Report from Trenton

Christie's Budget Targets the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

By Jeff Titel, Chapter Director (adapted from a Press Release)

In his 2012 Budget Speech, delivered on Feb 21st, Governor Christie continues to attack the environment and promote harmful policies. He proposes to compound the damage done by his previous two budgets, hurting the economy as well as the environment. The DEP's operational (staff) budget will drop 2%, down by $4M, to $210M. The DEP's overall budget will be approximately $365M, down from $392M two years ago. The diverted funds will be used to close other budget gaps, where the DEP staffing will reach historic lows. This, even though more than 75% of the DEP budget comes from self-generated fees and fines, and not from federal grants. And in this in order to give 10% tax cuts to the wealthy.

In the mid-1990s the DEP had 4400 employees. It currently has 2877 positions; the Governor proposes to cut that to 2100, even as major programs are added: clean cars, Highlands protection, and global warming. As the economy starts to turn around, we caution that the remaining staff won't be sufficient to write the permits that help new businesses get going.

The Budget proposes increases for watershed management, brownfield redevelopment, diesel programs, and parks capital improvements, paid for by rolling back the annual corporate tax revenue. But this funding was constitutionally dedicated in 1998 to prevent Governor’s from raiding the Department’s funding for Green Acres (the open space acquisition program). $135M will mostly likely remain the same as last year, which is about a 45% reduction from 4 years ago. The average over the past 11 years has been $255M. There is still no stable source of funding and the Governor has not issued the 2009 bonds.

The $500,000 proposed for the Global Warming Response Act fund is the last of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative money. Last year the Governor announced New Jersey will no longer be participating in the RGGI auctions so no new revenue will be coming in.

The Sierra Club is concerned this Budget will force further privatization of the functions of the DEP. The Governor has already begun to privatize our parks, outsourcing concessions and educational programs.

This Budget proposal continues Governor Christie’s attacks on the environment, building on the DEP’s Waiver Rule, the State Strategic Plan, and roll-backs to such DEP programs as stormwater, wetlands, stream encroachment, water quality management planning, site remediation, beach access, and flood hazard areas. The Administration continues to promote industry interests by cutting regulatory oversight.

Report from Trenton

Sierra Club Statement on Governor Christie’s State of the Address

On Jan 17th, Governor Christie gave his State of the State address to a Joint Session of the legislature.

Not once did he mention the environment or open space. Perhaps this is because his environmental record is one of weakenings and attacks on environmental protections. He didn’t mention that he signed the dirty water bill, a piece of special interest legislation that threatens our drinking water supplies. In his list of achievements he included the protection of Barnegat Bay, even quoting the Sierra Club, but not mentioning that he vouched for the protection of the bay. His environmental record has been the most disturbing to environmentalists in decades. (See our tabulation in the previous issue of this Newsletter.) He has attempted to roll back 50 years of protections of air and water quality.

Summary of ADEP: Governor Christie folded to corporate polluters and Tea Party conservatives by announcing that New Jersey will be pulling out of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a ten-state compact to reduce climate change pollution.

Rollbacks to Water Quality: The Governor signed a dangerous bill weakening protections for our water by (continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Population News: Education & Access...2
Sustainable Lifestyle: The Kibbutz!!....2
Annual Acknowledgement of Donors...2
Chairs Mag: Looking Back & Forward...3
Editorial: Praise for N.J.'s Poorest Invest...3
ComEx's Dec. Jan., Feb. & March Resolutions...2
Reports from Trenton: Mercurio in Seafood, Susquehanna-Roseland Power Line, Snag Sea Sun, webinar/Aspen in Alaska/Combined Sewage Outfalls.....5
Trail Maintenance: Wawayanda Mtn....5
Group and Section News..............10
Spring Outings............10-12
Leader List, Meetings, Membership Form......12

QuARTERLY N E S T E T T E R of the NEW JERSEY CHAPTER of the siERRA ClUb
Vol. 41, No. 2
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April-June 2012

Sustainable Life-style Articles inside:
Living on a Kibbutz Page 2
Living more Densely Editorial on page 3
Which Seafood to Eat? Page 4

Online NJ Sierra Club Resources
Chapter Website: http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/ your central Club information resource
Chapter Action Center http://scnj.com/ vio.net/ sign up for our biweekly e-mail newsletter and for Legislative Alerts which call on YOU! to help make a difference.

Staff Report
Curbing Climate Change with Energy Efficiency
By Christine Gahl, Sierra Club associate Organizing Representative

This year's exceptionally mild weather made New Jersey's houses more comfortable and heating costs more reasonable. But the lack of bone-chilling blizzards and frosty windshields is also a reminder that climate change is looming. The future for New Jerseyans could mean a future worrying about thermostat control and more time pumping out flooded basements.

This winter's warm temperatures and snow fall shortage are no reason to forget about improving energy efficiency. The best and most abundant resource available to curb climate change is energy efficiency. It's not just about turning down the thermostat or switching to CFL light bulbs. New Jersey's Clean Energy Program has already begun to work on the best and most abundant resource available to curb climate change is energy efficiency. It's not just about turning down the thermostat or switching to CFL light bulbs. New Jersey's Clean Energy Program has already begun to work on the

... Continued on page 2
Intentional Communities: “Life is with People” By Susan Dragan, our regular columnist

Perhaps one of the positive outcomes of the economic downturn is the resur- 
fac ing of alternative modes of living. Intentional communities based on shared 
values, collective households, co-housing communities, e-villages, housing 
cooperatives and communes are no longer considered just for “hippie-types- 
These days there are more single 
households than ever and it is expensive to live alone. With our high property taxes, car 
and medical insurance, perhaps more New Jerseyans may consider other ways 
to live, not only to help conserve costs but to connect and have a stronger sense of 
community: Living with other people in a way that enables you maintain privacy 
yet explore the economic, functional, and emot i onally and emotionally. Human inter- 
action is healthy for us and fun. Too much solitude is unhealthy.

The year after graduating from high school and prior to college, I lived in 
Israel studying in Jerusalem, working as a school and prior to college, I lived in 
the Red Sea and living on a kib- 
butz and a mosaic. Originally agricultu- ural collective communities with utopian and socialist ideals, kibbutzim were a 
practice of rural living in the early years of Israel. On kibbutz, everyone 
works in some capacity for the good of

The group, dines together in a central area, pools their resources and profits 
together. Children live separately from parents. Decisions are made as a collec- 
tive. These days, many kibbutzim center on manufacturing plants and high-tech 
businesses, not agriculture. Children now often live with their families.

A moshav is similar to a kibbutz. It is a cooperative group of farmers liv- 
ing on a connected tract of land. Crops are pooled together but the profits 
belong to the individual farmer. Children live with their parents. People on moshav 
dine in their homes, not in a communal mess hall.

Cooperative living is not without its pit- 

Sometimes it can feel like living in a fish- 
in a bowl. People can irritate the heart 
look out for each other. Group decisions 
require compromise. It’s a way of life with People. If you can find a communal 
situation with people who share your val- 
ues and goals and don’t drive you totally 
crazy, it can be very gratifying.

For more information visit: http://www. 

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

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park, California, 2012

3-Day, Live-Aboard, Multi-Island Cruises: May 6-8; July 8-10; Sept 9-11

Explore the wild, windward islets of Channel Islands National Park. Enjoy the 
fricking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on rare sea and land birds. 
Hike trails bordered by blankets of wildflowers and plants found in no other place. Experience pristine beaches and pristine 
scenery. All tours depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68’ twin diesel Truth. Fee for all 
tours, $580, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a 
ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes, call attention to items of interest and present evening programs.

Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the Global Population and Environment Program. To make a reservation mail a $100 check, payable to Sierra Club to leader: Joan Jones Holtz, 11820 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. Contact: leader for more information (626-443-0706, joanholtz@aol.com).

CHRISTIE (Continued from page 1)

delaying the implementation of the state’s Water Quality Management 
Planning rules by 5 years. Using these rules, the state was able to 
reducing the water quality regulations that are critical for preventing sprawl and overdevelopment.

Attacks on the Highlands Region: Christie’s appointees to the Highlands 
Council have publically opposed Highlands protections and have chal- 

All told, the findings make a compelling case for the Regional 
Master Plan. He has slashed funding for the Council, the State Strategic Plan, and the 
Planning Commission. If these budget cuts are not supplemented, the Highlands Region will lose its identifying characteristics. The work that the Regional 
Planning Commission has done will be lost. If the Commissioner’s appointments are not 
replaced, the Commissioners will have no choices also have smaller families, putting less pressure on resources and helping us all live on a more sustainable planet.

The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club depends upon the generous support it receives from its members and friends. To all who contributed to the Chapter during this past year I offer you my most sincere thanks. We wouldn’t be as effective as we are without your help. Listed below are the names of those who contributed $100 or more during 2011. Space does not permit us to list all gifts, but please be assured that all gifts are very much appreciated, regardless of the amount.

By Bonnie Tilley (bit44bit@msn.com)

With the United States still leading other industrialized countries in unin- 
tended teen pregnancies, the importance of comprehensive sexual education is underscored by a CDC study of 5,000 teen-aged mothers who gave 
birth from 2004 through 2008 following unintended pregnancies. More than 51% 
believed they could not get pregnant, 24% said they had high hopes of not having to 
use birth control, 13% said birth control was hard to obtain. 9% said they had sex 
outside of its use, and 8% thought they, or their partners, were sterile.

It seems apparent that the keys to con- 

Despite all the harsh rhetoric of 
Republican presidential candidates and 
some religious leaders - What are they thinking? This is the 21st century, don’t they 
realize that women vote?! – there is 
some good news to report in regard to 
population. U.S. teen pregnancy rates are 
at their lowest level in nearly 40 years 
according to a recent Guttmacher report. In 
2008, the most recent year studied, the 
teen pregnancy rate was 67.8 pregnan-
cies per 1,000 women aged 15-19. This 
rate is the lowest ever reported and rep- 
resents a 42% decline from a peak in 1990 
when there were 110.9 pregnancies per 
1,000 teens. The decline is seen as a 
result of increased education about and 
use of effective contraceptive methods. 
However, the study also found a disparity: 
the rates for black and Hispanic teens 
were 2.5 times higher than for non-His- 
pianic white teens.

Another disparity was noted in a study 
published in the American Journal of 
Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, where it was found 
that states with more religious and con- 
servative residents tended to have higher 
teen birth rates.

Between 2009 and 2010, the Centers 
for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 
found a further decline in teen pregnancy 
rates with a record low of 54 
births per 1,000 teens aged 15-19, as 
reported in the Archives of Pediatrics & 
Adolescent Medicine, where it was found 
that states with more religious and con- 
servative residents tended to have higher 
teen birth rates.

To learn more about the Sierra Club and 
population issues go to: sierrachap.org.

Thank You for Your Support! 

Supplied by Ken Johnson, Chair Chapter

The Jersey Sierra: April–June 2012
Editorial
Considering New Jersey’s Property Tax
By Dick Colby ( dick.colby@stockton.edu )

Of the $44 billion in taxes collected each year by municipalities and state government in New Jersey, one-third is property tax, 50% as local property tax, 25% as state income tax, 18% as state sales tax, 5% as state income tax (20% in Britain) from amiscellaneous of inheritance, gasoline, car, insurance, profit, and other minor taxes. An additional $12 billion is rebated by the federal government from federal income taxes, but that still leaves many $ billions of state deficit. (My data are from the most recent State Legislative Manual and the World Almanac.)

No doubt the rationale for this plethora of taxes has much to do with the close metaphysical relationship between politics and the manufacture of sausage. But it shouldn’t have to be so. As undergraduates I was required to study the philosophy of justice, including the category of entitlement or distributive justice: what do we owe society, and what does society owe us? I remember being impressed by Henry George’s 19th Century ‘single tax’ proposal that the state owns all property as a common resource, the most suitable basis for taxation, rather than income tax. We should tax WEALTH, arguably FAIRER than both the sales and income tax. We should tax WEALTH as a sole basis for taxation is that it is non-liquid and we tax that, and it isn’t acceptable in income tax calculations such as those for capital gains. And the objection that total wealth be hard to calculate also seems weak: we often see the results of such calculations manifested in the value of all property -- residential, industrial, and farm property -- at market prices. There are two reasons, the first environmental: the easiest way to motivate higher environmental standards (e.g. reduction in suburban sprawl) would be to tax progressively on the acreage of the property. Our most unsustainable waste of fossil fuel is that consumed by suburban vehicles; it would be a healthy and self-sustaining way to live in communities where they could walk to work, school, shops, train and bus stations, and parks, without the need for large open spaces of current suburban development. Our second-ranking waste of greenhouse gas-emitting combustion is that used for heating and air conditioning, also much easier to calculate and limit the use of pesticides, prescribed and prescribed treatments. We believe that the so-called ‘waver rule’ if such action becomes necessary. This may sound like an ambitious agenda. It is.

Chair’s Message
Where We’ve Been and Where We’re Going
By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)

This past January members of the New Jersey Chapter’s executive committee, together with other volunter activist and Chapter staff, met on a Saturday afternoon to review our successes (as well as our disappointments) over the past year and to set goals for the year ahead.

We all agreed that this past year has been a challenging year for the New Jersey Chapter. Governor Christie continues to use the State’s lachkister economic performance and the State’s unacceptably high level of unemployment, and the Governor’s veto of important environmental measures. We believe that the so-called ‘waver rule’ if such action becomes necessary. This may sound like an ambitious agenda. It is.

But despite our best efforts, we did have our share of disappointments this past year, including the legislature’s failure to override any of the governor’s vetoes. However, important environmental measures were adopted and efforts to oppose the construction of transmission lines and pipelines in protected areas of the Delaware River basin, the construction of new transmission lines and pipelines in protected areas of the Highlands and other areas of the State and the adoption of the pro-developer economic agenda of decreased oppositions and other special interests.

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Sierra Club Exposes Seafood Industry Junk Science regarding Mercury

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

In opposing new EPA regulations to control mercury emissions from coal-burning power plants, it seems that the seafood industry has been lobbying against it in attacking environmental groups, public health organizations, scientists and government agencies than in actually doing something to make their products safer and healthier.

It seems that there is no connection between coal and methyl mercury in seafood. Some 40 years ago, it was stated that the mercury comes from the coal and fish, too much being deposited into our waterways and streams. Microorganisms then convert it into methyl mercury, which gets absorbed by small sea animals and continues up the food chain to tuna, etc. – and us.

The mercury in coal is released to the atmosphere by electric power plants, where it finishes its journey as fallout on land. This mercury accumulates in human tissues, causing neurological disorders and birth defects. Every scientific expert not working for the fishing or coal industry is convinced of this risk, as is the EPA which promulgated the Mercury rules.

The EPA itself has issued advisories about consuming too much tuna and other seafood. (See chart below.)

What I find most disturbing is that the industry, which has been lobbying against disclosure of mercury in our food, is confusing us with reports from the USDA on the diet of our nation's citizens. The industry is silent on the fact that many types of fish have low levels of mercury, and are therefore safer to eat. The EPA, Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Fund, and other groups have issued charts listing which fish are safer to eat. Canned tuna, Asian tilapia, imported shrimp, and farmed salmon have high levels of mercury, whereas Alaskan wild salmon, Pacific halibut, trout, and domestic tilapia have lower levels of mercury.

The state of New Jersey and 14 other states, in conjunction with the Sierra Club, won an appeal reversal ruling forcing the EPA under the Bush Administration to come up with a rule to deal with mercury.

The seafood industry has also opposed limits on oven-fishing, opposed net designs that would stop killing turtles and dolphins, and they have a dismal environmental record when it comes to factory fish farming.

Northeast Sustainable Seafood Guide
(July 2011 - Monterey Bay Aquarium – Environmental Defense Fund)

Best Choices (partial list)

- Atlantic Salmon
- Scallops (farmed bottom)
- Striped Bass (farmed and wild)
- Tilapia (US farmed)
- Trout: Rainbow (US farmed)
- Tuna: Albacore, Skipjack, Yellowfin (US farmed)
- Tuna: Bigeye, Yellowfin (US Atlantic longline)
- Mahi Mahi (US Atlantic troll/pole)
- Chilled Seabass/Toothfish
- Cod: Atlantic, Trawled and Canada
- Crab: King (imported)
- Flounder: Halibut, Soles (US Atlantic except Summer Flounder)
- Mahi Mahi (imported longline)
- Orange Roughy
- Pollock: Atlantic (towed and Canada)
- Salmon, including Atlantic
- Sharks and Skates
- Shrimp (imported)
- Snapper: Red
- Tilapia (Asia farmed)
- Tuna: Albacore, Ahi, Skipjack (except troll/pole)

Good Alternatives (Second Choices)

- Black Sea Bass (US Mid-Atlantic)
- Bluefish
- Clams: Hard, Quahog, Surf (wild)
- Crab: Atlantic (Gulf of Maine hook & line)
- Shrimp (US, Canada)
- Tuna: Albacore
- Tuna: Bigeye
- Tuna: Yellowfin
- Water Buffalo, Salt Grass, Cattails

Avoid

- Chilean Seabass/Toothfish
- Cod: Atlantic, Trawled and Canada
- Crab: King (imported)
- Flounder, Halibut, Soles (US Atlantic except Summer Flounder)
- Mahi Mahi (imported longline)
- Orange Roughy
- Pollock: Atlantic (towed and Canada)
- Salmon, including Atlantic
- Sharks and Skates
- Shrimp (imported)
- Snapper: Red
- Tilapia (Asia farmed)
- Tuna: Albacore, Ahi, Skipjack (except troll/pole)
- Tuna: Bigeye, Yellowfin
- Water Buffalo, Salt Grass, Cattails

On November 12th the New Jersey Sierra Club was given the Pete and Toshi Seeger Wetlands Preservation Award for “outstanding efforts and accomplishments in wetland preservation.” The Chapter has worked to preserve and protect New Jersey’s wetlands. It took 40 years of efforts to protect and preserve New Jersey’s wetlands. It took 40 years of work to end the dumping of municipal waste in the Meadowlands. In the 1990’s we successfully opposed the filling of more than 2,000 acres there; and we worked with other groups to prevent the building of Empire Mall. Our Director Jeff Tittel helped lead the opposition to the Xanadu Mega Mall as well as to Encap, a scandalous proposal for housing on the Meadowlands. This project would violate the NPS Haze Rule which calls for cleaning up the air in our National Parks for both environmental and health reasons.

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When It Rains, It Pours Sewage

Sierra Club Supports Combined Sewage Overflow Notification Bill

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

On Feb 9th the Senate Environment Committee released S831 (Bob Smith, D, 17th District), a bill requiring notification when combined sewage overflows (CSO) occur. CSO results during heavy storms - when stormwater runoff combines with septage sewer to overwhelm sewage treatment plants, which are then unable to treat the mixture, and are forced to release it into rivers and other waterways. There were several such storms in the summer and fall of 2011. About 25 billion gallons of raw or partially treated sewage enter our waterways every year. New Jersey has one of the worst CSO problems in the nation, according to the federal EPA.

Smith’s legislation would require municipalities to inform residents when overflows occur. CSOs contain more than 200 permitted combined sewage outfalls across the state, and when raw sewage enters our waters in this way.

Recently Hoboken installed a pump to illegally discharge CSO from a low-lying section of the city directly into the Hudson River. There seems to be no movement by the State to correct this problem. Even simple measures such as chlorine treatment at the point of discharge are not being implemented, nor construction of emergency storage tanks, and methods to separate sewage from storm water.

Some of the known CSO discharge locations are above water supply intakes e.g. Two Bridges and Little Falls on the Passaic River, and Bridgewater on the Raritan River. The lack of enforcement by New Jersey is so apparent that a mayor was quoted in the newspaper saying that he does not have to comply since there is no enforcement.

The legislature needs to take additional action on this issue beyond the notification requirements in Senator Smith’s bill. It should also adopt pending bills on no enforcement.

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

**Fun and Games on Wawayanda Mountain**

By Martin Cohen, Trail Maintenance Coordinator, North Jersey Group (martincohen@verizon.net)

It was the three-legged monster against the two-legged line guide (AT Trail) maintenance decade. Our deca-pede was outweighed by more than ten to one, but wisely chosen (plus a few chain saws, an axe, lots of rope, and other heavy devices), the deca-pede prevailed!

The decapitated consists of Moshe Arad, Tom Carr, Buddy Jenssen, Pete Zuroff, and me. Tom, Buddy, and Pete wielded the chain saws and axes while Moshe and I mainly assisted in sheparding a portion of the very heavy load of equipment up and down the mountain.

The trail leading up to the base of the massive tree blowdown that occurred in May, 2010, blocking our beloved AT as it crossed Wawayanda Mountain, in Sussex County. There stood it with its phallic trunk, more than twenty-five feet straight up, perched on as many roots as I could count.

We considered how to remove this hindrance without killing anyone. We decid-ed to attach a rope to the top of the monster from the 20-foot ledge from which it had fallen, anchoring the rope to a sturdy tree trunk that was growing higher up at the far side of the ridge. The rope was dropped from the ledge, and tied to the base of the monster’s trunk. But proper leverage required that the rope be tied not at the base of the trunk, but higher up at the level of the ledge. We considered some one shimming up the precariously poised trunk, but, since the nearest hospital was miles away, instead opted to maneuver the rope up the trunk inch by inch via the deft wrist flicks of Tom Carr who stood on the ledge - who is indeed very strong!

After posting Moshe down the moun-tain to provide continuous support for all who were coming up from the base, we began to work on our project. Of course, we were aware of the, “it is a must do”, but at the same time we were also a little apprehensive about the monster toppling once its supports were removed.

We considered how to remove the residues that were still hanging around the base of the monster, but quickly decided that there was not enough time to complete the task of removing the monster before we would have to cut the tree into manageable pieces to cut from the trunk, and to cut several subsidiary trunks that were still hanging down from the base of the trunk, a multiple chain saw task.

Our mission accomplished, we head-ed down the trail. It was with mixed feelings that we watched the monster begin to topple from the base of the trunk eventually falling from its flimsy perch. Buddy installed a fashionable, attractive angle bracket with a battery-powered electric drill. Moshe and I assisted Buddy in aligning the register, and also “helped” by conversing with some of the through and section hikers that were passing by.

This was a really satisfying experience: being part of a team that undertook an extremely difficult task, and achieved it to perfection.

(For a longer version of this article first appeared in the Appalachian Mountain Club’s Trails and Ways newsletter.)

**Outings Report**

Skylands Group

Skylands Group (formerly Northwest Jersey Group) (Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

Web-site: http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/skylands/ Or click from the NJ Chapter’s web-site.

OFFICERS: The Chapter is rebuilding the Skylands Group looking for dedicated individuals to address an array of important environmental issues in the area.

ACTIVITIES: Presently working with other grass roots organizations to support efforts to protect the pristine environment and natural beauty of the area. We are working to preserve open space and maintain water quality, to preserve the views and natural resources of the Appalachian Trail and the Delaware Water Gap by opposing efforts to replace existing ‘80 footer tall power lines with 190’ monster towers, and to upgrade the Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area into a National Park and Preserve.

For questions about this Group and how to get involved please contact Nicole Dallara, Chapter Outreach Coordinator at Nicole.Dallara@SierraClub.org.

GENERAL MEETINGS will be held on the SECOND TUESDAY of the month from 7:00 – 8:30 pm at the Unitarian Church of Sussex County, Library One West Nelson Street, Newton, NJ 07860.

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Apr 10: The proposed Susquahanna Roseland power transmission line and Tennessee Gas Pipeline threatens the NJ Highlands - Chapter Program Assistant Kate MillSpous will lead a discussion on these two proposed projects, which are threatening to destroy the environmentally pristine areas of the Highlands. Please come and learn about where these projects currently stand and what you can do to prevent these projects from going forward. Refreshments will be provided!

May 8: Creating a National Park and Preserve at the Delaware Water Gap. National Parks & Monuments Team Member John Kashiwagi will lead a discussion on efforts to create a National Park and Preserve at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area. Free refreshments will be provided!

**DIRECTIONS** to the Unitarian Church of Sussex County, One West Nelson Street, Newton, NJ 07860. Phone: 973-577-7210.

From I-80: take Rte 206 North into Newton. Before you reach downtown, the Sovereign bank appears on your right. Take a left turn right at the Sovereign Bank onto West Nelson Street. The UU Fellowship Hall is almost immediately on your left.

From Rte 25: Take Rte 94 South (in Hamburg) all the way to the courthouse square in Newton. At the square, follow the signs for Rte 206 South (Main St.). Look for the PNC and Sovereign banks on your left. Take a right turn at that intersection onto West Nelson Street. The UU Fellowship Hall is immediately on your left.

From Rte 94 North (from Blairtown): Go to the center of Newton (courthouse square). At the square, follow the signs for Rte 206 South (Main St.). Look for the PNC and Sovereign banks on your left. Take a right turn at that intersection onto West Nelson Street. The UU Fellowship Hall is almost immediately on your left.

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

**OFFICERS:**

Chair: Jonathan Wall
Vice-Chair: Cindy MacGonagle
Secretary & Webmaster: Dwight Irving
Treasurer: Open Position!
Public Chair: Open Position!
Publicity Chair: Celeste Martin
Membership Chair: Open Position!

(Continued on page 6)
GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 5)

Energy Coordinator: Open Position!
Outings Coordinator: Open Position!

WEBSITE: http://new.jersey.sierranetclub.org

See us and keep up to date with our Group on Facebook:
http://www.facebook.com/home.php?g=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 and 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 locations are subject to change.
For more information please direct specific questions or inquiries to us at shighlandssierra@gmail.com.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS First Wednesdays: Contact officers or refer to the website for details please.

GREAT MEETINGS:
- July 5 pm - first or third Wednesdays: For the most up-to-date plans for meetings and outings, checkout our Facebook page (http://www.facebook.com/home.php?g=53817136187)

March 21, 7 pm: Talk at Hunterdon Medical Center auditorium, Flemington, on the “Reality of Climate Change.” (see North Jersey Group’s announcement for details).

CURRENT ISSUES:
- 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, environmentalists, business & game groups... together with you... to conserve and enhance our local environment and protect it from the pressures of suburban sprawl, power lines, gas pipelines and mineral and gas extraction.

North Jersey Group
(Passaic County and most of Bergen County)

WEBSITE: http://new.jersey.sierranetclub.org/North/

OFFICERS:
- Chair: John Kashwick* jkashwick@optonline.net
- Vice Chair: Mary Ellen Shaw* mshaw.001@gmail.com
- Conservation Co-Chair: Tom Thompson* etran74@aol.com
- Political Chair: Greg Tondi* gregt75@yahoo.com
- Treasurer: Tom Thompson* etran74@aol.com
- Secretary: Jennifer Rothchild* jennifer2@h2@gmail.com
- Air Quality Issues: Laura Colp
- Events Chair: Mary Walsh bblewh@earthlink.net
- Membership Chair: Buddy Jensen * budyjensen@gmail.com
- Outreach: Ellen Blumenkrantz eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
- Programs Chair: Jessica Epstein jepstein101@gmail.com
- Publicity: Mary Ellen Shaw* mshaw.001@gmail.com
- Sustainable Energy: Ed Schwartz edgeventingsolutions.com
- Trail Maintenance: Marty Cohen martincohen@verizon.net
- Webmaster: John Kashwick* jkashwick@optonline.net
- Wildlife Issues: Mary Ellen Shaw* mshaw.001@gmail.com
- Ex-Com Member-at-Large: Nancy Wysko* nape2@aol.com
- * Group Executive Committee Member

GENERAL MEETINGS:
(All general meetings are free and are open to general public. For more information, please contact John at jkashwick@optonline.net or check out our Facebook page.)

April 19 (Thursday), 7:30 pm: The Reality of Climate Change. At Franklin Lakes Public Library, 470 De Korte Drive in Franklin Lakes. In honor of Earth Day. The North Jersey Group presents Harriet Shugarman, of The Climate Reality Project. Shugarman will bring the facts about the climate crisis into the mainstream and engage the public in conversation about how to solve it. The Climate Reality Project helps citizens around the world discover the truth and take meaningful steps to bring about change. Since her training in 2007, Shugarman has spoken with thousands of people across the United States and Canada on climate change. In 2008, she jumped into climate change issues with both feet, launching www.ClimateMama.com, her current passion and adventure.

May 22 (Tues), 7:30 pm: Managing Nature in an Urban Environment. At Louis Tay 2nd Public Library, 345 Lafayette Avenue in Hawthorne. Justin Monetti, Chief of Interpretation at Morristown National Historical Park will speak on the challenges of managing nature in a park located in an urban or suburban setting. Formerly working at the Brooklyn unit of Gateway National Recreation Area, Monetti will cover the issues facing urban national park units such as traffic, crowds, air pollution, sprawl, lack of wildlife connectivity, and invasive species, while still managing to fulfill the National Park Service’s dual, but often competing, role of preserving and protecting natural resources while still providing for the enjoyment of the people. John Kashwick, North Jersey Group Chair and Member of the Sierra Club National Parks and Monuments Team will speak briefly about an expansion initiative at Delaware Water Gap.

June 26 (Tues), 7:30 pm: “Bag It: The Movie.” At the Closter Public Library, 200 High Street in Closter. In conjunction with the Closter Green Team, we present “Bag It,” a film that has been garnering awards at film festivals across the nation. Try going for a day without plastic. In this touching and often flat-out-funny film, we follow “everyman” Jeb Brown as he embarks on a global tour to unravel the complexities of our plastic world. What starts as a film about plastic bags evolves into a worldwide investigation into plastic’s effects on our oceans, environment, and bodies. We see how we crazy-for-plastic world has finally caught up to us...and what we can do about it. There will also be discussion of Green Teams and what you can do to locally keep plastics out of the environment.

OTHER MEETINGS AND EVENTS:
- Open Position—Sunday, April 16 from 7pm to 9pm at Panera Bread on Route 4 West in Paramus in the back room. Join us for an informal gathering (you buy what you wish) to meet other new members (or old) and find out more about the local group. For more information and/or RSVP, contact Mary at blehlwalsh@earthlink.net.
- Ridgewood Earth Day Fair-Saturday, April 21 11am to 2pm. The North Jersey Group will be tabling at this event. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact John at jkashwick@optonline.net or just stop by and say hello!
- Executive Committee Meeting—Wednesday, May 2 at 7:30 pm (Location TBD). The meeting is casual and informative. All members are welcome and encouraged to learn more about the Club, discuss issues, and plan future events. For location or more information, please contact John at jkashwick@optonline.net or Mary Ellen at mshaw.001@gmail.com.

CONSERVATION ISSUES:
- Become more involved in the North Jersey Group and tell us more about what you would like to see happen. Some of the things that we have worked on in the past can be found on our website (http://www.jersey.sierranetclub.org) 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 in the Highlands water. We also support the concept of a National Park and Preserve in the Delaware Water Gap. We are following a Bergen County Freeholder’s attempt to raid the Open Space Trust Fund process. For more information about these issues, or to become involved, please contact Tom at etran74@aol.com or Mary Ellen at mshaw.001@gmail.com.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE:
- Our group of volunteer trail maintainers had several outings recently. Last July, with the help of thick ropes and chain saws, we removed a huge blow-down that was precariously hanging over our section of the Appalachian Trail. Then in October and November, after the occurrence of hurricane Irene and the Halloween snow storm, respectively, we inspected the trail and did some minor maintenance. Despite extremely damaging elements, we are pleased to report that our section was weathered that well. Dragonfly: We are considering adding activities to Harriman Park, where several trails are badly in need of maintenance. So if you are interested in contributing some much needed help please send an email to Marty at martincohen@verizon.net.

OUTINGS:
- If you have an idea for an outing you would like to lead, please contact Ellen at eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com to find out how.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:
- The group is always looking for new volunteers. To find out how you can help with outings, meetings, conservation issues, trails, environmental justice, or in other ways, please contact John at jkashwick@optonline.net or Mary Ellen at mshaw.001@gmail.com.

CONNECT WITH US:
- Check out our Web page at http://new.jersey.sierranetclub.org/North/
- Sign up for North Jersey Group e-mail notices by e-mailing John at jkashwick@optonline.net.
- You can also check our Facebook page for updates by searching “Sierra Club North Jersey Group” (open position) or “North Jersey Group” (open position).

Hudson-Meadowlands Group
(Hudson County and southern Bergen County: Lyndhurst, Rutherford, East Rutherford, Carlstadt, Ridgefield, Edgewater, Cliffside Park and Fairview)

OFFICERS:
- Chair: Steve Larsen 201-424-6548 slarsen@hotmail.com
- Vice-Chair: Janet Glass 201-868-4216 jganna@aol.com
- Secretaries: Judith Courtenay 201-868-0575 jaco��cor التنيزو.net
- ExCom At-large: Ruth Oheb 201-462-8999 rusttylor2002.com
- Treasurer: Judith Courtenay 201-868-0575 jaco_corpus.net
- Conservation Chairs:
  - Mirjana Zivkovic 201-588-8390 tenisko@hotmail.com
  - Joe Taylor 201-356-8399 jetttylor2002.com
- Cool Cities Chairs:
  - Helen Manogue 917-956-5111 helmanogue@verizon.net
- Events Chair: Janet Glass 201-868-4216 jganna@aol.com
- ExCom At-large: Jill Hawkins 201-914-7699 Jillc202@aol.com
- ExCom Meetings: The Hudson-Meadowlands Group will be holding its Executive Committee meetings at 7pm on the following Thursday in 2012. March 15, May 17, June 28, Sept 13, and Nov 15. These meetings are open to all Sierra Club members. Please contact the officers, hotline, or hotline, for more information. They will also know of any upcoming general meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
- CONSERVATION ISSUES:
  - Our group is committed to protecting open space in our urban area. We are currently focusing 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, free and open access to the Hudson River Walkway, and the quality of life of those who live nearby. We monitor

The Jersey Sierran: April–June 2012

6

There's a new bi-weekly Chapter Alert Service. Sign up at www.scnj.convio.net.
other developments in our territory that violate the environmental needs of our resi-
dents and our land.

RIVERFRONT ISSUES:
1) We’re promoting a riverfront park on the last 6 acres of Hudson Riverfront in North
Berlin and opposing a 250 unit-development, Riverview, currently in planning for this
last lot. The North Bergen Planning Board (NBPB) continues its hearings on its
hearing application to construct three high-rise towers and a multifloor garage at
River Road and Bulls Ferry Rd. Members of our group have tracked and challenged
this application for years, attending hearings on a regular basis. Despite the Dept.
of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) revoking Riverview’s permit, the NBPB con-
tinues local hearings.

2) We’re preventing safety over greed by opposing the Applenveck development on River
Road that abuts a major high pressure gas line. We created a SC State Chapter
Resolution against this development and are reading it into all records. The Applenveck
development has been approved overwhelmingly by both the NBPB and the Hudson Coun-
ty Planning Board (HCPB). HOWEVER, a Superior Court judge, in a summary
judgment, just tossed the application back to the NBPB, saying that they hadn’t prop-
erly addressed the safety issues regarding the pipeline!!! Additionally, for its protec-
tion, the judge has stated that she wants to review the results of the new hearings to
determine if the safety issues have been properly addressed.

3) 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.

4) 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.

5) A new development group is requesting approval to build at the base of the
Palisades famous Suicide Bridge in three stages: a two story, 51,840 ft. retail space
with a three story garage behind that and a seven story 210-unit hotel on top of that.
It has been tabled for the moment, perhaps because of all the other pending issues on
River Road.

Please note: all of these hearings take place at 4253 Kennedy Boulevard in North
Bergen. Call 201-392-2624 or call our Secretaries, Ruth and Judith, to confirm upcom-
ing hearings. Free parking is available. These developments will add significant traffic
onto the already highly congested River Road as well as blocking what views are left of
the Palisades below the GWR.

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
1) We’re protecting 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 Development 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. We are consulting with the Hudson River
Waterfront Conservancy to seek a reversal of these approvals.

2) 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 evalua-
tion and approval.

There’s still some natural beauty in our urban areas especially on the Palisades and
along the Waterfront. Developers are circling to construct hotels, commercial build-
ings and residential projects that will block any view of these majestic cliffs and block
citizen access to the Walkway. 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.
The Gateway Group is the reincarnation of the former Essex Group with the addition of
Elizabeth and Hillside. The Group resumed function in 2011.

Officers:
Chair: David Yennior 973-844-1384 dyennior@msn.com
Vice-Chair: Open position!
Secretary: Open position!
Treasurer: Open position!
President: Open position!
Conservation Co-Chairs: Zasha Khademi 201-618-9572 zasha@aol.com
Conservation Co-Chair: Open position!
Political Chair: Darius Tullis 908-869-9732 dtullis@gmail.com
Chair: Open position!
Membership Chair: Open position!
Newark Issues Chair: Bill Chappel 973-624-6690 bchappel1@verizon.net
Webmaster: Open position!
Recycling Issues Chair: Open position!
Paicau River Issues Chair: Open position!
Elizabeth Issues Chair: Paul Borenstein 908.289.3984 pbore2222@verizon.net
Outings Chair: Open position!
Group ExCom: David Yennior, John Beadie, and Zasha Khademi

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

The Gateway Group invites YOU to join in the activism and ask 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.

April 3: Dangers of Hydrofracking (fracking). Terry Stimpfel will lead a discussion on
hydrofracking, the controversial technique used to get natural gas from shale. She’ll dis-

cuss what it is, how it works, and why it’s so controversial. 7 pm at Verizon Park

May 2: Talk on nonalcoholic beverages and housing for animal control. Carol Rivelle
will talk about alternatives to the deer hunt. Elaine Dunn will talk about alternatives to
the bear hunt. 7 pm at Verizon Park Boathouse, Verona. http://www.essex.countynj.us/p
/index.php?section=parks/sites/w
GROUP NEWS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

Political Chair: Terry Stimpfel
Publicity Chair: Joanne Paininte
Program Chair: Lynn Weiss
ExCom At-large: Malcolm McFarland
Kip Cherry
Rob Benjamin
Outreach: 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/flex space and the Washington Blvd open space development in Robbinsville, to save the former Valley Road School in Princeton, and to ban hydro-fracking. We are supporters of the D&R Canal Commission, the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, Princeton Ridge Preserve, and invasive species control in the Hamilton Treston Boro/Johnson Creek Group. The Central Group supports the Princeton Battlefield preservation and opposes the Susquehanna-Roseland electric transmission lines and new natural gas pipelines through New Jersey.

We need you NOW! Please contact Terry to be involved. We are rethinking 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.

EVENTS will be announced during the quarter. Please subscribe to our email list.

Please participate in our service opportunities! Check the Sierra Outlooks website and our email list for details and please plan to participate.

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

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

OFFICERS:
Group Chair: Roomi Nusrat 908-429-9017 sierra_nj_raritan@att.net
Group Vice Chair: Dom McBride 732 560-0069 dmcbirde@alumni.haas.org
Conservation Advisor: Jane Tousman 908-561-5504 jdtous@aol.com
Outreach: Open position!
Webmaster: Open position!
Treasurer: Open position!
Recycling Coordinator: Open position!
Conservation Chair: Open position!
Secretary: Open position!
Public Policy Chair: Daphne Speck-Barnviski 732-590-5111 speckbarnviski@comcast.net
Membership: Open position!

WEBITE: http://www.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: NJRARITANVALLEYNEWS after creating a password on our email list for details and please plan to participate.

May 21 – John Weber, Northeast Regional Manager of the Surfrider Foundation, will discuss the revised NJDEP regulations to monitor the plans of coastal communities on how they will provide beach access to N.J. beach goers. Beach access has been contentious one for years, since urban and shore waterfront up to the high tide line belong to the state, thus to the public. Some municipalities and industries have tried to limit access by restrictive parking regulations or no parking facilities at all, no bathroom facilities, outright barring of access, and other tactics. New regulations proposed by NJDEP counter-protests and the advocates range from environmentalists to fisherman to surfers, because they gave municipalities too much leeway. John will report on the revisions to the revisions. There also is the possibility that Surfrider will have a short presentation on ‘Beach Access’ and a plan to place a giant concrete homeshore crab off the Jersey Coast as an artificial reef. This meeting is being held on the third (3d) Monday of May because the fourth Monday is Memorial Day.

June 25 – Debbie Mans, Executive Director of the N.J./N.Y. Baykeeper in Keyport, will report on the health of our bays. She also will discuss the ups and downs of her organization’s initiatives with the revised NJDEP regulations. The Baykeeper’s attempt to determine ecologically important oysters, whose beds were decimated by overharvesting and pollution, can be repopulated in Raritan Bay. Some municipalities and industries have tried to limit access by restrictive parking regulations or no parking facilities at all, no bathroom facilities, outright barring of access, and other tactics. New regulations proposed by NJDEP counter-protests and the advocates range from environmentalists to fishermen to surfers, because they gave municipalities too much leeway. John will report on the revisions to the revisions. There also is the possibility that Surfrider will have a short presentation on ‘Reef as Art,’ a plan to place a giant concrete homeshore crab off the Jersey Coast as an artificial reef. This meeting is being held on the third (3d) Monday of May because the fourth Monday is Memorial Day.

Shore Group Happenings:
We have had several group meetings with a coalition with Monmouth University, all the towns on the Whale Pond Brook watershed, and the NJ 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 runoff, 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: faiteil@aol.com

Help Needed for Cleanup: If you would like to participate in cleanups of our local waterways, please contact Laura Bagwell at lbagwell3@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 Shore Jersey 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 NJ 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 US 9 Exit 109 to Rte 520 West (Newman Springs Road, which becomes 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, Warner is off to your left. Use parking lots 5 or 6. A campus map is at http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PhDFiles/MAPS/MAP_01_08.pdf.

April 23 – Rep. Frank Pallone has agreed to be a special guest speaker. He plans to talk about the political machinations by right-wing anti-environmental politicians in Washington who hope to dismantle 30 years of environmental regulations that protect our land and safety. Initially, the environmental movement preserved public tracts for passive recreation, then progressed to protecting the flora and fauna. Today, environmentalism has expanded to protect our rivers, streams, and wetlands from all forms of pollution. Thus, when anti-environmental politicians and lobbyists try to increase corporate profits by watering down or eliminating environmental regulations, they are directly endangering our health. Rep. Pallone will explain how polluters mask their extremist tactics by claiming ‘job Killing’ environmental regulations caused the recent recession and current unemployment.

May 21 – John Weber, Northeast Regional Manager of the Surfrider Foundation, will discuss the revised NJDEP regulations to monitor the plans of coastal communities on how they will provide beach access to N.J. beach goers. Beach access has been contentious one for years, since urban and shore waterfront up to the high tide line belong to the state, thus to the public. Some municipalities and industries have tried to limit access by restrictive parking regulations or no parking facilities at all, no bathroom facilities, outright barring of access, and other tactics. New regulations proposed by NJDEP counter-protests and the advocates range from environmentalists to fishermen to surfers, because they gave municipalities too much leeway. John will report on the revisions to the revisions. There also is the possibility that Surfrider will have a short presentation on ‘Reef as Art,’ a plan to place a giant concrete homeshore crab off the Jersey Coast as an artificial reef. This meeting is being held on the third (3d) Monday of May because the fourth Monday is Memorial Day.

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OCEAN COUNTY GROUP

WEBSITE: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean

OFFICERS:
Chair: Gregory Aurineum, Enq.
Vic-Chair, Outreach: Dawn Marie Johns
Conser’s Chair: Margaret Micosenorjak
Secretary: Jill Palmer
Treasurer: Gregory Aurineum
Political Chair: Nancy Brown
Public Policy Chair: Open Position
Fund-Raising: Joyce M. Isaza
Env’l Consultant: Helen Henderson
Outings Chair: Terri Connor
Banking Chair: Jo Ellen Lundy
ExCom Member: Jill Palmer

WEBITE: http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/JerseyShore/

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

OFFICERS:
Group Chair: Dennis Anderson 732-970-4327 dennisza@aol.com
Secretary: Joe DeLuca 732-590-1885 joe.deluca@att.net
Treasurer: Faith Teitelbaum 732-220-5553 faithit@aol.com
Webmaster: Lud Lanko 732-462-2199 lud@pobox.com
Treasurer: Pat Fuschetto 732-808-4588 fusche48@yahoo.com
Political Chair: Shahnaz Shahidain 732-666-4285 shahidain@gmail.com
Outings Chair: Mike Verzage 908-902-0718 mverzage@aol.com
Membership: Membership
Co-Chair: Bob Grize 732-892-0684 mwcwmpnb@aol.com
Program Chair: George Moffatt 732-544-1726 gmmofatt@aol.com

WEBITE: http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/JerseyShore/

FUNDED Raising:
Co-Chairs: Lois Blake 732-863-9517 loisblake@optonline.net
and Joellen Lundy 732-741-4756 jfutey@comcast.net

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

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

We’ve also targeted critical local open space, sprawl, and air and water quality issues with special emphasis on the massive “over-development” of Jackson NJ. We’re working on...
**West Jersey Group**
(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

**WEBSITE:** http://mysite.verizon.net/wvcl1/p1

**OFFICERS:**

**Chair:**
Gina Carola 856-848-8881 gincarola@verizon.net

**Vice-Chair:**
Frank Zinni efzinni@aol.com

**Secretary:**
Ellen Zinni efzinni@aol.com

**Treasurer:**
Trish Clements pratishl@comcast.net

**Publicity Chair:**
Bud Kalis 856-428-8871 budkalis@verizon.net

**Political Chair:** Nancy Rose nancyrose@comcast.net

**Pinebars Region:**
Lee Sneed sneed@comcast.net

**Greenways Coord:**
Frank and Ellen Zinni efzinni@aol.com

**Delegate at Large:**
Aida Ayala thuderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com

**Membership Chair:**
Mike Brown 856-547-9221 cybelebrown@verizon.net

**Fundraising Chair:**
Call Gina to volunteer. 856-848-8881

**Smart Growth Chair:**
Open position! Call Gina to volunteer. 856-848-8881

**Programs Chair:**
Open position! Call Gina to volunteer. 856-848-8881

**Outings Chair:**
Open position! Call Gina to volunteer. 856-848-8881

**GENERAL MEETINGS:**
are held at 7:30 pm on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month, September through 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 154 (Brace Rd). Make the next right and then the next left onto Kings Hwy. After about one 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 over the 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

**April 11:** To be announced. Please check our website and local papers.

**May 9:** Maria Trunguch, regional manager for the NJ Conservation Foundation for South Jersey will present "Building a Green Infrastructure Network in Camden."

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

**Social Chair:**
Joe Testa testa-j@live.com

**Outings Chair:**
Joyce Haddad jkiddad@juno.com
testa@fire.com

**Treasurer:**
Joyce White joycewhite@netzero.net

**Webpage designer:**
Tom Miller mulleton@juno.com

**Social Chair:**
Jeff Serebree Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com

**Programs:**
Open position. Contact us! We need your help!

**Publicity:**
Open position. Contact us! We need your help!

**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 literature at the Central 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.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**
**SOCIAL DINNERS:**
**FIRST WEDNESDAY** of each month at 7pm. Join us for dinner at a restaurant in the Mays Landing area. Location will be announced 2 weeks before each social. RSVP required. Join us on our listserv for further details.

**SOCIAL DINNERS:**
**MAY 22:**
Join us for dinner at a restaurant in the Mays Landing area. Location will be announced 2 weeks before each social. RSVP required. Join us on our listserv for further details.

**HIKES AND OTHER OUTINGS:**
Hikes and other outings 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).
GROUP NEWS
(Continued from page 9)

Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

(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/

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

YOUNG SIERRAN COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Head Chair: William Sevchuk wsevchuk@yahoo.com
Vice Chair: Open Position
Moderator: Diana Christine Eichholz MistyAngel22@aol.com
Conservation Chair: Steve Timmerman sking@stev.com
Information: Judy Garber journey7@optonline.net
Webmaster: Ex-Com/
YS National Rep. (CAalers)
Deborah Pianta 609-294-8087 (H)
CATALYST Chair: Open Position
Outings Chair: (Northern Jersey)
Open Position! Please Contact Us!
Outings Chair: (Central Jersey)
Leon Yerenburg yerenburg@gmail.com
Outings Chair: (South Jersey)
Open Position! Please Contact Us!
We need Young Sierra Outing Leaders for all areas, but especially for the Northern and South Jersey areas. We will help you step-by-step through the training process to properly lead hikes and outdoor activities. Reimbursement, insurance and guidance are provided under the Sierra Club’s membership. If interested contact Chair or Young Sierra Coordinator at YoungSierrans@yahoo.com.

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

All Events will be announced via The Young Sierrans E-mail List Serve. To be put on it, send an 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 Sierra Event Volunteers always welcomed and needed.

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

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

Inner City Outing Sections

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

OFFICERS:
Chair: Marty Cohen 2014766838 martincohen@verizon.net
Treasurer: Anne Dyjak 732-560-0993 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 week-ends. 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 asked 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 embalazoned with both a Sierra Club logo and our own customized NJ ICO logo, to give to the urban youth we take out and their parents. 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 open 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 the amazing route-finding capability of one of our canine companions.

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!.

Young Sierrans

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

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Vice Chair: Open Position
Moderator: Diana Christine Eichholz MistyAngel22@aol.com
Conservation Chair: Steve Timmerman sking@stev.com
Webmaster: Judy Garber journey7@optonline.net
Ex-Com/
YS National Rep. (CAalers)
Deborah Pianta 609-294-8087 (H)
Catalyst Chair: Open Position
Outings Chair: (Northern Jersey)
Open Position! Please Contact Us!
Outings Chair: (Central Jersey)
Leon Yerenburg yerenburg@gmail.com
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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 the amazing route-finding capability of one of our canine companions.
May 1 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak Crosswicks Creek – in the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh (Mercer Co). (JS, WS). 9am-1pm. Paddling along the Crosswicks Creek near the beautiful riverbank and past the historic Hamilton Tavern. Bring lunch for the break. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

May 2 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). (JS, W). 9am-1pm. Enjoy a 10-mile spring paddle along the Wading River with scenic views of the wetlands and wildlife. Bring lunch for the break. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

May 4 (Fri-Sat): Sudge Island Weekend (Rumson, NJ). (JS, WS). 10am-9pm. Join us for a weekend of kayaking and exploring the beautiful waters of the Rumson area. Bring your own gear and dinner for the Friday night paddle. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

May 9 (Wed): Hike at Perripole Lake (Monmouth Co). (JS, WS). 9am-3pm. Easy hike along the beach and through the marsh at Perripole Lake. Bring lunch and binoculars for bird watching. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

May 12 (Sat): Ringwood State Park Swim (Passaic Co). (JS, WS). 10am. The lake will be open from 7am to 7pm in this indoor pool. Bring lunch for the break. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

May 13 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the N. Branch Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). (JS, WS). 9am. Enjoy a 10-mile spring paddle along the N. Branch Rancocas Creek from BCC to Historic Smithville Park. Learn about the culture and history of the Quakers and the Native American people who lived in the area. Bring lunch and binoculars for bird watching. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

May 18-20 (Fri-Sun): Poisons Creek River Kayak Trip, Poisons Creek State Park, MD. Kayak the beautiful Poisons Creek which was recently rated one of the top rivers to paddle by Paddler’s Magazine. We will paddle along the beautiful Poisons Creek with scenic views of the surrounding mountains. Bring lunch and binoculars for bird watching. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

May 19 (Sat): Anthony Wayne Loop/Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). (JS, WS). 10am. 10-mile spring hike along the Anthony Wayne Loop with scenic views of the Hudson River and the Catskill Mountains. Bring lunch for the break. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

May 20 (Sun): Sunapee Mountaineers Hike & Ultra-Cross at Sunapee Lake (New Hampshire). (JS, WS). 9am. This 22-mile ultra-cross at Sunapee Lake is a great way to challenge yourself and enjoy the beautiful views of the lake. Bring lunch for the break. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

June 2 (Sat): Hike and Enjoy Delaware Bay Day at Bivalve/Pine Neck (Cape May Co). (JS, W). Delaware Bay Day is hosted by the Bayshore Discovery Project and is the largest FREE festival in the tri-state area. It is a fun-filled day celebrating the Delaware Bay, the state’s most important estuary, and the unique natural resources of the Delaware Bay. For directions and information check out our website www.bayshored crackdown.org. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

June 4 (Mon): East Rock Park (Fairfield County, CT). (JS, WS). 10am. Enjoy a 7-mile hike along the trails of East Rock Park with scenic views of the Sound. Bring lunch for the break. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

June 5 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak in the Highlands (Mercer Co). (JS, WS). 9am-12pm. Easy paddle along the Delaware Canal with scenic views of the surrounding mountains. Bring lunch for the break. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

June 9 (Sun): Jersey Sierra Annual Picnic – Old Mill Road (Essex Co). (JS). 10am-1pm. Enjoy a day of hiking, kayaking, and bird watching at the Old Mill Road. Bring lunch and binoculars for bird watching. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

June 14 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Mercer Co). (JS, W). This is a 22-hour paddle trip from the lower Delaware River to the Delaware Water Gap. The route will feature the Botanical Garden and a lookout at Inglestein Rock. No experience necessary. Bring lunch for the break. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

June 15 (Fri-Sat): 3 Day Float-Kayak/Water Kayak – Introductory Training on the Wading River (Burlington Co). (JS, WS). 8am-3pm. An certified ACA instructor will be on hand to share information about paddling techniques, safety and equipment. This course is designed for everyone, regardless of experience, and is a great way to get introduced to the wonderful world of paddling. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

June 16 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Mercer Co). (JS, W). 9am. Enjoy a 7-mile paddle along the Delaware Canal with scenic views of the surrounding mountains. Bring lunch for the break. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

June 17 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). (JS, WS). This 7-mile paddle trip along Cedar Creek is a great way to enjoy the beautiful views of the surrounding mountains. Bring lunch for the break. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

June 28 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Mercer Co). (JS, W). 9am. Enjoy a 7-mile paddle along the Delaware Canal with scenic views of the surrounding mountains. Bring lunch for the break. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)
OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

Jan 17 (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 gain. Hiking shoes required and bring snack and drinks. More Info: Eli Wine store near the intersection of County Route 537 and L-1 to Upper Freehold Township. Bad weather cancels. Confirmation/Questions call or text leader Mike Vornay: 908-902-9718, or mike@gmail.com.

Jan 21 (Thu): Canoe/Kayak the Millstone River on the Sunday Sojourn (Burlington Co.). Jan 21, June is a beautiful month on the Mill to enjoy the aquatic flowering plants of the NJ Pinelands. A 1 1/2 mile trip for experienced paddlers, demand paddlers are required to confirm trip participation. Rentals are not available. George & Lena Le 609-295-5794, or kona sierraclubemail.com.

Jan 23 (Sat-Sun): South Passaic River, Passaic Co. (Mountain Bike). The river is mostly flat as we pass the Historic Rockleigh Bridge, it’s the longest stone arch bridge in the world, popular for photography buffs. We’ll paddle by an island off the Passaic River on the Saddle River. Mountain bike riders are encouraged to bring their bikes (see notes). We’ll choose nesting site for Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night herons - last year we were treated to great views of snows and herons! There are many stands large and small in this wetland and we’ll try to see a couple of them on our way up to the take-out point. Marvellous Bike Ramp, Off Rte 80 at the mouth of the Conover Road. Rides 12pm No rain and more. We’ll paddled close to downtown Harrington where the base of the great bridge building. On Sunday we will paddle to Cape Gravie, DO. Optional Camping at Conover Farms. Park, Friday night & Saturday. Contact leaders to confirm your participation and logistical language: Joe Testa 609-462-5954, or testafa@verizon.com.

Jan 24 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Tidal Raritan River (Middlesex Co.). Our trip is about 16 miles from New Brunswick to Perth Amboy. The Raritan ENERGIEK H. Schmid, will meet with us to provide an update on the river’s environmental importance and help our as a citizen guardian to stop pollution and improve river quality. (This trip for experienced paddlers, expect power boat traffic, and low water in January). Canoe must be 12.5 or over, bring spray skirts. Bring lunch, snacks and extra water. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location George & Lena Le 609-295-5794, or kona sierraclubemail.com.


Jan 30 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Cowansville Creek Warehouse Trail (Mercer Co.). This is a 1-mile shuttle trip with the tide from Bordentown to Anchor Park and back to Bordentown. Few stops. Bring low water shoes. Meet at Bordentown Reservoir, Park 41. Boats can be rented from Beach Cable and Kayak Rentals: http://www.tobers.com/, or 609-254-9295. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and logistical details.

NORTH JERSEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Issue Coordinators
Richard Isaac (908) 799-5839 rdenzer@sierraclub.org
Jane Tousman (908) 561-5504 jtousman@verizon.net
Ken Johanson (908) 464-0442 kjohan@comcast.net
Bill Martin (201) 675-1907 bmartin@sierraclub.org
Greg Auriemma (732) 451-9220 gauriemma@gmail.com
Gina Carola (856) 848-8831 gcarola@sierraclub.org
Bob Moss (973) 761-4200 bmoss@sierraclub.org
Sunil Somalwar (201) 367-9211 somalwar@sierraclub.org
George Denzer (973) 716-0967 gdenzer73@yahoo.com
Joan Denzer, Paul Sanderson, Lee Snyder (see left column)

Conservation Chair
Diane Emmert-Krantz (973) 781-1474 Diane@esm.com
George Denzer (973) 761-4200 gdenzer@sierraclub.org
Valerie West (901) 761-9683 val@swilliams.com
Lee Snyder (see left column)

Outreach Coordinator
Kayak Rentals: http://www.bckrental.com/, or 609-234-0925. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location George & Lena Le 609-295-5794, or kona sierraclubemail.com.

Newsletter Editor
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Ken Johanson (908) 464-0442 kjohan@comcast.net
Bill Martin (201) 675-1907 bmartin@sierraclub.org

Membership Chair
Bill Martin (908) 604-2505 bmartin@sierraclub.org

Council Delegate
Jane Tousman (908) 561-5504 jtousman@verizon.net
1015 S Park Av, Highland Park NJ 08904-2954

High School Coordinator
Victoria Pan
celestina317@gmail.com

Speakers’ Bureau Organizer
Don McBride (732) 503-0369 dmcbride@alumni.haas.org

Conservation and/or Political Committee meetings
Ly statewide policy deliberations, held on the third Thursday of each month – no one is in the office to take your call, please leave a message. Attend monthly meetings if you wish to be a part of the Alianza’s efforts to protect biodiversity and improve the quality of life for NJ Hispanic/Latino communities. All members are welcome to attend these month-to-month deliberations.

OUTINGS

- 4/23 Fri/Sat - Appalachian Mountain Club, Rye, NY. The river is mostly flat as we pass the Historic Rockleigh Bridge, it’s the longest stone arch bridge in the world, popular for photography buffs. We’ll paddle by an island off the Passaic River on the Saddle River. Mountain bike riders are encouraged to bring their bikes (see notes). We’ll choose nesting site for Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night herons - last year we were treated to great views of snows and herons! There are many stands large and small in this wetland and we’ll try to see a couple of them on our way up to the take-out point. Marvellous Bike Ramp, Off Rte 80 at the mouth of the Conover Road.
- 5/4 Sat - Canoe/Kayak the Millstone River on the Sunday Sojourn (Burlington Co.). Jan 21, June is a beautiful month on the Mill to enjoy the aquatic flowering plants of the NJ Pinelands. A 1 1/2 mile trip for experienced paddlers, demand paddlers are required to confirm trip participation. Rentals are not available. George & Lena Le 609-295-5794, or kona sierraclubemail.com.

ADVANCE

THE JERSEY SIERRAN: April–June 2012

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.