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The Jersey SIERRAN

Vol. 42, No. 2 Roughly 15,000 Members in New Jersey April-June 2013

Sierra Club's Goals for New Jersey in 2013 *From our ExCom Reorganization Meeting in January*

The Chapter has an ambitious set of goals for the upcoming year. Chapter Director Jeff Tittel, along with Conservation Program Coordinator Kate Millsaps, Outreach Coordinator Nicole Dallara, and a dedicated set of volunteers, will be addressing the following issues:

• **Recovery from Hurricane Sandy** - We will work with legislators to craft legislation creating a Coastal Commission, analogous to the Pinelands Commission, Highlands Council and Meadowlands Commission, which will revise building standards, hasten the updating of FEMA maps, lobby for "Blue Acres" buyouts of sensitive properties, preserve open space, and otherwise plan for future storm devastation.

• **Offshore Wind Energy** - We will lobby for a Legislative Oversight Committee hearing by the end of March, to pressure the Governor and the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to move forward with offshore wind rules. We will coordinate with other environmental, community, labor, and industry groups. Offshore wind will be a focus at our "Hands across the Sand" event on May 18th, at which members join hands in support of clean energy options. If progress isn't visible by June, we'll petition the BPU to adopt the offshore wind rules.

• **Energy Efficiency** - We will continue to push for an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) to be established and implemented by the BPU, along with greener, more energy efficient building codes, to implement the 17% efficiency increase called for in NJ's Energy Master Plan. Our staff will produce a blog to explain how rebuilding from Sandy offers an opportunity to move toward energy efficiency, and how the EERS would help us do that.

• **Linking Climate Change to Hurricane Sandy** - Our staff will organize events throughout the state to educate the public on renewable energy and energy efficiency measures that can be taken to delay and adapt to climate change. These include reducing greenhouse gas emissions and planning for climate disruption by protecting the grid from future

storms, developing distributive generation, and moving key infrastructure away from vulnerable locations. We will also work to protect Clean Energy Funding from the Governor's cuts.

• **Cooling Towers for the Mercer Generating Station** - This plant's environmental permits have not been updated since new pollution controls were installed. The plant's heat waste is currently discharged into the Delaware River, which impacts the River's wildlife and is therefore a classic Sierra Club wilderness issue. We will reach out to other organizations to encourage increased support for installing cooling towers on this plant. We'll be seeking municipal resolutions supporting cooling towers, and conducting boat tours and cleanups to show the impact of the plant's thermal pollution. We will also pressure the DEP to open the permit for comments.

• **Susquehanna-Roseland Higher-Voltage Power Line across the Highlands** - At this stage our target is the federal and state appellate courts. We will challenge approvals by both the BPU and National Park Service; the project should be remanded back to those agencies, reopening the public process. We continue to keep the issue in the media with educational forums, and hope for help from the Delaware River Basin Commission. The project's DEP permits have not been issued. We think the project violates the DEP's No Net Loss Plan. If construction moves forward we will work with the DEP to ensure that any permit violations are mitigated.

• **Solar Photovoltaic Electricity** - In the last few years the BPU has been withdrawing its subsidy for residential and other distributed energy generation facilities. We hope to convince the BPU to expand its Renewable Portfolio Standard to encourage the use of clean energy supplies. One effective measure would be for it to order the utilities to accept community solar arrays.

• **Fracking - Instate Waste Ban** - We will lobby Republican legislators to override the Governor's veto of a bill to ban the disposal, in New Jersey, of fracking

wastes produced in neighboring states (NY & PA).. If a veto override is not feasible, we will attempt to extend the previous moratorium.

• **Fracking - Delaware Regional Basin Commission** - We will continue to lobby Governor Christie and other DRBC members to ban fracking in the Delaware River Basin. The Commission may vote at one of its quarterly meetings this year.

• **Secure Funding of Open Space Acquisitions** - We think the best option at this time is a Water User Fee. Legislation has been introduced. We will conduct a public educational campaign. This funding will support the Green Acres, Blue Acres, and Farmland Preservation programs.

• **Oppose the Tenneco Gas Pipeline across Northern New Jersey** - Our targets are the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (by challenge in the Court of Appeals), the Governor, and DEP permitting agencies.

• **Ban or Fee for Plastic and Paper Bags** - We will lobby legislators and the Governor to enact S-812, and keep the issue in the media - to educate the public on the bill; also through our social media tools.

• **Encouraging Electric vehicles and their Infrastructure** - A package of bills that offer tax breaks and other incentives will be the subject of lobbying in Trenton.

• **Water Quality Issues** - We will try to stop rollbacks to DEP programs and regulations for storm-water, Water Quality Management Planning, and flood hazard area protections. We also oppose an increase in the safe yield of the Wanauque Reservoir, addressing combined sewer overflows, and expansion of the American Dream (Xanadu).

• **Regional Planning: State Strategic Plan, Highlands, and Pinelands** - Targeting the State Planning Commission, Highlands Council, and Pinelands Commission, we oppose adoption of the State Strategic Plan until there is a major rewrite to take out Highlands/Pinelands weakenings, and add adaptation planning following Sandy. We ask the Highlands Council to ensure no major rollbacks in its new Regional Master Plan, and the Pinelands Commission to ensure no major rollbacks

NJ's Air Quality Data Released

From a Press Release issued on Jan. 16th by our Trenton staff

This year's US-EPA Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) data showed a 14% drop in air pollution emissions in New Jersey compared with last year. The reductions are welcome, but overall we still have some of the worst air quality in the nation. Some of the reductions are due to regulatory controls and substitution of cleaner sources of electric power. Some reductions are due to the economic downturn: less power has been consumed because manufacturing has decreased. We will have to see if these drops will be long term. We need to keep making air pollution reductions, most importantly in urban areas where air toxins are many times above health standards. The worst in-state pollution sources are the two PSE&G coal plants, in Hudson and Mercer Counties, and our many oil refineries. We also get pollution from upwind states to our west.

The purpose of the TRI is to educate the public on what chemicals are impacting their families and communities so that they will demand changes in policies and regulations to clean up our air. TRI data has helped EPA impose regulations to reduce air pollution and informed people why energy conservation is important when it comes to air pollution.

Every county in New Jersey is impaired for air quality. Central New Jersey still ranks in the top twenty most polluted areas in the country. Improvements save lives because every year many people die from asthma and heart attacks triggered by air pollution.

in Comprehensive Master Plan revisions. We will work with local groups to increase turnout at Commission/Council meetings, and help activists prepare testimony for the meetings.

As always, we maintain the flexibility to pivot to work on timely issues as they come up during the year. *Note: These objectives are not exclusive: Each of the Chapter's Issue Coordinators, listed on p.12 of this Newsletter, is empowered to organize lobby campaigns in support of their issues, and many of our Group Leader Lists include campaign leaders at the Group level.*

Christie's Policies Leave Shore Vulnerable to Future Storms

By Chapter Director Jeff Tittel (Jeff.Tittel@Sierraclub.org)

On Jan 24th, Gov. Christie issued an emergency order adopting the FEMA provisional (advisory) base flood maps to determine rebuilding standards for properties damaged by Hurricane Sandy in late October, 2012. The order provides that most rebuilt homes and businesses should be raised above future expected flood levels, at considerable additional cost. The consequence of failing to adhere to the standards will be a substantial increase in the cost of flood insurance.

The Governor announced that the DEP will streamline the permitting process for rebuilt homes that follow the FEMA recommendations. But the DEP will only sign off on the project after it is completed, potentially opening a Pandora's box

of problems and violations. This could cost municipalities, homeowners, and taxpayers millions as FEMA only reimburses projects that meet environmental regulations. This is backwards; the Governor wants to build first and review later.

The Governor did not address reducing climate pollution and preparing for the future impacts of sea level rise and storm surges. He has relaxed some environmental standards and requirements, which actually puts people and property in harm's way and ends up causing more problems than it solves.

Since there is no requirement that the FEMA standards be met, people may not realize they will not be reimbursed or that they will lose their flood insurance.

The Governor did not consider that some locations are too sensitive to be rebuilt, nor offer buyouts of such properties. Yet this is the best time to do it - before people start trying to rebuild in places that they should not.

Nor did the Governor consider that replacement buildings should be energy efficient. This is the best time to implement green building codes, as Louisiana did after Katrina.

The Christie Administration has previously opposed updating the flood mapping for regulatory programs, as it would limit development in flood-prone areas. Sewers should be kept out of these areas. Before we rebuild the Jersey shore, we need to know where we should build.

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Two Sustainable Lifestyle Articles

Genetically Modified Food: You Should Have the Right to Know

By Barb Conover, our Issues Coordinator for Genetically Modified Organisms (bconifer022@gmail.com)

What did you eat in the last four days? Did you eat Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)? Unless you ate a 100% organic diet, you probably did. Did you just say "Eeew!"? That would be most people's reaction.

Our food is one of our most intimate interactions with the environment: we take it into our bodies several times each day. Most people who "live green" probably choose their diets carefully: eating no (or less) meat, and choosing organic vegetables and grains over those sprayed with synthetic pesticides. Often these choices mean a higher price and shopping at a "green grocery chain." But no matter how careful we are, we eat GMOs... because they are not labeled. Currently, the only way to avoid consuming GMOs is to eat 100% organic, because the USDA Organic Standard prohibits GMOs from being labeled "organic."

There has been an explosion of GM foods on the grocery shelves, but, due to the lack of labeling, most consumers are completely unaware of this dramatic shift in food production. A 2012 Environmental Working Group (EWG) study found that Americans are literally eating more than their own weight annually of GM food. The average American eats 193 pounds per year of genetically engineered food; the typical American adult weighs 179 pounds. And 193 pounds is likely to be an underestimate, since the EWG's estimates consider only "the big three" GM crops: 95% of the sugar beets, 93% of the soybeans and 88% of the corn grown in the U.S. are genetically modified. Other common GM foods are canola oil, cottonseed oil, papaya and yellow squash. The EWG also excluded genetically modified animal feed that people consume indirectly when they eat meat.

What are GMOs?

GMOs are organisms whose genetic material (DNA) has been altered in a laboratory by the insertion, deletion, or other modification of genes, often by substitution of genes from a different species. Since 1986, agricultural crops have been genetically modified to express 'desirable' traits such as longer shelf life, resistance to pests, herbicides, or harsh environmental conditions, and increased nutritional value.

We critics object seriously to GM crops because of ecological concerns, including their tendency to contaminate non-GM crops in adjacent fields, damage they do to unintended species, their stimulation of the evolution of resistant pests, and their need for increased use of pesti-



cides. There are also economic concerns: partly because these organisms are subject to intellectual property law, so the seed costs more. And there is suspicion that GM crops may be unsafe to eat. This is controversial: many, including many scientists, are convinced there is "ample evidence of danger," but there hasn't yet been a scientifically valid, large-scale, comprehensive, "smoking gun" study. The fact that most studies are done by the manufacturers is also a major concern.

The Right to Know

Whether your concerns are environmental, economic, or for health, I hope you'll agree that consumers should be able to make a clear choice. You can avoid trans fats and high sodium because such foods are labeled. But GMOs are not... and they're prevalent. In national polls, 93 to 96 percent of people felt the federal government should require labels on food saying whether it's been genetically modified.

Sadly, the industry that is developing GMOs is powerful enough to have successfully thwarted a federal labeling law: it will be up to states. Last November the people of California put "Proposition 37" on the ballot by initiative petition, but the industry was able to mount such a well-funded campaign (including some of your favorite eco food companies: see the Organic Consumers Association website to be shocked) that it narrowly failed. Monsanto has blocked laws in other states.

New Jersey is one of a handful of states with active labeling bills in the Legislature. State Senators Robert Singer (R-30) and Joseph Vitale (D-19) and Assemblypersons Linda Stender (D-22) and David Wolfe (R-10) have introduced bills that would require labels on GM foods sold in New Jersey.

A growing coalition of (currently) 25 organizations, representing farmers, consumers, environmentalists, people of faith, labor, students, women, and businesses, has formed to educate the public and lobby for these bills. Do YOU care about genetic modification of your food? We want to hear from you and get you involved! If you are interested, please contact me: bconifer022@gmail.com. Only together can we get this done.

Nature Wars: The Incredible Story of How Wildlife Comebacks Turned Backyards into Battlegrounds — A Review of Jim Sterba's Book

By Suzanne Dragan (animaltalk@optonline.net)

I was expecting Sterba's book to be flip-pant and biased, but it is not. I wholeheartedly agree with the author's claim that the main culprit in our wildlife/human conflict is suburban sprawl. The majority of Americans now live in an ever-expanding smudge of strip malls, industrial office parks, condo complexes, gas stations and fast food restaurants.

As a result, many wildlife species have become adapted to live near and amongst

people. The trees, plants, bushes and grasses we plant, along with our garbage cans and dumpsters, provide a bountiful cafeteria. When just a few animals come by we are usually happy to see them. But when we feel intruded upon, or experience property damage, people get annoyed and begin to ask how to "manage" wildlife. We have messed with Mother Nature and now we have to deal with the numerous species that thrive as a result.

POPULATION ISSUES COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Good News from the Philippines

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@msn.com)

The Philippine Islands are roughly the size of Arizona but are home to 103 million people, expected to double by 2080. (Compare this to the entire United States with a population of 313 million.) Rice is the staple food while fish provide most of the protein. Unlike Thailand with a strong government-supported reproductive health program enabling the export of rice, the Philippines must import rice to feed its people; and every species of fish shows severe signs of over-fishing.

The Philippines have one of the highest birth rates in the world and the highest teen pregnancy rate in the Asian Pacific. Something had to be done.

On January 17, 2013, the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012, signed by Philippine President Benigno Aquino in late Dec, went into effect. To poor women in the Philippines, this means that government health centers will have to make reproductive health education, maternal health care, and contraceptives available to everyone. It is a life-saving measure that will help end the cycle of poverty in this island nation of Southeast Asia.

In the slums of Manila, it is not uncommon for women to have 12, 16 or even 22 pregnancies. However, many of the children die from treatable diseases such as diarrhea. One woman with 22 pregnancies, and now 17 surviving children, said, "Many times we sleep without eating." One of the reasons for the Reproductive Health Law (as the Act is known) is to help break the cycle of poverty and provide help, for example, to the woman and her 10 surviving children who comb toxic dump sites for a meager \$7 a day to live on.

"The Philippines' combination of high population growth and limited land area (nearly all of which is near the coast) makes the country extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change... Population growth, climate change, and deforestation will only increase the severity of these disasters..." reported Hannah Marqusee in "Life on the Edge: Climate Change and Reproductive Health in the Philippines," 7/18/11.

Marqusee continued, "...The archipelago's vast biodiversity is in crisis...two-thirds of native plant and animal species are endemic to the islands and nearly half of them are threatened...less than 10 percent of the islands' original vegetation remains and 70 percent of the 27,000 square kilometers of coral reefs are in poor condition."

With the help of funding from USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development) and the United Nations, pilot studies have shown that integrated population, health and environment programs have made inroads in saving the environment.

In one community supported by the PATH Foundation, with funds from USAID, parents were able to choose smaller families. There the family size went

from an average of 12 to not more than 4. The community set up a marine preserve to protect the fish and eventually boost declining catch. They monitor for illegal fishing practices such as dynamiting or use of cyanide or banned nets that destroy the spawning grounds and coral reefs. One man in the community noted, that if they can "control the number of children they don't need as much fish."

Sam Eaton, maker of the film "Food for 9 Billion: Turning the Population Tide in the Philippines," notes that people empowered by their ability to control their future can make a better future for their children. When children are hungry, people are not thinking about the future but about how they can feed their children today.

Imelda Albano, president of the Philippine Network of Environmental Journalists, commented that with this Reproductive Health Law the country will no longer have to depend on international donors but can now do something for itself. She also noted that politicians in the Philippines are running for office with climate change as the big issue.

All this progress is not without detractors. Eighty-percent of the people in the Philippines are Catholic and the Catholic Church is vehemently opposed to the law, has filed suit to overturn it, and has threatened excommunication to the President and any politicians who support it. One 44-year-old woman, a devout Catholic with 16 children, said "We don't pay attention to (the Church's opposition). They are not the ones who are giving birth again and again. We are the ones who have to find a way to care for the children."

While the Philippines is making strides forward, there are politicians here who want to take us back, and numerous suits have been filed opposing contraceptive coverage in the Affordable Care Act. It is vital that all women, here and overseas, have the ability to decide for themselves the size of their families. With pilot programs in the Philippines as an example, we see that women choose smaller families.

Take action by supporting funding for programs such as USAID and the United Nations Population Fund. You can also help by asking any person running for public office where they stand on reproductive health care for women. Stopping and then reversing the damage we have done to the planet depends on your efforts to elect those who support reproductive health care.

(Partial list of sources: *Dialogue at Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars*, "Fishing for Families: Reporting on Population, Environment, and Food Security in the Philippines," 1/28/13; "Philippine birth control law takes effect" *Agence France-Presse*, 1/17/13; "Population, Health, and Environment Program in the Philippines," *Kate Diamond*, 2/13/12.)

Sterba discusses how we have lost touch with Nature, and become polarized in dealing with such conflicts as that between outside cats and wild birds. Though "trap-neuter-return" can help keep feral cat populations down, bird and small mammal populations are devastated by them.

As someone who enjoys both cats and my backyard birds, I recommend the "trap-neuter-keep-cats-contained" practice. This way my backyard wildlife and my now semi-tame outside cats are all safe and accounted for.

Sterba does not consider how much taxpayer-money is spent to systematically

kill wildlife. In 2010, Mary Lou Simms, an investigative reporter for the McClathry-Tribune News Service, used the Freedom of Information Act to obtain a report of the US Wildlife Service, and learned that \$125.6 M is spent annually for wildlife management programs that exterminate more than 4 million wild animals.

I requested an OPRA document in June, 2012, which revealed that, since 2007, Sayreville (Middlesex Co) has been spending \$12,000 annually to round up and gas wild geese and sea gulls at two of its parks. Alternative, cost-saving wildlife management techniques were presented

(continued on page 6)

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

Editorial

Lisa Jackson Leaves EPA: Washington's Loss is NJ's Gain

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

Lisa Jackson has announced her retirement as Administrator of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), effective early in 2013. Prior to her federal service she had led New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) under Governor Jon Corzine.

We are very sorry to see her go. We think her the best Administrator that environmentalists have worked with in the EPA's 40-year history. Her accomplishments include cleaning up toxic sites, reducing air pollution, and protecting our water, air, and land. She issued rules that limit releases of soot and mercury. She lived through interesting and difficult times.

We hope she didn't leave out of frustration. There are some really big issues that need her leadership: the Keystone XL pipeline (delayed by her efforts, but not cancelled), fracking (which the EPA is studying), cleaning up the damage done by Hurricane Sandy, and of course an overall strategy for coping with Climate Change, both domestically and internationally. She is leaving at a time when the environment is at a crossroads. The Obama Administration has delayed her Smog Rule, and has not been proactive



on Climate Change. We hope that, in whatever next responsibility she undertakes, she will continue to be a strong voice for the environment.

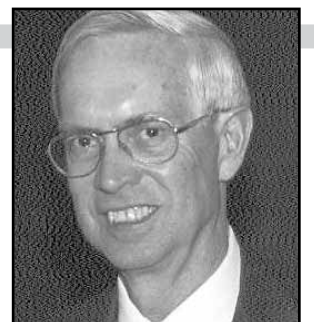
As NJ-DEP Commissioner, she issued our Water Quality Management Planning rules, and our Stormwater and Flood Hazard Area rules - which the Christie Administration has been trying to roll back. She signed us up to RGGI (the Northeastern States Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative), and made our Energy Master Plan a national exemplar in promoting clean electrical energy. Lisa's word was always straightforward and trustworthy.

We hope she doesn't need reminding that atmospheric carbon dioxide and methane are the two most serious pollutants that our planet has had to suffer in the time the human species has dominated it, and are therefore the most worthy opponents her expertise could challenge in her remaining years. And that New Jersey is an excellent venue for her talents: using the tools of politics (in the broad sense), journalism, litigation, academia, and the lobbying establishment. Welcome back!

Chair's Message

Goals for the New Year

By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)



This past year was a challenging year for the New Jersey Chapter, with much of our work focused on energy and climate change. And while we did experience our share of disappointments, including most recently Governor Christie's veto of a bill that we actively lobbied for that would have prevented natural gas fracking operations in Pennsylvania from shipping toxic wastewater into New Jersey for treatment and disposal, we also had our share of victories.

Consider for example our successful efforts in opposing a proposed facility in Linden that would have produced electricity and fertilizer from dirty coal and transported carbon dioxide generated in the process by pipeline to Atlantic City for sequestering off the coast.

And consider as well our successful efforts to mobilize public support for an indefinite postponement of a vote by the Delaware River Basin Commission to lift its moratorium on fracking in the basin, our support for the closing of the coal-powered Portland power plant in Pennsylvania, a major source of pollution for the northern part of the State, and the adoption of key legislation promoting solar energy, an important component of a sustainable energy future.

So yes, we are making a difference. But so much remains to be done. As you might expect, we have an ambitious agenda for 2013.

When hurricane Sandy struck this past fall our members and supporters, led by Nicole Dallara, the Chapter's outreach coordinator, sprang into action. Under Nicole's able leadership teams of volunteers provided assistance to homeowners in areas devastated by the storm, clearing sand and other storm-generated debris from homes, removing water soaked wallboard from walls and lugging ruined furniture and carpeting to the curb for pickup and disposal.

But much remains to be done if we are to avoid or mitigate similar natural disasters in future years. That is why the Chapter has identified Sandy-related issues as our number one priority for 2013.

Following Sandy even some climate change deniers have begun to admit that there may be a link between severe weather events that we have been experiencing over the past few years and global climate change. We need to capitalize on this growing awareness of the problem and do all that we can to educate the public, not only as to the reality of global climate change, but also as to what we can do, in our personal lives and at the legislative level, to reign in greenhouse gas emissions.

We also need to take steps to ensure that homeowners and local governments do not repeat the mistakes of the past. Over the years development in our coastal regions has been haphazard, with little or no concern for regional planning, the prevention of overdevelopment or the protection of natural habitats, and building standards have failed to take into account the risks inherent in building along the coast.

We intend to address these and other failures through a series of legislative and regulatory initiatives, including the creation of a coastal commission to coordinate development activities in the coastal region, the closing of loopholes in the Coastal Area Facilities Review Act, the adoption of measures to ensure that structures are not built in areas that are not appropriate for development and that cleanups are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner, the restoration and ongoing protection of vital

natural habitats and the strengthening of building codes to help protect against future storms. The Jersey shore is a State and national treasure. We need to do all that we can to ensure that future generations are able to experience all that it has to offer.

But Sandy isn't the only item on our agenda for 2013. As in 2012, fracking for natural gas, a process that threatens our water supply, pollutes the air, contributes to global warming and destroys local communities, will be a primary focus of our efforts. We will lobby for a permanent moratorium on this environmentally destructive practice, as well as a ban on shipments of toxic wastewater into New Jersey for treatment and disposal. And we will maintain pressure on the Delaware River Basin Commission to prevent the Commission from lifting its moratorium on fracking in the basin.

Other priorities for 2013 include efforts to promote alternative energy sources, including wind and solar, as well as efforts to improve energy efficiency and conservation. The Christie administration has been dragging its heels on energy and climate change issues. We need to keep the pressure on, as well as continue to work with our friends in the State legislature to enact meaningful reforms.

The protection and preservation of open space and natural areas is another issue that demands our immediate attention. Pristine areas in the northern part of the State that we had thought were protected are now threatened by the construction of power lines and pipelines that will bring dirty coal powered electricity and fracked natural gas into the State and destroy natural areas that we fought so hard to protect. We are working with local groups, building support within the community and submitting comments to regulatory bodies to try to derail these misguided projects. We have also instituted a legal action to contest what we consider to be an abuse of regulatory power.

And then there's the ongoing need to preserve what open space remains in this densely populated state from rampant development. Unfortunately, Green Acres funds have been depleted. We support efforts to impose a modest water fee to fund future acquisitions. There is a direct connection between a fee on water usage and the preservation of open space, as undeveloped lands play a crucial role in the recharge of aquifers and the filtration of contaminants from groundwater.

Another issue that we have long supported but until recently have not felt that we had the political muscle to effectively advocate is legislation to reduce and eventually ban the use of noncompostable single use plastic and paper grocery bags. In the past few years measures have been adopted in cities throughout the country to reduce the use of single use plastic and paper bags. We believe that the people of this State, as well as our friends in the legislature, now recognize how important it is for the environment that noncompostable single use plastic and paper grocery bags be phased out. We intend to do all that we can to ensure that appropriate legislation is enacted.

So yes, we do have an ambitious agenda for 2013. But with your help, and the help of other members and supporters, I am confident that we will achieve some significant victories in 2013 and that we will continue to be a force for positive change not only this year but in years to come.

Resolutions Passed by the Chapter Executive Committee in January, 2013

Ken Johanson was re-elected Chapter Chair for 2013, and the other officers listed on p. 12 of this Newsletter were approved, including Rich Isaac as Vice-Chair, and Laura Lynch as Conservation Chair. (January)

Our Hudson-Meadowlands Group, which has lost its officers due to resignations and out-migration, was disbanded, and its "territory" distributed to our North Jersey and Gateway Groups, as described in the Group News section of this Newsletter. (January)

Continuing with our annual reorganization, we approved formation of a statewide LGBT Section (Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Trans-sexual). See Group News. (January)

Thank You for Your Support!

Supplied by Ken Johanson, Chapter Chair

The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club wishes to thank all those who provided the Chapter with much-needed financial support during 2012. As in prior years, our members and supporters were there when we needed them most. If you are one of those who were able to help us out this past year, I offer you my most sincere thanks. Listed below are the names of those who contributed \$100 or more during 2012. But please be assured that all contributions are very much appreciated, regardless of the amount.

Benefactors (\$1000 and above)

Dennis and Carol Anderson
William DeCamp, Jr.
George and Joan Denzer
Estate of Nelson C. Doland, Jr.
Environmental Endowment Fund
Environment America
Harold Jenssen and Linda Bowden
Ken and Wynn Johanson
Ken Johnston
Jeffrey and Anita Liebman
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Jeffrey and Barbara Morris
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Jessica Seaton and Linda Swartz
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David Perkowski
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Karin Poorvin
Ernest Post
Margaret Redmond
Howard Rose
Jackson Shepard
Nancy Shukaitis
Charles Sprague
Verena Stocker
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Eric M. Zwierling
Anonymous (17)

Reports from Trenton

Retirement of Senator Frank Lautenberg, an "Environmental Champion"

From a Press Release issued on Feb. 14, 2013

Senator Lautenberg has announced that he will not seek reelection in 2014. We praise his longstanding commitment to the environment and leadership in many environmental campaigns. They include cleaning up Superfund sites, addressing global warming and air pollution, preventing oil and gas drilling off the Atlantic Coast, chemical safety, and protecting the nation's wild places. His campaigns extend also to transportation, public health, women's issues and green jobs issues. He led efforts to secure funding to protect the New Jersey Highlands, especially Sterling Forest.

His legacy includes measures for reducing greenhouse gases and promoting a clean energy economy. This means reducing the country's reliance on fossil fuels: especially coal and petroleum. In the 1980s he led the fight to stop ocean dumping of municipal and industrial wastes. He was recently the lead sponsor of legislation to close big oil tax loopholes, and promote cleaner and greener truck fleets by substituting natural gas for diesel fuel and gasoline, utilizing more electric vehicles, and increasing the use of efficiency measures.

In 2001 he received a lifetime achievement award from the New Jersey Sierra Club, and he keeps achieving. For more than 30 years he has done more to protect New Jersey's environment than almost any other elected official.

Senator Lautenberg fought to keep the Production Tax Credit (PTC) for wind power in place as Republicans called for its elimination. We want to see wind turbines off our coast, generating electricity, not drilling rigs, and the PTC will help make that happen.

The Senator's efforts to protect public lands include co-sponsorship of the Highlands Conservation Act, which funds preservation projects in a four-state region. His legislation created the Wallkill National Wildlife Refuge. Perhaps his biggest land-use achievement was saving Sterling Forest, which straddles New Jersey and New York, once slated for a city of 35,000 people above our drinking water supply reservoirs. It is now a 22,000-acre state park. To show how important his efforts were, the Visitor Center at Sterling Forest is named for Lautenberg even though it is in New York.

Nationally, Lautenberg will be remembered for saving the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, the Tongass National Forest, much of Utah, and the Rocky Mountain Ecosystem. When the second Bush Administration tried to eliminate the Toxic Release Inventory it was Senator Lautenberg who led the fight to get it restored - so that the public would be able to know what toxins are being released into our air and water.

New Jersey Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste with End of Moratorium

From a Press Release issued by our Trenton staff, along with Environment New Jersey, Delaware Riverkeeper, the New Jersey Environmental Federation, NJ Environmental Lobby, Clean Ocean Action, and NJ Food and Water Watch

On Jan. 17th a one-year moratorium on drilling for natural gas in New Jersey, using hydraulic fracturing (aka fracking), came to an end. The moratorium had gone into effect after Governor Christie conditionally vetoed an outright ban on fracking. Governor Christie also vetoed the Fracking Waste Ban Bill that was approved by the Legislature in August, 2012, leaving New Jersey vulnerable to dumped liquid chemical wastes, sludges and drill cuttings produced by fracking in Pennsylvania and upstate New York.

As the moratorium ends, environmental leaders are calling on the Legislature and the Governor to protect us from the dangers of fracking, starting with an override of the Governor's veto of the Fracking Waste Ban Bill, which passed in the Legislature with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Fracking waste contains hundreds of chemical contaminants, including dangerous organics and radioactive compounds. By an exemption in federal law, the gas industry is not required to disclose them, so it is impossible to know the full threat to the environment, or how to fully and safely treat the waste. Some of the toxic pollutants are released from the deep gas-bearing rock that is fractured; others are

present in the fracking solvent that is injected underground explosively.

During Hurricane Sandy more than 20% of New Jersey's wastewater treatment facilities failed, spewing raw and partially treated waste into New Jersey's waterways. Stormwater can also flood the intake pipes of treatment plants, releasing combined sewer overflows into waterways. The Fracking Waste Ban Bill was designed to prevent such contamination of our waterways. Indeed, a recent SUNY-Stony Brook study found that the biggest threat to drinking water supplies from the fracking process came from the disposal of its waste water.

In his conditional veto of the ban bill, Governor Christie directed the NJ-DEP to investigate and report on the adverse air and water impacts of fracking, but there is no deadline for the report. Environmental groups have criticized the DEP's fracking study for its lack of transparency. There have been no public hearings or public involvement in the investigation. No study scope was announced. The state study is being done while the US-EPA continues to examine fracking through a very public process, with results and recommendations expected in 2014.

Offshore Wind a Step Closer

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

On January 22nd, consultant group Boston Pacific proposed a funding mechanism to NJ's Board of Public Utilities - to help make offshore wind a reality in our State. The proposal would establish an OREC administrator, hired by the utilities, to direct funding from the state's four electric utilities to the offshore wind developers. The plan would prevent revenue generated by the sale of wind (and other) energy from being diverted to NJ's General Fund to close budget gaps.

In the last three years, Governor Christie has diverted \$680 million of clean energy funding, which has limited the money available for wind projects.

The Sierra Club supports this proposal and hopes it will move forward to formal rulemaking.

Christie has been stalling on offshore wind. The Port of Paulsboro (Gloucester Co.) was designated two years ago, by NJ's Offshore Wind Economic Development Act, for the manufacture and distribution of wind turbines, but it sits empty. The US Departments of Energy and Interior, and the wind companies, have all wanted to proceed with the three projects approved for the New Jersey coast, but Christie has yet to put the necessary rules in place. Many jobs are waiting to be filled for these projects.

NJ-DEP Petitions US-EPA to Get Around Clean Air Act

From a Press Release issued by our Trenton staff

Governor Christie is trying to roll back important air quality standards in New Jersey. On Jan. 10th the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) published final revisions to the State Implementation Plan (SIP), required under the federal Clean Air Act, including a request to re-designate areas that do not meet the federal standards for particulate matter (soot). The Sierra Club has requested that the EPA reject the re-designation and is prepared to litigate if the re-designation is accepted.

We think the Administration is playing games to meet the federal standard of 15 micrograms of particulates per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). The DEP is asking to move monitoring stations: eliminating those in the most polluted areas of the state such as the Ironbound section of Newark and Elizabeth. The DEP's rationale is a downturn in energy use due to the economic recession.

Many of the Governor's programs will actually increase air pollution in the long run, such as pulling out of RGGI (the Northeastern States' Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative) and cutting clean energy funding.

The EPA's latest proposed soot rule would increase protections even further: reducing the standard to $12 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$; New Jersey is nowhere close to meeting that standard.

New Jersey has been in a recession in recent years, resulting in decreased energy use. People drive less due to unemployment, businesses use less energy, and industries have not been running at full capacity, resulting in fewer air emissions. More people have been taking mass transit, with PATH having a record year (before Hurricane Sandy). High energy costs have also led to a reduction in energy-use across sectors. It has also been rainier than usual in the past two years, resulting in cleaner air readings. The DEP's request to the EPA uses data from only the past two years - to make our air appear on paper cleaner than it really is.

Considering the last two DECADES of data, from the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory, the air in New Jersey has actually been getting dirtier.

Major studies by the American Lung Association also show New Jersey to have some of the worst air quality in the nation: their 2012 State of the Air report

graded 16 counties in New Jersey. 11 counties received an F grade and two others received a D for high ozone days.

Another of the Christie Administration's claims is that the NJ Strategic Plan and the Energy Master Plan will enable us to meet pollution standards in the long term, but these programs are not permanent or enforceable. The State does not directly regulate particulates.

We think the Governor's policies will make air pollution worse. The Strategic Plan will allow for more sprawl and development, especially in the Highlands, Pinelands, and around Barnegat Bay. The Energy Master Plan slashed our clean, renewable energy goals and shifted the State back to reliance on fossil fuels. The Administration has not implemented a policy to look at the cumulative impacts of air pollution and develop health-based standards.

The Governor has supported the construction of three new natural gas plants for making electricity, that will receive larger ratepayer subsidies than would renewable energy sources. The increased air pollution from these fossil fuel plants will be especially prominent in the Ironbound section of Newark.

The Governor is also weakening compliance and enforcement programs, especially when it comes to air. Fines collected from all polluters are lower, but air pollution fines have seen the largest decrease, down over the past four years from \$13.8 million to \$2.1 million per year. The number of violation notices across all DEP programs dropped from 6900 in 2008 to 5500 in 2012. In addition, many fines are appealed, and end up being reduced from the amounts initially proposed by the DEP.

Mercury is one of the worst toxics emitted by dirty coal plants. Particulate matter comes mostly from coal and diesel emissions. According to the 2010 Toll from Coal report, based on modelling, 531 people are expected to die in New Jersey die each year from coal-related deaths, along with 445 hospitalizations and 987 heart attacks. Close to 30% of the children in Newark have asthma. Instead of improving air quality the DEP is closing the Ironbound monitoring station.

The DEP's proposed SIP revision can be viewed here: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/baqp/sip/siprevs.htm>.

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.

April through June is when our Political Committee considers endorsements for candidates for Governor, State Assembly, and local races. To participate, contact Rich Isaac or your Group Political Chair.

News from LuluLand

This fairly new feature consists of short reports, condensed from Jeff Tittel's press releases, on local land-use conflicts in New Jersey. "Lulu" denotes "locally unwanted land uses."

Highlands Protections Targeted by State Plan Changes

On Jan. 16th, the State Planning Commission voted to alter the existing State Plan mapping to allow more development in a sensitive region of the Highlands. Mt. Olive requested that a 413-acre tract important for water supply, and containing critical species habitat and historic resources, be re-designated from environmentally sensitive (Planning Area 5) to suburban (Planning Area 2). Portions of the site are in the Highlands protection zone.

This re-designation will allow for commercial development of the site, ignoring

Highlands Act regulations, perhaps to allow new offices for BASF, a multinational corporation. This means that, under the new Strategic State Plan, the tract becomes a priority growth investment area, including sewers. Portions of the site have been previously disturbed, but the re-designation opens the entire site to inappropriate growth, including the portion bordering Allamuchy State Park and containing the Morris Canal. The Sierra Club opposed this map change.

There are more fitting sites for this type of development, such as Dover and Morristown.

We Call for Closing the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant

Safety should have been at the forefront during the Jan. 7th meeting of the Oyster Creek Safety Advisory Panel in Toms River (Ocean Co). Since Hurricane Sandy last October, cracks have appeared in the Plant. During Sandy, the plant was in a state of alert due to flood waters coming close to the reactor. Water came to within four inches of the backup pumps which prevent a meltdown. Two-thirds of the emergency sirens were inoperable. But, despite these concerns, the plant was allowed to be refueled and go online. This plant needs to be closed down and not reopened.

The Sierra Club has long questioned the safety of Oyster Creek (located in the town of Forked River) and has urged the panel to recommend the plant be closed down. Extreme weather events could impact the facility's corroded pipes, that

leak radioactive tritium, or the corroding drywall liner of the reactor containment vessel. The wall is currently one-half as thick as when the plant opened in the late 1960s.

Luckily, the plant was being refueled and was not in full operation when Hurricane Sandy hit. The plant's cooling system uses flow of water from a local stream, and is therefore more vulnerable to storm damage than would be a closed-loop cooling tower system. (We have long argued for a cooling tower; a compromise was reached at the most recent relicensing hearings to permit operation without such a tower, but only for ten more years, after which the plant will be dismantled.) Had Governor Christie adopted former DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson's recommendation for a cooling tower, the plant would be a lot safer in storm surges.

NJ Sierra Club Joins Court Challenge of Tennessee Gas Pipeline

On January 25th, the NJ Sierra Club joined the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and the NJ Highlands Coalition in requesting an emergency stay of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's Northeast Upgrade Project. On that day the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) gave TGP approvals to begin construction, despite significant concerns raised by environmental groups, the US-EPA, and the NJ-DEP. Our litigation will be heard in the DC Appellate Court. A stay would stop construction while we are in court, thus reversing the FERC decision.

The pipeline traverses some of the most environmentally sensitive areas of New Jersey, passing through critical water supply watershed lands, crossing the Monksville Reservoir and the Delaware River.

The Northeast Upgrade Project would install 18 miles of new pipeline in Sussex, Passaic, and Bergen Counties, and upgrade existing compressor and metering stations. About fifty percent of the project is located on public lands - including High Point State Park, Ringwood State Park, Long Pond Ironworks State Park, and the Ramapo Reservation.

The TGP would transport gas produced by fracking in the Marcellus Shale of Pennsylvania. Fracking pollutes our air and water, creating wastewater with more than 700 chemicals, and releasing methane, a greenhouse gas twenty times more potent than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in our atmosphere. Expanding this pipeline would encourage more fracking.

Report from Trenton

Sneak Attack on Public Health

From a press release used by Chapter Director Jeff Tittel on Feb 4th

In late January the DEP had a private meeting for Licensed Site Remediation Professionals (LSRPs) on proposed changes to groundwater and vapor intrusion standards at toxic cleanup sites. The proposed changes would roll-back environmental protection, and would impose public health risks for people living and working on contaminated properties. The stakeholder process for the changes has been dominated by developers and their hired consultants. This would be the first major change in standards since the LSRP program was put in place early in 2012.

New Jersey has more than 20,000 contaminated sites, so strict groundwater and vapor standards are important. Of the proposed changes to groundwater standards, 27 of them weaken protections (increasing the concentrations of toxic chemicals that are allowed to remain in groundwater), and 8 changes increase protection (decrease the permitted resi-

dues of pollutants). These latter are mostly based on changes in federal standards.

For vapor and soils in non-residential locations, including parks and playgrounds, the proposed new standards would increase the permitted levels of 69 chemicals and decrease the level of 6. In residential areas they would weaken standards for 23 chemicals and strengthen standards for 18. The better protections can again be attributed to updated EPA standards.

In many parts of New Jersey the water table (depth to groundwater) is close enough to the surface to be in contact with the foundations of homes and other buildings. Thus chemicals in groundwater, especially as they vaporize, often get into buildings and are taken into our bodies when we breathe. For example the higher than normal occurrence of lung cancer in Jersey City has been attributed to chromium vapors by the NJ Department of Health.

Forward on Climate Rally in Washington DC: Feb. 17th

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

Eight busloads of New Jersey Sierra Club members, organized by Nicole Dallara, our Outreach Coordinator, joined an estimated 30,000 to 55,000 other environmentalists on a bitterly cold and windy Sunday to listen to Club Executive Director Michael Brune among many others, and to enjoy a boisterous two-hour march circling the White House. President Obama may have not been home (he was golfing in Florida), but we assume he was moved by the many press reports of our event.

Our primary purpose was to lobby against the Keystone XL pipeline, proposed to carry oil extracted from the tar-sands of Alberta (Canada) to Gulf-of-Mexico refineries and ports of shipment to Europe and Asia. Our argument was that the processing of this particular fossil fuel is more destructive to climate than the use of coal, as well as destructive to the landscape of Alberta. The decision is Obama's

to make; he postponed it through his campaign for re-election last Fall.

Other speakers at the Forward on Climate rally included Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, the organization that promotes policies to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide levels to 350 parts per million, estimated to be the "safe" level that will prevent the Global Warming that would melt the polar ice-caps and raise sea-level by 70 feet within centuries. There were also several representatives of Canada's "First Nation" residents of Alberta, apologizing for Canada's exploitation of its tar-sands, and describing the local environmental effects of tar-sand processing.

Here are two photographs taken at the Rally by Joe Leist. Others marching, in addition to Nicole, included our Chapter Chair Ken Johanson, Group Chairs Terry Stimpfel, Gina Carrola, David Yennior, Greg Auriemma, and Bonnie Tillery.



Correction: Three of the attendees at our November Appreciation Day event had inaccurate identifications in the captions under their photographs. Apologies to NJ Senator Linda Greenstein (D, 14th District), Assemblyman John F. McKeon (D, 27th District), Max Wolfinger and Anne Mandal.

Is Your Email Address Up-To-Date?

Does the Sierra Club have your current email address on file? This lets the Club send you online membership renewal notices and ballots in our annual elections. Don't know? You can check at <https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/ConsProfileUser>. To update your address, please send an email to membership.services@sierraclub.org with your name, address, and (if you know it) your membership number.

Book Review

(Continued from page 2)

to town council members, yet they continue to waste taxpayer monies on a method that is not working.

In these economically trying times, shouldn't we be implementing less-expensive methods of wildlife management? Isn't it suspicious that many wildlife con-

trol contracts are perpetually renewed, yet the problems continue? Albert Einstein once said, "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them." As stewards of Nature, it's time to think creatively and install new, progressive initiatives.

Check out the new interactive calendar on our web site! Click on "Find an Event"

There's a new way on our web site to find out about Sierra Club outings and meetings! Move your mouse to "Find an Event", then click on "Calendar of Events" 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.



Group News FROM AROUND THE STATE

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

Skylands Group: Sussex & northern Warren
South Highlands Group: Hunterdon & southern Warren
North Jersey Group: Bergen & Passaic
Gateway Group: Essex & Hudson
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 arranged in rough geographical sequence: North to South)

NOTICE: Our Hudson-Meadowlands (H-M) Group has been disbanded, and its "territory" distributed between our North Jersey and Gateway Groups. Club rules permit any three members of the former H-M Group, who wish to serve as officers, to petition for re-establishment: by May 1st, to Rich Isaac, Group Effectiveness Chair: risaacx@aol.com.

Skylands Group

(Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

Web-site: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/skylands/>

Or click from the NJ Chapter's web-site.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SkylandsNJSC>

E-mail: skylandsgroup@gmail.com

OFFICERS: (All are members of the Group Executive Committee.)

Chair:	Susan Williams	973-600-4960	skylandsgroup@gmail.com
Vice Chair:	Joyce White		joyce00201@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Jeri Doherty		bjd42@nac.net
Secretary:	Norene Haberski		habersn@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair:	Greg Gorman		chachabacon@yahoo.com
Political Chair:	Edgar Shepherd		shepherd_edgar@yahoo.com
Outings Chair:	Joyce White		joyce00201@yahoo.com
Publicity Chair:	Jeri Doherty		bjd42@nac.net
Membership Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Programs/Events Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Ex-Com			
Member-at-Large:	Laraine Reedy		lunarmusic@msn.com
Ex-Com			
Member-at-Large:	Rosemary Hoffmann		hoffmannrosemary@yahoo.com

ACTIVITIES: Presently working with other grassroots organizations to protect the pristine environment and natural beauty of this area, i.e. to preserve open space, maintain water quality, promote clean energy, and address local environmental issues. We oppose new natural gas pipelines, hydro-fracking and the Susquehanna-Roseland high-voltage power line, so as to preserve the natural resources and views in this environmentally sensitive region of New Jersey. We also sponsor hikes and other outings throughout the region.

GENERAL MEETINGS: SECOND TUESDAY of the month from 7-8:30 pm at the Unitarian Fellowship, One W. Nelson St, Newton.

Events are posted on our FaceBook website and the online events calendar on the Chapter website. We also advertise on various media sites throughout the Skylands region.

South Highlands Group

(Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties)

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

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com
Vice Chair:	Celeste Martin*	onecentral@mac.com
Conservation Chair:	Cinny MacGonagle*	cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Dwight Irving*	dwright@dilirving.com
Treasurer:	Open Position!	
Political Chair:	Caroline Galofaro*	cagciao@aol.com
Publicity Chair:	Susan Schirmer*	soupys@att.net
Membership Chair:	Jim Fleming	jlfleming18@comcast.net
Energy Coordinator:	Open Position!	
Outings Coordinator:	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com
Webmaster:	Dwight Irving*	dwright@dilirving.com
Ex-Com Member-at-Large:	Patricia Thompson*	carepat@aol.com

(*Group Executive Committee Member)

Now you have four ways to stay updated on our group and events/activities going on! Go to our Facebook page, visit our Sierra Club official web page at newjersey.sierraclub.org/southhighlands, look for us on Meetup.com at <http://www.meetup.com/SCNJ-SouthHighlands/>, or get on our email distribution list. Please contact shighlandssierra@gmail.com for information!

Currently we have a variety of fun outings and events planned for our members. Major topics are: conservation issues, such as preserving open space (a priority in our local area), protecting our environment, and clean energy/energy conservation. GET INVOLVED!

GENERAL MEETINGS AND GROUP EVENTS:

Apr 17 (Wed), 7pm: at the Hunterdon Medical Center's Auditorium, Wescott Lane, Flemington: Please check our on-line calendar at http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp for topic.

May 15 (Wed), 7pm: at the Hunterdon Medical Center's Auditorium, Wescott Lane, Flemington: Meet and greet at 7pm. **Movie: Call of Life:** Facing the Mass Extinction at 7:30 with follow-up discussion led by Rhea Landig. This topic pertains to how, all over the world, species are becoming extinct at an astonishing rate, from 1000 to 10,000 times faster than normal. The loss of biodiversity has become so severe that scientists are calling it a mass extinction event. This movie is the first feature documentary to investigate the growing threat to Earth's life support systems from this unprecedented loss of biodiversity.

Jun 19 (Wed), 7pm: at the Hunterdon Medical Center's Auditorium, Wescott Lane, Flemington: Please check our on-line calendar at http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp for topic.

Hunterdon County Monthly Social Dinners and a Movie: 2nd Thursdays of the month at 7pm. Films will be relevant to nature or the environment and will take place at The Ship Inn Brew Pub, 61 Bridge Street, Milford. Separate checks with no minimum or cover. Parking is available on street or across the road in the church parking lot. Contact: Susan Schirmer: soupys@att.net, or 908-797-6725 for more information. Seating limited to 25.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:

May 1 (Wed): 7:30 pm: at the office of Jonathan D. Wall, PsyD, at 27 Center Street, Clinton. Our quarterly Executive Committee meetings are casual and informative. This is great time to get to know more about the Club and see what you can do to become more involved. For those interested, after the meeting we will walk to Main Street for tea or coffee.

CURRENT ISSUES:

Tenneco Gas Pipe Line: The proposal to install a pipeline across the South Highlands was approved. Despite the good efforts of the Sierra Club and local efforts by Fight-the-Pipe, the final implementation plan is pending approval. This controversial interstate energy expansion project got the green light from state and federal regulatory officials to construct nearly 7 miles of pipeline through central New Jersey.

Delaware Water Gap: We support efforts to enhance park protections and funding by upgrading the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to a National Park and Preserve. We are working 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

(Bergen and Passaic Counties)

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*	ravit@envsci.rutgers.edu
Political Chair:	Jennifer Rothschild*	jennirot2@gmail.com
Air Quality Issues:	Laura Coll*	lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com
Energy Coordinator:	Ed Schwartz	ed@greenlivingsolutionsnj.com
Events Chair:	Mary Walsh*	blehlwalsh@hotmail.com
Membership Chair:	Buddy Jenssen*	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Outings Chair:	Ellen Blumenkrantz	eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

There's a new bi-weekly Chapter Alert Service. Sign up at www.scnj.convio.net.

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
Wetlands Issues: Justine Jurick ljurick@yahoo.com
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 AND GROUP EVENTS:

(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 at http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp.)

Apr 14 (Sun), 3pm at the Westwood Public Library, 49 Park Ave, Westwood: **Carbon Nation**. This is a documentary film about Climate Change solutions. Even if you doubt the severity of the impact of Climate Change or don't buy it at all, this is a compelling and relevant film that illustrates how solutions to Climate Change also address other social, economic, and national security issues. The program is being presented jointly with the North Jersey Public Policy Network and the Pascack Sustainability Group.

May 4-5 (Sat-Sun): Harriman State Park (NY): **Introduction to Backpacking**. We'll do a moderate hike in Harriman, set up camp, and hike out the next day. This is great event for those who have had some camping experience but wish to learn more. There is a fitness requirement for this event. For more information, please contact Buddy Jensen at buddy.jensen@gmail.com.

May 29 (Wed), 7pm at the Oradell Public Library, 375 Kinderkamack Ave., Oradell: **Utah's Red Rock Wilderness**. Jackie Feinberg of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance will speak on efforts to protect the Greater Canyonlands ecosystem and update us on the status of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.

June: Solar Workshop (Tentative). Ed Schwartz of Green Living Solutions and the North Jersey Group's Energy Coordinator will explain **what it takes to incorporate green energy into your home**. Date and location to be determined. Check our calendar for updates: http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: May 1 (Wed) at 7:30 pm. (Date and time tentative, 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. Please check the on-line calendar of events to confirm date and time, or contact John: jkashwick@optonline.net or Mary Ellen: meshaw.001@gmail.com for more information.

HALL MONITOR PROGRAM:

Our Town-Hall Monitor program is off to a good start. We have monitors in half a dozen communities. We are still looking for volunteers, particularly in Passaic County, 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: jkashwick@optonline.net or Mary Ellen: meshaw.001@gmail.com to find out more.

CONSERVATION ISSUES:

Join our conservation team and 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, to become involved, or alerted to something that is going on, please contact Mary Ellen: meshaw.001@gmail.com or Beth: ravit@envsci.rutgers.edu.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE:

Inspection of our section of the Appalachian Trail after Superstorm Sandy revealed that not a branch had come down! However, winter storms are another thing, and are likely not to yield as serendipitous a result, so we'll be looking for volunteers to help out this Spring. If you're interested in helping with clean-up work on the AT, please contact Marty Cohen (martincohen@verizon.net). 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: 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.
- Like us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/northjersiysierraclub>.

Gateway Group

Serving Hillside, Elizabeth, Essex County (except for Livingston, Millburn and Roseland), and all of Hudson County.

The Gateway Group was organized in 2011 to fill a much-needed void after the Essex County Group disbanded. In January, 2013, Gateway expanded to take on all of the great Hudson County communities, after the the Hudson-Meadowlands Group disbanded. The Gateway Group sorely needs representatives from Jersey City, Bayonne, Hoboken, and other Hudson County communities. Please contact any of the leaders below if you are interested in joining our campaigns to protect the environment.

Web site: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/Gateway/> We are also accessible from the NJ Chapter web site. Follow (and "Like") us on Facebook.

Officers:
Chair: David Yennior 973-844-1384 dyennior@msn.com
Vice-Chair: John Beadle 973-284-1594 jbeadle571@verizon.net
Secretary: *Open position!*

Treasurer: Anne Hirs 973-844-1121 annehirs@msn.com
Program Chair: John Beadle 973-284-1594 jbeadle571@verizon.net
 Barbara Conover 973-746-1693 bconifer022@gmail.com
Conservation Co-Chairs: ZaSah Khademi 201-618-8572 zasah@aol.com
 David Korfhage 973-932-0742 drkorfhage@gmail.com

Political Chair: *Open position!*
Membership Co-Chair: Steven Yafet 908-354-2537 syafet@gmail.com
 Barbara Conover see above

Newark Issues Chair: Bill Chappel 973-623-6490 chapel.bill@gmail.com
Water Issues Chair: Bill Chappel 973-623-6490 chapel.bill@gmail.com
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

ACTIVITIES: Please contact John Beadle or Barbara Conover, Gateway's Program Chairs, if you have a question about our programs listed below or any suggestions for a program in the future.

The Gateway Group invites YOU to join in the activism and asks your support as we strive to address the many issues facing our urban as well as suburban communities. Several vacant positions are listed above. For further information about upcoming activities, volunteer opportunities, or to discuss any concerns please contact me: dyennior@msn.com or call 973-844-1384.

EVENTS:

April 8 (Mon), 7-8:30 pm - at the Maplewood Public Library's Community Room, 51 Maple St, Maplewood 07040. **Dangers of Hydrofracking:** Terry Stimpfel, NJ Sierra Club Fracking Issues Chair, will lead a discussion on hydrofracking and fracking waste. Fracking is the violent technique used to get natural gas from shale. Is fracked gas clean domestic energy or a pollution menace? She'll discuss what it is, how it works, and why it's so controversial.

May 8 (Wed), 7pm - at Verona Boathouse, Porcello Ln, Verona. **Creating an Urban Wildlife Refuge:** Lois Ross from Friends of Clark's 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.

June 12 (Wed), 7-9pm - at St James Parish multipurpose room, 143 Madison St, Newark 07105. **Newark's Water Wars:** William Chappel, a member of the Newark Water Group will lead a discussion about their fight against Mayor Cory Booker's plans to create a Municipal Utilities Authority. 5,000 Newark Residents petitioned a referendum on the MUA. The Water Group fears the loss of transparency. The Mayor fought back in the courts. Ample on-site parking.

Loantaka Group

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

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

OFFICERS:

Group Co-Chairs: Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com
 and Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com
Treasurer: Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com
Secretary: Scott McCarthy hi_risescott@earthlink.net

Conservation Chair:
Morris County: Bill Martin 908-604-2505 WP_Martin@yahoo.com
Union County: *Open Position!*

Political Chair: *Open Position!*
Programs: Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com
Fundraising Chair: Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com

Outreach & Events Chair: *Open Position!*
Publicity Chair: Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442 johansons@comcast.net
Membership: Bill Martin 908-604-2505 WP_Martin@yahoo.com
Air Quality Coordinator: Bob Campbell 973-761-4461 bobc2023_sc@verizon.net
Webmaster: Paul Sanderson paulmsanderson@aol.com
At Large: Srabasti Dutta 631-902-9948 srbastidutta@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/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Apr 10: Highlands Council (state org.): Margaret Nordstrom will give a presentation on the NJ Highlands from the perspective of the NJ Highlands Council.

(Continued on page 8)

Members in commuting distance of Trenton are invited to volunteer time to help run our state office: Call Nicole Dallara.

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

May 8: **Rahway River Association:** Jeff Jotz, from the Rahway River Association, will discuss the Association's goals and achievements.

Jun 12: **Open:** Please visit our website for the most recent information regarding this program.

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

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

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

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:	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>		
ExCom At-large:	Bill Wowk	609-587-0502	bwowk1@gmail.com

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: Details of meetings and outings during the quarter will be appear on the Chapter events calendar at http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp

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:	<i>Open position!</i>		
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-VALLEYNEWS 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	gmoffatt@aol.com
Fund-raising Co-Chairs:	Lois Blake	732-863-5917	lqblake@optonline.net
	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. But Hurricane Sandy dumped tons to trash back into the watershed, so more cleanups are being scheduled. Our long-range 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.

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 other 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 meetings of the Jersey Shore Group will take place at 6 pm at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft Campus. We meet there to share our speakers with the NJ Friends of Clearwater, environmentally-concerned BCC college students, and other local organizations. A buffet will be available for the students and adults at 6pm. Contributions from non-students are encouraged to defray the costs. The programs start 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). Exit 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.

April 22 - Should we rebuild the Jersey Shore? After a bad storm, reporters used to ask the late conservationist Dery Bennett how Sea Bright and Monmouth Beach survived. Dery's response invariably was, "Who cares? They shouldn't be there in the first place." Following the devastating storm Sandy, critics again are asking why we keep building where we shouldn't be. Two answers are: "We need the ratables" and "We have flood insurance." Gov. Cuomo of NY is proposing buying out residents whose homes have been devastated, but pro-development Gov. Christie sounds less enthusiastic. Jeff Tittel, director of the N.J. Chapter of the Sierra Club and a long time critic of the state's permissive and dangerous zoning regulations, will explain how development interests are continuing to elevate profits over safety in rebuilding our coastal communities. While the rebuilding effort is being described as a local concern, much of the rebuilding involves federal tax dollars, as will the next rebuild after the next major storm. Jeff will explain how this is never-ending treadmill is a national economic and policy problem, since half the 310 million people in the U.S. now lives within 50 miles of a coastline.

May 27 - The problems with New Jersey's growing deer population, likened to rats with antlers, have triggered a feisty debate among conservationists on how to deal with the problem. The most visible solution is deer hunting, which many conservationists oppose for a variety of reasons. Our two speakers who will discuss the viability of deer hunting are Eric Stiles, President and CEO of the NJ Audubon, an ardent conservationist who favors hunting; and Sue Russell, a wildlife policy specialist for the Animal Protection League of NJ, who opposes hunting. Stiles believes hunting primarily is a cultural issue that becomes an environmental issue when deer, a keystone species, affect the health of the state's forests. The Animal Protection League advocates legislation that preserves wildlife and their habitat, and nurtures a peaceful and non-violent approach to wildlife management objectives, including deer. After hearing both speakers, you decide.

June 24 - We haven't nailed down our speaker yet, but we are chasing after two exciting but elusive candidates. One is a photographer and mountain climber whose presentation should remind some of us arm-chair conservationists that Sierra's heritage is grounded in enjoying the great outdoors. The other is a photographer who specializes in photographing the many easier-to-access wild places that still exist in New Jersey (and as all Sierra members know, there still are many great wild natural locations in New Jersey, despite the impression you get from the Turnpike). The eventual speaker will be listed in the on-line Sierra calendar of events and in Jersey Shore e-bulletins. Stay tuned.

Ocean County Group

WEBSITE: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean

OFFICERS:

Chair:	A. Gregory Auricemma, 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 Auricemma 732-451-9220 sierraclubOC@aol.com
Political Chair: Nancy Brown 732-892-6089 nancybrown624@comcast.net
Publicity Chair: *Open Position*
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 Sabastiano patri3210@gmail.com
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: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Smart Growth Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Programs Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Outings Chair: *Open position!* 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.

Apr 10: To be announced. Please check our website for updates

May 8: Jackie Feinberg, National Grassroots Organizer for Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance will speak about the campaign for a new national monument surrounding Canyonlands National Park in southeastern Utah.

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

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: *Open Position!*
Pol. Chair, Calendars: Dick Colby 609-965-4453 dick.colby@stockton.edu
Membership Chair: *Open Position!*
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:

Apr 3, May 1 and June 5 (first Wednesdays), 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. 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, 609-432-3280.

Apr 9, May 14 and June 11, 7pm: Monthly meetings of 350.org South Jersey, a group that educates to oppose Climate Change. (Google <350.org South Jersey>.) Unitarian Universalist Church, 75 S Pomona Road, Galloway Twp, Atlantic Co.

Apr 17 and June 19 (third Wednesdays), 7pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss river management strategies. Open to the public. WFNC*. Contact Julie Akers, 856-697-6114.

Apr 21 (Sunday), 10-4: Earth Day at the Atlantic County Utilities Authority's Haneman Environmental Park, 6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Twp. Sierra Club officers will be in the big tent at the GEHWA exhibit.

May 14 (second Wednesday), 7pm: 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@cumaucriver.org. Website: www.cumaucriver.org.

May 28 (Tuesday) Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: Membership outdoor meeting, open to the public. Annual Hike for Frogs. Sahara Sands, Piney Hollow Road, Williamstown. Contact Lynn Maun, 856-453-0416 or email lynnkmaun@comcast.net

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
Social Chair: Joe Prebish jmp0731@verizon.net
Vice Social Chair: Jeff Sovelove Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com
Programs: *Position Open.* Contact us! We need you!
Publicity: Terry Kulmane terrykayhiker@yahoo.com
Membership: *Position Open.* Contact us! We need you!
Nominations: Nancy Sullivan nancysullivan@comcast.net

(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)

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. Included below are singles outings led by Sovelove (Apr. 6, May 4 & June 8) and Oleksiak (Apr. 13, May 11 & June 8). Please join the listserv to receive notification of all of our outings (see above for instructions on how to subscribe).

Gay and Lesbian Section

(At its January, 2013, meeting, the Chapter Executive Committee created this new, chapter-wide special interest Section which will offer activities and events including hikes, clean ups, social gatherings, dinner get-togethers, and other functions intended for those members of the GLBT Community.)

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.

The Section is currently taking shape. Our inaugural event will be a hike in South Mountain Reservation in Millburn/West Orange on Saturday, April 27. We will meet at the Millburn Train Station at 10am. Please check the on-line calendar for more information and to register. We are currently recruiting members to serve in various roles for this Section. To get involved in the Section, please contact John Kashwick at jkashwick@optonline.net.

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 free of charge, in which they can list items they are searching for or want to buy.

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

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

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

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

Sierra Student Coalition

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

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

Inner City Outings Section

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

OFFICERS:

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

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

Join us for our annual ICO training session and hike on Saturday, April 20. We'll meet at a venue in north Jersey for a training lecture and discussion from 10am - 1pm, followed by an optional 2-3 hour hike in Harriman State Park. This is a great way to meet other ICO volunteers, and to learn how NJ ICO operates. Please register now by contacting Marty Cohen (contact info above), and you will receive further details as the training session date approaches.

It's lonely at the top. The NJ ICO Chair needs company, specifically a few volunteers willing to meet about four times a year in the Bergen County area to discuss and implement various ICO promotional activities. (You don't even have to go on a hike.)



Outings

Learn more about your environment...

take a Sierra Club educational hike!

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

Central Jersey: Leona Fluck 609-259-3734 (H)
leona@pineypaddlers.com

Gateway: David Ogens 973-226-0748 (H)
64 Elm Rd, Caldwell 07003

Hudson-Meadowlands: Vacant

South Highlands: Susan Schirmer 908-996-7722 (H)

Jersey Shore: Mike Verange 908-732-8364 (H)
1497 W Front St, Lincroft, NJ 07738

Loantaka: Joyce White 908-272-4478 (H)
joyce00201@yahoo.com

North Jersey: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417
eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Skylands: Pat Mangino, Pmangino@aol.com

Raritan Valley: Vacant

South Jersey: Tom Boghosian 609-625-0878 (H)
4794 Andorea Drive, Mays Landing, 08330
boghosian1@verizon.net

West Jersey: Vacant

River Touring: Fred Tocce 908-453-2205 (H)
Rd 1 Box 277, Washington, NJ 07882

Inner City Outings: Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H)
NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd, Warren, 07059

Chapter Outings: Ellen Blumenkrantz 201-784-8417
eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Outing Leaders: Please send July-September 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 May 4. 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 April-June trip write-ups by May 8.

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

Sierra Club outings are arranged by volunteer leaders who are in charge of the trip and responsible for the safety, welfare and enjoyment of all participants. Leaders determine qualifications to participate, adequacy of equipment, routes to be followed, and special precautions

to be taken. Please arrive adequately prepared and equipped. If you have any allergies, please remember to bring your medication. The leader has the final word in the conduct of the trip. Your cooperation will help assure a safe and pleasant outing.

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

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

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

If you are a Sierra Club member interested in becoming an Outing Leader or have suggestions for new outings, contact your Group Outings Chair or the Chapter Outings Chair for assistance and further information. The Sierra Club 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
(SNG) - Especially for Singles	Outings Comm.

APRIL

Apr 1 (Mon): Hike at Estell Manor Park (Atlantic Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. This is the Atlantic County Park System's most popular park and covers about 1,700 acres. After the Native Americans, the land was owned by the Estell family and was the site of a glassworks in the 1800's, then the Bethlehem Loading Co. - a naval munitions plant during World War I. The NJ DEP has recently preserved more than 5,000 acres of adjacent land, linking three DEP WMA's. Bring lunch and beverage. Leashed dogs welcome. Meet at the Warren E. Fox Nature Center. Rain cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Apr 3 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. The river section we paddle will depend on weather conditions. Contact leaders to confirm trip. Experienced Pines paddlers only. Rentals are not available. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Apr 5 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 10am. The section we paddle will depend on weather conditions. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Apr 6 (Sat): Six Mile Run, Blackwell's Mills Hike (Somerset Co). 9:30 am. Approximately 8 miles, mostly flat terrain with stream crossings. Meet at the Old Park Headquarters on Canal Road, opposite and immediately before the Blackwell's Mills Causeway in Franklin Township, Somerset County, 598 Canal Road, Somerset 08873. Bring lunch and water. There are no restrooms and rain cancels the trip. Leaders: Paul Foged, hikerpaul@verizon.net - Cell: 732-996-1406 and Beth Compagnucci, bethcompagnucci@gmail.com - Cell: 609-533-1335. (W)

April 6 (Sat): Pyramid Mountain (Morris Co). 10am. This will be a 4-5 mile loop hike past Tripod Rock using a variety of trails. Hiking boots are a MUST! There is quite a bit of elevation change and significant climbing. See the Morris County Parks web site: <http://www.morriscountyparks.net/aspparks/pyrmtmain.asp> for directions and info. Bring lots of water and a light snack. Meet in the Pyramid Mountain Visitor's Center parking lot. Inclement weather cancels. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. TC Map 125. (SNG)

Apr 7 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Abbott Marshlands (Mercer Co). 11am. Our trip with the tide begins on the Crosswicks Creek in Bordentown. We paddle to Watson Woods in Roebbling Park where we have lunch. Walk around Spring Lake and see the Mute Swans before returning to Bordentown. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Apr 13 (Sat): Hike at Manasquan Reservoir (Monmouth Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. The Park is now the most visited site in the Monmouth County Park System. There is a Visitor Center and an Environmental Center. This is a nice family hike on the scenic Perimeter Trail. Meet at 311 Windler Road, Howell 07731. Directions: <http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com/page.aspx?ID=2531>. Bring lunch and water. Rain cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Apr 13 (Sat): Jennings Hollow Hike in The Wanaque WMA (Passaic County) 10am. <http://www.nynjtc.org/park/wanaque-wildlife-management-area>. Difficulty: Strenuous; pathway conditions: mostly dirt with some rocks. The hike will cover 7 miles in 4 hours in hilly terrain. Featuring exciting brook crossings and Big Beach Mountain. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. 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. http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp (SNG)

Apr 14 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am. Our trip is 10 miles from Dover Forge to Dudley Park. Expect downfalls and portages; experienced Pines paddlers only. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Apr 20 (Sat): Earth Day Cleanup at Mercer County Park (Mercer Co). 10am-Noon. Join us at Mercer County Park and participate in Sierra Club's Water Sentinels Earth Day Cleanup to protect the Delaware River Watershed. Bring your children - we'll learn about water quality as Jade Greene, Watershed Ambassador, does a stream assessment and identifies the macroinvertebrates. We'll pick up litter and trash along the lake, macadam and woods trails. Meet at the upper Boat Marina parking lot; accessible from Hughes Drive or Edinburg Road. Trash bags will be provided. Rain or shine!! H2O Sierra Club t-shirts for all participants! Bring lunch and beverage. Please contact leader to register. Co-Leaders: Joanne Pannone jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com, and Leona F. Leona@pineypaddlers.com, or 609-259-3734. (C)

Apr 20 (Sat): Social Hike in the Delaware Water Gap (Warren Co). 10am. We will hike about 4 miles at a moderate pace on the Kittatinny Ridge. Hiking boots are required and participants should be in good condition. Meet 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)

Apr 21 (Sun): Earth Day D&R Canal Canoe/Kayak Cleanup (Mercer Co). 9am. The D&R Canal section from Cherry Tree Lane to Kingston always needs our support and attention. In addition to being an important water resource for residents of NJ, the D&R Canal State Park is a wonderful recreational corridor. This water cleanup is part of the Sierra Club Water Sentinels Program to protect the Delaware River Watershed. H2O Sierra Club t-shirts for all participants! Bring lunch and beverage. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm meeting location. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Apr 26 (Fri): Arbor Day Hike at Perrineville Lake Park (Monmouth Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. Leashed dogs are welcome! Beautiful woodlands, natural fields and a picturesque lake meet here in the heart of quiet Millstone. Bring snack and beverage. Meet at 23 Agress Rd, Millstone, parking lot. Check website www.monmouthcountyparks.com/page.aspx?ID=2550 Option, late lunch at Albivi Restaurant. Rain cancels. Leaders: Leona and George F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Apr 27 (Sat): Blauvelt Parks: Piermont-South Nyack (Rockland Co, NY). 10:15 am. Strenuous 10 miles. Visit Rockland Cemetery, an old Nike base and an abandoned National Guard rifle range. 2 quarts water. Hiking boots. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural). LP out. Return via rail trail. Leader John P. Jurasek: 845-519-4247 (no calls past 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

Apr 27 (Sat): Bicycle Ride at Duke Farms (Somerset Co). 10am. Leisurely pace; about 12 miles on paved and gravel trails 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 Orientation Center. We'll have lunch at the Farm Barn Cafe. Directions: www.dukefarms.org/ Rain cancels. Bicycle helmets are required. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Apr 28 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River and Tour Lambertville's 32nd Annual Shad Festival (Hunterdon Co). 9:30 am. We'll paddle 8 miles on the Delaware River - takeout in Lambertville, walk around town, check out the arts & crafts, etc. We'll have lunch at the Food Court - everything from taco salads to fried Calamari! Paddling helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. Trip is open to current Sierra Club members only. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

MAY

May 1 (Wed): Celebrate May Day with a Canoe/Kayak Trip on the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 10am. We'll paddle 7 miles from Weymouth Furnace to Lake Lenape. Meet at the Harley Dawn Diner - arrive early for breakfast. Bring lunch and beverage. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

May 4 (Sat): Baldpate Mountain Hike (Mercer Co). 9:30 am. 7-8 miles, moderate pace. This is a loop hike. The hike site is located about two miles from Washington Crossing State Park in NJ and is the highest point in Mercer County. Take Rte 29 north to the light at the entrance to Washington Crossing State Park. Continue on Rte 29 and turn right onto Fiddler's Creek Road. The main entrance to the park is located on the left. Bring lunch and water. There are no restrooms and rain cancels the trip. Leaders: Paul Foged: hikerpaul@verizon.net - Cell: 732-996-1406 and Beth Compagnucci: 609-533-1335, bethcompagnucci@gmail.com. (W)

May 4 (Sat): Cooper River Park - Canoe/Kayak Cleanup (Camden Co). 10am. Join the NJ Sierra Club Water Sentinels to protect the Delaware River Watershed. Participate with Sierra, Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN), Food & Water Watch (FWW) and UrbanPromise on a water and land cleanup in Cooper River Park. Learn about hydraulic fracturing (or fracking) and what you can do to support a ban on fracking. Participants in the river cleanup must have their own boats - rentals are not available. Life vests must be worn. Bring lunch and water. Contact leaders to register and for meeting location: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

May 4 (Sat): Turtleback Rock, South Mountain Reservation (Essex Co). 10am. We will start at Turtleback Rock trailhead. See the Essex County Parks Commission web site: <http://www.essex-countynj.org/p/index.php?section=parks/sites/so> for directions. Bring lots of water, and wear hiking boots. We will take the orange trail down to Hemlock Falls and also see the famous Turtleback Rock. Heavy/steady rain cancels. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. (SNG)

May 5 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 9am. Viva the Fifth of May! Our annual paddle is 10 miles from Hawkin Bridge to Beaver Branch. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Mick's Canoe and Kayak Rental: 800-281-1380 or www.mickscanorental.com/ Meet at Hawkin Bridge. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

May 9 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak the N. Branch Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 9am. Enjoy a 14-mile spring paddle on the N. Branch Rancocas Water Trail from BCCC to Mount Holly. Learn about the "pony truss bridge"! Meet at the Vincentown Diner - arrive early for breakfast. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

May 11 (Sat): Hike the Columbia Trail - The Search for Gnome Homes (Hunterdon Co). 10am. 6 miles, easy pace. New Jersey Monthly magazine has called Ken Lockwood Gorge one of the "Ten Most Beautiful Places in New Jersey." A visit in May is a must! With its steep slopes, huge boulders, impressive rapids and northern hemlocks, Ken Lockwood has long been a famous and much-loved site to birders and outdoor enthusiasts. Bring lunch, snacks and beverage. Meet at the Commons Park, 79 Main St, High Bridge. Rain cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

May 11 (Sat): The Manors Hike in Ringwood State Park (Passaic Co). 10am. <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/park-sandforests/parks/ringwood.html> Difficulty: moderate to strenuous; 7 miles in 4 hours. Featuring views of Ringwood and Skylands Manors, and Shepard Lake. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. 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. http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp (SNG)

May 12 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Tidal Raritan River (Middlesex Co). 9am. Our trip is about 16 miles from New Brunswick to Perth Amboy. This trip is for experienced paddlers; expect power boat traffic and boat wakes. Kayaks must be 12ft. or over; bring spray skirts. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Trip is open to current Sierra Club members only. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

May 16 (Thur): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River with Fortunato (Burlington Co). 10am. This is Fort's favorite Pines stream - join us for a lovely spring trip. Meet at Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego Rd. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Rental: 800-281-1380 or www.mickscanorental.com/. Contact leaders to confirm participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

May 18 (Sat): Popolopen Gorge & Fort Montgomery (Rockland Co, NY). 10:15 am Strenuous 7 miles. Hike from Bear Mtn. Inn through the gorge and up the Torne, past Ft. Montgomery and Bear Mtn. Zoo. The climb on the Torne is steep and requires agility. Water, lunch, hiking boots required. Steady rain or threat of thunder showers cancels. Meet at Bear Mtn. Inn. Parking at the Inn is \$8. Leader: John P. Jurasek: 845-519-4247 (no calls past 10pm), or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

May 18 (Sat): Social Hike in Jenny Jump State Forest (Warren Co). 10am. 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 at the parking lot left of the park office. Take I-80 West to Exit 12 (Rte 521 - Hope). From the off-ramp go left on Rte 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 Fair 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: 212-518-1653, e-mail joyce00201@yahoo.com (SK)

May 18 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am. Double Trouble State Park was established in 1964 to help protect the Cedar Creek watershed and now features over 8,000 acres of Pine Barrens habitats. Our trip is 7 miles from Ore Pond to Dudley Park. Meet at Double Trouble Park Headquarters. Boats can be rented from Cedar Creek Campgrounds: www.cedarcreeknj.com/ or 732-269-1413. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting time: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

May 21 (Tues): Canoe/Kayak the Abbott Marshlands (Burlington/Mercer Co). 10am. Our trip with the tide begins on the Crosswicks Creek in Bordentown. We paddle to Watson Woods in Roebbling Park where we have lunch. Option: walk around Spring Lake and see the Mute Swans before returning to Bordentown. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

May 25 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak with your Pooch on the Wading River (Burlington Co). 9am. Fortunato invites his "cousins" and dog lovers as we paddle 10 miles from Hawkin Bridge to Beaver Branch. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental: 800-281-1380 or www.mickscanorental.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

May 27 (Mon): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Mercer/Hunterdon Cos). 10am. We'll paddle 15 miles from Kingwood Access to Lambertville. Lunch break at the Famous River Hot Dog Man's Restaurant; bring or buy lunch. Paddling helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Rentals are not available. Trip is open to current Sierra Club members only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

JUNE

Jun 1 (Sat): Sourland Mountain Preserve Hike (Somerset Co). 9:30 am. 5 miles at a moderate pace. Hike in the shade on Ridge Trail - rocky terrain in some areas. Meet in the parking area off of East Mountain Rd. Bring lunch/snack and water. There are no restrooms and rain cancels the trip. Leaders: Paul Foged: hikerpaul@verizon.net - Cell: 732-996-1406 and Beth Compagnucci: 609-533-1335, bethcompagnucci@gmail.com. (W)

Jun 2 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 9am. Enjoy a 10-mile paddle on the "egg" from Penny Pot to Weymouth Furnace. Meet at the Harley Dawn Diner - arrive early for breakfast. Rentals are available from Palace Restaurant and Outfitters: 609-625-8552 or www.thepalaceoutfitters.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jun 6 (Thur): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am. We'll see carnivorous pitcher plants and bladderworts during our 8-mile trip from Lake Oswego to Harrisville Lake. Meet at Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego Rd. Bring lunch and water. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Rental: 800-281-1380 or www.mickscanorental.com/. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jun 8 (Sat): Island Pond Hike, Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. <http://nysparks.com/parks/145/details.aspx> Featuring views on exposed rock areas and views of Island Pond. Difficulty: moderate to strenuous; distance: 7 miles in 5 hours. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. Swim suits are optional. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: The_Hikist@mac.com. Registration required: 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. http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp (SNG)

June 8 (Sat): Sterling Forest Bare Rock Vista (Orange Co, NY). 10am. Meet at the Visitors' Center. We'll climb to the Sterling Forest Fire Tower then to the Bare Rock Vista for lunch. After lunch, we'll return to the Visitor's Center back down the Bare Rock Trail. See the Sterling Forest web site for information and directions: <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/74/details.aspx>. Inclement weather cancels. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. TC map 100. (SNG)

Jun 9 (Sun): Canoeing/Kayaking Skills Refresher on Lake Oswego (Burlington Co). 9am. New and beginning paddlers are welcome. Knowledgeable paddlers from the Sierra Club will share information about equipment, safety practices, self-rescue, paddling techniques and efficiencies. We'll practice on the lake during the day. Boats can be rented from Mick's Canoe and Kayak Rental: 800-281-1380 or www.mickscanorental.com/. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Contact leaders to confirm your participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jun 14 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Hunterdon/Mercer Cos). 9:30 am. Celebrate Flag Day! This is a 15-mile paddle from Frenchtown to Lambertville. Helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Trip is open to current Sierra Club members only: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jun 16 (Sun): Southern Allaire State Park (Monmouth Co; Special Interest: Geology). 9am. 4.5 mile moderate hike in the northern fringes of the Pine Barrens. Bring drink and snack. Hiking shoes preferred. Meet at the large dirt parking lot on the right, off Hospital Rd. in Wall Township. Take GPS 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)

Jun 16 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek on Father's Day (Ocean Co). 9am. Sarah Summerville, director of the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, will join us on this trip and teach us about NJ's beloved beavers as we paddle 7 miles from Ore Pond to Dudley Park. Meet at Double Trouble Park Headquarters. Boats can be rented from Cedar Creek Campgrounds: www.cedarcreeknj.com/ or 732-269-1413. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

(continued on page 12)



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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.

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

Jun 19 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Crosswicks Creek Water Trail (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 10am. This is a 14-mile shuttleless trip with the tide from Bordentown to Anchor Thread Park and back to Bordentown. Few stops. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet at Bordentown Beach, Park St. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

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

Jun 22 (Sat): Social Hike in Hacklebarney State Park (Morris Co). 10am. 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 at the parking lot of Hacklebarney State Park. Take I-78 to Exit 29 (I-287 North). Then take Exit 22B from I-287 (Rte 202/206 North). Follow Rte 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 Road. Drive about 2 miles & make right onto Hacklebarney Road. 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)

Jun 23 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Hunterdon Co). 10am. We're paddling 8 miles from Frenchtown to Bulls Island; lunch break at the Famous River Hot Dog Man's Restaurant; bring or buy lunch. Helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Trip is open to current Sierra Club members only: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

FUTURE OUTINGS

Jul 4 (Thu): 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 waterfowl. 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, making first right onto Windeller Rd. The main entrance is 1.5 miles on your left. Meet in the parking area at the far left toward the back. Bad weather, including high heat index cancels. Confirmation/questions please call or text Leader: Mike Verange: 908-902-0718 or mjverange@aol.com (JS)

Jul 6 (Sat): Social Hike in Kittaninny State Park (Warren 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 at the parking lot approx. 1 mile in on right off of Rte 206 North on Goodale Rd. Take I-80 to Exit 27 (Rte 206 North). Follow Rte 206 North for about 9 miles to Goodale Rd (across from Bicycle Repair Shop) and proceed about 1 mile to first parking lot on right. Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce White: 212-518-1653 or joyce00201@yahoo.com (SK)

Sept 8-13 and/or Sept 15-20 (Sun - Fri): September in Western Maine! Location: Bald Mountain Camps, Oquossoc ME. This is an historic sporting camp located on pristine Mooselookmeguntic Lake. Many activity options, excellent food and a comfortable warm environment provide relaxation and fun. Internet access is available. Outing includes hiking the AT, and guided kayaking or canoeing pristine lakes and rivers with our host and Registered Maine Guide, Steve Philbrick. Log cabins with fireplace, wood, bath, linens, porch, breakfasts and dinners in the lodge dining room, sack lunches for the trail. \$1273 per person. For more information contact leader: Judy Norcross: 609-288-6737, jsnorcross@aol.com (W)

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

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

Apr 13 at Library of the Chathams, Chatham (Morris Co): 214 Main St.
May 11 and June 8 at New Brunswick Public Library, 60 Livingston Av.

The Jersey.....

SIERRAN

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Editorial Board: George and Joan Denzer, Rich Isaac, Ken Johanson, Laura Lynch, Paul Sanderson, Sunil Somalwar, Joe Testa, Bonnie Tillery and Jeff Tittel.

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