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# The Jersey..... SIERRAN

Vol. 41, No. 2      Roughly 17,500 Members in New Jersey      April-June 2012

### Staff Report

## Curbing Climate Change with Energy Efficiency

By Christine Guhl, 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 less time 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 home energy use. The best and most abundant resource available to curb climate change is energy efficiency. And it's not just about turning down the thermostat or switching to CFL light bulbs. New Jersey's Clean Energy Program (CEP: njcleanenergy.com) provides a myriad of options that homeowners and business owners can utilize to make efficiency upgrades.

The CEP is funded through a small percentage of ratepayers' utility bills called the Societal Benefits Charge. These funds go towards rebates and financing for everything from CFL light bulbs to highly-efficient furnaces to insulation. Energy efficiency upgrades have major payoffs to the property owner - double, triple and even quadruple the initial investment.

These payoffs don't end with the investor, either. Energy efficiency and conservation have the added benefit of reducing demand for the entire state. As usage drops, the price of energy goes down for all ratepayers. It's as simple as supply and demand. And if lower energy rates and reduced pollution are not enough, energy efficiency has more job-creating potential than any other energy option.

What's the catch? The Clean Energy Program is entirely voluntary. Utilities are not required to invest in energy efficiency and there is no incentive for them to reduce energy use in their territories. Homeowners and business owners often don't know of the incentives and in turn, don't make use of them even when they are in the market to do so. The Clean Energy Program is so underutilized that each year it provides a surplus of money - a surplus that the governor can then raid to reduce the budget deficit.

In order to reap the potential rewards of energy efficiency, New Jersey should establish an efficiency REQUIREMENT for utilities. Utilities have the best access to ratepayers through billing and customer service and therefore should be the obvious purveyors of energy efficiency. One option is to mandate that New Jersey's utilities do efficiency planning in order to justify their rates. Periodically, utilities enter into rate cases in order to justify that. This is especially prudent considering JCP&L, one of New Jersey's largest utilities, is being investigated for obtaining unreasonably high profits.

Currently, the state's four largest utilities - PSE&G, JCP&L, ACE and RECO - vary greatly in their support for energy efficiency. PSE&G invests hundreds of millions each year to improve efficiency around the state. Conversely, JCP&L's

*Sustainable Lifestyle*  
*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.convio.net/> : sign up for our biweekly e-mail newsletter, and for Action Alerts which call on YOU to help make a difference.

### Report from Trenton

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

By Jeff Tittel, 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 \$363M, down from \$392M two years ago. The diverted funds will be used to close other budget gaps, while DEP staffing will reach historic lows. This, even though more than 75% of the DEP budget comes from self-generated fees and fines, and from federal grants. And 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 2829 - 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 increases in the anticipated corporate tax revenue. But this funding was constitutionally dedicated in 1998 to prevent Governors from raiding the DEP budget.

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 eleven years has been \$235M. 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 the functions of the DEP. The Governor has already begun to privatize our parks, outsourcing concessions and educational programs. The Superintendent of Island Beach State Park has just been replaced by a political appointee, after the former Superintendent criticized the Administration's privatization plan. The Administration's Red Tape Review Group calls for privatizing the issuance of land use permits, akin to its Licensed Site Remediation Professional program.

This Budget proposal continues Governor Christie's attacks on the environment, building on the DEP's Waiver Rule, the State Strategic Plan, and rollbacks 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.

parent company, First Energy, ranked at the bottom nationwide for energy efficiency investments.

JCP&L is the same utility that allowed customers to be without power for days on end following Hurricane Irene and an unusual Halloween blizzard. Atypical weather events, along with warm winters and hotter summers, are going to be the norm if something is not done to reduce global warming pollution. The cheapest, fastest and most effective way to do that is energy efficiency. The time for New Jersey to get serious about efficiency is now so that the beloved seasons of the Garden State can be felt for years to come.

### Report from Trenton:

## Sierra Club Statement on Governor Christie's State of the State 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 vetoed three of the five bills passed to protect the Bay.

The Governor's 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 30 years of protections of air and water quality.

**Pulling out of RGGI:** 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.

**Energy Master Plan:** The Governor's revised Plan slashes state renewable energy standards, guts clean energy funding, increases our dependence on fracking and non-conventional fossil fuels, and calls for more nuclear power. These policies have caused the price of solar credits to drop, almost causing the market to crash.

**Not Supporting Important EPA Air Quality Protections:** Governor Christie did not join litigation by our neighbor states supporting EPA rules to clean up air pollution. The Cross-State Air Pollution rules require coal-producing states to our west to lower their toxic emissions. The rule had the support of PSE&G, Exelon, NJ Chamber of Commerce, and a number of health and environmental groups. Instead Governor Christie chose to go after plants individually, costing taxpayers more and resulting in cases tied up in the courts instead of actual reductions in air pollutants.

**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  
Chair's Msg: Looking Back & Forward ....3  
Editorial: Praise for NJ's Property Tax.....3  
ExCom's Dec, Jan, & Feb Resolutions ....3  
Reports from Trenton: Mercury in Seafood, Susquehanna-Roseland Power Line, Pete Seeger Wetlands Award.....4  
Combined Sewage Outfalls.....5  
Trail Maintenance: Wawayanda Mtn .....5  
Group and Section News.....5-10  
Spring Outings.....10-12  
Leader List, Meetings, Membership Form ..... 12

## Sustainable Lifestyle

# Intentional Communities: “Life is with People”

By Susan Dragan, our regular columnist

Perhaps one of the positive outcomes of the economic downturn is the resurfacing of alternative modes of living. Intentional communities based on shared values, collective households, cohousing communities, eco-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 living 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 be connected makes sense both economically and emotionally. Human interaction is healthy for us and fun. Too much solitude can be, well, lonely.

The year after graduating from high school and prior to college, I lived in Israel studying in Jerusalem, working as a diver in the Red Sea and living on a kibbutz and a moshav. Originally agricultural collective communities with utopian and socialist ideals, kibbutzim were a practical mode 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 collective. 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 privately owned farms 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 pitfalls. Sometimes it can feel like you are living in a fish bowl. People can irritate the heck out of each other. Group decisions often require compromise. But Life is with People. If you can find a communal situation with people who share your values and goals and don't drive you totally crazy, it can be very gratifying.

For more information visit: <http://www.ic.org> and [www.cohousing.org](http://www.cohousing.org).

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

## POPULATION ISSUE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

# Education and Access are Working

By Bonnie Tillery ([blt44blt@msn.com](mailto:blt44blt@msn.com))

Despite all the furious rhetoric of Republican presidential candidates and some religious leaders - What are they thinking?! This is 2012, not 1912; 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 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15-19. This rate is the lowest ever reported and represents a 42% decline from a peak in 1990 when there were 116.9 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 2-3 times higher than for non-Hispanic white teens.

Another disparity was noted in a study published in the Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, where it was found that states with more religious and conservative 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 34 births per 1,000 teens aged 15-19, as reported by the Guttmacher Institute in December 2011.

With the United States still leading other industrialized countries in unintended teen pregnancies, the importance of continuing comprehensive sexuality 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 31% believed they could not get pregnant, 24% said their partner did not want to use birth control, 13% said birth control was hard to obtain, 9% said they had side effects from its use, and 8% thought they, or their partners, were sterile.

It seems apparent that the keys to continued declines in teen pregnancy rates are comprehensive sexuality education and access. The figure of 13% of teens who said birth control was hard to obtain is sobering. To maintain the decline in unintended teen pregnancy rates, we need to continue discussions with our local, state and federal decision makers, making clear to them that comprehensive sexuality education and access to contraception work to reduce the incidence of unintended teen pregnancy. Women who delay having their first child tend to have better birth outcomes. They also have smaller families, putting less pressure on resources and helping us all live on a more sustainable planet.

To learn more about the Sierra Club and population issues go to: [sierraclub.org/population](http://sierraclub.org/population).

## 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, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. Enjoy the frolicking 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 on earth. Kayak or snorkel the pristine waters--- or just relax at sea. All tours depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel Truth. Fee for all tours, \$590, 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, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leader for more information (626-443-0706; [jholtzln@aol.com](mailto:jholtzln@aol.com))

## CHRISTIE

(Continued from page 1)

delaying the implementation of the state's Water Quality Management Planning rules by two years and substantially undermining these 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 challenged the science behind the Regional Master Plan. He has slashed funding for the Council. The State Strategic Plan and the Executive Order implementing it

undermine the Council's planning authority, declaring the Highlands Existing Community Zone a growth area that should receive sewers.

**Barnegat Bay Continues to Deteriorate:** Conditions in Barnegat Bay get worse while the Governor weakens protections for its watershed. He vetoed bills that would have required a limit on nutrient pollution entering the Bay, and would have cleaned up stormwater. His administration did not require the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant to install cooling towers, instead allowing the discharge of superheated water to continue.

(continued on page 4)

## Thank You for Your Support! Supplied by Ken Johanson, Chapter Chair

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.

### Benefactors (\$1,000 and above)

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

## Editorial

# Considering New Jersey's Property Tax

By Dick Colby ([dick.colby@stockton.edu](mailto:dick.colby@stockton.edu))



Of the \$44 billion in taxes collected each year by municipalities and state government in New Jersey, the breakdown is 50% as local property tax, 23% as state income tax, 18% as state sales tax, 5% as state corporate tax, and the remaining 4% from a miscellany of inheritance, gasoline, casino 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 metaphorical relationship between politics and the manufacture of sausage. But it shouldn't have to be so. As an undergraduate 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 PROPERTY constitutes the most suitable basis for taxation, rather than income or consumption (i.e. sales tax or European VAT). At the time Henry George (1839-97) wrote *Progress and Poverty* (1880), wealth was perhaps more definitively manifested in the value of property -- residential, industrial, and farm -- than it is today. Let's reconsider it.

There are two reasons, the first environmental: the easiest way to motivate higher residential densities (aka reduction in suburban sprawl) would be to tax progressively on the basis of acreage. Our most unsustainable waste of fossil fuel is that consumed by suburban vehicles; it would be completely avoided if people lived in communities where they could walk to work, school, shops, train and bus stations, and entertainment venues. Our second-ranking waste of greenhouse gas-emitting combustion is that used for heating and air conditioning, also much reduced by families living in attached and multi-unit buildings. (My best friend's townhouse in Oxford, England, which I visit as often as I can, shares its two longest walls with adjoining houses and is quite up-market -- and, incidentally, has a roof covered with solar panels, both for heating water and for making electricity.)

The second reason to promote property as a sole basis for taxation is that it is arguably FAIRER than both the sales and the income tax. We should tax WEALTH rather than INCOME. ("Because that's where the money is!") I'm sure you would agree that a fixed percentage sales tax (6% in NJ; 20% in Britain) is the most

regressive of the three taxes, and most easily avoided by the wealthy, who can choose simply to consume modestly, or to consume in locations where the sales tax is lower. Income tax is also easy to avoid, by clever lawyering, at least by wealthy Americans. Of course wealthy people could also choose to live with minimal property, but I think the likelihoods are less, and the fairness thereby increased.

Taking an additional step beyond my initial conception of this editorial, perhaps "property" should be defined more broadly as ALL wealth rather than just real estate and buildings: pension funds, bank savings, investment holdings, mineral wealth, and corporate plant, much of which is not liquid. A ballpark comparison of the annual federal budget (\$3.5T) with gross domestic product (\$14T) yields a tax rate of 25%, but taxing ALL wealth would enable a far lower tax rate. The objection that non-liquid assets shouldn't be taxed seems spurious to me: property 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 would be hard to calculate also seems weak: we often see the results of such calculations made for our wealthiest citizens.

There is the problem that the property tax, at least in New Jersey, is currently devolved to municipalities; implementation of a federal property tax might require a Constitutional Amendment (as did the income tax), and would require a uniform basis for assessing the value of all properties. Market value might be a standard, with environmental considerations that accommodate restrictions on the development potential of wetlands and other sensitive properties. State and local governments might be run on income and sales taxes, or on property tax money distributed by the federal government. Surely the calculations required on tax forms would be less complex than the current calculations on forms 1040 etc.

I broached my idea for motivating residential densification in an LTE published on 10th Dec by the Atlantic City Press, and was challenged by two responders: one bemoaning any attempt to manipulate holy market forces, and one branding the idea "leftist" and therefore dismissible. But I would argue that government has the duty to counter the kind of market forces that result in these times from irresponsible corporate profit-seeking, and that are unhealthy: promotion of sugary and fatty fast food, tobacco, alcohol, quack doctoring and medicating, etc. Why not residential sprawl?

## Chair's Message

# Where We've Been and Where We're Going

By Ken Johanson ([kjohan@comcast.net](mailto:kjohan@comcast.net))



This past January members of the New Jersey Chapter's executive committee, together with other volunteer activists 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 lackluster economic performance and the State's unacceptably high level of unemployment as a justification for rolling back environmental protections, despite ample evidence that these measures actually create jobs, lead to increased investment and promote economic growth.

And then there's the State legislature. While we have a number of friends in the legislature who are prepared to work with us in formulating sound environmental and energy policies, there are others who, like the governor, are more than willing to use the State's economic malaise as a justification for supporting the anti-environmental agenda of developers and other special interests.

But despite it all we did have a number of successes in 2011 and the early days of 2012, including new legislation to regulate and limit the use of pesticides, prevent the compaction of soils during construction, promote offshore wind projects and provide financing for municipal solar facilities.

And I am pleased to report that we have been particularly successful in galvanizing our members and friends to come out and support us in opposing a number of environmentally harmful initiatives, including proposed beach access rules, the governor's attempt to withdraw from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a lifting of the moratorium on hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for natural gas in 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-development State Strategic Plan. Our supporters showed up en masse at hearings, with many offering testimony, attended rallies, made telephone calls, wrote letters and sent emails. And while we are not in a position yet to declare victory, it is heartening to know not only that grassroots activism is alive and well, but also that we are being heard and we are making a difference.

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 of important environmental measures and the passage of a bill that delays implementation of the State's water quality management planning rules, opens

up 300,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land to development and seriously threatens our waterways and our drinking water supplies.

So where do we go from here?

Clearly we need to do all that we can to undo some of the damage that has been inflicted upon the State's environment by Governor Christie and his friends in the legislature. High on our list is the recently passed water quality planning bill. We believe that the bill violates key provisions of federal law, a view that appears to be shared by the regional administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and we intend to petition the EPA for appropriate relief.

We also intend to make every effort to prevent Governor Christie from withdrawing from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a multi-state program that promotes reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and provides funds for energy efficiency and alternative energy projects, and to actively oppose the governor's efforts to weaken the State's Energy Master Plan by increasing our reliance on fossil fuels and reducing the percentage of energy derived from renewable energy sources.

Other priorities include efforts to prevent the Delaware River Basin Commission from lifting its current ban on fracking for natural gas in the Delaware River basin, a practice that threatens our water supply and results in significant greenhouse gas emissions, and efforts to oppose the construction of transmission lines and pipelines in environmentally sensitive areas of the State. These projects would not only adversely impact these natural areas, they would also result in more dirty coal-based electricity and more fracked natural gas coming into the State.

Over the coming months we also intend to focus our attention on various regulatory initiatives, including a number of water quality rules and, one of the governor's favorites, a proposed rule that would provide the Department of Environmental Protection with broad discretion to waive key environmental protections. We believe that the so-called waiver rule would be in violation of New Jersey State law and have retained counsel to represent us in a legal challenge to the rule if such action becomes necessary.

This may sound like an ambitious agenda. Well it is. But we have a small but highly effective staff in Trenton, between one and two hundred dedicated volunteers and countless members and supporters who are prepared to work at the grassroots level to get out the message and encourage governmental officials to do the right thing. No one said this was going to be easy, but I think we've shown in the past that working together we are able to make a difference.

## Resolutions Adopted by ExCom in December, 2011, and January and February, 2012

Legal action was authorized to challenge the "Waiver Rule," proposed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, that would provide the Department with broad discretion to waive key environmental protections. (December)

2012 Chapter officers were elected and approved at our January reorganization meeting: continuing Ken Johanson as Chapter Chair, adding Gina Carola as Conservation Vice-Chair, and Bob Moss as Alternate Conservation Vice-Chair. The full list of Chapter officers is on p. 12.

We authorized two additional legal actions: (1) opposing the construction

of a Super Wal-Mart on an environmentally sensitive site on Ocean County Rte 530 between Manchester Twp and Toms River, and (2) opposing the siting of the Transco natural gas pipeline across northern New Jersey. (January)

We voted our support for federal legislation that would ban smoking on National Wildlife Refuges. (February)

Don McBride (of our Raritan Valley Group) was appointed to organize and maintain a Chapter Speakers Bureau - that will enable both our internal Groups and outside organizations to obtain speakers on a variety of environmental topics. (February)

## 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.

## Reports from Trenton

# 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 is more interested in attacking environmental groups, public health organizations, scientists and government agencies than in actually doing something to make their products safer and healthier.

Its claim that there is no connection between coal and methyl mercury in seafood is equivalent to energy companies denying global warming. Mercury does occur naturally in the environment and so does uranium, both harmful. However, the form found in seafood is methyl mercury, and that mostly comes from coal. According to the EPA's Mercury Report "coal power plants are the largest single source for emitting mercury into the environment."

The mercury in coal is released to the atmosphere by electric power plants, from which it gets deposited into our streams and rivers. Microorganisms then convert it to methyl mercury, which gets absorbed by small plants and continues up the food chain to tuna, etc. - and us.

Methyl mercury accumulates in human tissues, causing neurological disorders and birth defects. Every scientific expert not working for the fishing or coal indus-

try is convinced of this risk, as is the EPA which promulgated the Mercury rules. The EPA itself has issued advisories about eating too much tuna and other seafood. (See chart below.)

What I find most disturbing is that the fishing industry has been lobbying against disclosure of mercury in our food, confusing us with reports from the USDA on the dietary need for protein from fish. 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, joined by the Sierra Club, won an appellate division 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 over-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.

# Susquehanna-Roseland Power Line Will Destroy Our Parks

From a press release issued by Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director (jeff.tittel@sierraclub.org)

In January, the National Park Service (NPS) issued its draft Environmental Impact Statement (dEIS) on the proposed enlargement of the Susquehanna-Roseland power transmission line. This project would increase the amount of coal-fired electric power, produced in Pennsylvania and more-western states, conducted across northern New Jersey. The route would cross the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the Middle Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and the Appalachian Trail.

The NPS selected NO BUILD as the environmentally preferred alternative, but will not announce the "NPS preferred alternative" until March, after they have reviewed public comments. A final Record of Decision is not expected until Fall of this year.

The NPS considered several alternative routes, including some completely outside the Delaware Water Gap. However, any alternative route would cross the New Jersey Highlands, which is state and federally recognized as a critical environmental resource area.

In mid-January the two utilities behind the project, PSE&G and PPL, announced they would be proposing a mitigation plan as part of their comments on the dEIS. The mitigation plan will not be subject to public review during the public-

comment period. It includes \$30 million for new parkland acquisitions. But we think you cannot mitigate for the destruction of a National Park. This project would ruin the breathtaking vistas and other critical resources of our National Parks, diminishing the visitor experience.

Moreover, the \$30M would be charged to the customers of the power companies. The more PPL and PSE&G spend on mitigation and construction of the line the more they will make, since they are guaranteed an almost 13% profit on expenditures for the transmission line. The \$30 million for mitigation would guarantee \$4 million in additional profit.

Since the increased capacity will come from upwind coal-fired power plants, the increased air pollution would impact people's health while they are using the parks. This project would violate the NPS Haze Rule which calls for cleaning up the air in our National Parks for both environmental and scenic purposes.

The draft EIS only looks at impacts within the boundaries of the National Park properties. The greater impacts that will be felt along the entire right of way were excluded from the study. We believe the scope of this environmental review should include health impacts to the entire Highlands region, including the Kittatinny Ridge communities.

## Northeast Sustainable Seafood Guide

(July 2011 - Monterey Bay Aquarium - Environmental Defense Fund)

### Best Choices (partial list)

Catfish (US farmed)  
Clams, Mussels, Oysters (farmed)  
Clams: Softshell/Steamers (wild)  
Cod: Atlantic (imported hook & line)  
Haddock (US hook & line)  
Halibut: Pacific (US)  
Salmon (Alaska Wild)  
Scallops (farmed off bottom)  
Striped Bass (farmed and wild)  
Tilapia (US farmed)  
Trout: Rainbow (US farmed)  
Tuna: Albacore, Skipjack, Yellowfin (US troll/pole)  
Tuna: Bigeye (US Atlantic troll/pole)

### Good Alternatives (Second Choices)

Black Sea Bass (US Mid-Atlantic)  
Bluefish  
Clams: Hard, Quahog, Surf (wild)  
Cod: Atlantic (Gulf of Maine hook & line)  
Crab: Blue, Jonah, King (US), Snow  
Flounder: Summer (US Atlantic)  
Haddock (US trawled and Iceland)  
Hake: Offshore, Red and Silver  
Herring: Atlantic  
Lobster: American/Maine

Mahi Mahi (US)  
Oysters (wild)  
Scallops: Sea  
Shrimp (US, Canada)  
Tuna: Bigeye, Yellowfin (US Atlantic longline)

### Avoid

Chilean Seabass/Toothfish  
Cod: Atlantic (trawled, Canada and US)  
Crab: King (imported)  
Flounders, Halibut, Soles (US Atlantic except Summer Flounder)  
Mahi Mahi (imported longline)  
Orange Roughy  
Pollock: Atlantic (Iceland trawled)  
Salmon (farmed, including Atlantic)  
Sharks and Skates  
Shrimp (imported)  
Snapper: Red  
Tilapia (Asia farmed)  
Tuna: All Canned, Albacore, Skipjack (except troll/pole)  
Tuna: Bigeye, Yellowfin (longline, except US Atlantic)  
Tuna: Bluefin

## CHRISTIE

(Continued from page 2)

**Waiver Rule lets Polluters and Developers Avoid Environmental Regulations:** The DEP's proposed waiver rule will enable the Commissioner of the DEP to waive virtually any section of any rule.

Now here's an attempt to have put some words in the Governor's mouth: some achievements he MIGHT have lauded in his annual speech:

**Cleaning Up Dioxins in the Passaic River:** The DEP won a lawsuit that will allow the cleanup of dioxin in the Passaic River to move forward, and that

is being paid by the polluter.

**Cleaning Up a Pennsylvania Coal Plant:** Responding to a DEP petition, the EPA has required GenOn's Portland Generating Station, opposite Warren County, to reduce its toxic air emissions by 81% over the next three years.

**Preserving Princeton Nurseries:** The Christie Administration secured funding for the preservation of the Princeton Nurseries Properties in the Upper Freehold area ((Monmouth Co). The Club's Central Jersey Group has worked for years to try to save this property.

## New Jersey Sierra Club Receives Pete Seeger Wetlands Award

From a press release issued by our office staff

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 diligently to protect wetlands throughout New Jersey, including the 7,000 acres of Hackensack Meadows, and we helped pass the New Jersey Wetlands Law in 1988.

Recently, we opposed expansion of the Xanadu shopping mall onto 12.5 additional acres of wetlands. The Meadows comprise a natural oasis of salt grass and cattails, in one of the most densely populated areas of the country, within sight of the New York Skyline.

Folk-singer Pete Seeger and his wife Toshi are prominent environmental activists, best known perhaps for founding the Clearwater Movement - that has been cleaning pollution from the Lower Hudson River Valley, where they live. Their passion for wetland protections started when they drove down the New Jersey Turnpike and saw the condition of the Meadows.

The award is presented at an annual concert, this year held in Rutherford, at which Pete, Tom Paxton, John McCutcheon, and other great artists entertained the crowd. The event included poster-displays of wetlands projects, and distribution of educational material. Needless to say, our Chapter was well represented at a table staffed by volunteers.

The Chapter has a long history of



Tom Paxton is next to Pete. John McCutcheon next to Paxton. Mayor John Hipp of Rutherford is in the suit next to Jeff.

efforts to protect and preserve New Jersey's wetlands. It took 40 years of work to end the dumping of municipal waste in the Meadows. 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 capped landfill. His work was instrumental in converting Encap into a Green Technology Park. Our remaining challenge is to clean up the toxic old landfills to make the ecosystem whole again.

Wetlands are where life starts for many of the World's species. They comprise a complex ecosystem, easily degraded. They are essential to water fowl and migrating birds. They filter our wastewater, protect us from floods, and detoxify many dangerous substances.

Reports from Trenton

# 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 septic sewage 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 23 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 overflow enters waterways at the more than 200 permitted combined sewage outfalls across the state, and when raw sewage backs up out of manhole covers.

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 green and blue roofs, sponsored by Assemblyman Ramos. A grant program should be established to help cities finance the engineering and construction needed to correct these malfunctions.

Outings Report

# 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 ten-legged AT (Appalachian Trail) maintenance decapode. Our decapode was outweighed by more than ten to one, but with ingenuity and brawn (plus a few chain saws, an axe, lots of rope, and other heavy devices), the decapode prevailed!

The decapode consisted of Moshe Arad, Tom Carr, Buddy Jensen, Pete Zuroff, and me. Tom, Buddy, and Pete wielded the chainsaws and axes while Moshe and I mainly assisted in sherpa-ing a portion of the very heavy load of equipment up and down the mountain.

The three-legged monster was the remnant of a massive tree blowdown that occurred in May, 2010, blocking our beloved AT as it crossed Wawayanda Mountain, in Sussex County. There it stood with its phallic trunk, more than two feet in diameter, extending more than twenty-five feet straight up, perched on its tripod of supporting sub-trunks.

We considered how to remove this hindrance without killing anyone. We decided 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 on the ledge, so as to control the way the monster might topple once its support system was cut out from under it.

So the rope was dropped from the ledge, and tied around 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 someone shimmying 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 - which indeed worked!

After posting Moshe down the mountain to prevent unsuspecting hikers from marching into the monster's maw, the chainsawing began. Two of the tripod's legs were sawed to a sliver's thickness but, alas, the monster remained erect. An axe was employed to remove these final slivers. Indeed, there came a dramatic explosion as other supporting limbs gave way - but, owing to the pre-fixed rope, the monster trunk stood in as vertical splendor as ever.

It was now time for the coup de grace: clear all personnel, untie the rope on the ledge, and let gravity take its course. And that it did! Immediately the 25-foot trunk of the monster leaned dramatically and, with a deafening crash, came to rest alongside the trail - mostly. The next step was to cut the monster into manageable pieces to clear it from the trail, and to cut several subsidiary trunks that were still hanging over the ledge, a multiple chain saw task.

Our mission accomplished, we headed to the top of the mountain to repair the AT trail register which some months previously had fallen from its flimsy perch. Buddy installed a fashionably 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.

(A longer version of this article first appeared in the Appalachian Mountain Club's Trails and Waves newsletter.)



# Group News

FROM AROUND THE STATE

## HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

- Skylands Group:** Sussex & northern Warren
- South Highlands Group:** Hunterdon and southern Warren
- North Jersey Group:** Passaic & most of Bergen
- Hudson-Meadowlands Group:** Hudson & SE Bergen
- Gateway Group (formerly Essex County Group):** Essex, approximately
- Loantaka Group:** Morris & Union
- Central Jersey Group:** Mercer
- Raritan Valley Group:** Somerset & Middlesex
- Jersey Shore Group:** Monmouth
- Ocean County Group:** Ocean
- West Jersey Group:** Gloucester, Camden & Burlington
- South Jersey Group:** Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland & Salem

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

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

**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 a number of important environmental issues in the area.

**ACTIVITIES:** Presently working with other grassroots organizations to support efforts to protect the pristine environment and natural beauty of this 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' tall power lines with 195' 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](mailto: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, 973-579-7210.

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

**Apr 10:** The proposed **Susquehanna Roseland power transmission line and Tennessee Gas Pipeline threatens the NJ Highlands** - Chapter Program Assistant Kate Millsaps 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. Free refreshments will be provided!

**May 8: Creating a National Park and Preserve at the Delaware Water Gap.** National Parks & Monuments Team Member John Kashwick will lead a discussion on the 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, 07860 Phone: 973-579-7210

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 23: 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 almost immediately on your left.

From Rte 94 North (from Blairstown): 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:**

- |                                   |                       |  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Chair:</b>                     | Jonathan Wall         | <a href="mailto:psychologist@jonwall.com">psychologist@jonwall.com</a> |
| <b>Vice-Chair:</b>                | Cinny MacGonagle      | <a href="mailto:cmacgonagle@yahoo.com">cmacgonagle@yahoo.com</a>       |
| <b>Conservation Chair:</b>        | <i>Open Position!</i> |  |
| <b>Secretary &amp; Webmaster:</b> | Dwight Irving         | <a href="mailto:dwright@dliirving.com">dwright@dliirving.com</a>       |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>                 | <i>Open Position!</i> |  |
| <b>Political Chair:</b>           | <i>Open Position!</i> |  |
| <b>Publicity Chair:</b>           | Celeste Martin        | <a href="mailto:onecentral@mac.com">onecentral@mac.com</a>             |
| <b>Membership Chair:</b>          | <i>Open Position!</i> |  |

(Continued on page 6)

## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 5)

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

**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](mailto:shighlandssierra@gmail.com) for more information!

Currently we have a variety of fun outings and events planned for our members. The list is constantly being updated. On the initiatives front, we are tackling a variety of important issues, but focusing on three major topics: conservation issues, such as preserving open space (a priority in our local area), protecting our environment, and clean energy / energy conservation. GET INVOLVED!

### MEETINGS, OUTINGS, and EVENTS:

Make sure to check our Sierra Club Group site or Facebook page for the latest and greatest on Meetings, Outings, and Events for members and non-members! On both sites you will find the up-to-date schedule as dates and location are subject to change. For more even more information please direct specific questions or inquiries to us at [shighlandssierra@gmail.com](mailto:shighlandssierra@gmail.com).

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS first Wednesdays:** Contact officers or refer to the website for detail please.

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** 7:30 pm on 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?#/group.php?gid=53817136187>)

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

### CURRENT ISSUES:

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

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

### Delaware Gap National Park & Preserve:

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

## North Jersey Group

(Passaic County and most of Bergen County)

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

### OFFICERS:

<b>Chair:</b>	John Kashwick*	<a href="mailto:jkashwick@optonline.net">jkashwick@optonline.net</a>
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Mary Ellen Shaw*	<a href="mailto:meshaw.001@gmail.com">meshaw.001@gmail.com</a>
	Mary Ellen Shaw*	<a href="mailto:meshaw.001@gmail.com">meshaw.001@gmail.com</a>
<b>Conservation Co-Chair:</b>	Tom Thompson*	<a href="mailto:etrans743@aol.com">etrans743@aol.com</a>
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Greg Tondi*	<a href="mailto:gregt75@yahoo.com">gregt75@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Tom Thompson*	<a href="mailto:etrans743@aol.com">etrans743@aol.com</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jennifer Rothschild *	<a href="mailto:jenniroth2@gmail.com">jenniroth2@gmail.com</a>
<b>Air Quality Issues:</b>	Laura Coll*	<a href="mailto:lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com">lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Events Chair:</b>	Mary Walsh	<a href="mailto:blehlwalsh@earthlink.net">blehlwalsh@earthlink.net</a>
<b>Membership Chair:</b>	Buddy Jenssen *	<a href="mailto:buddy.jenssen@gmail.com">buddy.jenssen@gmail.com</a>
<b>Outings Chair:</b>	Ellen Blumenkrantz	<a href="mailto:eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com">eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Programs Chair:</b>	Jessica Epstein	<a href="mailto:jepstein101@gmail.com">jepstein101@gmail.com</a>
<b>Publicity Chair:</b>	Marty Cohen	<a href="mailto:martincohen@verizon.net">martincohen@verizon.net</a>
<b>Sustainable Energy:</b>	Ed Schwartz	<a href="mailto:ed@greenlivingsolutions.com">ed@greenlivingsolutions.com</a>
<b>Trail Maintenance:</b>	Marty Cohen	<a href="mailto:martincohen@verizon.net">martincohen@verizon.net</a>
<b>Webmaster:</b>	John Kashwick *	<a href="mailto:jkashwick@optonline.net">jkashwick@optonline.net</a>
<b>Wildlife Issues:</b>	Mary Ellen Shaw *	<a href="mailto:meshaw.001@gmail.com">meshaw.001@gmail.com</a>
<b>Ex-Com Member-at-Large:</b>	Nancy Wysocki *	<a href="mailto:nape2@aol.com">nape2@aol.com</a>

(\* 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](mailto:jkashwick@optonline.net) or check out our Facebook page.)

**April 19 (Thurs), 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 late 2009, she jumped into climate change issues with both feet, launching [www.ClimateMama.com](http://www.ClimateMama.com), her current passion and adventure.

**May 22 (Tues), 7:30 pm: Managing Nature in an Urban Environment.** At Louis Bay 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 a national park within 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, 280 High Street in Closter. In conjunction with the Closter Green Team, we present "Bag It," a film has been garnering awards at film festivals across the nation. Try going a day without plastic. In this touching and often flat-out-funny film, we follow "everyman" Jeb Berrier 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 wholesale investigation into plastic's effects on our oceans, environment, and bodies. We see how our 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 locally to keep plastics out of the environment.

### OTHER MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

**Meet The Members**—Monday, 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 to RSVP, contact Mary at [blehlwalsh@earthlink.net](mailto: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](mailto: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 attend to learn more about the Club, discuss issues, and plan future events. For location or more information, please contact John at [jkashwick@optonline.net](mailto:jkashwick@optonline.net) or Mary Ellen at [meshaw.001@gmail.com](mailto:meshaw.001@gmail.com).

### CONSERVATION ISSUES:

Become more involved in the North Jersey group and tell us more about what you are working on. Some issues that we have worked on in the past and continue to work on include keeping the Hackensack and Ramapo pristine and protecting our drinking water, as well as protecting the New Jersey Highlands from electric power lines and gas pipe lines that will impact the view-shed, damage forests and wildlife, and pollute Highlands water. We also support the concept of a National Park and Preserve in the Delaware Water Gap region. We are also 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 [etrans743@aol.com](mailto:etrans743@aol.com) or Mary Ellen at [meshaw.001@gmail.com](mailto:meshaw.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 occurrences of hurricane Irene and the Halloween snow storm, respectively, we inspected the trail and did some minor maintenance. Despite extensive damage elsewhere, we are pleased to report that our section well weathered that double-whammy. We are considering expanding our activities into Harriman State Park where several trails are badly in need of haircuts; so if you are interested in contributing some much needed help please send an email Marty at [martincohen@verizon.net](mailto:martincohen@verizon.net).

### OUTINGS:

If you have an idea for an outing you would like to lead, please contact Ellen at [eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jkashwick@optonline.net) or Mary Ellen at [meshaw.001@gmail.com](mailto:meshaw.001@gmail.com).

### CONNECT WITH US:

- Check out our Web page at <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/North/>.
- Sign up for North Jersey Group e-mail notices by e-mailing John at [jkashwick@optonline.net](mailto:jkashwick@optonline.net).
- Join our team on the Sierra Club Activist Network at [http://connect.sierraclub.org/Team/North\\_Jersey\\_Group](http://connect.sierraclub.org/Team/North_Jersey_Group).
- You can also check our Facebook page for updates by searching "Sierra Club North Jersey Group"—don't forget to Like us! .

## Hudson-Meadowlands Group

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

### OFFICERS:

<b>Chair:</b>	Steve Lanset	201-424-6348	<a href="mailto:slanset@hotmail.com">slanset@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Janet Glass	201-868-4216	<a href="mailto:iguanaj@aol.com">iguanaj@aol.com</a>
<b>Secretaries:</b>	Judith Courtney	201-868-6575	<a href="mailto:jaocourtney@netzero.net">jaocourtney@netzero.net</a>
	Ruth Olsen	201-868-6575	<a href="mailto:oof46@msn.com">oof46@msn.com</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Judith Courtney	201-868-6575	<a href="mailto:jaocourtney@netzero.net">jaocourtney@netzero.net</a>
<b>Conservation Chairs:</b>	Mirjana Zivkovic	201-758-8390	<a href="mailto:tenisko@hotmail.com">tenisko@hotmail.com</a>
	Louise Taylor	201-562-8390	<a href="mailto:LTAYLOR2@comcast.net">LTAYLOR2@comcast.net</a>
<b>Cool Cities Chair:</b>	Helen Manogue	201-963-3511	<a href="mailto:helenmanogue@verizon.net">helenmanogue@verizon.net</a>
<b>Events Chair:</b>	Janet Glass	201-868-4216	<a href="mailto:iguanaj@aol.com">iguanaj@aol.com</a>
<b>ExCom At-large:</b>	Gil Hawkins	201-944-5799	<a href="mailto:gilc3d2@aol.com">gilc3d2@aol.com</a>
	Jodi Jamieson	917-804-8390	<a href="mailto:jodijami@mac.com">jodijami@mac.com</a>

**ExCom Meetings:** The Hudson-Meadowlands Group will be holding its Executive Committee meetings at 7pm on the following Thursdays 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 Secretaries, Judith or Ruth, 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 focused on major conservation campaigns and issues, primarily along the Palisades south of the GW Bridge. We attempt to block development efforts that would impact negatively on the Palisades, free and open access to the Hudson River Walkway, and the quality of life of those who live nearby. We monitor

other developments in our territory that violate the environmental needs of our residents and our land.

**RIVERFRONT ISSUES:**

1) We're promoting a **riverfront park** on the last 6 acres of Hudson Riverfront in North Bergen and opposing a 250+ unit development, Riverview, currently in planning for this last lot. The North Bergen Planning Board (NBPB) continues its hearings on the Riverview application to construct three high-rise towers and a multilevel garage at River Road and Bulls Ferry Road. Members of our Group have been tracking this application for years, attending hearings on a regular basis. Despite the Dept. of Environmental Protection's (DEP) revoking Riverview's permit, the NBPB continues local hearings.

2) We're promoting safety over greed by **opposing the Appleview 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 Appleview development was approved overwhelmingly by both the NBPB and the Hudson County 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 properly addressed the safety issues regarding the pipeline!!! Additionally, for our protection, 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 4233 Kennedy Boulevard in North Bergen. Call 201-392-2024 or call our Secretaries, Ruth and Judith, to confirm upcoming meetings. Free parking is available. These developments will add significant traffic to the already highly congested River Road as well as blocking what views are left of the Palisades below the GWB.

**OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

1) We're **protesting the approvals given by the NJ DEP to the Bayonne Golf Club**. The owners protested fines levied five years ago for numerous severe violations of the Waterfront 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 evaluation 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 buildings 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:** Anne Hirs 973-844-1121 annehirs@msn.com  
**Program Chair:** John Beadle 973-284-1594 jbeadle571@verizon.net  
**Conservation Co-Chairs:** ZaSah Khademi 201-618-8572 zasah@aol.com  
 David Korfhage 973-932-0742 drkorfhage@gmail.com  
**Political Chair:** Darius Tullis 908-838-9732 dktullis@gmail.com  
**Membership Chair:** Steven Yafet 908-354-2537 syafet@gmail.com  
**Newark Issues Chair:** Bill Chappel 973-623-6490 bchappel1@verizon.net  
**Water Issues Chair:** Bill Chappel 973-623-6490 bchappel1@verizon.net  
**Recycling Issues Chair:** Lyle Landon 201-247-0288 lylelandon@aol.com  
**Passaic River Issues Chair:** Brenda Toyloy 973-856-7056 brendatoyloy@yahoo.com  
**Elizabeth Issues Chair:** Paula Borenstein 908-289-3584 brdandmkt@aol.com  
**Outings Chair:** *Open position!*  
**Group ExCom:** David Yennior, John Beadle, and ZaSah Khademi

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

The Gateway Group invites YOU to join in the activism and asks your support as we strive to address the many issues facing the urban as well as suburban communities. There are several vacant positions listed, along with a full list of officers. For further

information about upcoming activities, volunteer opportunities, or to discuss any concerns please contact me at dyennior@msn.com or 973-844-1384.

**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 discuss what it is, how it works, and why it's so controversial. 7pm at Verona Park Boathouse, Verona. <http://www.essex-countynj.org/p/index.php?section=parks/sites/ve>.

**May 2: Talk on nonlethal alternatives to hunting for animal control.** Carol Rivielle will talk about alternatives to the deer hunt. Elaine Dunn will talk about alternatives to the bear hunt. 7pm at Verona Park Boathouse, Verona. <http://www.essex-countynj.org/p/index.php?section=parks/sites/ve>.

**Loantaka Group**

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

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

- OFFICERS:**  
**Group Co-Chairs:** Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com  
 and Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com  
**Treasurer:** Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com  
**Secretary:** Scott McCarthy hi\_risescott@earthlink.net  
**Conservation Chair:**  
**Morris County:** Bill Martin 908-604-2505 WP1.Martin@gmail.com  
**Union County:** Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com  
**Political Chair:** Meiling Chin chinmeiling@yahoo.com  
**Programs:** *Open Position!*  
**Fundraising Chair:** Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com  
**Outreach & Events Chair:** *Open Position!*  
**Publicity Chair:** Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442 johansons@comcast.net  
**Membership:** Bill Martin 908-604-2505 WP1.Martin@gmail.com  
**Air Quality Coordinator:** Bob Campbell 973-761-4461 bobc2023\_sc@verizon.net  
**Webmaster:** Paul Sanderson paulmsanderson@aol.com  
**Greenbrook:** Bob Muska 908-665-2296 rmuska@erols.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

**Apr 11:** To be announced - please go to the Loantaka website for information.

**May 9:** To be announced - please go to the Loantaka website for information.

**June 13:** To be announced - please go to the Loantaka website for information.

**ACTIVITIES:** (Consult our website (<http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka/>) for more information.)

One again, as a result of a successful Spring, 2011 auction, the Loantaka Group voted to make a \$150 donation to the Chapter from the Group's assets.

The Loantaka Group is working with concerned citizens and local environmental organizations to protect open space and wildlife habitat in Morris and Union Counties, and to safeguard the water resources on which we all depend. We are also organizing volunteers to help maintain and improve trails in the Morris and Union County Park Systems. In addition, the Group is actively involved in State-wide initiatives involving air quality, transportation, and environmental legislation. Volunteers are always welcome. Call Paul (908-233-2414) or Eric (732-669-0719).

**Central Jersey Group**

*(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)*

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

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

- OFFICERS:**  
**Chair:** Terry Stimpfel 609-731-7016 terystimb@hotmail.com  
**Co-Chair:** *Open position!*  
**Conserv'n Chr:** *Open position!*  
**Memb' Chair:** *Open position!*  
**Outings Chair:** Leona Fluck 609-259-3734 leona@pineypaddlers.com

*(Continued on page 8)*

## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

<b>Political Chair:</b>	Terry Stimpfel		
<b>Publicity Chair:</b>	Joanne Pannone	609-443-6992	jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
<b>Program Chair:</b>	Lynne Weiss	732-821-9688	lshari05@gmail.com
<b>ExCom At-large:</b>	Malcolm McFarland	609-448-8699	jmmcfarland81@gmail.com
	Kip Cherry	609-924-4232	kcherry10@gmail.com
	Rob Benjamin	609 587-9069	robert.benjamin@greenwords.net
<b>Outreach:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		
<b>Secretary:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		
<b>Webmaster:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		

The Central Group is working on local environmental issues to preserve open space, promote effective planning, and protect wetlands and trails. Currently we are working to stop the Meadowbrook Road warehouse/flex space 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 eradication in the Hamilton Trenton Bordentown Marsh. Central Group supports the Princeton Battlefield preservation and opposes the Susquehanna-Roseland electric transmission lines and natural gas pipelines through New Jersey.

**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.

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

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

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

### Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

#### OFFICERS:

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

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

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

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

The issues of interest to our communities include but are not limited to:

**1. Conservation and Protection of the Raritan River basin area.**

Key issues: preservation of our water supply, wildlife and prevention of water pollution.

**2. Passage of and responsible enforcement of environmentally friendly zoning and development ordinances.**

**3. Prevention of diversion of conserved land for commercial or other development.**

Key issue: Diversion of Dismal Swamp Conservation Area in Middlesex County for development.

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

### Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

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

#### OFFICERS:

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

#### Fund-raising

<b>Co-Chairs:</b>	Lois Blake	732-863-5917	lqblake@optonline.net
<b>and</b>	Joellen Lundy	732-741-4756	jfutey@comcast.net

#### Shore Group Happenings:

We have had several cleanups with a coalition with Monmouth University, all the towns on the Whale Pond Brook watershed, and the N.J. Friends of Clearwater. Our goal is to clean up the watershed and educate local residents about the detrimental effects of lawn fertilizers and storm water run-off, and the importance of integrated pest management. We have held several hikes along part of the watershed and have shown the documentary film, A Chemical Reaction, which chronicles the harmful effects of common lawn and garden pesticides and one town's fight to ban them.

Please join us to help explore, enjoy and protect this beautiful watershed. Contact: Faith Teitelbaum: [faithtei@aol.com](mailto:faithtei@aol.com).

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

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

To get to Brookdale, take GSP Exit 109 to Rte 520 West (Newman Springs Road, which becomes E. Main Street at the Lincroft campus). Take the traffic circle into the campus and follow the signs to the Warner Student Life Center (SLC), where the meeting will be in the Twin Lights 1 Room. Use parking lot 7. As you walk towards the building complex, Warner will be on your left. If lot 7 is full, use parking lots 5 or 6. A campus map is at [http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP\\_04\\_08.pdf](http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP_04_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 health and safety. Initially, the environmental movement preserved wilderness tracts for passive recreation, then progressed to protecting the flora and fauna. Today, environmentalism has expanded to include protecting our health and well-being 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. citizens. The issue has been a contentious one for years, since urban and shore waterfront up to the high tide line belongs to the state, and thus to all citizens. 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 DEP drew protests from open space advocates ranging 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 horseshoe 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.Y/N.J. Baykeeper in Keyport, will report on the health of our bays. She also will discuss the ups and downs of her organization's disputes with the NJDEP over Baykeeper's attempt to determine if ecologically important oysters, whose beds were decimated by overharvesting and pollution, can be repopulated in Raritan Bay. The DEP, having been criticized by the USEPA, shut down the Baykeeper's effort to reintroduce the oyster, claiming that oysters taken illegally from the bay's polluted waters could adversely affect humans and injure the state's entire shellfish industry. The U.S. Navy came to Debbie's rescue, which she shall relate in full. Debbie's presentation will complement our March presentation on marine estuaries by Clyde Mackenzie, researcher at the James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory (NMFS/NOAA) at Sandy Hook.

### Ocean County Group

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

#### OFFICERS:

<b>Chair:</b>	A. Gregory Auriemma, Esq.	732-451-9220	sierraclubOC@aol.com
<b>Vice-Chr, Outings:</b>	Dawn Marie Johns	732-644-6340	sierraclubOC@hotmail.com
<b>Conserv'n Chair:</b>	Margit Meissner-Jackson	609-296-4367	sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jill Palmer	732-928-0988	palmer2x2@aol.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Gregory Auriemma	732-451-9220	sierraclubOC@aol.com
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Nancy Brown	732-892-6089	nancybrown624@comcast.net
<b>Publicity Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position</i>		
<b>Fund-Raising:</b>	Joyce M. Isaza	732-920-9270	realtymstr@aol.com
<b>Env'l Consultant:</b>	Helen Henderson	908-278-9807	hhlaceyrailtrail@msn.com
<b>Env'l Educ'n Coord:</b>	Terrance Brown	848-333-7331	terrybrown@comcast.net
<b>Group ExCom Member:</b>	Sierra Palmer		

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

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

We've also targeted critical local open space, sprawl, and air and water quality issues with special emphasis on the massive "over-development" of Jackson Township and



Lakewood. We're also involved in the campaigns to create a new park at "Anchor Reef" on Barnegat Bay and to stop "nitrogen pollution" of the Bay. Protecting the Ocean County Hiking Trail in Lacey. We're watching the progress of the first Wind Turbine erected in the County which resides in Ocean Gate. We're also involved in creating a greener and sustainable environment in Ocean County.

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

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

**MEETINGS AND EVENTS:** General Meetings are held bi-monthly (i.e., in alternate months) usually on the FOURTH MONDAY at 7pm at the "Skywalk Cafe" in the Ocean County Administration Building, 129 Hooper Avenue (2nd Floor), Toms River. Information on meetings in Jan-March will be posted on the website: [www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean](http://www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean).

## West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

### OFFICERS:

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

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

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

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

**May 9:** Maria Tranguch, 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!

## South Jersey Group

(Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem Counties, approximately)

### OFFICERS:

<b>Group, Outings Chair:</b>	Tom Boghosian	609-625-0878	boghosian1@verizon.net
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Douglas Jewell	609-780-7129	jewellrea@comcast.net
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Pol. Chair, Calendars:</b>	Dick Colby	609-965-4453	dick.colby@stockton.edu
<b>Membership Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Secretary/Treasurer:</b>	Julie Akers	609-432-3280	julie_akers@hughes.net

The Cape May County Conservation Committee hosts bi-monthly educational presentations at The Free Meal Center, 1206 Route 9 South, Cape May Court House NJ 08210. Our get-togethers are 7-8:30pm, each with a guest speaker covering an environmental topic ranging from wind power and solar power to aquifers and habitat. The Chair is Douglas Jewell, 5 Timber Lane, Swainton 08210-1462 (e-mail [jewellrea@comcast.net](mailto:jewellrea@comcast.net), cell phone 609-780-7129), or call Vilma Pombo at 609-465-3565. Look for our meeting notices in the CMC Herald.

The central conservation issue, for which the South Jersey Group was founded in the 1970s, continues to be protection of the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continues to consume the energies of those few officers who remain active both within the Sierra Club and in the Watershed Association (GEHWA) that "spun off" from the South Jersey Group. Very few of our local members seem interested in the meetings we once scheduled. For now, we'll continue to be listed in this Newsletter, and offer a point of contact for Club members in South Jersey who want help with local issues. We strongly recommend GEHWA's website for keeping up with local issues, and for links to many other local, regional, state and national environmental organizations: [www.gehwa.org](http://www.gehwa.org). If you have topics (and places) for meetings, please let the officers know about them. We welcome general comments from Club members in South Jersey. To be placed on a carefully guarded distribution list for local issues and meetings, please e-mail [dick.colby@stockton.edu](mailto:dick.colby@stockton.edu).

**Current Issues:** In addition to our opposition to the extension of Rte 55 into Cape May County (see article in the previous issue of this Newsletter), two Cape May County

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

### Some Possibly Relevant Meetings of Allied Organizations:

**Apr 18 & June 20, 7pm:** Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss river management strategies. Open to the public. Warren Fox Nature Center, Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor, Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 3½ miles south of Mays Landing (WFNC\*). Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

**Apr 19, May 17 & June 21, 7pm:** Atlantic County Friends of the Parks: Monthly meetings of Friends of the Parks, a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Park System. All are welcome. WFNC\*. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

**Apr 22 (Sunday):** Earth Day at the Atlantic County Utilities Authority: 10am to 4pm, rain or shine! Haneman Environmental Park, 6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Twp. Sierra Club officers will be at the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association's table in the big tent!

**May 22, 7:30 pm:** Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: Annual "Hike for Frogs", open to the public. Sahara Sands WMA, Monroe Twp. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

**May 9, 6:30 pm:** Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries: Meeting place: George Luciano Center, Cumberland County College. Cumberland County development issues are commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Lillian Armstrong (CU) at 609-774-5853 or [lillian.armstrong@cumauricriver.org](mailto:lillian.armstrong@cumauricriver.org). Website: [www.cumauricriver.org](http://www.cumauricriver.org).

## Singles Section

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

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

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

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

### OFFICERS:

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

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

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

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

### SOCIAL GATHERINGS:

**SOCIAL DINNER: FIRST WEDNESDAY** of each month at 7pm. Join us for dinner at a restaurant in the Morristown area. Location will be announced 2 weeks before each social. RSVP required; join our listserv for further details.

**SOCIAL DINNER: THIRD TUESDAY** of each month at 7pm. Join us for dinner at a variety of Montclair restaurants. Location will be announced 2 weeks before each social. RSVP is required to [jkhaddad@juno.com](mailto:jkhaddad@juno.com).

### 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).

(continued on page 10)

**Become active in one of your Group's conservation campaigns! Attend a Group meeting! Meetings offer interesting speakers and topics, nice fellow-members, and usually food!**

## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

### Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

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

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

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

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

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

### Young Sierrans

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

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

#### YOUNG SIERRAN COMMITTEE POSITIONS

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

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

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

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

### Sierra Student Coalition

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

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

### Inner City Outings Section

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

#### OFFICERS:

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

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

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

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



## Outings

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

### Promoting National Sierra Club Service Trips in New Jersey this Year

Building on the success of last year's Cape May Outing, conducted in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy, THREE clean-up outings are offered in 2012:

**Cape May in May, Barnegat Bay in October, and Skylands in September.**

Here are the URLs to the National Outings Trip brochures for dates and details:

[www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/brochure/12300a.aspx](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/brochure/12300a.aspx) (Cape May)  
[www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/brochure/12330a.aspx](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/brochure/12330a.aspx) (Skylands)  
[www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/brochure/12340a.aspx](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/brochure/12340a.aspx) (Barnegat)

### GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

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

**Outing Leaders:** Please send July-Sept 2012 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator (or, if you don't associate yourself with a single Group, directly to Ellen Blumenkrantz, the Chapter Outings Chair) before May 3. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it for the previous Sierran, due to the occasional lag in mailing. Also, please send outing rosters or sign-up sheets to the Chapter Office as soon as possible after each outing.

**Note:** Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your July-Sept trip write-ups by May 8.

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

Sierra Club outings are arranged by volunteer leaders who are in charge of the trip and responsible for the safety, welfare and enjoyment of all participants. Leaders determine qualifications to participate, adequacy of equipment, routes to be followed, and special precautions to be taken. Please arrive adequately prepared and equipped. If you have any

allergies, please remember to bring your medication. The leader has the final word in the conduct of the trip. Your cooperation will help assure a safe and pleasant outing.

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

Unless registration is required, such as for weekend trips or river tours, or if you have a question about the outing, it is not necessary to contact the leader before the trip. However, as these outings are planned many months in advance, we do advise that you contact the trip leader 1-2 days before the outing to make sure it is not cancelled. Do not call to join a trip after the posted deadline date. When phoning a leader, please honor his or her requested calling times and call 3 to 5 days before the outing. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) when writing to a leader. On popular trips, Sierra Club members will be given preference.

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

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

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

## APRIL

**Apr 1 (Sun): Hike at Estell Manor Park (Atlantic Co).** 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. This is Atlantic County Park System's most popular park and covers about 1,700 acres. After the Native Americans, this land was owned by the Estell family and was the site of a glassworks in the 1800's, then housed the Bethlehem Loading Co. - a munitions plant during World War I. After 70 years, the forest has reclaimed this area. Bring lunch and beverage. This is a nice family outing. Leashed dogs welcome. Meet at the Warren E. Fox Nature Center. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**Apr 6 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co).** 9am. Make a difference for the Barnegat Bay! Please join us for a Sierra Club Water Sentinels trash cleanup as we paddle 10 miles from Hawkin Bridge to Beaver Branch. Participants receive an H2O t-shirt! Meet at Hawkin Bridge. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**Apr 6 (Sat): Social Moonlight Hike, Campfire and Campout, Wharton St Forest (Burl. Co).** 7:30 pm. 6 miles at moderate pace. Join us as we hike under the Pink Moon on sand roads lit by moon light, and come back to a roaring fire. Overnight camping is available, contact leader for reservation. Bring picnic-type food to share at the tailgate social after the hike, any firewood and a chair to sit on. Meet at Goshen Pond campsites, from Rte 206 take Atsion Rd 1.5 miles to Goshen Pond campsite sign, turn left onto dirt road and follow to campsites. Leader: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eves, or pis1@cccj.net.





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Other ExCom member at large

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

Group Effectiveness Committee

Rich Isaac\*\*, Greg Auriemma

Regional Issues Coordinator

\*Joan Denzer\*\* (JDenzer73@yahoo.com)

Fundraising Committee

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

Personnel Committee

Ken Johanson\*\*, Joan Denzer, Rich Isaac, George Denzer, Lee Snyder

Legislative Committee

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

Litigation Oversight Committee

Ken Johanson\*\*, Greg Auriemma

Finance Committee

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

Information Technology Committee

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

Facilities (office, meeting sites)

George Denzer\*\*, Joan Denzer, Paul Sanderson, Sunil Somalwar, Laura Lynch, and Bonnie Tillery

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

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Issue Coordinators

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

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

Coal Campaign
Barbara Conover 201-452-9389
Bconifer022@gmail.com

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

Delaware River Issues
Gina Carola (see left column)

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

Global Warming
Sunil Somalwar (see left column)

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

Marine Issues
Greg Auriemma (see left column)

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

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

Pinelands Issues
Lee Snyder (see left column)

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

Population Issues
Bonnie Tillery (see left column)

Recycling Issues
David Yennior (see above)

Sprawl Issues
Jane Tousman (see left column)

Tiger Conservation Issues
Sunil Somalwar (see left column)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Apr 14 in the Chatham Public Library
May 12 and June 9 in the New Brunswick Public Library

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

Jun 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 gains. Hiking shoes not required. Bring snack and drink. Meet at the Wawa store near the intersection of County Rte 537 and I-195 in Upper Freehold Township. Bad weather cancels. Confirmation/Questions call or text Leader: Mike Verange: 908-902-0718, or mjverange@aol.com. (JS)

Jun 21 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak the Mullica River on the Summer Solstice (Burlington Co). 9am. June is a beautiful month on the Mullica to enjoy the aquatic flowering plants of the NJ Pinelands. A 12-mile trip for experienced Pines paddlers; expect downfalls and portages. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Rentals are not available. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

June 22-24 (Fri-Sun): Susquehanna River Kayak Trip, PA. 10am. The river is mostly "slow and majestic" as we pass the historic Rockville Bridge, it's the longest stone arch bridge in the world, popular for photography buffs. We'll paddle by an island that's the ONLY one on this area of the Susquehanna that is the chosen nesting site for Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Herons - last year we were treated to great views of nests and fledglings. There are many islands large and small in this stretch - we'll wind our way through them on our way to the take-out point, Marysville Boat Ramp, off Rte 850 at the mouth of the Conodoguinet River. We'll have paddled close to downtown Harrisburg by this time, so we will have views of the beautiful capitol building. On Sunday we will paddle to Havre de Grace, MD. Optional Camping at Susquehanna State Park Friday night & Saturday. Contact leader to confirm your participation and other logistical information: Paul Serdiuk: 609-462-3593 eves, or pis1@cccny.net.

Jun 24 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Tidal Raritan River (Middlesex Co). 10:30 am. Our trip is about 16 miles from New Brunswick to Perth Amboy. The Raritan RIVERKEEPER, Bill Schultz, will meet with us to provide an update on the river's environmental importance and his role as a citizen guardian to stop polluters and improve river quality. This trip is for experienced paddlers; expect power boat traffic and boat wakes. Kayaks must be 12ft. or over; bring spray skirts. Bring lunch, snacks and extra water. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 28 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 9am. Enjoy a 10-mile summer paddle on the "Egg" from Penny Pot to Weymouth Furnace. Rentals are available from Palace Restaurant and Outfitters: 609-625-8552, or www.thepalaceoutfitters.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 30 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Crosswicks Creek Water Trail (Mercer Co). 10am. This is a 14-mile shuttle-less trip with the tide from Bordentown to Anchor Thread Park and back to Bordentown. Few stops. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet at Bordentown Beach, Park St. Boats can be rented from Beach Canoe and Kayak Rentals: http://www.bckrental.com/, or 609-234-0925. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

ADVANCE

July 4 (Wed): Manasquan River Reservoir, Monmouth County (Special Interest: birds). 9am. Enjoy an easy 5-mile circular hike on one of the largest reservoirs in the area. We may observe water fowl. Bring snacks, drinks, bird books or binoculars. Hiking shoes are not required. This is a great family hike. Meet at the main entrance to the reservoir on Windeller Rd. Take the GSP to exit 98. Head west on I-195 to exit 28 (Rte 9). Go north on Rte 9. Make first right onto Windeller Rd. The main entrance is 1.5 miles on your left. Meet in the parking area at the far left toward the back. Bad weather, including high heat index cancels. Confirmation/questions please call or text leader: Mike Verange: 908-902-0718, or mjverange@aol.com. (JS)

Sept 2-7 and Sept 9-14 (Sun-Fri): September in Western Maine! Location: Bald Mountain Camps, Oquossoc, Me. This is an historic sporting camp located on pristine Mooselookmeung Lake. Many activity options, excellent food and a comfortable warm environment provide relaxation and fun. Internet access available. Outing includes: hiking the AT, guided kayaking or canoeing pristine lakes and rivers with our host and Registered Maine Guide, Steve Philbrick. Log cabins with fireplace, wood, bath, linens, porch, breakfasts and dinners in the lodge dining room, sack lunches for the trail. \$1,236 per person. For more information contact leader: Judy Norcross: 609-288-6737, or jsnorkross@aol.com. (W)

SIERRAN Vol. 41, No. 2 • Spring, 2012
Dick Colby (dick.colby@stockton.edu) ..... Editor
Karen Brown (karonna@yahoo.com) ..... Designer
Editorial Board: George and Joan Denzer, Rich Isaac, Ken Johanson, Laura Lynch, Paul Sanderson, Sunil Somalwar, Bonnie Tillery and Jeff Tittel.
The Jersey Sierran appears in January, April, July and October.
The deadline for copy is on the 10th of the month, two months before appearance.
Members are cordially invited to propose articles, essays, letters, poetry and artwork.
(Group/Section News columns are prepared by Group/Section Chairs; Outings are vetted by the Chapter Outings Chair, Ellen Blumenkrantz.)
Opinions, unless otherwise attributed, are of the writer only. Advertised products and services carry no Club endorsement.
Thank you to all who contributed to this issue! This newsletter is produced mostly by volunteers.

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