic and would threaten the very existence of mankind.

The conventional [cost-benefit analyses] of climate change do not even 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 considers itself with the likelihood of disasters. Outcomes with less than a 5 percent chance of occurring do not enter into the equation.

Unavoidable or unlikely? How much damage can be inflicted on the environment by the very existence of mankind? How can we be sure that the likelihood of catastrophic outcomes is not exponentially increasing?

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

Thanks to our photographers, George Fluck and David Yenior.
On Oct 13th, the EPA announced it will require GenOn’s Portland coal-fired elec- tric power plant, located in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, to reduce its toxic air emissions by 91% over the next three years. The Portland plant is just across the Delaware River from New Jersey’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 standards.

Emissions from this plant affect chil- dren with asthma as far away as Bergen County, and people with respiratory ill- ness in Morris County. With this ruling the quality of life for people in Northern New Jersey is improving, as the plant is closing down as part of a series of rules proposed by the EPA to reduce dirty pollu- tion from power plants, which was a federal decision state lines.

Earl Heath, October, many East Coast states intervened in a federal lawsuit to clean up the air for their residents. Coun- cils in 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 Delaware Valley, 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 pro- duced in upwind states. New Jersey’s Chamber of Commerce, major state utili- ties like Exelon and PSEG, and other New Jersey business groups support the interven- tion.

Sadly, NJ Governor Chris Christie has not joined the intervention. We think his lack of support reflects his national ambi- tions. The EPA’s decision on Portland comes as the agency has proposed a number of other regulations to control our air pollution and reduce pollution from coal-fired power plants. Other proposed rules would regu- late coal ash, mercury and nitrogen oxide (NOX) emissions from power plants.

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

The EPA reports that New Jersey con- tains 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.

The Koch Brothers are the biggest funders of initiatives to stop the regula- tion 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 debates for weatherization and solar panels as socialism and a redistribu- tion of wealth. He vetoed the fracking ban bill after being praised by the Koch Brothers. All these policies come directly out of 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 legis- lators to stand up for the environment and clean energy. It is especially impor- tant 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.

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 (EPA) and Senator Robert Menendez announced on October 31st that contami- nated sediments will be removed from the lower Passaic River and Newark Bay. Dioxin is the most problematic pollut- ant, a carcinogen posing risks both to human health and to the marine ecosys- tem. It is a legacy of Newark’s Diamond Alkali superfund Site, later acquired by Occidental Petroleum Corp, where manu- factures of pesticides, red 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 up to Maine.

rivers, and estuaries belong to all of us. The Passaic is a tidal river . As a result, it ed as far as 8 miles up-stream because it is pulled out of RGGI. We need our legis- lators who have opposed RGGI to get them to change their position - by over- riding the Governor’s veto, as well as ini- tiating 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 inter- est of our state and our environment. RGGI is an agreement signed by the ten northeast states to cut carbon emissions from their existing power plants. Emissions would be cut through a sur- charge on carbon pollution from the elec- trical generation plants as well as mandat- ing a 10% cut in carbon pollution from the plants.

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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 buck. The Governor’s revised Energy Master Plan reduces our renewable energy goal from 25% to 22.5% in favor of more fossil fuels, contributing to climate change pollution.

Our grassroots campaign will target leg- islators who have opposed RGGI and get them to change their position - by over- riding the Governor’s veto, as well as ini- tiating an oversight resolution to block New Jersey from leaving RGGI.

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Large clean energy businesses - both 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 Envi- ronment New Jersey, urging rein- statement of New Jersey in 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 green- house gas reduction goal of 10% in the first year.

• RGGI is achieving its goals and more.

• Due in part to its programs, global warm- ing and acid rain are expected to be down by 1,000,000 metric tons per year – equal to the amount of energy con- sumed by 19,000 households per year – and annual carbon dioxide emis- sions by 84,000 metric tons.

• RGGI has also helped lead to hun- dreds of clean energy businesses - both

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Gov. Christie is skeptical that humans are responsible for Global Warming. Are you? Should you send him a message?

New Jersey Sierra Club RGGI Campaign

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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.northjerseygreen.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, as 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 NV) were expected to be “no,” and the Army Corps of Engineers’ votes, were expected to be supportive of the hydrofracking industry. It does take place, drilling companies will be able to apply, after 60 days, to 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.northjerseygreen.org/2011/11/10/delaware-fracking/

With the Occupy Wall Street protests, there is now a national movement to protect the environment from pollution and degradation. For more information visit: occupywell-street.blogspot.com/p/occupy-wall-street-101.html, http://savethedelaware.wordpress.com/, and Occupy DRBC on Facebook.

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 and permanent storage.

Lee Soloman, 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, 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 combination 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 subsurface 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.

ISSUE COORDINATOR’S REPORT:

BPU President Solomon Says No to PurGen

By Barb Conover (bconover02@gmail.com), Coal Campaign Coordinator

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Governo...
How to Identify Your Group (by County)

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)

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 & S&l Bergen
Gateway Group (formerly Essex County Group): Essex, approximately
Loantaka Group: Morris & Union
Central Jersey Group: Mercer
Raritan Valley Group:Somerset & Middlesex
Jersey Shore Groups: Monmouth
Ocean County Group: Ocean
West Jersey Group: Gloucester, Camden & Burlington
South Jersey Groups: Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland & Salem

These designations are approximate: members are welcome to participate in whichever Group(s) they find convenient

OFFICERS:
Chair: Jonathan Wall psychologist@jowall.com
Vice-Chair: Cinny MacGonagle cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair: Open Position!
Secretaries & Webmaster: Dwight Irving dwight@dliving.com
Treasurer: Open Position!
Political Chair: Open Postition!
Publicity Chair: Celeste Martin onecentral@mac.com
Membership Chair: William Moody riversmlever@gmail.com
Energy Chair: Open Position
Outings Coordinator: Dave English denglish@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 supporting efforts to enhance park protections and enhance funding via upgrading the Delaware Gap National Recreation Area status; 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
The next group Executive Committee will take place on Wednesday, Feb 1, 2012 at 7:30 pm at the Hunterdon Community College, Flemington. For more information please contact John Kashwick. All 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 a week of meeting date. For more information, please contact John or Mary Ellen (above).

General Meeting:
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 Blog,” which covers the 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 pipeline 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, Marty Cohen and Martha 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 Hurricane snow storm, so if you would like to join our trail maintenance team and help keep the trail safe 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).
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 Club, held in Maplewood. With a snowstorm threatening the area, a small but well-motivated group participated in 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. On April 16th, David Yennior talked at Gateway’s Earth Day Event. On April 20th we demonstrated on the steps of Newark City Hall to protest Mayor Cory Booker plan to go forward with a climate change denial, with a presentation by Dr. Missa Franke, a physicist, and Loantaka Co-Chair Eric Hauser playing the role of the denier. For those who missed this presentation, Loantaka Group will be doing it again this Fall. Dr. Franke’s visual presentation and good humor was equaled by the hilarity of Eric Hauser’s portrayal of Glenn 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 Club in Roselle, and NJ Sierra’s own Jeff Tittel’s testimony at a hearing against 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 initiative after Lonegan and questions from the audience, with THE FACTS. In a mass 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 negotiations of the Passaic River contamination.

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 dnyeinvestor@msn.com or 973-844-1384.
GROUP NEWS
(Continued from page 7)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: are held on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm to 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.

GREAT: 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.sierranews.org/

MEETING SCHEDULE:
Jan 11: DIRECTIONS: 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!

Feb 8: Dangers of Hydrofracking (Tracking) - 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 with water conservation.

ACTIVITIES: (Consult our website 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 including air quality, transportation, and environmental legislation. Volunteers are always welcome. Call Paul (808-253-2414) or Eric (732-669-0719).

Raritan Valley Group
(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

OFFICERS:
Group Chair: Roon Nusrat 908-429-9017 sierra_n_j_rartian@att.net
Group Vice Chair: Don McBride 732-560-0469 dmbright@alumni.haas.org
Advisor: Jane Tousman 908-561-5054 jdtous@aol.com
Outings Coordinator: Denise McClellan mcclellan099@comcast.net
Webmaster: Don McBride 732-560-0469 dmbright@alumni.haas.org
Treasurer: Open position!
Coordinator: Open position!
Conservation Chair: Open position!
Secretary: Open position!
Political Chair: Daghine speck-baryntsk 732-390-5311 speckbaryntsk@comcast.net
Website: Open position!

WEBSITE: http://newjersey.sierranews.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/VALLEYNEWS after creating a password on http://lists.sierranews.org/

The monthly meetings are to keep you informed of environmental and organizational concerns in our communities and what we 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_n_j_rartian@att.net.

Central Jersey Group
(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

Please join the Central Jersey Group distribution list to receive timely information in freeware e-mails. Email terysimth@hotmail.com to subscribe.

Please share this newsletter with a non-member friend, inviting use of the coupon on p. 12.

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

OFFICERS:
Chair: Terry Stimpfel 609-751-7016 terysimth@hotmail.com
Co-Chair: Open position!
Conserve'n Chair: Open position!
Memb' Chair: Open position!
Outings Chair: Leona Flock 609-259-3754 leona@pineypaddlers.com
Political Chair: Terry Stimpfel
Publicity Chair: Joanne Panno 609-443-6992 gpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
Program Chair: Lynne Weiss 732-821-9068 lwhart95@gmail.com
ExCom At-Large: Malcolm McFarland 609-448-0999 jmmfarland81@gmail.com
Kip Cherry 609-524-8452 kcherry10@gmail.com
Bob Benjamin 609-987-9069 robert.benjamin@greenwords.net
Outreach: Open position!
Secretary: Open position!
Webmaster: Open position!

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 project in Robbinsville, to save the former Valley School Road 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 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.


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.
er insists that any evaluation of new regulations must be balanced by their impact on local and marine fisheries.

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 15 major fisheries have been overharvested and the populations of many fish species are in danger of collapsing. Both the environmental and economic consequences are staggering, but UN statistics indicate there are 35 million commercial fishermen and fish farmers, while overall, the fisheries and aquaculture industries employ directly and indirectly more than 50 million people. The Howard Lab has been studying fish and shellfish in the New Jersey and Atlantic waters for the last 40 years. 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 Sciarrappa, 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. Matekovic, who has a Master’s degree in the Montmouth County Master Gardeners, who will explain how groups can 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.

General Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month, September through May at the Quaker Meeting House on Friends Ave in Haddonfield.

Directions: From I-295, take exit 34B onto Rt 70 West. Follow the signs for Rt 41 (which is the right shoulder) you have to take the right into a jug handle and then turn left onto Rt 41 (Kings Hwy). Cross over Rt 70 and you will be briefly on Rt 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 the ‘Endangered Species Act’ alive.” A look at 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, Burlington and Camden Counties will discuss how to build rain gardens on our own back yards.

The central conservation issue, for which the South Jersey Group was founded in the 1970s, continues to be the protection of the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continues to consume the energies of those officers who remain active with us in the South Jersey Group and in the Sierra Club and in the Watershed Association (GWBA) that “spun off” from the South Jersey Group. Very few of our local members seem interested in this topic, but 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 GWBA’s website for keeping up with local issues, and for links to many other local, regional, state and national environmental organizations. www.gwba.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@verton.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 Georgia Shirley (shirley@rsucoop.org), who is a board officer and has 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 Meadows Model Development) when they are revising plans to accommodate damage done to sand trails by ATVs, a campaign to promote Community Solar (photovoltaic) installations (especially in each municipality in Atlantic County), and support for a New Jersey Bottle Bill, known as the Smart Container Act (A930/A9167).

Some Possibly Relevant Meetings of Allied Organizations:
Jan 11 & Mar 14, 6:30 pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Club members 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 (CT) at 609-774-8553 or lillian.armstrong@cumrec.org. Website: www.cumrec.org.

Jan 19, Feb 16 & Mar 15, 7pm: Atlantic County Friends of the Parks Monthly meetings of the group which works to preserve and promote Atlantic County Park System. All are welcome. (WFNC). Contact Julie Akers, 609-452-5280.


Singles Section
(A chapter-wide, special interest section offering hikes/cleanups, social gatherings, meetings, etc.)
Please join us! The NJ Singles Section was specifically created to offer a variety of single-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.sierrclub.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 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: Joe Hadad jkhaddad@juno.com
Conservation Chair: Joe Testa testa-j@live.com
Treasure: Joyce White joycewhite@netzero.net
Webpage Designer: Tom Miller millermt@juno.com
Social Chair: Joe Prebisch Joe.pribisch@kraft.com
Vice Social Chair: Jim Selvaggio Hike_Dood@yahoo.com
Programs: Position Open: Contact us! We need you!
Publicity: Position Open: Contact us! We need you!
Membership: Position Open: Contact us! We need you!
Nominations: Nancy Sullivan nancysullivanscomcast.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 to 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 Fanned 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.

Adina 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.sierrclub.org/YoungSierrans/

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.ALEGRO (255-3476) or 973.624.3713.

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

Concert 1: YEVGENY SUDBIN, piano: THE HERO’S FIRE (Stravinsky’s Symphonie fantastique and Beethoven’s Symphony No. 5).
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 (Berlin’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: LIGHT & LEGEND (Haydn’s “Fire” symphony and Beethoven’s The Creatures of Prometheus bookend the warm sound of Saariaho’s Notes on Light cello concertos)
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.

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

Mar 3 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Oranges River (Burlington Co). Join us for a fun paddle on the Jewel of the Pinelands. Meet at Lake Oswego. Experienced water Paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (P)  

Mar 3 (Sat): Island Pond Loop/Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am, Moderate-paced, 8-mile hike on a mixture of single and doubletrack trails and roads. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (P)  

Mar 4 (Sat): 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 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 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 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. 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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 Windle Rd Take the GFP to exit 18. Head west on 1-95 to exit 28 (Bo.
9 Go north on US 202 to Rt 573. The main entrance is 1/2 mile on the left. Meet in the parking area at the far
left toward the back. Bad weather (including snow cover) cancels. Call 252-682-7440 or email info@nsc.com.

Mar 20 (Sat): Celeste the Vernal Equinox Walks with a Hike at Mercer County Park, Hamilton, 10 miles, easy
paces. Call 252-682-7440 or email info@nsc.com. Mercer County Park is one of New Jersey’s most
attractive day trips for a hike along the scenic Delaware River. Visit our Website: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org

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If no one is in the office to take your call, please leave a message on the answering machine. PLEASE
SPELl YOUR 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 meetings and deliberations. held on
SECOND SATURDAYS. Details, including agenda and travel information, are available
from Ken Johanson, the Chapter Chair (best confirm!) Conservation and/or Political Committee
meetings are usually at 1:00 PM and revolve around the issues of the day. The main meeting starts at 7PM.

Jan 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 and Mar 10
All at the Hamilton (Mercer Co) Public Library. Cypress Lane.

Visit our Website: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org. The “Committees/Initiatives” menu includes a list of legislative bills we’ve evaluated, and an introduction to our Cool Cities Program.

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