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The Jersey... SIERRAN

Vol. 41, No. 4 Roughly 16,000 Members in New Jersey October-December 2012

Staff Report

The Power of a Clean Energy Future

By Christine Guhl, Sierra Club Field Organizer (Christine.Guhl@Sierraclub.org)

Two years ago, the Beyond Coal campaign was launched in New Jersey to eliminate coal as a fuel for making electricity. I was hired to organize Sierra Club activists to bring an end to this most polluting of all fossil fuels. Since then we've stopped a proposed coal plant in Linden, and succeeded in retiring one of the dirtiest plants in the country, across the Delaware River in Portland, PA. We also got the old B.L. England coal plant in South Jersey to retire one burner and repower the remaining units. But the fight is not over; there is much more to be done to get New Jersey to a clean energy future.

New Jersey is still burning coal at two old generators in Mercer and Hudson Counties. We are buying roughly 20% of

our power from our neighboring coal state, Pennsylvania. New Jersey is spending millions every year on fossil fuel energy, including subsidies for natural gas, when we have clean energy potential that rivals that of any other state in the nation. Our solar program has been a model for other states. Offshore wind could power more than half the homes and businesses in New Jersey. Energy efficiency is a virtually untapped resource in New Jersey. Abundant, clean and renewable resources are our energy future. We need commitment and leadership from our politicians and activism from our supporters to get there.

When the Beyond Coal campaign began, the Offshore Wind Economic

Development Act was about to hit Governor Christie's desk. He signed it, but unfortunately his support for offshore wind ended there. Club activists have written, called, rallied, rode bicycles and even flown kites to get the Governor to move wind power forward. But, so far, he has stalled our state's efforts.

We're not giving up. The development of wind power off New Jersey's coasts will bring jobs and economic growth to the state, while reducing pollution and stabilizing energy future energy prices. We will continue to put pressure on Governor Christie to make sure that wind and efficiency are not outshined. Please contact me if you would like more information or would like to help.

SIERRA CLUB BALLOT

2012 Election of Officers of the New Jersey Chapter, and its Groups and Sections

The Chapter's Executive Committee (ExCom) meets monthly, on second Saturdays, usually in or near Trenton or New Brunswick, for discussion of State, regional and other issues, to take policy positions (including initiation of legal actions), make political endorsements, hear reports from staff and volunteer officers, elect the Chapter Chair, and consider matters arising.

It consists of nine at-large members serving three-year terms, three of whom are to be elected below, and representatives sent by each of our 12 regional Groups. In addition to Groups, the Chapter loosely houses five specialty (optional) Sections: for Singles, Seniors, Young Sierrans, Students, and folk who provide Inner City Outings.

Chapter ExCom Ballot: Please vote the ballot, below; then clip the ENTIRE ballot and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Dec 1, to Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618. PAIRs of boxes are to enable two members of family memberships to cast separate votes. Club rules require two more candidates than the number of openings; when an insufficient number of candidates is on offer, write-in slots are provided.

All three candidates were selected by a Nominating Committee consisting of Sunil Somalwar, John Kashwick and Paul Sanderson. There was a mechanism for additional nominations by petition; no such petitions were received this year. Note that a properly-clipped ballot will include the mailing label above. This is to verify your membership; it will be removed before ballots are counted.

Chapter ExCom Ballot: Candidates for three-year terms. All are incumbents. Their portraits and 100-word statements are on p. 2. Name-order has been randomized. Please vote for UP TO THREE:

- Don McBride
- Laura Lynch
- George Denzer
- Write-in _____
- Write-in _____

(continued on page 2)

Obama – The Clear Choice in 2012

Also, Our New Jersey Congressional Endorsements

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

The Sierra Club has endorsed President Obama for reelection in 2012. Since most Americans - including many Sierra Club members - may not be fully aware of the President's environmental record, here is a partial list, compiled by the Club's Political Team. The list is especially remarkable in light of the opposition from a Tea Party-Republican-controlled House of Representatives. For more detail, visit the Club's website (www.sierraclub.org) and google the site for "Obama's Record."

• The EPA, under Administrator Lisa Jackson, released new protections for toxic mercury from power plants.

• Proposed strengthening of fuel efficiency and carbon pollution standards for cars and light trucks to 54.5 mpg by 2025.

• The first-ever fuel efficiency standards for medium and heavy duty vehicles sold from 2014-2018.

• Resistance to permitting the Keystone-XL pipeline that would carry oil manufactured from Canadian tar sands to export terminals in Louisiana and Texas.

• Cross-state Air Pollution standards that protect people from toxic emissions from plants located in other (up-wind) states hundreds of miles away.

• Through Executive Order 13514, the President established a greenhouse gas reduction goal of 28% by 2020, equivalent to taking 17 million cars off the road. It will save the federal government \$8-11 billion in energy costs. The reductions are based on action plans of some 35 federal agencies. This was the first time that the federal government developed clean energy plans agency by agency.

• With green investments of close to \$100 billion, the Recovery Act created good jobs for Americans, reduced dependence on dirtier energy sources, and promoted the shift to wind and solar power, high energy-performance, low-carbon cars and buildings, mass transit, and a modernized water and transportation infrastructure.

• The Obama Administration protected 1 million acres around the Grand Canyon from uranium and other mining for 20 years.

• The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 will safeguard millions of acres of new wilderness, protect hundreds of miles of rivers, expand trails, and keep important habitat in Wyoming safe from oil and gas leasing.

• 7-year ban on new oil and gas leasing and drilling in Atlantic, eastern Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific Oceans.

The box below lists our New Jersey federal endorsements, which include that of incumbent Senator Robert Menendez. For more details, please contact your Group's Political Chair, identified in the Group News section of this Newsletter.

Candidates Endorsed for General Election (Nov 6th)

Please VOTE for these candidates, and urge others to do so as well:
US Senate: Sen. Bob Menendez (D*)
US House of Representatives,
 by District:
 1st CD (Camden, N. & E. Gloucester Counties): Robert Andrews (D*)
 3rd CD (N. Burlington, E. Ocean): Shelley Adler (D - Challenger)
 6th CD (N. Middlesex, N. Monmouth): Frank Pallone (D*)
 8th CD Hudson, N. M'sex, E. Union): Albio Sires (D*)
 9th CD (E. Passaic, S. Bergen): William Pascrell (D*)
 12th CD (N. Mercer, S. M'sex, E. Somerset, SW. Union): Rush Holt (D*)

* County assignments are approximate; * denotes Incumbent

If you don't know your Congressional District, there's a map available at <http://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/2012-congressional/2012-nj-congressional-map.pdf>

All of these endorsed candidates have excellent environmental voting records and some - Sen. Menendez, Rep. Pallone and Rep. Holt - have provided exceptionally strong leadership.

Shelley Adler challenges Rep. Runyan

One of our endorsees is a challenger: Shelley Adler, widow of former Rep. John Adler, in New Jersey's 3rd Congressional District. Shelley is battling one-term Congressman Jon Runyan (R), who, with a League of Conservation Voters (LCV) score of 20 percent, has one of the worst environmental records in New Jersey's delegation.

Voters in the 3rd Congressional District who care about the environment should be aware that Rep. Runyan not only voted to expand offshore drilling and make it more dangerous by enacting oversight standards that are weaker than those that were in place before the catastrophic 2010 Gulf oil spill disaster, but also voted to continue a \$53 billion royalty payment loophole for oil companies operating offshore. In addition, Runyan voted to prevent the EPA from continuing to use the Clean Water Act to prohibit or restrict projects that would have an "unacceptable adverse effect" on water, fish, and wildlife, and to prevent the EPA from protecting our waterways from the discharge of toxic pesticides. He also voted to undermine fuel economy standards and to permanently block the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. All were Tea Party priorities!

By contrast, Shelley Adler opposes offshore drilling, supports clean drinking water, and supports efforts to maintain air quality and prevent global warming. If elected, she promises to be just as good as her late husband, who had a 93 percent LCV score in 2010.

The 3rd District vote is projected to be the closest in NJ, so I also urge all of our members there to participate in her campaign: please contact Ocean County Group Chair Greg Auriemma at sierracluboc@aol.com or 732-451-9220, or call Shelley's campaign office: 856-574-4178.

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Group and Section Ballots

Please vote your GROUP ExCom ballot, below, and SECTION ballot(s) for sections in which you are active; then clip the ENTIRE ballot and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Dec 1, to Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618. PAIRS of boxes are to enable two members of family memberships to cast separate votes. Club rules require two more candidates than the number of openings; when an insufficient number of candidates is on offer, write-in slots are provided.

South Highlands Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. For 2-year terms. Please vote for UP TO FOUR.

- Jonathan Wall, Celeste Martin, Patricia Thompson, Caroline Galofaro, Write in: Write in:

For 1-year terms. Please vote for UP TO THREE.

- Cinny MacGonagle, Dwight Irving, Write in: Write in: Write in:

North Jersey Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO FOUR.

- John Kashwick, Beth Ravit, Tom Thompson, Nancy Wysocki, Write in: Write in:

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

- Scott McCarthy, Bob Campbell, Wynn Johanson, Bill Martin, Write in: Write in:

Central Jersey Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. 2-year terms. Please vote for UP TO THREE.

- Terry Stimpfel, Joanne Pannone, Write in: Write in: Write in:

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

- Dennis Anderson, Lois Blake, Bob Grize, Pat Fuschetto, Write in: Write in: Write in:

Ocean County Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO FIVE.

- Jill Palmer, Monica Zabroski, Matt Reid, Terry Brown, Nancy Brown, Write in: Write in:

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

- Frank Zinni, Ellen Zinni, Write in: Write in:

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

- Tom Boghosian, Dick Colby, Douglas Jewell, Write in: Write in:

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

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

Ballot Statements (Name-order has been randomized)

DON McBRIDE (Raritan Valley Group): I have been a Sierra Club member, and participated in outings from the Sierra Nevada to Tibet for more than 38 years. I've been on the Raritan Valley Group ExCom since 2001, serving as Group Chair in 2006 and 2008. I am also a member of the California-Nevada Outings Subcommittee where I have led outings for the last nine years. In 2007 I successfully lobbied Congressman Mike Ferguson, with a Native Alaskan, to support the ban on oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I led a successful New Jersey effort to revise the BPU's rules for vegetation management under power-lines.



LAURA LYNCH (Central Jersey Group): Active in the Sierra Club since 1996, I have been Conservation Chair for the West Jersey and Central Jersey Groups. I have been the Chapter Conservation Chair since 2002. I helped stop the Millstone Bypass in Mercer County, Route 92 in Middlesex County, and Wal-Mart in an environmentally sensitive area of Lawrence Township, Mercer County. I work with neighborhoods to ensure open space protection in central NJ, and I represent the Club at public hearings. I was the lead author of our Chapter's "Beginner's Guide to Land Use and Open Space Preservation in New Jersey." I participate actively in decision-making at the Chapter level.



GEORGE DENZER (Central Jersey Group): As a member of the Club since 1983, I've concentrated on two issues: transportation and money. I'm proud of our work for efficient mass transit to help lower emissions into our air, but also to minimize road expansions that bring misplaced developments ruining our open spaces. I will continue to support these critical efforts to keep New Jersey a livable state. As Chapter Treasurer I will continue to ensure that we get the most out of our limited dollars, and work with the Fundraising Committee to increase those funds. I would appreciate your vote.



Meet our new High School Coordinator, Sophie Kapica

Sophie reports that she is very excited to be the New Jersey Sierra Club's High School Coordinator this year!

"At Chatham High School I am president of the Environmental Club. In addition, I recently completed my Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting, on paper-saving. My project had four main parts to it, including making an educational video on easy ways to save paper as well as hosting a booth at a green fair. Perhaps the biggest part of my project, though, was obtaining, completely free-of-charge, 8 electric hand dryers for my high school's bathrooms, which were recently installed and have a 70% smaller carbon footprint than paper towels! As High School Coordinator this year I hope to expand Terracycle, a recycling program, to other schools in New Jersey. In addition, I would like to promote the use of reusable water bottles. I am also open to other ideas, and would love to hear other environmental areas that could use help! Contact me at sjm.kapica@gmail.com."



POPULATION ISSUES COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Environment Benefitting from Recent Initiatives

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@msn.com)

The good news from London is not only about the Olympics, but also about the Family Planning Summit held there on July 11th where governments, philanthropies and pharmaceutical companies pledged \$2.6 billion to help 120 million women (of the estimated 222 million with unmet need for contraception) in the poorest countries gain access to family planning information and modern contraceptives.

Women who can voluntarily decide birth timing (for example having a child at 26 rather than 16) and spacing (for instance, having children at 5-year intervals rather than a child each year) have healthier pregnancies and healthier children. Some even decide to prevent pregnancy altogether.

Smaller families tend to be healthier families with children able to get good nutrition and an education. Smaller families also tend to put less stress on environmental resources. With these pledges, including major help from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, women will have the freedom to make their own health decisions.

Having the liberty to freely decide family size is just one of the benefits of the Affordable Health Care Act. On August 1st, women began having access to contraception without co-pays through their insurance plans. The U.S. has the highest rate of unplanned pregnancies of all industrialized countries with about half of all pregnancies unplanned. Cost is a big factor in this with contraceptives ranging in price from \$215 a year with insurance, to a high of \$1,210 a year for the uninsured. These costs play a major role in whether contraceptives are used consistently. The Center for American Progress reported 55 percent of women 18 to 34 said they struggled to pay for birth control and this led to inconsistent use.

This investment in no co-pay contraceptives and other preventive health care services is a good one for our economy and the environment.

The Affordable Health Care Act provides more than \$100 million in grants for states to provide comprehensive and evidence-based sexuality education. USAID (the U.S. Agency for International Development) reports: "Approximately 16 million girls between the ages of 15 and 19 give birth each year. The impact of pregnancy on adolescent girls can be devastating: girls who become pregnant face a higher risk of maternal mortality, often drop out of school, and are sometimes forced into early marriage. In 2009, nearly 2.5 million boys and girls under the age of 15 were living with HIV, and 370,000 were born HIV-positive. For many, HIV has become a chronic disease that requires lifelong treatment, care, and support." While these are worldwide statistics, educating young people everywhere is a good investment in their health, the health of the community and the health of the planet.

These common sense, humane initiatives should result in reducing population growth which will make a significant reduction in global emissions. In a peer reviewed study by Brian O'Neill, et al, titled "Global demographic trends and future carbon emissions," the authors note, "by the end of the century, the effect of slower population growth would be...significant, reducing total emissions from fossil fuel use by 37-41%."

To continue the progress made for healthier families and a healthier environment, we need leaders, such as President Obama, who understand the issues and strive to make the planet we all rely on for our survival a better place; not take us back 50 or 100 years when rivers burned and women and men did not have the freedom to make their own decisions about how to care for their families and their neighborhoods. But, President Obama alone cannot keep the momentum going. He needs support from the Senate, as he has gotten from Senator Menendez, and from the House such as he has received from Representatives Andrews, Pallone, Pascrell, Holt and Sires.

We also need the empathy and pro-family support of women such as Shelley Adler (candidate for Congress, 3rd CD) to turn Congress into a body working for our freedom to enjoy clean air and clean water. Rather than obstructing and reversing progress, these legislators are committed to moving forward.

Information for this article was obtained from "USAID post International Youth Day 8/12/12"; Families USA, "Women and the Affordable Care Act" July 2012; The Center for American Progress; Guttmacher Policy Review, "London Summit Gives Major Boost to Family Planning Effort in Poorest Countries" August 2012; and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.

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.

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

Editorial

Environmental Issues at Stake in the November Election



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

reminding you that these opinions are my own, not necessarily those of the Club

On Nov 6th, New Jersey voters will have many issues on which to base their votes for US President, US Senator, and their US Congressperson. One disturbing development in the last few years is the increasing polarization of the two major political parties, so that it makes less sense, I think, for ballots to be split: for example, if Obamacare is a major issue for you, then you shouldn't vote for a President on one side of the issue, and a Congressperson who takes the opposite side.

I'll hope there will be primers similar to this one (from other organizations) that present other major campaign issues: big government vs. small, health care, pension policy (Social Security), deficit reduction, willingness to raise taxes, taxation policy that redistributes the burdens between wealth classes, economic policy that favors job creation, immigration, education, gun control, handling of the European debt crisis, stance toward Russia, China, Syria, Israel and Cuba, . . .

Energy policy - linked to global warming and transportation policy: Do candidates acknowledge the need to drastically reduce our use of fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas), to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions that will bring about 70-foot sea-level rise in the next few hundred years? This big issue includes opposition to natural gas fracking in New Jersey and surrounding states, and treating the polluted wastes produced by fracking. It includes the need to reduce the use of private cars by encouraging residential density and more use of public transit. It includes measures to convert to solar, hydro and wind-generated electricity.

Land use policy - the classic Sierra Club preoccupation with preserving wilderness for its own sake. Is there understanding of the Tragedy of the Commons (please google it if you don't understand the concept), and the need for government to say NO to many developers, channeling population into communities of higher population density? New Jersey has exemplary programs to limit development of the Highlands, Meadowlands and Pinelands, but they are not popular with many politicians and citizens. Shore protection also fits here.

Population policy - The Sierra Club

believes that women should have the freedom to voluntarily decide the number of children they will have, if any, and to be able to space those children for the health of families and the planet. To that end, we educate and advocate for comprehensive sexuality education, and education about and access to all forms of family planning/contraceptives. Does your candidate agree?

Cleaning polluted places - Barnegat Bay, rivers that accept treated wastewater, and many industrial sites where chemicals were dumped, have provided New Jersey with the nation's largest number of Superfund sites. Remediating them takes political courage, because the cost is high and because personal freedoms (to pollute) must be compromised. Consider whether ATVs should have access to public property.

Water supply - perhaps New Jersey's least renewable resource, already manifesting itself in frequent drought conditions. Will politicians be willing to impose restrictions on personal freedom as rationing and stronger measures become necessary? Clearly a Tragedy of the Commons!

Recycling behavior - the Club urges container deposit legislation and other measures to reduce waste volumes; most politicians are unwilling to risk voter approbation.

Evaluating this year's candidates - The Sierra Club has endorsed President Obama and Senator Menendez, and the Congressional candidates listed on p.1, all Democrats, as stronger on the above issues than their Republican opponents. In fact, for the first time in history, not a single Republican candidate for federal office has been endorsed in any state. While the Club has always sought to be non-partisan, Republican candidates, even in this "blue" state, have swung so far to the right, that those once considered moderate have voted in lock-step with their party in opposing most of the environmental policies I have listed. This suggests strongly to me that Club members in New Jersey, to the extent that environmental issues are paramount, should be advised to vote straight Democratic Party tickets.

(I thank Bonnie Tillery for wording)

Chair's Message

Extinction



By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)

Extinction is a scary word. True, climate change, global warming, overpopulation and a host of other apocalyptic words and phrases are scary too. But they don't carry with them the same sense of finality that extinction does. Once it's over, it's over. There is no turning back and no hope for a second chance.

There have been five mass extinction events in the four billion year history of life on earth, the most recent having occurred 65 million years ago when, according to one theory, an asteroid slammed into the earth and wiped out the dinosaurs and 17% of all living things. We are now in the midst of a sixth such event, an event no less severe than those that preceded it. But what makes the current extinction event unique is that it is the first such event in the history of the planet that is attributable to the actions of a particular species, that species being man.

While it is difficult to quantify the magnitude of the current die-off, Edward O. Wilson, the well-respected Harvard naturalist, estimated some time ago that 30,000 species become extinct every year, an average rate of over three species per hour. Other estimates vary between 17,000 species and 100,000 species. The International Union for Conservation of Nature, in a report published earlier this year, has concluded that of the 63,837 species assessed, 19,817 species, or just over 30%, are threatened with extinction. This includes 41% of amphibians, 33% of corals, 25% of mammals, 13% of birds and 30% of conifers.

The United Nations Environment Programme, in a report published earlier this year, has identified five major causes of this cataclysmic decline in biodiversity.

The first cause identified by the United Nations body is habitat loss and degradation. There are many factors at work here, including overpopulation, the expansion of agriculture and its emphasis on monocrop farming, the growing demand for biofuels, the loss of wetlands (a 50% loss in the 20th century alone) due to coastal development and aquaculture and the degradation of the ocean floor as a result of destructive fishing methods.

Other causes identified in the United Nations report include the overexploitation of wild species to meet consumer demand, the spread of alien invasive species, climate change and pollution. Climate change is viewed as an increasingly important threat to species and natural habitats, perhaps because changes are taking place so fast that species do not have sufficient time to evolve or relocate to more hospitable habitats. The fragmentation of habitats due to human development only exacerbates the problem.

There are a number of reasons why the current mass extinction event is of grave concern to the planet's human population. The loss of a single species

has an impact on myriad other species and the resulting decline in biodiversity, as well as overall biomass, can adversely affect food supplies, the availability of medicines, timber supplies, energy and water resources. And today's emphasis on mono-crop farming makes us all vulnerable to devastating crop failures that cannot be offset by the availability of other resistant varieties. All species, including mankind, are interrelated. Eventually we will run out of food, medicine and shelter and, like other living organisms, will pay the price for our failure to look out for the planet and its inhabitants.

But despite the frightening pace of global extinction, there may still be hope. A number of organizations, including the Sierra Club, are working hard to address the planet's burgeoning human population by supporting basic health care for women and the opportunity for women to voluntarily limit the size of their families. And some countries have adopted measures to restrict unsustainable hunting, fishing and farming practices, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide protections for terrestrial and marine habitats. According to the United Nations report, 13% of the world's land area now receives at least some level of protection. However, the comparable figure for ocean areas is much lower, a mere 1.6%.

Despite these encouraging signs, much more needs to be done if current trends are to be reversed. Those species that are on the brink of extinction cannot wait for world leaders to wake up and take decisive steps to address the problem. The only hope for many of these species lies with the world's zoos which, increasingly, are changing their primary focus from entertainment to conservation. Breeding programs have been instituted at a number of zoos for animals threatened with extinction, the goal being to reintroduce these animals back into the wild once populations have stabilized and once suitable habitats have been identified.

But successful breeding programs require that there be a broad enough gene pool to prevent inbreeding. So zoos are forced to make difficult decisions. Which species will be permitted to reproduce and increase in numbers and which species will be relegated to extinction? Financial constraints, as well as biological considerations, play a role in this determination. But these can't be easy decisions. In the words of a New York Times reporter, "Some days, the burden feels less like Noah building an ark and more like Schindler making a list."

So yes, actions are being taken to try to slow down and hopefully halt the current mass extinction event. But we have a long way to go. Is mankind up to the challenge? I have my doubts, but I'm not ready to throw in the towel just yet.

Resolutions Passed by the Chapter Executive Committee in June, July and August, 2012

We resolved that the New Jersey Sierra Club shall join or submit an *amicus* brief in support of the lawsuit filed by Environment NJ and the Natural Resources Defense Council against the State of NJ for its withdrawal from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). The Chapter will seek pro bono representation from the Eastern Environmental Law Center or Columbia Environmental Law Clinic. (June)

We supported efforts by the Club's National Council of (volunteer) Club Leaders to increase the financial support to Chapters and Groups - (July) [On Aug 3, this resolution was approved by the Club's Council of (volunteer) Leaders meeting in San Francisco, and now sits with the Club's Board of Directors.]

We urged the Club's Board of Directors to lobby Congress for a National Carbon Tax. (July) [This resolution was also approved by the Council of Leaders, as above.]

Support was given to an initiative by the Council of Club Leaders to limit donations to the Club from UNDISCLOSED donors, and from donors whose policies are inconsistent with the policies of the Sierra Club. (July)

We responded to a claim by the Bridgewater Planning Board (Somerset Co) that Club members lack "standing" to testify at hearings on planning board applications. (July)

Our Skylands Group was voted out of reorganization (back into full operation), with a provisional ExCom consisting of Laraine Reedy, Joyce White and Gregory Gorman. (August)

ExCom votes political endorsements at many of its meetings, but details are withheld for publication in the single timely box on p.1 of this Newsletter.

Check out the new interactive calendar on our web site!

There's a new way on our web site to find out about Sierra Club outings and meetings! Click on "Events and Outings" the new label for a list of events around NJ. The "Calendar View" tab gives a monthly display. "Map View" shows where the events are. "List View" shows a list with brief titles. Click on a title for more information. If you click on "Change Location" and enter your address, the List View will tell you how far away each event is, and you can click on "Directions" to get there. You'll be able sign up for some events using the web site.

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.

Report from Trenton

Highlands and Pinelands Anniversaries: Where's Christie?

From press releases issued by Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director, edited by Joe Testa

This summer marks two important anniversaries for environmental protection in New Jersey. But current news from Trenton threatens their legacies. Governor Christie seems to be asking for a divorce from some of NJ's greatest environmental achievements.

June 28th marked the 33rd anniversary of the passage of the Pinelands Protection Act. The Pinelands is a unique and ecologically important region; protecting it is critical both for our water supply and for biodiversity.

August 10th marked the 8th anniversary of the passage of the Highlands Act. The Highlands of northwestern NJ provide a clean water supply for millions of New Jerseyans.

These protections are under attack as never before by the Christie Administration. The Governor is opening the Pinelands region for inappropriate development, calling for more sewers and growth areas that could jeopardize some of the most environmentally sensitive resources of the region. Meanwhile, the Administration (along with the Highlands Council and the Legislature) has been enacting policies that weaken critical protections in the Highlands. The Governor's Strategic Plan opens the region to inappropriate growth, while the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) allows more wastewater pollution.

Turning the Pinelands into a Growth Area and Adding Sewers

The Governor's new State Strategic Plan promotes sprawl and overdevelopment in the Pinelands regions by usurping the Pinelands' Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP), and turns New Jersey over to developers. First, the Strategic Plan changes existing Pinelands villages into growth areas. Then the Plan directs the DEP to provide growth areas with sewers and allow higher density development, which could require new community wastewater treatment facilities (aka package plants). These provisions are being implemented through Executive Orders and the DEP, overriding the CMP.

Even the core of the Pinelands Preservation Area, places like Chatsworth and Tabernacle, would not only grow, but install urbanizing infrastructure. Stafford Township would add suburban housing and build sewers in environmentally sensitive areas.

The Permit Extension Act, passed in June, extends the expiration dates on building permits to 2014. This is the first time that the Pinelands have been included in the legislation (other versions have been passed twice). The bill will allow developers to evade strengthened environmental regulations, public health standards, building codes, and local zoning ordinances. The bill even has a "Dracula Clause" that would bring back projects that have already expired. Pinelands villages and towns could be forced to honor permits that expired as far back as January, 2007, projects that are no longer consistent with the Pinelands CMP.

Opening the Pinelands up to sewers will result in more non-point pollution entering Barnegat Bay and other estuaries, and will make it virtually impossible for the DEP to maintain water quality in the Bay.

Threats to the Highlands

The Governor's State Strategic Plan usurps the Highlands Council's authority to conduct resource capacity-based planning in the region. The Governor's Plan promotes sprawl and overdevelopment. Under an Executive Order, the Council is required to implement the Strategic Plan - which designates all existing communi-

ties in the Highlands as "growth areas" and requires more sewers to support higher density development.

The Permit Extension Act also threatens the Highlands. Like the Pinelands, this is the first time that the Highlands have been included in the legislation.

The Governor has extended the deadline for counties to submit improved sewer service area maps under the DEP's Water Quality Management Planning (WQMP) rules. This type of planning is critical to controlling sprawl and overdevelopment, and mitigating pollution. The WQMP rules entrust the Highlands Council with responsibility to remove sewer service from environmentally sensitive areas - to prevent groundwater pollution.

Eight years after the passage of the Act, we are very concerned that some of the cornerstones of Highlands protection are still not in place. For example:

- The Highlands Council's professional staff has been replaced by the Governor's political cronies who are about to rewrite the Regional Master Plan (RMP). The Council is discouraging municipal conformance to the current RMP. County plans have to conform to the RMP, but new legislation takes the planning authority away from the Council and turns it over to the DEP. This delay extends outdated plans, so bad projects will go forward.

- We still don't know how much water can be supplied by the Highlands for development or for export to the rest of the state.

- We have not identified enough no-build areas for preservation.

- There is still not an environmentalist from the Highlands on the Council.

- We need a stable source of funding for open space acquisition to compensate Highlands landowners. We recommend a water-user surcharge to compensate Highlands landowners. This surcharge could also fund the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program to compensate municipalities for lost tax revenue when open space is preserved, and grants to municipalities for planning documents needed to adopt the RMP.

- The DEP has not entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council for permit and exemption application reviews.

- DEP stakeholder meetings on the nitrate dilution model for septic tank (and thus residential) density will remove important protections and prohibit full implementation of the Highlands Act. The rules, which set development densities in the region, are being rewritten and weakened by special interests.

- A second Tenneco Gas Pipeline was approved by the Council despite the fact that the company's first pipeline has two open DEP violations and ongoing sedimentation problems at Lake Lookover in West Milford, proving that the project has seriously impacted Highlands resources.

Barnegat Bay

On this anniversary, we are also reminded that Governor Christie has failed to address the pollution in Barnegat Bay. The Governor vetoed the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) bill which would have required pollution reductions over the next 3 years, and bills to clean up storm-water and retrofit detention basins. He signed an Administrative Order allowing the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant to pollute the Bay until 2019; after that, Exelon, the plant owner, can appeal to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to keep the plant open.

Increasing the population of the Pinelands will also require the withdrawal of more water from the underlying aquifer. Decreased ground water levels would

Report from Trenton

DEP vs. Clean Water Act: New Jersey's Streams Suffer

From a press release issued by our Trenton office

On July 18th, the Club submitted comments opposing the DEP's proposed changes for designating water-bodies impaired under the federal Clean Water Act. The number of impaired waterways in New Jersey is growing at an alarming rate; but instead of cleaning them up, the DEP proposes to weaken the criteria for listing them (on the "303(d) list," issued every two years). The July 2 Register proposed changes to the criteria to delist impaired waterways, for example because Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) have been established for them, even if the TMDLs are not being implemented. The proposed changes would also exclude water-bodies polluted by unknown and natural sources such as arsenic. This is a major rollback to clean water protections, with significant impacts on public health.

Under the Clean Water Act, states are required to report surface water quality to the US-EPA every two years. The most recent 2010 data show that the number of limited use and impaired waterways in New Jersey grew by 9.8% since 2008. The changes proposed in the Register would make more waterways appear safe - on paper. We have seen TMDLs for the Raritan and Passaic Rivers take over five years to be developed. Under these changes the Meadowlands' Berry's Creek, one of the most polluted streams in the state, would be delisted because it has a TMDL. The Passaic River below Dundee Dam would be delisted. Both are in Superfund sites. There are currently 36 EPA-approved sites in NJ with TMDLs waiting to be implemented.

One toxic substance that would continue to pollute our waterways under these changes is mercury, which industry claims is naturally occurring, although it mostly originates from coal-burning power plants and other industrial facilities. Ingested mercury is a dangerous neurotoxin. Arsenic in our waterways would also go unreported. It is also naturally occurring, but some of it is contained in pesticides and other industrial products.

The DEP proposes to delist waterways polluted by non-point sources, such as the Elizabeth River, the most polluted river from non-point source pollution in the country.

Another proposed basis for delisting is a lack of updated information, even if a water-body was listed in the past. Another is failure of equipment to detect for a certain standard, even if the pollution is known to be there. We already have one third fewer monitoring stations than we are supposed to have. The proposed changes would also allow rounding down, and incorporating margin of error so as to maximally promote delisting. Another ruse is to test for pollution upstream from roadway crossings instead of downstream, so that runoff from the roadway is not measured. Yet another is to invalidate data obtained more than 200 feet from the "official" GPS sampling point, and testing done outside a mixing

zone, after discharge has fully merged into the main body - resulting in diluted readings.

Changing the methodology would make it hard to compare data from year to year. We have been able to chart the decline of our water quality over the past 40 years but these changes will make future data harder to compare. For example, we were able to show that during the 1990's the sprawl line moved further west in northern New Jersey, threatening the Highlands. Because of that we were able to secure more protections like Category One stream upgrades, stream buffers, and the Highlands Act.

The DEP has discontinued collecting macro-invertebrate data for the New York harbor area. Macro-invertebrates reliably characterize stream-water quality. Excluding this data and the TMDL will delist the New York Harbor area.

Protections Weakened for Barnegat Bay

Because there is no nutrient standard for inland waterways, Barnegat Bay will be delisted. Lack of a nitrogen standard would preclude listing of any estuaries and back bays along our Atlantic Coast.

The DEP contends that, because Barnegat Bay is under continuing study, it will not list any portion of the Bay or watershed as impaired, further delaying any TMDL or cleanup. In early July, the Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences reported finding the Bay's health was much worse than previously thought - as a result of nitrate and phosphorus pollution and consequent eutrophication. These findings should justify an impairment designation for the entire Bay, now!

Only 2.7% of New Jersey waterways now meet all uses, i.e. are clean. In 2002, 10% met the standards. In 1996, 15% met the standards. In the entire state, only Flat Brook (Sussex Co.) completely meets the standards.

So we have a good case for claiming that the Christie Administration has a policy of weakening clean water protections. The Governor has effectively abolished the Drinking Water Quality Institute. The Administration has not adopted standards for perchlorate and other pollutants, even though the science is in place. It has eviscerated the DEP's Division of Science, replacing it with the Science Advisory Board, primarily made up of polluters and corporate interests. The DEP holds closed door meetings with polluters to weaken storm-water, flood hazard area, Category One, and stream buffer regulations. The Administration has delayed adoption of Water Quality Management Plans, allowing the DEP to rewrite rules allowing more sewer service areas in environmentally sensitive areas, and more pollution in our waterways. The DEP Waiver rule now entitles the Commissioner to waive compliance with over 120 DEP programs. This is Orwellian.

The draft 303(d) list can be accessed here: http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bwqsa/2012_integrated_report.htm



impact the wetlands that provide critical habitat throughout the region, and have devastating impacts on the Bay.

The DEP is overhauling and weakening Category 1 protections, stream buffer rules, flood hazard area rules, storm-water management rules, and the "impact to groundwater" standards, all of which eventually affect the Bay's water quality.

What's Next?

DEP Commissioner Bob Martin

recently said, "Preserving land in the Highlands is vital to the quality of drinking water for millions of state residents, ensures continued viable habitat for many plant and animal species, enhances recreational opportunities for our residents, and raises the quality of life in our state." We are in full agreement. The Highlands and Pinelands are both worthy of protection. Will the Governor's administration follow through with this commitment, or is it divorce time?

Sustainable Lifestyle/Member's Report

Time to Solarize your Home?

By Dennis Anderson, Chair of our Jersey Shore Group (dennisaza@aol.com)

The lead article in the previous issue of this Newsletter announced our Chapter's campaign to encourage every homeowner to install solar-electric panels on her/his rooftop. But not everyone qualifies – three conditions must be met:

1. Your roof's shingles should be less than 10 years old. The panels are warranted for 25 years. They need a roof that will last.
2. Your roof should not be shaded by trees for most of the day.
3. Your rafters and attic supports must be strong enough to bear the weight.

If you meet these conditions, there is a solar program made for you!

There are two major options: lease or buy.

My wife Carol and I have a 1400 sq ft home that uses 9,400 kilowatt-hours (kWh)/yr, and we anticipate charging our 2014 Chevy Volt plug in, hybrid electric car. We had four installers come to our home. Here's what we were offered:

Choice one: Lease panels from a utility company. The company uses your roof as an expense-free substrate for enough solar panels to produce the past 12 months' kWh usage for your home. They own the equipment and get all the tax benefits and State Renewable Energy Credits. For a 10.56 kW DC system, you would pay approximately \$112/month for 15 years, at which time you would be able to purchase the panels and equipment for fair market value, perhaps \$3,000.

Total Cost: \$112/month x 12 months x 15 years = \$20,160.

Expense of electricity avoided, assuming 2.5% annual increase = \$18,446.

Return on Investment (ROI) \$18,446/\$20,260 or .91. I will "break even" (i.e. recover my investment) in 16.5 years. But since you are really just paying a lease payment, there really is no return on investment.

Choice two: Lease panels from an independent contractor, SolarPPA, a California company now active in about six other states. (The salesman in Oregon visited us via satellite and used a computer program to calculate everything, including my 22-degree roof pitch.) The solar company owns and maintains all the equipment, and reaps all the Federal Tax Credits (30% of cost lopped off your IRS 1040 tax form). They also get accelerated equipment tax write-off and collect the State Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs). At the end of 20 years, you can buy the system for fair market value. Cost of \$10,560 and no monthly bills.

ROI: Multiply \$10,560 by 15/20 to get \$7,920 cost for 15 years. Anticipating the utility company's bills for 15 years at \$38,706, I will have increased my investment by 488%. Divide 488% by 15 years and I get 32% ROI! Very good rental agreement (providing that I have confidence in the company's survival over that many years)! Using escalating cost of electricity, break-even would be 5.4 years.

Choice three: purchase, from a NJ-based

solar company, of 40 Suniva 260-Watt modules with an output of 13,561 kWh, said to produce well over 14,000 kWh. The system would cost \$40,320 (\$3.87 per Watt). I would earn 14 State Renewable Energy Credits each year, worth, at the present market value, \$2,100, and receive a 30% tax credit. I would save \$2,520 annually on my electric bills.

Applying the 30% tax credit brings the initial investment of \$40,320 down to \$28,224.00. The ROI should be about 11.8%, meaning that my investment would be recovered in 6.1 years.

Choice four: purchase from my local consultant. George lives two blocks from my home in Matawan. He teaches Solar at 5 County Colleges and is a solar guru. System size is 10,140 Watts DC (\$4.15 per Watt): base system price \$42,081, minus Federal Tax Credit of \$12,624, for a net investment of \$29,457. Total savings over 25 years is \$68,572. (SRECs end in 15 years, the panels degrade to 80%, however, electricity costs from the Utility Company historically increase approximately 2.5%/year)

Using George's spreadsheet, Return on Investment is 11.15% and break even is 7.2 years.

We went with George down the street, Choice four. A problem with leases is that we may want to sell our house: what happens if the new owner is not willing to take over? George's system has microinverters (which convert DC current to AC) on each panel, and is warranted for 25 years. The big inverters used by many companies are put in the basement and are warranted for only 10 years. Most purchase installers warranty the installation for 5 years; the panels are warranted by the manufacturer for 25 years. (Since solar panel systems have no moving parts, a five-year installer warranty should cover any poorly manufactured or installed part.)

We will take the full purchase price from our Money Market IRA, currently earning less than 0.05%. When it comes time to pay the taxes on the IRA withdrawal, the 30% Federal tax credit will more than cover it. We will then be earning an 11% return on investment rather than the IRA Money Market 0.02%. Another factor that played in our decision is that we viscerally prefer to own rather than lease, whether it be car, home or solar panels.

The NJ Sierra Club does not want to endorse any particular company. So I have laid out specific offers for you to see what may be available. All of the above companies were recommended by friends in the Sierra Club who have installed solar panels. You should contact several of your solarized friends. Get at least four estimates, they can be so varied.

According to Mother Earth Magazine, the Federal Tax Credit will expire in 2016, so you still have time. Because of manufacturing improvements, the cost of the panels continues to drop. But the cost of the panels is less than 25% of the total cost.

Member's Report

New Jersey Needs Stronger Water Quality Standards

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

In June, the New Jersey DEP's Science Advisory Board issued a report that recommends dropping current standards for protecting groundwater from toxic pollution. New Jersey has many toxic waste sites that leak pollutants into groundwater that is then supplied to homes and businesses. There are more than 6,000 groundwater pollution sites in New Jersey. About half of New Jersey residents rely on groundwater.

According to the DEP's Office of Science, about twelve percent of NJ's residential wells are thus contaminated. In North Jersey alone, more than 200 private wells have been polluted in the past decade. Pollutants include arsenic, nitrates, and volatile organic compounds. More information on wells tested in New Jersey can be found at nj.gov/dep/dsr/pwta.

In addition, the report calls for replacing the "impact to groundwater standard" (IGW) with a more "flexible" system. The IGW deals with soil contamination interacting with groundwater, and propels cleanups. IGW protects groundwater, which is also drinking water, from pollution. The Corzine administration moved IGW from regulations to guidance. Now, the Science Advisory Board wants to remove IGW from guidance and drop it completely.

Many of the Science Advisory Board's members are scientists with corporate

ties, including one from DuPont. Such corporations would benefit from the weaker rules that this report recommends: fewer rules mean less cleanup of toxic sites and reduced operating costs.

In July, the DEP proposed to remove parts of Barnegat Bay from the 2012 "impaired waters list," of polluted waterways needing special cleanup, that is submitted to the federal EPA. The removal excuses the State from having to clean the Bay. Barnegat Bay has been heavily polluted with nutrients, mainly nitrogen, since the 1980s: caused by inappropriate land use and development along the Bay.

Early in August, Rutgers University's Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences released a study discussing the overdevelopment and pollution that have harmed the Bay's ecosystem. According to Professor Michael Kennish, the DEP's water quality standards and monitoring are flawed. He said it's mainly because the DEP relies on one indicator, dissolved oxygen, which doesn't describe the ecosystem health of the Bay.

The EPA has called on the DEP to restrict nutrients entering Barnegat Bay: by implementing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standards. Yet, the DEP hasn't seriously considered a cleanup and hasn't funded and initiated a TMDL, which is required by the Clean Water Act.



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

(Groups are listed roughly from North to South)

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. For information regarding conservation issues, please contact Greg Gorman, Acting Conservation Chair at: chachabacon@yahoo.com; for information regarding outings, please contact Joyce White, Acting Outings Chair at: joyce00201@yahoo.com. For other questions about this Group and how to get involved, please contact Nicole Dallara, Chapter Outreach Coordinator at: Nicole.Dallara@SierraClub.org.

ACTIVITIES: Presently working with other grassroots organizations to protect the pristine environment and natural beauty of this area. We are working to preserve open space, maintain water quality, promote clean energy, and address local environmental issues. Our opposition to Susquehanna-Roseland line and natural gas pipelines focuses on preserving the views and natural resources of the Appalachian Trail, the Delaware Water Gap, and New Jersey Highlands. We support actions to upgrade the Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area into a National Park and Preserve. We also sponsor hikes throughout the region.

(Continued on page 6)

"Stop the Frack" Rally in DC

By Terry Stimpfel, our Fracking Issues Coordinator

On July 28 more than 4,000 people interrupted their summer fun to brave the heat and humidity on the lawn of the Capital in Washington, DC, to urge Congress to restrict the use of hydraulic fracturing to obtain natural gas. Speakers presented many heartbreaking personal stories of the health and other adverse impacts of fracking. Club members from Texas, Oregon, New Jersey and elsewhere cheered as Sierra Club Board President Allison Chin spoke. You can find her comments at <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/compass/2012/07/thousands-gather-for-stop-the-frack-attack-rally.html>. Cries of "ban fracking now" arose as the crowd marched through the streets to deliver contaminated water and protest letters to the gas and oil industry lobby.

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 5)

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.

Oct 9 (Tues), 7pm: Hydraulic Fracturing (fracking) at the Unitarian Fellowship of Sussex County, One West Nelson Street, Newton. Terry Stimpfel, NJ Chapter Fracking Issues Coordinator, will present a program on the issues related to fracking: energy and environmental impacts, economics and international perspectives.

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 (Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties)

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Jonathan Wall	psychologist@jonwall.com
Vice-Chair:	Cinny MacGonagle	cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Secretary & Webmaster:	Dwight Irving	dwight@dilirving.com
Treasurer:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Political Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Publicity Chair:	Celeste Martin	oncentral@mac.com
Membership Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Energy Coordinator:	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Outings Coordinator:	Jonathan Wall	psychologist@jonwall.com

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

See us and keep up to date with our Group on Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=53817136187>

Now you have three ways to stay updated on our group and events/activities going on! Go to our Facebook page, visit our Sierra Club Official Website, or get on our email distribution list. Please contact shighlandssierra@gmail.com for more information!

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

MEETINGS, OUTINGS, and EVENTS:

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Our next Excom/Planning Meeting will be on Nov 7 (Wed), at the office of Jonathan D. Wall, PsyD at 27 Center Street, Clinton. For those interested, after the meeting we will walk to Main Street for tea or coffee.

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Sept 19 (Wed), 7pm: Getting to Know New Jersey Black Bears *. Elaine Dunn of the Bear Education and Resource Group will present a program about the true nature of black bears, one of New Jersey's most magnificent animals. The Bear Education and Resource Group's mission is to educate residents about black bears, reduce unwarranted fears, promote tolerance of our bear neighbors and foster peaceful coexistence between people and bears. Free and open to the public. The program will start at 7:00 PM for socializing and 7:30 for the talk. It will be held at the Hunterdon Medical Center's Auditorium, Wescott Lane, Flemington, NJ. (*This is a different program that was listed in the July-Sept Jersey Sierran)

Oct 17 (Wed), 7pm: Fracking. Terry Stimpfel, NJ Sierra Club Fracking Issues Coordinator who will lead a discussion on fracking. She'll explain what fracking is and why it is so controversial. Is fracking the answer to America's desire for clean energy or a major source of water pollution and cause of earthquakes? Come and find out why fracking is so relevant to NJ and our drinking water supply. Free and open to the public. The program will start at 7:00 PM for socializing and 7:30 for the talk. It will be held at the Hunterdon Medical Center's Auditorium, Wescott Lane, Flemington, NJ.

November and December Meetings are still being scheduled. Please check the online calendar at http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp or our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=53817136187>) for the most up-to-date plans for meetings and outings, check our Facebook page.

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:

Chair:	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@optonline.net
Vice Chair:	Mary Ellen Shaw *	meshaw.001@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Tom Thompson *	etrans743@aol.com
Secretary:	Jennifer Rothschild *	jennirot2@gmail.com
Conservation Co-Chair:	Mary Ellen Shaw *	meshaw.001@gmail.com
Conservation Co-Chair:	Beth Ravit *	bravit@attglobal.com
Political Chair:	Greg Tondi *	gret75@yahoo.com
Air Quality Issues:	Laura Coll *	lauratracycoll@hotmail.com
Events Chair:	Mary Walsh	blehlwalsh@hotmail.com
Membership Chair:	Buddy Jenssen *	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Outings Chair:	Ellen Blumenkrantz	eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Programs Chair:	Jessica Epstein	jepstein101@gmail.com
Publicity Chair:	Marty Cohen	martincohen@verizon.net
Trail Maintenance:	Marty Cohen	martincohen@verizon.net
Webmaster/Listmaster:	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@optonline.net
Wildlife Issues:	Mary Ellen Shaw *	meshaw.001@gmail.com
Ex-Com Member-at-Large:	Nancy Wysocki *	nape2@aol.com

(*Group Executive Committee Member)

GENERAL MEETINGS:

(General meetings are free and open to general public. For more information, directions, or updates, please contact John at jkashwick@optonline.net, check out our Facebook page, or check out the on line calendar listing.)

Oct 29 (Mon): 7:00 pm at the Closter Nature Center, Ruckman Road, Closter: Getting to Know New Jersey Black Bears. Elaine Dunn of the Bear Education and Resource Group will present a program about the true nature of black bears, one of New Jersey's most magnificent animals. The Bear Education and Resource Group's mission is to educate residents about black bears, reduce unwarranted fears, promote tolerance of our bear neighbors and foster peaceful coexistence between people and bears.

Nov 27 (Tues): 7:00 pm at the Oradell Public Library, 375 Kinderkamack Road, Oradell: The City Dark. Is darkness becoming extinct? When filmmaker Ian Cheney moves from rural Maine to New York City and discovers streets awash in light and skies devoid of stars, he embarks on a journey to America's brightest and darkest corners, asking astronomers, cancer researchers and ecologists what is lost in the glare of city lights. Blending a humorous, searching narrative with poetic footage of the night sky, the film, The City Dark, provides a fascinating introduction to the science of the dark and the effect light pollution has on humans and wildlife.

Holiday Potluck: Dec 15 (Sat) at 3pm in Ridgewood. Bring a special dish and join us for food and fun as the North Jersey Group rings in the holiday season at a member's home. Please contact Buddy Jenssen at buddy.jenssen@gmail.com or John Kashwick at jkashwick@optonline.net to let him know what you are bringing. Date and time subject to change. Please check our on line calendar, Facebook page, or email Buddy or John to confirm.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: Oct 30 (Tues) 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 or Mary Ellen at meshaw.001@gmail.com.

BECOME A HALL MONITOR:

A Town-Hall Monitor, that is. We are looking for volunteers that can check their town's web sites on a weekly basis and monitor any agenda items that might have an impact on the environment. We would also be looking for these individuals to attend to occasionally attend Mayor and Council, Planning Board, or Zoning Board meetings and keep the group up to date with what's going on. We are looking to start a pilot program in just a few towns for now. Please contact John at jkashwick@optonline.net or Mary Ellen at meshaw.001@gmail.com to find out more.

CONSERVATION ISSUES:

Become more involved in the North Jersey group and tell us more about what you are working on. Some issues that we have worked on in the past and continue to work on include keeping the Hackensack and Ramapo pristine and protecting our drinking water, as well as protecting the New Jersey Highlands from electric power lines and gas pipe lines that will impact the view-shed, damage forests and wildlife, and pollute Highlands water. We also support the concept of a National Park and Preserve in the Delaware Water Gap region. For more information about these issues, become involved, or alert to something that is going on, please contact Mary Ellen at meshaw.001@gmail.com or Beth at bravit@attglobal.com.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE:

Except on occasion, our assigned section of the Appalachian Trail doesn't require much trail maintenance, but if people are interested, we can expand our coverage-there are always trails which need clipping and lopping. We could do a 3-hour hike interrupted by an hour of trail maintenance. If you're interested just let Marty Cohen know and he'll schedule some more outings (martincohen@verizon.net). Of course, also please contact him if you want to join our regular fall outing up Wawayanda Mountain-a glorious 1,000-foot climb with a view out to Highpoint from the top. Also, if you are interested in receiving Marty's short essay "Trail Maintenance - some thoughts," just send him an email.

OUTINGS:

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

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.
- 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:

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

ExCom Meetings: The Hudson-Meadowlands Group will be holding its Executive Committee meetings at 7pm on the following remaining Thursday in 2012: Nov 15. These meetings are open to all Sierra Club members. Please contact the Secretary, Ruth, or the Chair, Judith, 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 Applevue 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 Applevue 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.

3) We are opposing a proposed high-rise development on Boulevard East in West New York. This location was previously a gas station so there are safety issues regarding any digging here; additionally it is oversized for the location, will be an eyesore within this

low-rise community, and will add considerably to the congestion on Boulevard East. Meetings are taking place in the Municipal Building on 60th Street in West New York. Call us for more meeting information.

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 Judith 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:	John Beadle	973-284-1594	jbeadle571@verizon.net
Secretary:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Treasurer:	Anne Hirs	973-844-1121	annehirs@msn.com
Program Chair:	John Beadle	973-284-1594	jbeadle571@verizon.net
Conservation Co-Chairs:	ZaSah Khademi	201-618-8572	zasah@aol.com
	David Korfhage	973-932-0742	drkorfhage@gmail.com

Political Chair:

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 by email. Here are the plans for the Fall 2012:

Seton Hall Prep Old Growth Forest - Talk on the fight to save an Old Growth Forest in West Orange. Seton Hall Prep wanted to cut down an old Growth forest to create ball fields. Sally Malanga will talk about trying to save the forest and the final outcome. October 10th, 7pm at the Verona Boathouse. (Directions: <http://www.essex-countynj.org/p/index.php?section=parks/sites/ve.>)

Creating a Urban Wildlife Refuge - Lois Ross from friends of Clarks Pond will talk about how a group of neighbors joined together to create an 18 acre Urban Wildlife Refuge in Bloomfield on the third river. Building support, recruiting volunteers, working with the town, permits, grants, clean-ups, planting of native plants, turtle daycare. November 7, 7pm at the Verona Boathouse.

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.

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
	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	WP_Martin@yahoo.com
Union County:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Political Chair:	Meiling Chin		chinmeiling@yahoo.com
Programs:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
Fundraising Chair:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
Outreach & Events Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Publicity Chair:	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
Membership:	Bill Martin	908-604-2505	WP_Martin@yahoo.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
At Large:	Srabasti Dutta	631-902-9948	srabastidutta@gmail.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/>

(Continued on page 8)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

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:

October 10: To be announced - please go to the Loantaka website for information.

November 14: Geothermal Heated House. Learn about what it takes to modify a house so that it's heat is generated by a geothermal well. The discussion will include the money saved by using geothermal compared to conventional heating methods.

December 12: Meet and Greet Holiday Party. Come to our annual Holiday Party. We have a gathering where we mingle and listen and try to find out what issues are important with our members. We ramp up the refreshments and hone our listening skills, so come out and enjoy some time with us.

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

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

We had our 8th fundraising auction and brought in \$602 with the help of our donors:

Repeat donors:

North Jersey Dog Grooming School (Chatham)
Sages Pages Bookstore (Madison)
Westfield Symphony (Westfield)
Ahre's Coffee Roastery (Westfield)
Blue Ridge Mountain Sports (Madison)
Mayo Center for the Performing Arts (Morristown)
Brick Oven Restaurant (Morristown)
REI Sports Equipment, East Hanover (special thanks to Rob Beck)
Morris Museum (Morristown)
Sally Lunn's Tea Room (Chatham)
Charley's Aunt Restaurant (Chatham)

First time donors:

Chatham Sandwich Shop
Chatham Sports Shop
Crescent Jewelers (Chatham)
Kennedy Jewelers (Rahway)

And a special thanks to Dr. Daniela Shebitz of Kean University, who let us offer a luncheon with her as an auction item.

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CentralGroupNJSC>

OFFICERS:

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

Advocacy: The Central Group is working locally 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 to save the former Valley Road School in Princeton and the Princeton Battlefield. We support a ban on horizontal hydrofracking and disposal of fracking wastes in New Jersey. We oppose the natural gas pipelines through New Jersey and the Susquehanna-Roseland electric transmission lines

Events: General Meetings: November, February and May. Find details of all events on the Chapter events calendar at http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp

Nov 17 (Sat) 9am-Noon: Cleanup at Roebing Park at the Hamilton - Trenton - Bordentown Marsh. This is a fun event often with surprise wildlife sightings. Rain cancels. (Joint with Friends for the Marsh, D&R Greenway Land Trust and Mercer County Parks)

Oct. 27 (Sat): The North Jersey, Central and South Highlands Groups invite you to join us in a loop hike along the Delaware from Stockton to Bull's Island with a picnic stop to see the six acre site that NJ proposes to clear of mature trees. It's a beautiful time of year, and we hope that all Sierrans and friends will join us.

As the Central Group is invigorated, we hope you will be involved, share ideas and have fun. Please contact Terry or Joanne. Join the Central Group distribution list to receive timely information.

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

OFFICERS:

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

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

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

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

The 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.

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

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

Shore Group Happenings:

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

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

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

GENERAL MEETINGS: The general meeting of the Jersey Shore Group will continue at the NEW TIME and LOCATION: 6pm at Brookdale Community College. We're meet-

ing 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.

Oct 22: Doug O'Malley, interim Executive Director of Environment New Jersey, will discuss his organization's recent report on the deteriorating water quality in NJ, due primarily to overdevelopment. Only one creek, originating in a state park, is pollution-free. All of the state's other bodies of water are polluted. O'Malley will explain how the state legislature has deliberately contributed to the pollution and what regulatory actions should be taken to reverse this deterioration. (See the Asbury Park Press three-part series in mid-January.) In particular, O'Malley will discuss Raritan River and Bay, the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers, and Barnegat Bay.

Nov 26: Photographer Herb Segars, a nature and wildlife photographer who specializes in marine subjects, will exhibit some of the many photographs he has taken of the underappreciated aquatic world off the New Jersey coast. He has spent hundreds of hours beneath the nutrient-rich green Atlantic photographing fish, invertebrates, turtles, whales, seahorses, seals and birds. He has just published a book of underwater photographs, "Beneath the Garden State – Exploring Aquatic New Jersey," the result of his 30 years of photography. He explained, "My passion is photographing everything underwater in the Atlantic waters off my home state of New Jersey. It is not the easiest place to photograph but I can't seem to get enough of it." His book will be available at the meeting. His website is at <http://www.gotosnapshot.com/>.

Dec 2: 2-5 p.m. – Sierra's traditional holiday party will be held at Dennis Anderson's house at 6 Maple Ave, off of Middlesex Rd, Matawan. Use MapQuest for directions, but beware: there are two Middlesex Roads in Matawan. If you get lost, call him at 732-970-4327. Everyone is asked to bring hors d'oeuvres, cakes or other hot and cold dishes, as well as soda, wine and beer, but please let Dennis know in advance at dennisaza@aol.com so we don't wind up with five tofu dishes. If members of other Sierra Groups are in the neighborhood, please stop by and say hello.

Ocean County Group

WEBSITE: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean

OFFICERS:

Chair: A. Gregory Auriemma, Esq.	732-451-9220	sierraclubOC@aol.com
Vice-Chr, Outings: Dawn Marie Johns	732-644-6340	sierraclubOC@hotmail.com
Conserv'n Chair: Margit Meissner-Jackson	609-296-4367	sylviaj1910@yahoo.com
Secretary: Jill Palmer	732-928-0988	palmer2x2@aol.com
Treasurer: Gregory Auriemma	732-451-9220	sierraclubOC@aol.com
Political Chair: Nancy Brown	732-892-6089	nancybrown624@comcast.net
Publicity Chair: <i>Open Position</i>		
Fund-Raising: Joyce M. Isaza	732-920-9270	realtymstr@aol.com
Env'l Consultant: Helen Henderson	908-278-9807	hhlaceyrailtrail@msn.com
Env'l Educ'n Coord: Terrance Brown	848-333-7331	terrybrown@comcast.net
Group ExCom Member: Sierra Palmer		

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

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

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

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

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

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

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Gina Carola	856-848-8831	ginaceee@verizon.net
Vice-Chair:	Frank Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Secretary:	Ellen Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Treasurer:	Trish Clements		patri321@comcast.net
Publicity Chair:	Bud Kaliss	856-428-8071	budkaliss@verizon.net
Political Chair:	Nancy Rone		NancyRone@comcast.net
Pinelands Rep:	Lee Snyder		pinelands1@hotmail.com
Greenways Coord's:	Frank and Ellen Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Conservation Chair:	Stacey Ayala		thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com

Delegate at Large:	Aida Ayala		thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Membership Chair:	Mike Brown	856-547-9221	eyebrown@verizon.net
Fundraising Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>	Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831	
Smart Growth Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>	Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831	
Programs Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>	Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831	
Outings Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>	Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831	

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

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

Oct 10: Brian Hayes of Friends of Maple Ridge will speak about the efforts to preserve a former golf course to create Maple Ridge, Gloucester County's first state park.

Nov 14: David J. Kinsey, a "Sole Collector" for ShoeBox Recycling will speak about the organization's efforts to save wearable shoes from landfills and recycle them to developing nations. Please bring your old shoes to donate. Collect them from friends and family. They will find a new life.

Dec 12: Join us for our Year-End Wrap Up and holiday party. Bring a favorite munchie to share as we discuss our successes and ongoing efforts for 2012 and plan for 2013.

South Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:

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

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

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

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

Some Possibly Relevant Meetings of Allied Organizations:

Oct 17 and Dec 19 (Wed), 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.

Oct 18, Nov 15 & Dec 20 (Thurs), 7pm: Atlantic County Friends of the Parks: Monthly meetings of Friends of the Parks, a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Park System. All are welcome. WFNC*. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

Nov 14 (Wed), 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@cumaucicriver.org. Website: www.cumaucicriver.org.

Nov 27 (Tues), 7pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: Members' meeting, open to the public. Watershed awareness presentation. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

(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)

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:

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

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

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

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

SOCIAL GATHERINGS:

SOCIAL DINNER: FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month at 7pm. Join us for dinner 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 or 973-364-7573 option # 4.

HIKES AND OTHER OUTINGS:

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

Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

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

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

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

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

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

Young Sierrans

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

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

YOUNG SIERRAN COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Head Chair & Coordinator:	William Sevchuk	wsevchuk@yahoo.com
Vice Chair:	Open Position	Please Contact Us!
Moderator:	Diana Christine Eichholz	MistyAngel22@aol.com

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

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

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

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

Sierra Student Coalition

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

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

Inner City Outings Section

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

OFFICERS:

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

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

Well the heat and other factors put a damper on our summer schedule, but we already have scheduled two outings in each of October and November, and are planning to do more - provided, of course, that we get the necessary volunteer support. In October we will be holding our annual ICO Training session and Bottle Hike for those interested in learning more about ICO. So, if you're interested please email martincohen@verizon.net letting us know your interest and availability.



Outings

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

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

Central Jersey: Leona Fluck 609-259-3734 (H)
leona@pineypaddlers.com
Gateway: David Ogens 973-226-0748 (H)
64 Elm Rd, Caldwell 07003
Hudson-Meadowlands: Vacant
South Highlands: Susan Schirmer 908-996-7722 (H)
Jersey Shore: Mike Verange 908-732-8364 (H)
1497 W Front St, Lincroft, NJ 07738
Loantaka: Vacant
North Jersey: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417
eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Skylands: Joyce White 215-518-1653
joyce.white.exec@gmail.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 January-March 2013 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 November 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 January-March trip write-ups by November 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.

OCTOBER

Oct 2 (Tues): Pinelands Month - Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 10am. We'll paddle 7 miles from Weymouth Furnace to Lake Lenape. Early breakfast at the Harley Dawn Diner, Rte 322/Black Horse Pike. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct 6 (Sat): Social Hike in Kittantiny State Park (Sussex Co). 10am. We will hike about 6 miles on rocky terrain at a moderate pace. Hiking boots are preferred and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & 2 quarts of water. Meet before 10AM at the parking lot approx. 1 mile in on right off of Route 206 North on Goodale Rd. Take I-80 to Exit 27(Rte 206 North). Follow 206 North for about 9 miles to Goodale Rd (across from Bicycle Repair Shop and proceed about 1mile to first parking lot on right. Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce White, 212-518-1653 or joyce00201@yahoo.com. (SK)

Oct 6 (Sat): Sterling Forest Fire Tower Ramble (Rockland Co, NY) 10am. Jeffrey Sovelove Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com. We will do the Sterling Forest Sterling Fire Tower Ramble (about 5 miles) with the option to extend if the group desires. This is a moderately strenuous hike with a considerable amount of climbing. Meet at the Visitors' Center at 10am sharp. See the Sterling Forest web site for information and directions: <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/74/details.aspx>. Inclement weather cancels. Joint NJR/Sierra Club hike. TC map 100.

Oct 7 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River Water Gap (Warren Co.). 10am. It is Columbus Day weekend and the Water Gap will begin showing fall foliage of gold, orange and red hues as we paddle the longest undammed river in the East. Paddling helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Trip is open to current Sierra Club members only. Contact leaders for further information. Leona & George F, 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Oct 11 (Thurs): Pinelands Month - Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am. Double Trouble State Park was established in 1964 to help protect the Cedar Creek watershed. Our "Cranberry Cruise" is 10 miles from Dover Forge to Dudley Park - we'll pick cranberries along the way. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Oct 13 (Sat): Pinelands Month - Wells Mills Hike and 18th Annual Pine Barrens Jamboree (Ocean Co). 10am. The Annual "Pine Barrens Jamboree" is held at Wells Mills each October. A day filled with great music, delicious piney vittles, hand-made crafts. Local farm produce is available for purchase. Last year's Jamboree was a lot of fun. We'll have a leisurely hike for a couple hours and then enjoy the day! Bring a lawn chair. Meet in the Wells Mills parking lot, 905 Wells Mills Road (Rte 532), Waretown, NJ. George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Oct 13 (Sat): Splitrock Reservoir at Farny State Park (Morris Co.) 10am <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/farny.html> The hike will cover 8 miles in 4 hours in hilly terrain. The route will use the new Jersey Highlands Map from the NY/NJ Trail Conference. <http://www.nynjtc.org/catalog/15/maps>. No beginners, no pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. Registration required: Email the Leader: Jimi Oleksiak the_hikist@mac.com. If you haven't hiked with The Hikist before, include a brief description of your hiking experience with your registration. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register.

Oct 14 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Trip on the D&R Canal #2 (Mercer Co). 10am. The trip is 10 miles from Firemen's Eddy to Lower Ferry Rd. Lunch break will be at Washington Crossing Park - bring lunch and beverage. There are 2 portages; bring portage wheels if you have them. Contact leaders to confirm trip. George & Leona F 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Oct 14 (Sun): Southern Allaire State Park (Special Interest: Geology) 4.5 mile moderate hike is in the northern fringes of the Pine Barrens. Bring drink and snack. Hiking shoes preferred. Meet at 9am at the large dirt parking lot on the right, off Hospital Rd., in Wall Township. Take GPS to exit 98, turn right on to Allenwood Rd. At "T" intersection (Ramhorn Rd) turn right. Make next left (Hospital Rd.) the parking area is approximately 1 mile on the right. Bad Weather Cancels Confirmation/Questions call or text Leader Mike Verange 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com. (JS)

Oct 14 (Sun): Palisades Interstate Park Hike (Bergen Co). 10am. The hike will cover about 6 miles. We will head north along the Shore Trail, climb 500 feet to the Women's Federation Monument, where we will have lunch, and return via long the Long Path. Great views of the Palisades and the Hudson River. Well-mannered pets welcome. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. Registration required through online calendar or email: Leader: John Kashwick jkashwick@optonline.net or Jonathan Wall docjdwall@yahoo.com. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Inclement weather cancels. Check web site calendar for updates. (N)

Oct 18 (Thurs): Clayton Park Hike (Monmouth Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy/moderate pace; mix of hilly and flat trails. This rustic 421-acre site in rural Upper Freehold is located amidst the rolling farmland of western Monmouth County. Bring lunch, water and snacks. Leashed dogs are welcome. Leona and George F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Oct 20 (Sat): Social Hike in Delaware Gap (Warren Co). 9:50 am We will hike about 6 miles at a moderate pace on the Kittantiny Ridge. Hiking boots are required and participants should be in good condition. Meet Before 10am at the Appalachian Trail parking lot on I-80 West. Take I-80 West past Exit 4 and look carefully for the Rest Area sign. Leave I-80 at the Rest Area exit; however, continue down the exit ramp to the Dunnfield Creek/Appalachian Trail parking lot. Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce White, 212-518-1653 or joyce00201@yahoo.com. (SK)

Oct 20 (Sat): Hike Ralph Stover State Park (Bucks County, PA). 10am. Approximately 9 miles at moderate pace, hilly and rocky terrain. We will hike to the "High Rocks" section of the park which features an outstanding view of a horseshoe bend in Tohickon Creek and the surrounding forest and take a side trip to Doan Cave. This trip is for experienced hikers and rain or wet conditions cancels the hike. Bring lunch and water. Hiking boots are recommended. Meet in the first parking lot on right which is located off of State Park Road before Rangers Station. Go to <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/ralphstover/index.htm> for directions. Leaders: Paul Foged 732-996-1406 hikerpaul@verizon.net, and Beth Compagnucci 609-533-1335, bethcompagnucci@gmail.com. (W)

Oct 20 (Sat): Bicycle Ride on the Columbia Trail (Hunterdon Co). 10am. 12+ miles, 5 - 8mph pace. Fall foliage will be spectacular as we bike the Ken Lockwood Gorge from High Bridge to Califon. Meet at High Bridge Municipal Lot, Main St., High Bridge, NJ. Contact leaders to register. Bicycle helmets are required. Rain cancels. Bring water and snacks. Option: lunch at Casa Maya restaurant in High Bridge. George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Oct 21 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the D&R Canal #3 (Mercer Co). 9am. This D&R Canal trip is 12 miles from Cherry Tree Lane to Kingston - no portages either! Bring lunch and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm trip. George & Leona F 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Oct 25 (Thurs): Pinelands Month - Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am. Celebrate Pinelands Month with an 8-mile trip on the "Jewel of the Pinelands". Meet at Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego Rd. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Oct 27 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak Trash Cleanup on the Crosswicks Creek (Burlington/Mercer Co). 9am -12pm. Support the Sierra Club Water Sentinels Program on our annual fall cleanup with the Bordentown Yacht Club. The cleanup takes place at low tide in the wetlands area above the RiverLine bridge. These marsh flats have a lot of trash that we collect getting out of our boats. Wear boots and gloves. Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St. Sierra Club Water Sentinel H2O T-shirts for participants! Contact leaders to register for the cleanup. Leona & George F 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Oct 27 (Sat): Stockton to Bull's Island (Hunterdon Co). 10am. The North Jersey, Central and South Highlands Group Chairs invite you to walk along the Delaware River to Bull's Island State Park. We will meet at the old train station in Stockton, and walk the gravel tow path. Once at the Park, we will cross over to the PA side and follow the canal trail back to Stockton. The relatively flat, round-trip walk is 6.5 miles. We will picnic at Bull's Island, the site of the proposed clear cutting of the mature trees in the former campground. We will also learn about and identify common invasive plants. Well-mannered dogs welcome. It's a beautiful time of year. Bring lunch, water, daypack, and comfortable shoes. Inclement weather cancels. Check web site calendar for updates. Leaders: Jonathan Wall, Terry Stimpfel, John Kashwick.

Oct 28 (Sun): Halloween Canoe/Kayak Trip on the D&R Canal #4 (Mercer Co). 9am. Wear your "finest" Halloween outfit and join us in your canoe or kayak. We'll paddle 11 miles in a spectacular section for fall foliage - Kingston to Amwell Rd. There is one canal lock portage, bring portage wheels if you have them. Meet in Kingston at the D&R Canal State Park, Rte 27. Bring lunch and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm trip. George & Leona F., 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Oct 31 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak Trip on the N. Branch Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 9am. We'll be looking for goblins, ghosts and skeletons as we paddle the N. Branch Rancocas Creek Water Canoe Trail. Bring lunch and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George & Leona F., 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

NOVEMBER

Nov 3 (Sat): Social Hike and Cleanup at Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY) We will hike 3 to 4 miles of somewhat rocky terrain in and around Lake Skannatati at a leisurely pace. Highlights include the rugged beauty of Harriman & Lake Skannatati. Work gloves will be provided. Hiking boots are recommended. Additional hike on Long Path if enough group interest. Meet before 10am at the parking lot for Lake Skannatati and Lake Askoti on Seven Lakes Drive. Drive north on the Garden State Parkway to exit 163 (or I-287 North) and take the Rte 17 exit. Proceed north on Rte 17 into New York. Immediately after the town of Sloatsburg, turn right on Seven Lakes Drive. The parking area is about 8 miles up Seven Lakes Drive, just after Kanawaukee Circle on left. Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce White at 212-518-1653 or joyce00201@yahoo.com (Sk)

Nov 3 (Sat): Bicycle Ride at Duke Farms (Somerset Co). 10am. Approx. 14 miles; leisurely pace with stops along the way to view the different habitats. Duke Farms serves as a model of environmental stewardship in the 21st century. Meet at the Farm Barn Orientation Center where we'll watch a short video, see interactive displays and pick up maps before setting out for our bike ride. Bicycle helmets are required. Lunch will be at Café in the Farm Barn. Directions: www.dukefarms.org/. Rain cancels. Contact leaders to register: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Nov 4 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the D&R Canal #5 (Middlesex Co). 10am. This is the fifth and last trip of the D&R Canal fall series. We'll paddle 9 miles from Amwell Rd to Demott Lane. There are 3 canal lock portages; bring portage wheels if you have them. Dinner option at Pooja's in Somerset. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation: George & Leona F 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Nov 6 (Tues): Election Day Hike - Wells Mills County Park (Ocean Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. Wells Mills has the distinction of being the largest park in the Ocean County Park System, with over 900 acres of pine and oak forest. Bring lunch and beverage. Leashed dogs are welcome to join us for a "pawsome" adventure. Meet at the Nature Center, 905 Wells Mills Rd, Waretown. George & Leona F 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Nov 10 (Sat): Hike at Washington Crossing State Park (Mercer Co). 10am. Approximately 8 miles at moderate pace on towpath along the Delaware River. Bring lunch and water. Rain cancels. Meet at the Washington Crossing State Park, New Jersey parking lot off of Rte 29 - close to the restrooms. Leaders: Paul Foged, 732-996-1406, hikerpaul@verizon.net, and Beth Compagnucci, 609-533-1335, bethcompagnucci@gmail.com. (W)

Nov 10 (Sat): Lost Lake in Rockaway WMA from Mahlon Dickerson Reservoir (Morris Co). 10am <http://nynjtcbotany.org/njhtofc/rockaway.html>. The hike will cover 7 miles in 4 hours in hilly terrain, using the new Jersey Highlands Map from the NY/NJ Trail Conference (<http://www.nynjtc.org/catalog/15/maps>). No beginners, no pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. Register with the Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: the_hikist@mac.com. If you haven't hiked with The Hikist before, include a brief description of your hiking experience with your registration. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register.

Nov 12 (Mon): Hike at Veterans Park (Mercer Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. This magnificent 333 acre park was built in honor of Hamilton Township's veterans in 1977. Meet at the Kuser Rd entrance parking lot. Leashed dogs are welcome. Option for late lunch at Mastoris Restaurant. Leona and George F. 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Nov 15 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 9am. Enjoy a fall trip on the Wading River, paddling 9 miles from Hawkin Bridge to Beaver Branch. Meet at Hawkin Bridge. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Nov 17 (Sat): Roebling Park / H-T-B Marsh Land Cleanup (Mercer Co). 9am-Noon. Spring Lake area. Bring gloves if you have them, water to drink; wear long sleeves, long pants. Meet at Spring Lake - Roebling Park (end of Sewell Av, Hamilton). Contact: Bob Sokol: 609-918-1149. (Joint with Friends for the Marsh, Mercer County Parks, D&R Greenway Land Trust) (C)

Nov 17 (Sat): Social Hike in Jenny Jump State Park (Warren Co). 9:50 am We will hike about 5 miles of hills & level terrain at a moderate pace. Highlights include panoramic vistas of the Highlands. Hiking boots are preferred and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & 2 quarts of water. Meet before 10am at the state park office parking lot. Take I-80 West to Exit 12 (Rte 521 - Hope) From the off ramp go left on 521 (under I-80) for 1.2 miles. Turn left at the light in Hope (there is only one). Then take the first right turn on Great Meadows-Hope Rd. Travel 2.4 miles to Fair View Rd. Turn left on Far View Rd. Follow 1.7 miles to the park office entrance on right (turn right at the Jenny Jump State Forest sign). Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce White: 212-518-1653r or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (SK)

Nov 17 (Sat): Norvin Green State Forest Hike (Passaic Co). 10:15 am Moderate-strenuous loop includes several ascents/descents on rock outcropping to great views. Approximately 9 miles in 5 hours plus rest stops. Hiking boots, lunch/water required. Group limited to 12 people who must preregister with Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (N)

Nov. 18 (Sun): Island Pond Hike, Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. Scenic, moderately paced 9-10 mile hike to beautiful lake and viewpoints. Hiking trails and woods roads contain several rocky sections and small stream crossings, with several ascents/descents. Hike finishes around 4pm. Hiking boots, lunch/water required. Group limited to 12 people who must preregister with Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (N)

Nov 24 (Sat): March through Jockey Hollow (Morris Co). 10am. 5 mile hike at a moderate pace. We will do the parts of the Grand Loop, blue trail, and yellow trail at Jockey Hollow National Park in Morristown. We will stop at the soldiers' huts. See <http://www.nps.gov/morr/playourvisit/directions.htm> for directions and information. Bring lots of water, a light snack, and wear hiking boots. Meet at the visitors' center at 10am. Heavy/steady rain cancels No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Nov 24 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak on the Crosswicks Creek/HTB Marsh (Mercer Co). 10am. Too much turkey and stuffing? Then join us for an 8-mile trip from Bordentown Beach to John A. Roebling Park. We'll have lunch at the Park and then enjoy a brisk walk around Spring Lake before returning with the tide. Bring lunch and hot beverage. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Nov 25 (Sun): Manasquan River Reservoir, (Monmouth Co). (Special Interest: birds) 9am Enjoy an easy 5-mile circular hike on one of the largest reservoirs in the area. We may observe water fowl. Bring snacks, 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, cancels. Confirmation/questions please call or text. Leader Mike Verange: 908-902-0718, or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

DECEMBER

Dec 2 (Sun): Pine Meadow Lake Loop, Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. Moderately-paced hike of about 9 miles (5 hours) includes some hills and a few rocky sections. Beautiful views of lakes and streams. Rain/snow would cancel. Hiking boots, lunch/water required. Group limited to 12 people who must preregister with Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com (N)

Dec 8 (Sat): Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. <http://nysparks.com/parks/145/details.aspx>. The hike will cover 8 miles in 4 hours in rugged terrain. The route will feature exceptional views from mountain peaks. No beginners, no pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. Registration required: Email the Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: the_hikist@mac.com. If you haven't hiked with The Hikist before, include a brief description of your hiking experience with your registration. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register.

Dec 2 (Sun): Hike Historic Smithville and Tour Smithville Mansion (Burlington Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. We'll hike the 290-acre park and then enjoy "A Victorian Holiday" with entertainment. Holiday gift items will be for sale. There is a guided tour of the 1840 Greek Revival mansion decorated for the season (small fee). Option for late lunch at Vincentown Diner. Meet at Smith's Woods at Historic Smithville Park, East Railroad Avenue, Easthampton. Leashed dogs are welcome. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

(continued on page 12)

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Carey Huff, Dave Mattek, and Kelly-Ann
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Bill Martin, Joe Testa, Cynthia Mackowicz

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** Indicates committee chair or co-chair

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If no one is in the office to take your call, please leave a message on the answering machine. Please SPELL YOUR 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.

Oct 13 in the New Brunswick Public Library
Nov 17 in the New Brunswick Public Library
(60 Livingston Avenue;
convenient to train station)

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

Dec 8 (Sat): Whitesbog Village Fall Hike (Burlington Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace on sandy trails. Whitesbog is a NJ historic site and was a village built to house workers who harvested the local cranberry bogs. Directions: www.whitesbog.org. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet in the parking lot across from the General Store. Leashed dogs are welcome. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Dec 9 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am. Meet at Lake Oswego for an 8-mile paddle on the "Jewel of the Pinelands". Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Dec 12 (Wed): Hike: New Jersey Audubon Society's Plainsboro Preserve (Mercer/Middlesex Cos). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. The Preserve has wildlife exhibits, a reference library and the Nature Store is a great source for field guides, optics, etc. Dogs are not permitted. Bring water and snacks. Directions: www.njaudubon.org/Centers/Plainsboro/ Option: lunch at Romeo's Restaurant. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Dec 15 (Sat): Social Hike in Hacklebarney State Park (Morris Co). 9:50 am We will hike about 4 miles on rocky terrain at a moderate pace. Highlights include waterfalls & the Black River Gorge. Hiking boots are preferred and participants should be in good condition. Bring lunch or snack & 2 quarts of water. Meet before 10am at the parking lot of Hacklebarney State Park. Take I-78 to Exit 29 (I-287 North). Then take Exit 22B off I-287 (Rtes 202/206North). Follow 202/206 North until fork, and then take Rte 206 north to Chester. Make left onto Rte 24 West (Rte 513) and proceed about 1 mile and make sharp left onto State Park Rd. Drive about 2 miles & make right onto Hacklebarney Rd. Drive about 1 mile & make left at entrance. Follow entrance road to parking lot and meet group near the park ranger office. Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce White: 212-518-1653, or e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com. (SK)

Dec 16 (Sun): Bike or Hike at Belleplain State Forest (Cape May Co). 10am. Easy pace whether we bike or hike! Belleplain was established in 1928 for recreation and water conservation. Lake Nummy is a converted cranberry bog. Helmets are required if we bike. Rain cancels. Activity depends on the weather so contact leaders to register: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Dec 21 (Fri): Celebrate the Winter Solstice on the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. We'll paddle 6 miles from Hawkin Bridge to Evans Bridge. Winter began yesterday - the days will be getting longer! Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

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

Dec 26–Dec 31: It's Patriots Week in Trenton from Dec. 26 – Dec 31 (Mercer Co). Are you interested in the incredible history of the American Revolution in NJ and Washington's Crossing of the Delaware? Patriots Week offers fun and history for the entire family. See the First and Second Battles of Trenton Reenactments and participate in Walking Tours of the Trenton Battlefields. Check website for daily schedules www.patriotsweek.com. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

JANUARY

Jan 1, 2013 (Tue) Harteshorne Woods, (Monmouth County): (Special interest: Recent History). 9am. Moderate 6-mile hike has elevation gains and a lot of scenery. Please bring drinks and snacks. Hiking shoes are suggested. Meet at the Rock Point parking area. Take GSP to exit 117. Take Rte 36 toward Sandy Hook to Portland Rd. It is the last street on the right before the Sandy Hook bridge. Take Portland Rd. to the top of the hill. Rock Pt. Parking is on the left. Bad Weather (including snow cover) cancels. Confirmation/questions please call or text Leader: Mike Verange: 908-902-0718, or mjevrange@aol.com (JS).

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

SIERRAN

Vol. 41, No. 4 • Fall, 2012

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Rich Isaac, Ken Johanson, Laura Lynch,
Paul Sanderson, Sunil Somalwar,
Joe Testa, Bonnie Tillery and Jeff Tittel.

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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.
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