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The Jersey..... SIERRAN

Vol. 43, No. 1 Roughly 15,000 Members in New Jersey January-March 2014

The Eagles Are Coming— Hopefully!

By Mary Ellen Shaw, Vice-Chair of our North Jersey Group

Just over three years ago, in Ridgefield Park (Bergen Co), within sight and sound of the NJ Turnpike and Rte 46, an amazing thing happened. On a long-abandoned piece of property with a tiny copse of cottonwood trees in the southern corner, alongside a creek and near a river that were both so much cleaner that fish had returned in good numbers, so did the fish-eaters! A local birder discovered a bald eagles' nest. Eaglets fledged that year, and the next year and this year as well. New Jersey is now home to one of the most urbanized nesting pairs in the US, known to locals as Alice and Al.



Photo credit: M. C. Malzone

Alice and Al have become mascots. The Bergen County Audubon Society and others have been teaching local school children about the extraordinary comeback of the bald eagles. Bald Eagles are a keystone species for appreciating the success of the Endangered Species Act and of the Clean Air and Water Acts passed decades ago. But now the bad news! Although bald eagles are listed as endangered in NJ and threatened in the US, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is considering issuing a takings permit due to a required environmental clean-up and remediation of the site - necessitated by the proposed Pitcairn SkyMark LLC real estate development project - for two hotels, a conference center, and residential housing. Soil tests indicate the presence of heavy metals and PCBs. The remediation requires capping, which means that all the vegetation, including the tree bearing the eagles nest, would be cleared. (The pollutants in the soil have had no effect on the eagles as they are mostly eaters of fish and waterfowl.)

We should require that the DEP remediate the site in a manner that preserves the current nest and its surrounding trees. The federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act should be invoked. Eagles are extremely loyal to their nest sites, refurbishing annually. Some nests are estimated to weigh more than a ton. Alice and Al have adapted well to urban living, and will likely tolerate some intrusion at a distance, if their current nest can be maintained in place, with a barrier installed to limit human impact. Their proximity to SkyMark could prove a bonus to all if it is handled gracefully. Capping should not be necessary. The SkyMark site is 33 acres - the bald eagles need 660 feet around their nest - less than one acre. Is it too much to ask?

To follow reports on this issue, google SkyMark eagles.

Appreciation Day: Annual Chapter Awards Presented

On Nov 17th, Club members gathered with some of New Jersey's heroes of environmental politics - to informally discuss a multitude of issues, honor those presented with awards, eat and drink to our hearts' content, listen and dance to folk music, and wander the footpaths in and around the Pretty Brook Farmhouse on the grounds of the Princeton Day School.

Our awardees this year, introduced by Chapter Director Jeff Tittel, were Congressman Frank Pallone (D, 6th District), State Assemblyman Reed Gusciora (D, 15th District), and Joe Testa, Secretary of our Chapter ExCom as well as Singles Section Chair and Chair of our Information Technology Committee.

Additional talks were given by Congressman Rush Holt (D, 12th District) and State Senator Linda Greenstein (D, 14th District), who won our awards in previous years.

A special event was the silent auction of five stained glass windows donated by artist Ken Johnston, a generous benefactor whose obituary is on p. 2 of this issue.

Joan and George Denzer organized the food and drink, as they have for 14 years, helped by Kate Millsaps from our Trenton office, and two lively Princeton College students. Our musicians call themselves "Partners in Rhythm".

Here (and lower left on pg.2) are some photographs, taken by Wynn Johanson and Paul Sanderson:



Congressman Pallone with Ken Johanson and Jeff Tittel



Congressman Holt with Joe Testa, Anne Mandal, Laura Stone, Greg Auriemma, and Margaret-Mary Piccolo

Report from Trenton

Is NJ Smarter Than the (Next) Storm?

From press releases issued by Chapter Director Jeff Tittel, remembering Hurricane Sandy, one year later - edited by Joe Testa

Superstorm Sandy may have seemed psychopathic - making a left turn to combine with a nor'easter, and blasting the Jersey Shore right at high tide - but that doesn't mean it has to be smarter than our response. We'd be sticking our heads in beach-sand if we think that, if we restore everything to its status on October 26, 2012, we'll have a different result when the next superstorm blows in.

One year after the storm, New Jersey has not taken action to address climate change, adapt to future sea level rise, incorporate modern energy efficiency and green building codes, establish adequate funding for buyouts, restore natural systems, or implement policies to better protect families and infrastructure from future storms. The DEP's coastal regulations do not reflect the environmentally sensitive features on the ground, or the new FEMA flood maps; they still allow for overdevelopment in high hazard areas. The Governor's administration has waived permitting for infrastructure rebuilding instead of requiring that replacement buildings be elevated, hardened, and protected by stronger shorelines.

Then there's RGGI: The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is an agreement signed by the ten northeast states to cut carbon emissions from electric power plants. A report by the National Association of Regulatory Utilities found that New Jersey's (brief) participation in RGGI (under previous Governor Corzine) resulted in \$151 million in economic benefits and 1,772 new jobs in our state. NJ reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 10%. Then Governor Christie withdrew from the compact - with serious consequences. Prices of Solar Renewable Energy Credits have crashed. We went from first in the nation in installed solar to third and are heading to fourth. We were eighth in the nation in energy efficiency and are now sixteenth.

The Governor has diverted almost \$900 million from clean energy funds, and his revised Energy Master Plan reduces our renewable energy goals from 30% to 22.5% in favor of more fossil fuels.

Sandy was an alarm clock that is still ringing - nobody has turned it off.

We need our Clean Energy Funds to be constitutionally dedicated to environmental protection, not raided by the Governor to balance the state budget. We need legislation establishing a funding mechanism for offshore wind projects. The Legislature must require state agencies to actually implement the Global Warming Response Act.

We need programs and realistic maps to deal with sea level rise: elevating, hardening or moving vital infrastructure to help protect it, and fixing related problems like combined sewer overflows.

The FEMA maps being used for rebuilding do not contain the latest flood information from Hurricane Sandy, and do not incorporate estimates of sea level rise or storm surges. Rushing to rebuild before the science and planning is in place puts

people, infrastructure, and investments at risk.

New Jersey has not updated its building codes in the wake of Sandy. They lack green building standards, and Energy Star tier three New Jersey Climate Choice Standards. The \$1.4 billion in federal funding that New Jersey recently received from HUD, to continue rebuilding efforts, requires use of the new resiliency performance standards. If we don't use them, we jeopardize that funding.

On energy, HUD calls not just for hardening the grid, but making it more resilient, including distributive generation, microgrid, combined heat and power, smart grid, renewable energy and energy efficiency. HUD also calls for backup power for communications equipment such as cell towers. We support these initiatives.

More coordination is needed between municipalities and government agencies on rebuilding shared infrastructure. This is an opportune time for municipalities to consolidate services and infrastructure such as sewerage, and to plan regionally.

More planning for restoring natural systems and adding dunes along our coast should be undertaken. There has been no comprehensive plan for buyouts in our coastal areas and no new funding for buyouts.

Two critical bills would better protect our coast. A3921 would close major loopholes in the Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA) by redefining developments that need permits. A Coastal Commission as proposed in A3920 would be the best way to implement many of the policies needed to rebuild the coast better and stronger.

Fortunately, there are some hopeful prospects. A new law signed by the Governor will exempt structures which, if elevated to meet new FEMA base flood elevations, would violate local height restrictions. The law would also save property owners 50% on their flood insurance.

We have been lucky in 2013, storm-wise. Who's betting on 2014? It's time to turn off the alarm clock!

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Sierra Club Ballot: Central Jersey Group

Sierra Club members in the Central Jersey Group (Mercer County and surrounding communities) are invited to vote for members of their Group Executive Committee (ExCom).

If the Sierra Club has your e-mail address in its records, you will receive in January a ballot by e-mail, and you may vote EITHER online, as described below, OR by this paper ballot. If you cast an online ballot, any paper ballot you mail in will not be counted. Online votes must be cast by January 31, 2014.

If the Sierra Club doesn't have your email address, you must use the paper ballot below to cast your vote.

To vote online: click on the link in the e-mail you receive. If you have a joint membership, pairs of boxes are provided to enable each member to cast a separate vote. To vote by paper ballot: Please use

the ballot below; then clip it on the heavy-dashed line, and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Jan 31, to Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618. PAIRs of boxes are to enable two members of family memberships to cast separate votes. Note that a properly-clipped ballot will include the mailing label overleaf. This is to verify your membership; it will be removed before ballots are counted.

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

Rob Benjamin Kip Cherry
 Bob Sokol Lynn Weiss
 Bill Wowk
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Report on New Jersey's Bees

By Joanne Pannone, of our Central Jersey Group (jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com)

The buzz is that beekeepers around the world are losing their bees. Some call it Colony Collapse Disorder, others blame the chemical giant Bayer for its toxic agricultural pesticides known as neonic. The Oct 29th, 2013, issue of the Sierra Club's official Newsletter, "The Insider," had a petition to EPA to ban these toxic pesticides and save our bees.

The New Jersey Beekeepers Association, Food and Water Watch and other groups are working on legislation to help keep beekeepers in business and save their bees.

Three bills are working their way through the NJ Legislature:

A4263 - Penalty for destruction of man-made native beehives

A4349 - Ban on neonicotinoid pesticides
 An amendment to the National Farm Bill (S954): SA1027 calls for studies on pollinator decline.

Each beehive houses 30,000 to 50,000 bees. They forage from 3 to 5 miles around. A starter hive costs approximately \$150. But that is only the beginning of the beekeeper's investment. S/he must

provide sufficient boxes containing frames for honeycomb, water; and food supplements during the winter. The beekeeper must protect them from mites, nosema parasites, small hive beetles, and mice. Bees do not hibernate; they cluster in their boxes and feed off the honey stored and only go outside to defecate.

It's not just the beekeeper who cares about bees. How about the farmers, and everyone who treasures wildflowers? There are many colleges and universities, and government agencies (USDA, the Extension Service, the State Apiarist) who also support laws to stop the die-off. And it's not just the bees - Bayer's pesticides may harm birds too.

Winter is here, but soon it will be spring, and farmers will be planting seeds, mostly soy and corn, treated with the neonicotinoids. Some home gardeners will also use these common garden products and this is bad news for the honey bees and other pollinators. We need to support A4349. Please help save our bees.

Ken Johnston 1944-2013

I first met Ken several years ago. Ken had made a contribution to the New Jersey Chapter and had included with his check information about his hand-crafted stained glass windows. I checked out his site and was intrigued. I called Ken and arranged to meet with him at his home. He gave me a tour of his house, including his stained glass windows, and then we sat down and talked. It turned out that we had much in common, including a concern for the state of the environment and a love of animals. Ken was a quiet person, not someone to speak out at a public meeting, but on a one-to-one basis he could be quite sociable as well as insightful. Ken was a generous supporter of environmental and animal welfare organizations, including the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club. So I wasn't surprised that when Ken told me he was moving to Virginia to be closer to family he offered to donate a collection of his stained glass windows to the Chapter for resale. I now have several of Ken's windows hanging in my sunroom. I often think of Ken in the morning when I relax over a cup of tea, make plans for the upcoming day and observe the morning sun shining through Ken's beautiful works of art.

Ken Jobanson, Chapter Chair



State Senator Linda Greenstein with Lynne Weiss and Laura Lynch



Assemblyman Reed Gusciora with his mother and sister



George Denzer, Margaret-Mary Piccolo, Paul Sanderson, Jane Tousman, and Bob Moss



Joan Denzer, Rich Isaac and Kate Millsaps

Population Issues Coordinator's Report

What Will \$1 Billion Buy?

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@msn.com)

What will \$1 billion buy? This is the question the Sierra Club Global Population and Environment Program and other health, environmental and population organizations are asking. The United Nations Population Fund informs us that 222 million women in the developing world would like to voluntarily plan their families, spacing births so that both mother and child are healthy, and so that families are able to educate their children. This also puts fewer demands on scarce resources.

They go on to explain that "2 billion people live in countries without adequate water...and by 2025 the number will grow to 3.1 billion. There are 925 million chronically malnourished people in the world...A 40% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions in the developed world could be completely negated by population growth in the developing world. Empowering women with the tools and resources to time their pregnancies would provide 8-15% of the reductions needed to avert (more drastic) climate change."

Why should the U.S. contribute \$1 billion for international family planning? According to Population Action International's web site, we have supported family planning and reproductive health care programs since 1965. "Polls have consistently shown that 75 to 90 percent of Americans support international family planning programs, including 69 percent of Independents and Republicans...While the demand has consistently increased, the U.S. funding level for family planning in 2010 (was) nearly 25 percent less than...in 1995 (when adjusted for inflation)."

How is that \$1 billion U.S. contribution figured? Brian Dixon from Population Connection explained, "it's derived by taking the total overall donor funding necessary to meet the existing unmet need (for family planning and reproductive health care) and then apportioning that by the GDP of the donor countries."

One-billion dollars sounds like an awful lot of money. But consider this, in 2012, here in the U.S. we spent \$8 billion on Halloween candy, costumes and decorations. This year it was down to \$6.9 billion, or \$75.03 per person.(1) By comparison, \$1 billion averages to about \$3 per person per year, or one-cent per day. (2) For Valentine's Day 2013, CNN.com reported we spent \$18.6 billion, or \$130.97 per person on flowers, candy, etc. That makes the \$1 billion request for international family planning seem like so little to make such a big difference.

Shouldn't we be focusing on needs here at home? Yes, but Dixon goes on to

note "total foreign assistance funding is less than one percent of the federal budget and family planning is a very small part of that."

Focusing on need here at home, the Affordable Care Act mandates that insurance companies provide all forms of female contraception without a co-pay as part of preventive-care. This should bring down the incidence of unplanned pregnancy dramatically as was shown in a 2007 study at Washington University in St. Louis. There researchers "provided 10,000 St. Louis women with free contraception, with the goal of decreasing unintended pregnancy...Few women ended up choosing the pill. Most went with a long-acting contraceptive method, like an IUD or an implant and the results were striking. Women who opted for a shorter-term contraceptive like the pill were 20 times more likely to have an unintended pregnancy."(3) Currently about one-half of all pregnancies in the United States are unplanned - the largest number in the developed world. By eliminating dependence on the birth control pill, which is not as effective as other long-term contraceptives, the incidence of unplanned pregnancies should be greatly reduced.

Can the U.S. afford to spend \$1 billion on international family planning and reproductive health services? The author, Alan Weisman, in his latest book, Countdown, notes that we can't afford not to spend this money. "I don't want to cull anyone alive today. I wish every human now on the planet a long, healthy life. But either we take control ourselves, and humanely bring our numbers down by recruiting fewer new members of the human race to take our places, or nature is going to hand out a pile of pink slips. When you see survival of the fittest portrayed on the National Geographic Channel, it's entertaining. When it happens to your own species, it's not pretty."(4)

Talk with your family, friends, and representatives in Washington, DC about voluntary family planning and the need for \$1 billion for international family planning assistance. When we can afford to spend \$10 billion a year on romance novels (5), we can certainly afford \$1 billion for women to voluntarily decide their family size.

(1) National Retail Federation web site 9/23/2013.

(2) Blog.psiimpact.com/2013/06/how-much-it-will-cost-the-us-to-invest-in-global-family-planning

(3) "Popping the Pill's Bubble," The American Prospect, Oct 23, 2013.

(4) Weisman, Alan, Countdown, p. 431.

(5) "Deseret News," Salt Lake City, 2/7/2013.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park, California

3-Day, 3-Island, Live-Aboard Cruises

2014 Schedule: April 12-14, May 4-6, June 8-10,
July 22-24, August 24-26, September 14-16

Join us as we explore these enchanting islands! Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. A ranger/naturalist will travel with us to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and

present evening programs.

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara, California. The cost, \$590, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, and beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist, and a contribution to the Club's Population Program.

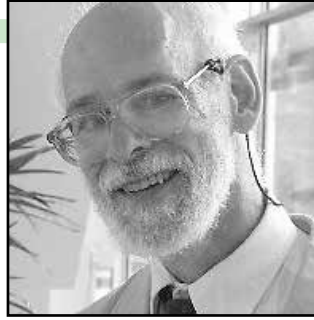
To reserve space, send a \$100 check, payable to Sierra Club, to leader: Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St, El Monte CA 91732. For more information contact leader; 626-443-0706; jholtzhln@aol.com.

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

Editorial

The Environment and the Constitution

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



If, as our founder John Muir said, “in the environment, everything is connected to everything,” then it’s fair game for me to consider how America’s current political crisis, which includes ideological zealotry (unwillingness of politicians to compromise on legislation and appointments), and government by and for those with lots of money, and which has allowed the greenhouse gas poisoning of our atmosphere and much other planetary destruction, is related to the interests of the Sierra Club.

I take as my text a letter published in the Nov 2nd issue of the Economist Magazine, which argues that our 225-year-old federal Constitution is unsuited to a modern democracy, and that we need an upgrade that would solve the problems of lobbying clout, gerrymandered districts, campaign finance, and incumbency.

Surely there are other political models, starting with my favorite, advocated in Plato’s “Republic,” in which political power is completely divorced from personal wealth. The British model, in which voters choose between political party ideologies, has evolved without a constitution – and includes strict limits on campaign finance. In fact, most countries require voters to choose between ideas rather than people. (And one of those assemblages of ideas constitutes “Green” parties in many countries, but rarely has a Green party been popular enough to gain power. Alas for environmentalism!)

But I don’t think “it’s the Constitution, stupid.” Rather, it’s stupidity itself: the sad fact that environmental responsibility is so difficult for most people to appreciate and adopt. There are too many competing ideologies, beamed into our lives by the dark forces of “mass society” described in my previous editorial. In my own experience, the one society that impressed me as behaving environmentally is that of Germany, where tidy personal habits seem to be imposed by a

mysterious ethos. (For example, every supermarket devotes considerable space to the return of refillable beverage bottles. And Germany has advanced farthest in the necessary global campaign to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. But people of German descent don’t seem to behave that way in our country.)

Our Constitution HAS evolved, by amendment, and is fully capable of evolving further, by the same political process that would be needed to revise it completely. The failure of the Supreme Court to curtail campaign finance suggests that a Constitutional Amendment for the same purpose would have no better chance of surviving the political process, nor would it make it into a “new” Constitution. I suggest that the current budgetary and entitlement impasses aren’t much different from the kinds of conflicts that have ALWAYS crippled our governments; they result from the inherent tensions between regional lifestyles and economies, and those generated by the disparities of scale in modern commerce and technology, and those glitzy lures dangled by the media.

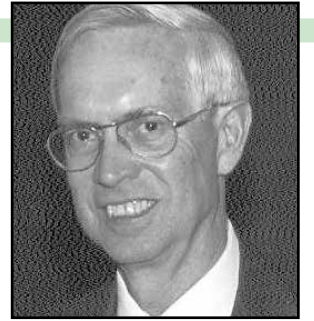
Sure, our Constitution was written for a pre-industrial society, low in population, ethnically more homogeneous, less needy of expensive infrastructure, less tempted by the pleasures of affluence, less pressured by the media, but rich in the fresh optimism of a successful war of independence.

But now there are new strains on our society, most prominently the limitations of the environment – as we run out of growing space, water, fish, fertile soil, wood, fuels, and other raw materials, and as our wastes accumulate and become more toxic. (There’s also the problem of jobs being lost to cheap labor in other countries.) I think the human species is doomed, but not for several centuries. Regardless of the Constitution, sea level will rise above much of New Jersey, and we will be heard no more.

Chair’s Message

Fundraising

By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)



I sometimes receive emails and phone calls from Sierra Club members and supporters asking me what they can do to help. My response generally is to ask what they would like to get involved in. While the responses I receive vary, one of the most frequent responses I receive is “anything but fundraising.”

When I first began volunteering for the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club the last thing I thought I would be doing was fundraising. But then I began to get involved in the financial operations of the Chapter. It didn’t take long for me to realize how vital the financial support of our members and supporters was for the continued viability of the Chapter. So I put my misgivings aside and took the plunge.

Well, I have a confession to make. It really isn’t so bad. In fact, it’s not bad at all. Over the past few years I have had the satisfaction of seeing Sierra Club members and supporters respond positively and generously to my letters requesting their support. I also have experienced the pleasure of meeting and getting to know some fine people, including some who have become lasting friends.

But fundraising is a job that never ends. The Chapter continues to incur expenses, including salaries and benefits, insurance, rent and the cost of publishing and distributing our quarterly newsletter. So the need to attract donors is ongoing. And since we do not receive funding from governmental bodies and do not sell our name to corporations that are trying so hard to present a green facade, the continued support of our members and supporters is especially important.

The past few years have not been easy for any of us, and that includes the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club. But our members and supporters have been there when we needed them the most. I

like to think this is because they realize how effective we are in pursuing our goals, how serious we are about controlling expenses, what a committed and hard working staff we have and how much we rely on our corps of dedicated volunteers to perform so much of the work we do.

So the next time you receive a letter from me requesting your financial support of the Chapter, please consider joining those of us who believe that the Chapter is making a difference and is worthy of our continued support. Your support of the Chapter is an investment in the future. And if you want to make an even greater contribution, a contribution that will last well into the future, consider including the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club in your estate plan.

Over the past few years the Chapter has been the recipient of several bequests, including bequests from the estates of Nelson C. Doland, Jr. and Waldemar Wastello, Jr. These bequests have played an important role in getting us through some difficult times. If you would like to learn more about these two gentlemen, check out my column in the January – March 2008 issue of the Jersey Sierran, which is available on our Chapter site. And if you or your attorney would like more information about how to include the New Jersey Chapter in your estate plan, please give me a call or send me an email. I can even provide you with sample language that your attorney may find helpful.

And for all those who already provide the Chapter with financial support or already have included the Chapter in their estate plans, I offer you my most sincere thanks. I hope you agree with me that the New Jersey Chapter is making a difference and is worthy of our continued support.

Report from Trenton

PSE&G Playing Politics with Energy Strong Arm

From a press release issued by our Chapter staff on Oct 22

Newark-based Public Service Gas and Electric, the largest energy-utility in the State, is requesting almost \$4 billion for “grid-hardening projects.” Code-named “Energy Strong,” it will require the biggest rate increase in history, and will have long term consequences for energy policy in New Jersey. The Sierra Club is opposed, and calls on the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to, instead, promote more energy efficiency programs to reduce the need for electricity, and promote distributed generation of electricity from renewable sources – as an alternative preparation for future storms like Sandy.

PSE&G’s Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure Investment Report proposes that \$900 million of the money come from the cancellation of current solar projects. The company also wants to move the Gas Capital Improvement Plan Phase 3 investments, \$1.4 billion, into the Energy Strong program. This should not be allowed because replacing old gas

lines is a capital improvement and has nothing to do with hardening infrastructure.

The company’s proposal is also at odds with the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force Strategy Document, issued by the federal Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which outlines criteria for federal funding. On energy, HUD is calling not just for hardening the grid, but for making it more resilient by including distributive generation, microgrid, combined heat and power, smart grid, renewable energy and energy efficiency. Utilities in New Jersey, including PSE&G, should be meeting these criteria and seeking federal funding for the improvements. PSE&G has not applied for the available HUD Community Development Block Grant funding to harden and elevate infrastructure. Nor has it applied for available FEMA funding to elevate vulnerable infrastructure.

Resolutions Passed by the Chapter Executive Committee in Sept., Oct. and Nov., 2013

We authorized filing of a legal application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for intervenor status in the hearing process for a **natural gas pipeline extension through the Princeton area** (Mercer Co), known as the Skillman Loop. (Sept)

We signed onto litigation challenging the “NJPDES” permits with which **Salem 1 and 2 Nuclear Power Plants** (Salem Co) are allowed to be cooled by water taken from, and returned to, the local estuary. (Sept)

We discussed three resolutions that were to be considered at an annual national Sierra Club meeting, in San Francisco, of delegates from Chapters around the country, and took positions on two of them: asking that the Club measure the well-being of Americans by quality-of-life indicators that go beyond mere economics; asking that clothing and other logo-items sold by the Club be made in America; and asking that the timing of the Club’s annual budget process be made more friendly to the Chapters. (Sept)

Additional **political endorsements** were approved: Congressmen Andrews, Holt, Pallone, Pascarell and Sires for re-election in 2014; Nancy Pinkin (D-18) for State Assembly in 2013; and Jerry Bowers (D-23) for State Senate in 2013. (Sept)

We urged the Club’s National Political Committee to defend **funding for international and domestic family planning programs** in its questionnaire that will be sent to candidates desiring our endorsement of their campaigns for Congress. (Oct)

Another lawsuit was authorized – in a case before the NJ Supreme Court: we hope to reverse a lower court’s upholding of a **six-year statute of limitations for remediation of toxic spills**. (Oct)

We asked the Federal EPA to require that **remediation of the Woodbrook Road Dump Superfund Site**, in South Plainfield (Somerset Co), include removal not only of the hazardous wastes, but also the municipal wastes, since the site is part of the Dismal Swamp Conservation Area. (Oct)

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.

Sustainable Lifestyle

One Potato, Two Potatoes

By Suzanne Dragan, our culinary columnist (animaltalk@optonline.net)

On these cold and hopefully snowy days (I want to do some cross-country skiing) let us sing praise to the humble potato. High in vitamin B6, vitamin C, copper, potassium, manganese and fiber, potatoes are low in calories and a healthy addition to any diet. Potatoes have numerous phytochemical benefits: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/sep07/potato0907.htm>

There are more than fifteen varieties of potatoes, including Purple Majesty, Yukon Gold, All Blue, and Kennebec. Consult this website for more: <http://www.thekitchn.com/potato-varieties-64061>.

Even just slicing, seasoning, drizzling with olive oil and roasting a potato you've never eaten can be a palatable adventure! Perhaps you would like to enhance your mashed potato repertoire with some cumin-cayenne mashed potatoes with caramelized onions or for the Year of the Horse, some Chinese-style mashed potatoes?

BTW: For fluffy potatoes, mash warm peeled potatoes with an old-fashioned potato masher or fork in an up-and-down (not sideways, not circular) movement to incorporate as much air as possible. Putting potatoes in a food processor, blender or electric beater to "mash" will result in heavier, even glue-like potatoes. My Mom used her Sunbeam Mix Master, a 1950's kitchen staple, to make her delicious mashed potatoes. Mashed potato texture is a personal preference.

Cumin-Cayenne Mashed Potatoes with Caramelized Onions

(from "Vegan Soul Food")

2 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled, cut into ½" chunks
5 T. olive oil
1 large onion, ¼" diced

2 T. ground cumin
¼ t. cayenne pepper
Coarse sea salt
½ c. unflavored rice milk
2 T. thyme
Ground white pepper

Boil potatoes about 25 minutes till you can pierce them with a fork. In large saucepan, combine oil, onion, cumin, cayenne & ½ t. salt. Sauté, stirring often till caramelized (about 30 minutes). Set caramelized mixture aside. Drain water from potatoes and replace on stove. Combine caramelized mix with rice milk & thyme in small saucepan & warm over low heat. Whip potatoes with wire whisk or wooden spoon and pour in onion-rice milk mixture. Whip till light & fluffy. Serve immediately.

Chinese-Style Mashed Potatoes

(from "The International Spud")

2 c. firmly packed mashed potatoes
3 T. soy sauce
2 T. black sesame seeds
1 T. Oriental sesame oil
Freshly ground pepper
4 medium-size baked potato skin shells, scooped out
3 oz. chow mein noodles
Vegetable oil for greasing baking sheet

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Combine mashed potatoes, soy sauce, sesame seeds and sesame oil. Pepper to taste. Firmly pack ¼ mixture into each shell. Place on greased sheet. Insert chow mein noodles into mashed potatoes for a "porcupine" look. Bake 10-15 minutes till heated though.

Suzanne Dragan is a former WCTC radio talk show host and a nurse.

West Jersey Group Helps Plant Trees in Camden

Supplied by Gina Carola, West Jersey Group Chair (ginaceee@verizon.net)

Members of the West Jersey Sierra Club joined other volunteers on Sept 21 in Camden, helping The NJ Tree Foundation and Bridge of Peace Church to plant trees at the church. In all, 17 trees including 11 fruit trees were planted as part of the Foundations's Urban Airshed Reforestation Program (UARP).

Volunteers, including Camden native and West Group Vice-Chair Frank Zinni dug holes, planted trees, spread mulch and cleaned up the area to help beautify the neighborhood. The event was sponsored by the Campbell Soup Foundation. In-kind donors included United Water Camden, MAFCO Worldwide Corporation, and Wegmans of Cherry Hill.

The UARP is working to improve air quality, manage storm water and provide shade to neighborhoods in Camden. It is

a community-based street tree planting program that began in Camden in 2002. Over 4,800 trees were planted along Camden streets and in gardens and 77,000 square feet of impervious surface was removed in the effort. Prioritizing grassroots work, the UARP empowers residents to create positive changes in their own communities. Residents apply for and adopt trees, help organize events, and assist with the planting of each tree. In the same vein, the UARP has engaged approximately 10,150 volunteers of all backgrounds and economic statuses in beautifying one of the nation's most dangerous cities.

{The guy all the way on the left with the big smile is Frank Zinni, West Group Vice-Chair.}



Green Acres Issues Coordinator's Report Green Acres Program in the Red

By Bob Moss (bobmossnj@verizon.net)

New Jersey's Green Acres program is just over 50 years old. It has been a spectacular success. Through direct purchases and astute leveraging, the program has preserved almost 640,000 acres during that time, according to the DEP website.

"Leveraging" includes contributing part of the funds needed for an open space purchase, but there is another way Green Acres are leveraged. When a County or municipality receives Green Acres funding, it must list all land currently being held for open space purposes (defined as conservation and/or public outdoor recreation), no matter how acquired. These lands are placed on the Recreation and Open Space Inventory, or "ROSI", and the State encumbers them with Green Acres restrictions—they are as protected as are parcels purchased with Green Acres funds. This greatly increases the amount of protected land resulting from a Green Acres grant.

But time doesn't stand still. What can we look for over the next 50 years? Our remaining open spaces are fast filling up, but the pressure to develop is still with us. Something has to give. Many who want to build, including some municipal officials, are casting their eyes upon Green-Acres-protected properties. Building on open space is a lot cheaper than buying a developed parcel and tearing down an existing facility.

The Green Acres regulations provide for diverting land to other uses, but only as a last resort and under a very cumbersome procedure, which includes a requirement that replacement land be provided. But pressure for development is so great, that municipalities may be seeking ways to get around the replacement land requirements.

One tactic that has been popping up is to offer as replacement land parcels that are in fact, if not in name, already being held as open space.

For example, there's a parcel in Monroe Township (Gloucester Co) that was extensively discussed by the municipi-

pal council. They wanted to use it as park land, and passed a resolution asking the planning board to put it in the master plan as open space. That didn't happen, and now the same parcel is being offered as replacement land. The Chapter has questioned such a use, as part of the public comment process.

In Piscataway, the project to turn Hoes Lane into a continuation of Route 18 necessitated the taking of a piece of protected land. The proposed replacement parcel is contiguous to a protected piece of land. Looking at it from the street, one can't tell the difference between the two parcels. In fact, on the tax map of the area, there is almost a checkerboard pattern of municipally-owned and private land. Some of the municipal land is protected, some not. There seems to be no rhyme or reason. At the hearing on this diversion, I asked why the municipality was holding the replacement parcel, and the mayor said, "It's just vacant land that we're holding". The Chapter has questioned the use of this parcel also.

In Toms River, a tract owned by the municipality is posted with a large sign announcing it as protected open space, yet a municipal records-storage facility is being built there. When the property was purchased, a public ceremony was held to celebrate the acquisition of more open space. And research has showed that Green Acres money was involved in the purchase, though not directly. The Chapter's appeals to the Office of Green Acres to stop this project before groundbreaking went unheeded.

Keeping our open space over the next 50 years is going to be harder than acquiring it over the previous 50. We are working to do what we can. If you spot a questionable use of Green Acres land, please contact us. And if it's in your own town, contact your government officials. Tell them that the people were told the land was permanently protected, and you want that promise kept.

2014—Political Possibilities

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

Peering into the mists of 2014 from post-election November 2013, I see two interesting political developments which may open up some possibilities.

First, right after the November general election, Tom Kean, Jr. managed to win a battle with the newly reelected Governor by maintaining his position as Senate Minority Leader, a development that may give him some wiggle room to be a bit more independent than he has been in the past.

This is hopeful, as Sen. Kean has been supportive of a number of environmental issues in the past, and may be interested in helping us on at least a few issues.

One issue that readily comes to mind is finding a way to replenish the almost completely depleted Open Space Trust Fund. While establishing a permanent stable source of funding for open space preservation is the best way to do this, it's unlikely the Senate Minority Leader would be willing to go that far. However,

he might help us put an Open Space Bond Act on the ballot, something New Jersey voters would most likely approve.

The second interesting development is that Rep. Jon Runyan, with one of the worst environmental records in New Jersey's Congressional Delegation, will not seek reelection in New Jersey's 3rd Congressional District (approximately northern Burlington and eastern Ocean Counties). The Cook Political Report rates the November 2014 race as a tossup, so there's a real chance New Jersey could replace a bad environmental Representative with a good one.

Rest assured that the Sierra Club will be doing what it can to follow up on these possibilities!



Transportation Activists Sought

Steve Lanset is our Transportation Issues Coordinator. He invites additional Club members to join his e-mail group of people who **promote mass transit opportunities in New Jersey**, whether by rail, light rail, ferry, bus, or bicycle. We distribute news articles and inside information, discuss it, invite members to workshops and other meetings, contribute to the discussions at general Sierra Club meetings, and organize lobbying of state and federal politicians and other officials. Simply contact Steve at slanset@hotmail.com.

2014 is an election year - for all 13 members of New Jersey's Congressional Delegation. To participate in endorsement decision-making, contact members of our Political Committee.

Reports from Trenton

We Seek Superfund Status for DuPont Site in Pompton Lakes

From a press release issued on Oct 10

The New Jersey Sierra Club, along with other organizations, is calling upon the Environmental Protection Agency to nominate the DuPont Site in Pompton Lakes (Passaic Co) for the Superfund list.

We are opposed in this process by Governor Christie, whose alternative is to continue to support New Jersey's Dept. of Environmental Protection's current clean-up of the site, which has left the community with a toxic mess for decades. At stake is the health and environment of the Pompton Lakes community.

The DEP has mishandled the cleanup from the beginning, displaying arrogance

and incompetence to the people of Pompton Lakes. A recent study by the NJ Dept. of Health showed a "significantly" higher level of certain cancers that can be directly tied to chemicals in the groundwater that permeates Pompton Lakes. These include dichloroethylene, a volatile solvent that evaporates into people's homes. DuPont has had since 1990 to clean up this site.

Pompton Lakes is included in NJ's Highlands Region, where special protections apply to groundwater, because it ultimately flows into the reservoirs that contribute drinking water to most of the homes in northern New Jersey.

NJ's Subsidy for Natural Gas Plants Ruled Unconstitutional

From a press release issued on Oct 14

On Oct 11th, the US District Court ruled that the cost of building new electric power plants must be borne by the corporate stockholders, rather than the ratepayers. It follows a similar decision in a Maryland case. New Jersey's LCAP legislation, which was deemed unconstitutional, would have provided \$3 billion in subsidies over 15 years for the construction of three new natural gas plants in Old Bridge, Newark, and Woodbridge. We applaud the court for this decision, which will save ratepayers money while protecting the environment.

This is a victory for clean air. The court decision overturns one of the biggest corporate subsidies and rate payer giveaways in state history. The disgraced legislation was fossil fuel "pay to play." Claims that it would lower electric bills for consumers were phony - because the price of natural gas is dropping naturally by market forces. The legislation would have guaranteed automatic sales and a massive return, even if the power was not used or was shipped to New York. The subsidies would actually have increased rates for New Jersey consumers while driving down rates in neighboring states. They would also have promoted fracking in Pennsylvania. The court's decision will encourage investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Unfortunately, the court's ruling does not mean that the Christie Administration will not find other way ways to subsidize these plants. But we will take action if they try!

The Governor tried to subsidize these gas plants while claiming that the prices for solar and wind are too high. Yet his attempt to subsidize fossil fuels had the effect of robbing clean energy funding that creates more jobs and is better for the environment. It's hypocrisy: his subsidy would have given the Hess natural gas plant in Newark 22 cents per kilowatt-hour and the CPV Plant in Woodbridge 28 cents per kilowatt-hour, when the going price is about 4 cents a kilowatt-hour. In comparison, solar now costs about 16 cents a kilowatt-hour.

Both the grid operator PJM and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission have stated that Christie's attempted subsidies violate the fair competition clause of the National Energy Policy Act. Another measure of Christie's uneconomic corporate welfare is the fact that another new gas plant, the 738-megawatt LS Power plant in West Deptford, has moved forward entirely with private funding, after not qualifying for the rate-payer subsidies offered to the Newark and Woodbridge plants.

Dune Case \$1 Settlement: Right On!

From a press release issued by Chapter Director Jeff Tittel on Sept 25th

The Karan Family in Harvey Cedars (Ocean Co), who sued the City for erecting protective dunes that blocked their ocean view, has received a \$1 settlement.

Common sense has prevailed. A ridiculous court case which would have prevented dunes up and down the coast has been decided in favor of the environment. Dunes are built with public money, in return for which the public gets a financial benefit. That dune protected the Karan's property against Hurricane Sandy. A dollar is the minimum amount allowed under law.

The settlement shows that one property owner should not be able to block projects that benefit everyone. The decision will also help governments carry out other projects for the public good: bike paths, beach access, river walkways, and protecting wetlands and stream buffers.

Now the Attorney General can go after about 1,000 other properties to get easements for dunes. This case is important because it will set a transparent and reasonable approach for requiring easements for dunes.

Although dunes won't solve all our problems, they protect our coast against beach erosion, provide habitats for many species, and protect homes from storms and storm surges. Long Beach Island, which includes Harvey Cedars, was one of the hardest hit areas last year because of the absence of dunes. Property owners have challenged dunes because they do not want the public on the beach, as well as to protect their views.

We urge Governor Christie to make sure the Army Corps of Engineers constructs dunes in northern Monmouth County as well as further south.

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra is pleased to offer Sierra Club members and supporters a **50% reduction** on tickets to **Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde** (The Song of the Earth) (Jan 18 at NJPAC in Newark and Jan 19 at Mayo PAC in Morristown) and **Strauss' Alpine Symphony** (Jan 24 & 26 at NJPAC in Newark and Jan 25 at State Theatre in New Brunswick). Visit www.njsymphony.org/earth for more information.



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 County Group:** 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)

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: | <i>Open Position!</i> | | |
| 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: | Marvin Feil | | mfeil@writeme.com |
| Ex-Com | | | |
| Member-at-Large: | Dave Alcock | | dwhoob@hotmail.com |

ACTIVITIES: We are presently working with other grassroots organizations to protect the natural resources and beauty of Northwest New Jersey. We are located in some of the most environmentally sensitive areas of which millions of New Jerseyans depend upon their drinking water.

The Skylands Group promotes outreach activities to grow our membership so we can present a more effective voice toward the challenges our community faces such as climate change and local environmental issues as they arise.

Whether for recreation, education, or to support legislation, we initiate events which include preservation of clean drinking water, expanding or protecting open space against development, and preserving the natural habitat of the thousands of unique plant and animal species native to this region.

Our opposition to hydrofracking, natural gas pipelines and New Jersey's acceptance of frack waste is in response to the inherent risk of polluting our land and waterways. Moreover, this dirty extraction method and infrastructure destroys natural resources and vistas from which our ecotourism economy depends.

We sponsor hikes throughout the region and support protecting the Appalachian Trail, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and New Jersey Highlands. The Skylands Group further advocates for upgrading the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area into a National Park and Preserve.

GENERAL MEETINGS: SECOND TUESDAY of each month from 7-8:30 pm at the Unitarian Fellowship, One West Nelson Street, Newton NJ.

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

(continued on page 6)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 5)

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*	oncentral@mac.com
Conservation Chair:	Cinny MacGonagle*	cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com
Treasurer:	Celeste Martin*	oncentral@mac.com
Political Chair:	Caroline Galofaro*	cagciao@aol.com
Publicity Chair:	Susan Schirmer*	souyps@att.net
Membership Chair:	Jim Fleming	jffleming18@comcast.net
Outings Coordinator:	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com
Webmaster:	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com

(*Group Executive Committee Member)

Look for us on Meetup.com at <http://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub> or visit our Sierra Club official web page at newjersey.sierraclub.org/southhighlands. Please contact shighlandssierra@gmail.com for information!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: Feb 5 (Wed): 7:30 pm: At the office of Jonathan D. Wall, PsyD, at 27 Center St, Clinton, 2nd Floor. 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.

GENERAL MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS:

Dec 22 (Sun): Lower Landsdown Trail Hike and Holiday Pot Luck: 2pm for the hike, and 4pm for the holiday appetizer and dessert PotLuck. Come out for our merry 5-mile easy winter solstice hike! This will be a fun and easy jaunt just in time to get you in shape for the holidays: Bring the kids, binoculars and a lunch. Foul weather cancels. For the hike we will gather at the Fox Lumber parking lot behind Weichert Realtors in Clinton. Afterward, we will all meet at 27 Center Street, Clinton for our holiday Potluck. Please feel free to hike and party or just join us for the party afterwards. Please contact Jonathan to register and let him know what you are bringing at psychologist@jonwall.com.

Jan 15 (Wed): 7pm Meet & Greet; 7:30 Program begins: Slide Show about Our National Parks! Our nation's playgrounds and wilderness are full of pleasures. Jonathan Wall, Hunterdon-South Warren's South Highlands Group chair, will talk on the easy and fun camping trips he's made in recent years to Acadia, Glacier, Joshua-Tree, Sequoia/Kings Canyon, Arches, and Denali, amongst others. Please come and share your experiences too. Start planning your next vacation! At the Hunterdon Medical Center's Auditorium, Wescott Lane, Flemington.

Feb 19 (Wed): 7pm Meet & Greet; 7:30 at Hunterdon Medical Center's Auditorium - Protecting New Jersey's Environment: From Cancer Alley to the New Garden State -Tom Belton, a marine biologist and a researcher within the Office of Science in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection will speak about his book Protecting New Jersey's Environment: From Cancer Alley to the New Garden State. For more details, check [meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com) or look to North Jersey's write-up in this newsletter about Tom's exciting award winning book and talk.

Mar 19 (Wed): 7pm: Meet & Greet; 7:30 at Hunterdon Medical Center's Auditorium: Rachel Briggs, the Eastern Grassroots Organizer for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, will present an inspirational talk and show: Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness, a short video plus slides, which showcases citizen efforts to protect our public lands. The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance worked with organizations across the country, including the Sierra Club, to protect these lands for the past 30 years.

Please see [Meetup.com/NJSierraClub](http://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub) for announcements and updates

DINNER AND A MOVIE: Run on 2nd Thursdays of the month at 7pm. Films are relevant to nature or the environment and will take place at The Ship Inn Brew Pub, 61 Bridge St, Milford. Separate checks with no minimum or cover. Parking is available on street or across the road in the church parking lot. For listing of films, please visit http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp or www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/. For additional information, please contact: Susan Schirmer: souyps@att.net or 908-797-6725. Space limited to limited to 25. See movie listings below:

Jan 9 Film: Sourlands: Stories from the Fight for Sustainability. Sourlands is the name given to a largely undeveloped area of New Jersey because of poor soil and rocky terrain. It is also one of the few remaining natural habitats for several species, including migratory birds and amphibians.

Feb 13 Film: Last Call at the Oasis. It's the earth's most valuable resource. Our cities are powered by it, countless industries depend on it, and all living things need it to survive. But it's very possible that in the near future, there won't be enough to sustain life on our planet.

Mar 13 Film: Ingredients: The Local Food Movement Takes Root. Inspiring and rich, this film unearths the roots of the movement and digs into the stories of the chefs, farmers and activists transforming our broken food system.

Apr 10 Film: Queen Of The Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us? A profound, alternative look at the bee crisis and dramatic stories of the heart-felt struggles of beekeepers, scientists and philosophers from around the world.

CURRENT ISSUES: 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/>

MEETUP: <http://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/northjersseysierraclub>

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*	jenniroth2@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*	jenniroth2@gmail.com
Air Quality Issues:	Laura Coll*	lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com
Events Chair:	Mary Walsh*	blehlwalsh@hotmail.com
Membership Chair:	Buddy Jenssen*	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Outings Chair:	Ellen Blumenkrantz	eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Programs Chair:	Jessica Epstein	jepstein101@gmail.com
Publicity Chair:	Marty Cohen	martincohen@verizon.net
Trail Maintenance:	Marty Cohen	martincohen@verizon.net
Webmaster/Listmaster:	John Kashwick*	jkashwick@optonline.net
Wetlands Issues:	Justine Jurick	ljjurick@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:

General meetings are free and open to general public. Dates, times, and venues are subject to change—please confirm on Meetup.com, on our online calendar listing at http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp or by emailing John Kashwick at jkashwick@optonline.net prior to any event.

Jan 30 (Thu): Film: "Chasing Ice." 7:30 pm at Closter Nature Center, 154 Ruckman Road, Closter. In the spring of 2005, acclaimed environmental photographer James Balog headed to the Arctic on a tricky assignment for National Geographic: to capture images to help tell the story of the Earth's changing climate. Even with a scientific upbringing, Balog had been a skeptic about climate change. But that first trip north opened his eyes to the biggest story in human history and sparked a challenge within him that would put his career and his very well-being at risk.

Feb 25 (Tues): Environmental Benefits of Historic Preservation: 7:30 pm at Oradell Library, 375 Kinderkamack Road, Oradell. It's been said the greenest home is the one already built. Jennifer Rothschild, Historic Preservation Consultant and Member of the Sierra Club North Jersey Group Executive Committee explores how historic preservation and environmental conservation, rather than being in conflict, can work together toward the goal of sustainability.

Mar 25 (Tues): Fracking in New Jersey: 7:30 pm at Louis Bay 2nd Library, 345 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne. Matt Smith of Food and Water Watch will address organizing strategies to stop the ongoing proliferation of pipelines, compressor stations and other fracked gas infrastructure throughout our state. He will also talk about the potential to develop the South Newark Basin via fracking, an unconventional shale gas play with an estimated 1.6 billion cubic feet of recoverable gas in NJ, and the ongoing movement to keep drilling out of the Delaware River Basin.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The Executive Committee of the North Jersey Group meets quarterly on the first Wednesday in the months of February, May, August, and November. Our annual reorganization meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 5 at 7:30 PM at a member's home. 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 at jkashwick@optonline.net or Mary Ellen at meshaw.001@gmail.com for location or more information.

CONSERVATION ISSUES:

LG Tower in Englewood Cliffs: LG Electronics, a multinational corporation, is planning to build an office tower in Englewood Cliffs that will rise high above the tree-line of the Palisades, and for the first time, violate the unspoiled ridgeline—a view enjoyed by Americans since before the founding of our nation. LG's proposed office tower will rise 143 feet above grade—far higher than the 35-foot limit that has, until now, been respected by other companies in this area. The Sierra Club North Jersey Group is part of the Save the Palisades Coalition working to stop this overdevelopment.

Ridgefield Park Eagle Nest: Al and Alice—probably the first pair of bald eagles to nest in an urbanized area, have been under threat by construction at the industrial site upon which they have built their nest. Various parties have met on several occasions to discuss options to save the endangered species' home, and perhaps the eagles' future in the Village.

DePiero's Farm in Montvale: The Coalition to Stop Overdevelopment of DePiero's Farm lost its battle to change zoning at the Montvale Mayor and Council, but is still fighting at the Montvale Planning Board to mitigate some of the impacts of the development such as having as small and anchor store as possible, retain at least five acres of productive farmlands, and creation of a buffer zone between the development and the surrounding area.

For more information about these issues, to become involved, or alerted to something that is going on, please contact our Conservation Co-Chairs—Mary Ellen Shaw at meshaw.001@gmail.com or Beth Ravit at ravit@envsci.rutgers.edu.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE: This Halloween Moshe Arad, Buddy Jenssen, Jeff Koenig, and Marty Cohen decided to forgo trick-or-treating in favor of working on the section of the Appalachian Trail that we maintain in Wawayanda State Park. Maskless, but armed with axe, saw, paint, and loppers this group built barricades and other devices to keep hikers on the path, and cleared overgrown bushes from encroaching this popular section of the trail. If you're interested in helping with future clean-up work on the AT, please contact Marty Cohen at martincohen@verizon.net.

OUTINGS: If you have an idea for an outing you would like to lead, please contact Ellen: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com to find out how. Sign up for North Jersey Group e-mail notices by e-mailing John at jkashwick@optonline.net.

Hudson County Group

The NJ Chapter understands the importance of urban issues such as protecting the public's drinking water and air quality, maintaining good mass transit, providing access to the waterfront, and addressing environmental justice issues, and is currently trying to create a local grassroots presence in Hudson County. Anyone interested in working on any environmental issue is encouraged to contact Chapter Outreach Coordinator Nicole Dallara at 609-656-7612, nicole.dallara@sierraclub.org.

Gateway Group

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

The Gateway Group was organized in January 2011. Please contact any of the leaders below if you are interested in joining our campaigns to protect the environment. There are several Gateway Group positions open.

Our website: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/Gateway/>. (also accessible from the NJ Chapter website) On Facebook: Gateway Group, NJ Sierra or <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gateway-Group-NJ-Sierra-Club/128998363842782?fref=ts>

OFFICERS:

Chair:	David Yennior	973-844-1384	dyennior@msn.com
Vice-Chair:	John Beadle	973-284-1594	jbeadle571@verizon.net
Secretary:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Treasurer:	Anne Hirs	973-844-1121	annehirs@msn.com
Program Co-Chairs:	John Beadle	see above,	
and	Barbara Conover	201-452-9389	bconifer022@gmail.com
Publicity Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Conservation			
Co-Chairs:	ZaSah Khademi	201-618-8572	zasah@aol.com
and	David Korfhage	973-932-0742	drkorfhage@gmail.com
Political Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Fundraising Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Membership			
Co-Chairs:	Steven Yafet	908-354-2537	syafet@gmail.com
and	Barbara Conover		see above
Water, Newark			
Issues Chr:	Bill Chappel	973-623-6490	chappel.bill@gmail.com
Recycling Issues			
Chair:	Lyle Landon	201-247-0288	lylelandon@aol.com
Passaic River			
Co-Chairs:	Brenda Toyloy	973-856-7056	brendatoyloy@yahoo.com
and	Jeff Weiss	973-650-1030	bonefish5000@gmail.com
Elizabeth			
Issues Chair:	Paula Borenstein	908-289-3584	brdandmkt@aol.com
Outings Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Group Executive			
Committee:	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 program 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 David Yennior: dyennior@msn.com or call 973-844-1384.

For further information please check the website.

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:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Political Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Programs:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
Fundraising Chair:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
Outreach & Events Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Publicity Chair:	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
Membership:	Bill Martin	908-604-2505	WP_Martin@yahoo.com
Air Quality Coordinator:	Bob Campbell	973-761-4461	bobc2023_sc@verizon.net
Webmaster:	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
At Large:	Srabasti Dutta	631-902-9948	srabastidutta@gmail.com

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

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

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 Chatham, 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 Chatham, 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:

Jan 8: The 2012 documentary "Sourlands" by Jared Flesher about key aspects of the struggle to move toward a sustainable future in New Jersey will be presented. Three different vignettes about life in the Sourlands area east of Lambertville in Hunterdon and Mercer County are featured.

Feb 12: Susan Schirmer of the South Highlands group will join us to present the following film: American Experience: Rachel Carson's Silent Spring: With a passion for nature instilled in her at an early age, writer and biologist Rachel Carson became a fearless champion for the environment. She was a biologist for the federal government when she first noted the effects of the unregulated use of pesticides and herbicides, especially DDT. Magazines, afraid of losing advertising, refused to publish her articles. When she published Silent Spring in 1963, she was viciously attacked, called "an ignorant and hysterical woman." But her warning sparked a revolution in ecological consciousness.

Mar 12: Can the food we choose to eat help protect the global environment? Our own contributor of frequent articles to the Jersey Sierran, Suzanne Dragan, will give a PowerPoint presentation and lead a discussion about how changes in our diet can have a positive impact on our planet's prospects. Samples of vegetarian dishes will be served!

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)

Please VOTE for our GROUP OFFICERS - using the ballot on p. 2

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CentralGroupNJSC>
And PLEASE vote for Group officers: electronically or using the special ballot on p.2.

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:	Joanne Pannone	609-443-6992	jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
Political Chair:	Terry Stimpfel		
Publicity Chair:	Joanne Pannone	as above	
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>		
Trail and Field:	Bob Sokol	609-918-1149	robert.sokol435@gmail.com
ExCom At-Large:	Bill Wowk	609-587-0502	bwowk1@gmail.com

ADVOCACY: The Central Group works locally to preserve open space, promote effective planning and protect wetlands and trails. After providing an education and empowerment forum on environmental impacts and regulatory processes governing natural gas pipelines, we continue to work closely with the residents and municipality of Princeton to protect the environmentally sensitive Princeton Ridge from devastating damage by construction of the proposed Transco natural gas pipeline. We continue our efforts in support of a ban on disposal of hydrofracking wastes in New Jersey and to protect the Princeton Battlefield and a nearby stream from adjoining development. We oppose the NJ DEP waiver rule, the Susquehanna-Roseland electric transmission lines, natural gas transmission pipelines through New Jersey and horizontal hydrofracking.

Trail and Field: We are actively constructing a hiking trail in Robbinsville as a component of a much longer NJ trail. We also conduct small invasive species removal projects and clean ups. Join us for work details and hikes.

Events: In September we will meet in conjunction with a film at Rider University. Watch for details of all our meetings, outings and other fun events during the quarter. See the Chapter events calendar at http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CentralGroupNJSC>.

We invite you to become more involved, share your ideas, issues and interests and especially join us for fun times. Subscribe to the Central Group distribution list to receive timely information and action notices. Please contact Terry or another of our active members.

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Roomi Nusrat	609-389-6036	sierra_nj_rartian@outlook.com
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(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)

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>		
Conservation Coordinator:	Nancy Gladfeltzer		
Communications:	Sarah Martin		

WEBSITE: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/RaritanValley/>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/RaritanGroupNJSC>

Our monthly meetings are usually on a weekday evening of the third week. We have a program with convenient telephone conferences to update the membership on activities. Please write to us on e-mail sierra_nj_rartian@att.net to participate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Dennis Anderson	732-970-4327	dennisaza@aol.com
	6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747		
Vice-Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Secretary:	Joe DeLuca	732-389-1835	joe-deluca@att.net
Conservation Chair:	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445	faithtei@aol.com
Webmaster:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Treasurer:	Pat Fuschetto	732-308-4588	fusche40@yahoo.com
Political Chair:	Bob Sandberg	732-747-3224	sandberg00@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	gmofattgt@aol.com
Fund-raising Co-Chairs:	Lois Blake	732-863-5917	lqlake@optonline.net
and	Joellen Lundy	732-741-4756	jfutey@comcast.net

Shore Group Happenings:

Whale Pond Fundraiser: The Jersey Shore Group and the Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association held a successful fundraiser in October to help restore the eroded banks and water quality of Whale Pond Brook. The event was held at the 19th century Victorian-era Cedars and Beeches Inn in Long Branch – with the enthusiastic support of the owner.

Whale Pond Cleanups: We continue our cleanups with a coalition with Monmouth University, all the towns in the Whale Pond Brook watershed, and the NJ Friends of Clearwater. Hurricane Sandy dumped tons of trash back into the watershed, which we are still removing a year later, 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.

Help explore, enjoy and protect this beautiful watershed. Our Sierra dynamo heading the clean up of Whale Pond is Conservation Chair Faith Teitelbaum at faithtei@aol.com.

Help Needed for Other Cleanups: If you would like to participate in cleanups of our other local waterways, please contact another dynamo, Laura Bagwell at l.bagwell3@verizon.net. Laura focuses on the Red Bank area watersheds. In this effort, we work with the Navesink Swimming River Group which, since 2002, has removed more than 20 tons of debris from our local banks and streams. Alas, pollution never ends; we are in constant need of volunteers.

GENERAL MEETINGS: The general membership meetings of the Jersey Shore Group take place at 6 pm on the fourth Monday of the month at Brookdale Community College's Lincroft Campus. We are delighted that the college has invited us to continue the joint membership meetings through 2014. Our meetings, billed by BCC as "Science Monday," average 55 attendees a month, with some events peaking at 95 to 150 people. The cooperative effort between Sierra and BCC extends the "reach" of

both organizations into the Monmouth community. Our BCC host is Dr. Patricia Dillon, a biology professor who succeeds our previous host, recently retired BCC Director Bob Macaluso.

We meet at BCC to share our speakers with environmentally-concerned BCC college students, the NJ Friends of Clearwater, and other environmental organizations. A buffet is available for the students and adults at 6 pm. 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 Rd, which becomes E. Main St 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 usually is in the Twin Lights Rooms I and II. Use parking lot 7. As you walk towards the building complex, Warner will be down the slope 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.

Jan 27 – John Cecil, Vice President of NJ Audubon, will evaluate NJ's controversial sustainable management program for 600,000 acres of state forests, which includes logging by private companies. The New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Audubon Society, Highlands Coalition, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, and New Jersey Farm Bureau support the bill. However, the N.J. Sierra Club and Environment New Jersey oppose the bill. Opponents fear that environmental regulations controlling logging by private companies in many selected areas will not be properly enforced by the state Department of Environmental Protection because of political influence. They argue that the DEP has become so politicized that special interests routinely trump science and environmental protections. Supporters of the plan are more optimistic. They hope the plan will rehabilitate the state's forests and reduce forest fires by removing flammable underbrush.

Feb 24 – Dr. Carrie Manfrino, President and Director of Research and Conservation of the Central Caribbean Marine Institute (CCMI), Little Cayman Island, will discuss the plight of the world's coral reefs that range from the Caribbean Sea to Australia's famous Great Barrier Reef, and the research at CCMI to reduce these problems. The world's coral reefs are under siege by global warming, bleaching, acidification, rain runoff that contributes to water pollution, physical destruction, mining, over-fishing, deep-water trawling, natural predators, and cyanide and dynamiting to catch fish. Dr. Manfrino, who also teaches at Rutgers University and Kean College, is a recognized expert on corals. She founded the CCMI in 2005 to study how coral reefs can survive their current environmental degradations. Coral reefs occupy less than 0.25 percent of the Earth's marine environment, yet they are home to about 25 percent of all known marine species, including 800 species of coral, and thousands of other plants and animals; more than 25 percent of all known fish species, about 4,000 species at last count, and perhaps another estimated 1 to 8 million undiscovered species of organisms living in and around coral reefs. The CCMI's research projects for this important habitat include reef resiliency, over-fishing, coral fluorescence, deep and shallow reef connectivity, and threats from invasive species.

Mar 24 – Dan Lieb, President of the NJ Historical Divers Association, will discuss his organization's explorations of ship wrecks off the New Jersey coast, including two 1850s railroad steam locomotives sitting on the ocean floor just off Long Branch. The organization and its shipwreck exhibits are at the Info Age Science Museum on the former Marconi/Army site in Wall Township. The divers' association follows accepted archeological standards and practices to map and photograph ship wrecks primarily off the Jersey coast. There are about 5,000 known shipwrecks off the Jersey coastline, but only about 500 have been documented. In 1992, a group of scuba divers met informally to discuss the possibility of investigating of New Jersey's shipwrecks and began lecturing and exhibiting their shipwreck artifacts in 1994. The association was formalized in 1995 to preserve New Jersey's shipwreck and maritime history; to research and record the many unknown, lost and misnamed shipwrecks, as well as other potentially historically significant sites; and to document their findings and present them to the public. Lieb also is the director of the Sunken Locomotives Project for the New Jersey Museum of Transportation, a nonprofit educational organization that took legal possession of the two engines - through a federal proceeding - about nine years ago.

Ocean County Group

WEBSITE: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean

OFFICERS:

Chair:	A. Gregory Auriemma, Esq.	732-451-9220	sierraclubOC@aol.com
Vice-Chr,			
Outings:	Dawn Marie Johns	732-644-6340	sierraclubOC@hotmail.com
Conserv'n Chair:	Margit Meissner-Jackson	609-296-4367	sylvania1910@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Jill Palmer	732-928-0988	palmer2x2@aol.com
Treasurer:	Gregory Auriemma	732-451-9220	sierraclubOC@aol.com
Political Chair:	Nancy Brown	732-892-6089	nancybrown624@comcast.net
Publicity Chair:	<i>Open Position</i>		
Fund-Raising:	Joyce M. Isaza	732-920-9270	realtymstr@aol.com
Env'l Consultant:	Helen Henderson	908-278-9807	hhlaceyrailtrail@msn.com
Env'l Educ'n Coord:	Terrance Brown	848-333-7331	terrybrown@comcast.net
Group ExCom Member:	Sierra Palmer		

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY: Rescheduled to Saturday, Jan 18, 7-9pm. Contact Group officers or the website for more details.

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/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseyGroupNJSC> Log on and Like Us

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Gina Carola	856-848-8831	ginaceee@verizon.net
Vice-Chair:	Frank Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Secretary:	Ellen Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Treasurer:	Trish Clements		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:	<i>Open position!</i> Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831		
Smart Growth Chair:	<i>Open position!</i> Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831		
Programs Chair:	<i>Open position!</i> Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831		
Outings Chair:	<i>Open position!</i> Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831		

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

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

Jan 8: Jessica Franzini, Program Director for the Camden Urban Airshed Reforestation Program NJ Tree Foundation will present "Planting Trees in Camden and Across NJ".

Feb 12: Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument - Come and learn why this spectacular piece of New Mexico was given the status of National Monument by Presidential Proclamation in March 2013.

Mar 12: Movie Night: Koch Brothers Exposed. Come and watch this documentary about the kings of fossil fuels, billionaires Charles and David Koch and how they reach into all levels of government and influence legislation to suppress renewable energy, reap subsidies for the fossil fuel industry and enrich themselves at the expense of the rest of the country.

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:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Conservation Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Pol. Chair, Calendars:	Dick Colby	609-965-4453	dick.colby@stockton.edu
Membership Chair:	Michele Cooklin		lorax317@gmail.com
Secretary/Treasurer:	Julie Akers	609-432-3280	julieakers56@gmail.com

Michele Cooklin (lorax317@gmail.com) is our new Membership Chair, and will be attempting to revitalize the Group.

The Cape May County Conservation Committee has unfortunately gone extinct. Members in Cape May County who see a need for Club "presence" there are invited to contact Michele Cooklin.

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: There is much regional opposition to the construction of a large-diameter (24") natural gas pipeline to feed the BL England electric power plant in Marmora (Cape May Co), led by Georgina Shanley (shanleyg2001@yahoo.com) and the organization 350.org South Jersey (Glenn Klotz: glennk1949@gmail.com). The Pinelands Commission is expected to make a decision shortly. Campaigns to prevent the use of tropical rainforest wood for rebuilding oceanfront boardwalks, in Ocean City and

Wildwood, are also being led by Georgina. Club officers and staff have been following 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 advocate 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:

Jan 1, Feb 5 and Mar 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.

Jan 28 and Mar 25 (alternate fourth Tuesdays) Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: Membership meetings, open to the public, WFNC*. Contact Lynn Maun, 856-453-0416 or email lynnkmaun@comcast.net.

Feb 12 (alternate second Wednesdays), 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@cumaucricriver.org. Website: www.cumaucricriver.org.

Feb 19 (alternate 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, 609-432-3280.

350.org South Jersey is a recently formed organization that opposes Climate Change, and that tries to hold monthly meetings at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Pomona Rd (Rte 575) opposite the Stockton College campus in Galloway Twp, Atlantic Co. Contact Glenn Klotz: glennk1949@gmail.com.

Atlantic Audubon Society is a lively member-organization with strong environmental programs and an excellent monthly on-line newsletter. Membership is free. Meetings are at 7pm on fourth Wednesdays (Jan 22, Feb 26 and Mar 26) in the Galloway Twp Library, 306 E Jimmie Leeds Rd. www.AtlanticAudubon.org.

Singles Section

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

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

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

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

You can now also "like" us on Facebook: "Singles Group New Jersey Sierra Club".

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	joyce.white.exec@gmail.com
Social Chair:	Joe Prebish	Joe.Prebish@kraft.com
Vice Social Chair:	Jeff Sovelove	Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com
Programs:	<i>Position Open.</i> Contact us! We need you!	
Publicity:	Terry Kulmane	terrykayhiker@yahoo.com
Membership:	<i>Position Open.</i> Contact us! We need you!	
Nominations:	Nancy Sullivan	nancysullivan@comcast.net

2014 Executive Committee members: SJoyce Haddad, Ron Pate, Joe Prebish, Jeff Sovelove, Daphne Speck Bartynski, Joe Testa, Joyce White.

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 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 as described in the announcement.

SOCIAL DINNERS with MOVIE SHOWINGS are scheduled approximately monthly in Milford (Hunterdon Co.) and New Brunswick. Join us for thought-provoking films and conversation over casual dinners. Topics and locations will be announced on our listserv and on the Chapter's online calendar (see above).

(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)

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. Especially appropriate to singles are the trips led by Jimi Oleksiak and Jeff Sovelove.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Section

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

NEXT OUTING:

Feb 2 (Sun) Groundhog Day Hike in Lambertville: 10am. We'll hike along the towpath along the Delaware River for 4-5 miles before returning to Lambertville for lunch. Leaders: John Kashwick (jkashwick@optonline.net or 201-294-1092) and Jonathan Wall (908-295-1890). For meeting location and more information, please register through our on line calendar at http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp, through the Sierra Club New Jersey page on Meetup.com, or by emailing a leader. Bring water, comfortable walking shoes, and warm clothing. Rain, snow or ice cancels—call or text leader the morning of outing if in doubt. This outing will be run in conjunction with Sundance Outdoor Adventure Society. Group limit: 12.

Please check our listings on our online calendar at http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp.

We are currently recruiting volunteers to lead outings and serve on the section executive committee. For more information, please email njsierra.lgbt@gmail.com.

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.

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

Young Sierrans

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

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

YOUNG SIERRAN COMMITTEE POSITIONS

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

Looking Up? We are happy to announce that we've had a show of interest from some (younger) volunteers so that we were able to do a couple more outings this fall, and are looking forward to continuing this re-vitalization of our ICO group, one of fifty across the country. [Full disclosure: this is a great program.]

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. For our current schedule and other info, please visit our webpage: ico.sierraclub.org/newjersey.

On the Trail

GEHWA's Fall Adventure

By Lynn Maun, Education Coordinator of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association (lynnkmaun@comcast.net)

Blue skies and pleasant temperatures greeted a group of enthusiastic paddlers gathered on the shore of the Great Egg Harbor River, one of New Jersey's four National Wild and Scenic Rivers, on Saturday, September 28, 2013. It was the first day of a two-day adventure, sponsored by the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association (GEHWA), of canoeing and kayaking, and that also included overnight camping at Camp Acagisca, which is part of the Atlantic County Park System.

The participants included several federal officials and wilderness lobbyists up from Washington DC and down from Philadelphia, as well as local members of the Watershed Association, an organization that was originally formed from the Sierra Club's South Jersey Group.

On Saturday, as the paddlers traveled down-river from Camp Acagisca to Lake Lenape, they were treated to a peek at the early fall colors in the vegetation along the river. Due to a recent lack of rain, both the water level and velocity of the river were reduced. But even so, care was needed to navigate the twists and turns on this stretch of the river. At times, when the breeze was not stirring the surface of the tea-colored river, fish could be

seen darting through the water. Headwinds as we approached Lake Lenape required some strenuous paddling. Then a tailwind helped propel the boats as they neared the lower end of the lake and the end of the day's journey. It was a wonderful day paddling with a group of friends, enjoying the peace and beauty of the river.

After hauling the boats back to Camp Acagisca, the tired and hungry paddlers gathered in the lodge to enjoy a hot meal and lively discussions.

Sunday morning we drove the boats up-river to Weymouth Furnace, another Atlantic County Park. Navigating this stretch back to Camp Acagisca was more challenging, because of many obstacles, and a narrower channel due to the low-water conditions. There were several dunks! But high spirits and good humor prevailed, especially at the sight of many basking turtles, and a large water snake carrying (or eating?) a small water snake in its mouth. The day on the river ended shortly before noon. After loading the boats, and packing up tents and gear, the happy group of paddlers said their good-byes with plans to meet again next year for this annual fall event sponsored by GEHWA.





Outings

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

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

- Central Jersey:** Joanne Pannone
jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.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
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Skylands: Pat Mangino, Pmangino@aol.com
Raritan Valley: Vacant
South Jersey: Tom Boghosian 609-625-0878 (H)
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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 April-June 2014 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 Feb. 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 2014 trip write-ups by Feb. 8.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (C) - Central Jersey | (JS) - Jersey Shore |
| (G) - Gateway | (L) - Loantaka |
| (N) - North Jersey | (Sk) - Skylands |
| (RV) - Raritan Valley | (S) - South Jersey |
| (W) - West Jersey | (NJ) - NJ Chapter |
| (RT) - River Touring | (ACOC) - Atlantic Chapter |
| (SNG) - Especially for Singles | (but ALL welcome) |

the route. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave (building with mural, on the corner of Tate & Piermont Aves) in Piermont NY. Park down Gair St in parking lot D. Leader: John P. Jurasek: 845-519-4247 (no calls after 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

Jan 29 (Wed): Hike at Jakes Branch County Park (Ocean Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. Jakes Branch has a nature center with interesting hands-on exhibits and an observation deck that offers a 360° view of the Pinelands. Meet at Jakes Branch Park, 1100 Double Trouble Rd, Beechwood. Bring lunch and water. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

FEBRUARY

Feb 1 (Sat): Whitesbog Village Winter Hike (Burlington Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. Whitesbog is a NJ historic site and was a village built to house workers in the local cranberry bogs. We may see wintering Tundra Swans as we hike around the bogs. Optional guided tour of the Village at 1pm (small fee). Directions www.whitesbog.org. Bring beverage and lunch. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Feb 2 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek on Groundhog Day (Ocean Co). 10am. What was "Piney Phil's" decision in NJ? The river section we paddle will depend on weather conditions. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Feb 8 (Sat): High Point State Park Ski & Snowshoe (Sussex Co). Singles Outing. 10am. <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/highpoint.html>. There is a full-service cross country ski center at the park with rentals and a ski lodge. <http://www.xcskihighpoint.com/>. We expect to take 4-5 hours for fun in the snow. Email the leader for the up-to-the-minute details. No pets. XC Skis/ Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. Registration required via web: http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp. Include a brief description of your XC Ski or Snowshoe experience with your registration. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak <the_hikist@mac.com>

Feb 8 (Sat): Patriots Path Stroll (Morris Co). Singles Hike. 10am. Come take a moderate paced, easy stroll on Patriots Path in Morristown. This 3 - 5 mile almost flat walk will start out from the Speedwell Lake parking lot across the street from Historic Speedwell. See the Morris County Parks website (<http://www.morrisparks.org/>) for directions. The path is wide, partly paved, partly crushed stabilized gravel with very little in the way of elevation gains. We will be strolling at a very moderate pace. Please bring plenty of water and a light snack. Great for beginners. No pets please. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footwear required (sabilicers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. Optional lunch afterwards. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove (Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com). Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

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

Feb 14 (Fri): A Sweet Hike on Valentine's Day (Burlington Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace at Historic Smithville Park in Vincentown. The Park features a diverse collection of habitats and terrain and also offers Rancocas Creek vistas. Meet at the Smith's Woods access parking lot, East Railroad Ave. Option for lunch at Vincentown Diner after the hike. Leashed dogs are welcome. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Feb 15 (Sat): Breakneck Pond/Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. 8-9 mile hike at moderate pace over mostly gently rolling terrain, with just 2 steep hills. Scenic views of 2 beautiful lakes, recent beaver activity. Group limit 12 people. Must preregister to confirm space and will provide meeting locations/directions. Bad weather or temperature below 20 will cancel hike. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

Feb 16 (Sun): President's Day Weekend Hike at Allaire State Park (Monmouth Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. George Washington's birthday will be celebrated by volunteers in grand style at this Historic Village. After the hike, option to tour the village buildings and shop at the Allaire General Store. Bring or buy lunch. Meet in the Village parking lot. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: Leona@pineypaddlers.com or 609-259-3734. (W)

Feb 16 (Sun): Pine Meadow Lake/Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. 8-9-mile hike at moderate pace over fairly rocky terrain. Trail conditions will determine which trails we take to/from Pine Meadow Lake and Lake Wanasink. If not icy very scenic loop along streams/lake shores. Group limit 12 people. Must preregister to confirm space and will provide meeting locations/directions. Bad weather or temperature below 20 will cancel hike. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

Feb 22 (Sat): Clausland Mountain (Rockland Co, NY). 11:15 am. 6-mile hike. We will climb 700 ft through historic Rockland Cemetery to an old Nike missile base. Bring hiking boots, lunch, 2 quarts of water. Adverse conditions will alter the route. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave (building with mural, on the corner of Tate & Piermont Aves) in Piermont NY. Park down Gair St in parking lot D. Leader: John P. Jurasek: 845-519-4247 (no calls after 10pm), or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

Feb 22 (Sat): A Special Guided Hike at Merrill Creek Reservoir (Warren Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. Join us for a very special guided hike with Jane Bullis, Merrill Creek Reservoir Naturalist. Merrill Creek Reservoir is a 650-acre reservoir surrounded by a 290-acre Environmental Preserve and 2000 additional acres of woods and fields. The reservoir is home to tens of thousands of Snow Geese during the migration season. There are resident Bald Eagles and in the past a Snowy Owl wintered there. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet at the MCR Visitors Center. Directions www.merrillcreek.com/. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Feb 23 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 10am. We're paddling from Penny Pot to Weymouth Furnace. Meet at Harley Dawn Diner, Black Horse Pike/Rte 322. Arrive early for breakfast! Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Feb 26 (Wed): Clayton Park Hike (Monmouth Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace on woods trails with some elevation. This rustic 421-acre site in Central New Jersey is located amidst the rolling farmland of western Monmouth County. For directions: www.monmouthcountyparks.com/page.aspx?id=2517. Leashed dogs are welcome! Option for lunch at La Piazza, Allentown. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

MARCH

Mar 1 (Sat): National Peanut Butter Day Hike at Perrineville Lake Park (Monmouth Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. Leashed dogs are welcome! Beautiful woodlands, natural fields and a picturesque lake meet here in the heart of quiet Millstone. Bring water; leaders will have Peanut Butter snacks. Meet at 23 Agress Rd, Millstone parking lot. Leashed dogs are welcome. Option, lunch at Albivi Restaurant. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Mar 8 (Sat) Cooper Gristmill Park on the Black River Hike, Chester, NJ (Morris Co). Singles hike 10am. <http://www.morrisparks.net/aspparks/coopermillmain.asp>. Moderately strenuous: 7 miles in 4 hours in hilly terrain. The hike will cover 7 Miles in 3-4 hours in moderately hilly terrain in a picturesque venue along the Black River. There is a Port-A-John in the parking lot. Winter Traction devices are required if there is ice or snow on the ground. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch required. Registration required via web: http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp. 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. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: <the_hikist@mac.com>

March 8 (Sat): Lewis Morris Park (Morris Co). Singles Hike. 10am. Moderate pace, some ups and downs, 7 miles. We will start at Sunrise Lake, then hike to the parking upper lot and back down to the lake using a combination of the Yellow and Red trails. The pace will be a moderate to slow one. See the Morris County Parks Commission website <http://www.morrisparks.org/aspparks/lmdir.asp> for directions. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Meet in parking lot. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footwear required (sabilicers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Mar 9 (Sun): Hike at Turkey Swamp Park (Monmouth Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. This is our 5th annual Daylight Savings Time hike at Turkey Swamp Park. Park information and directions: www.monmouthcountyparks.com/. Turn into the Main Entrance - 200 Georgia Rd, Freehold - drive to the Oak Point picnic area parking lot. Bring lunch and beverage. Leashed dogs are welcome! Rain cancels. Leaders: Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Mar 12 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak Crosswicks Creek/ Abbott Marshlands (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 10:30am. Our 8-mile round trip with the tide begins on the Crosswicks Creek in Bordentown. We'll see returning waterfowl. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St. Experienced cold weather/water paddlers only. 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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kjohan@comcast.net
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* Laura Lynch (609) 882-4642
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Regional Issues Coordinator

Joan Denzer** (JDenzer73@yahoo.com)

Fundraising Committee

Ken Johanson**, Joan and George Denzer,

Personnel Committee

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

Legislative Committee

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

Litigation Oversight Committee

Greg Auriemma**, Ken Johanson

Finance Committee

George Denzer**, Sunil Somalwar,
Ken Johanson

Information Technology Committee

Joe Testa**, Sunil Somalwar, George
Newsome, Bill Martin

Facilities (office, meeting sites)

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

* Indicates Chapter-wide elected ExCom members.

** Indicates committee chair or co-chair

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

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psychologist@jonwall.com

Clean Air Issues

Bob Campbell (973) 761-4461
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Community Solar

Dick Colby (see left column)

Cool Cities

Faith Teitelbaum (732) 513-5445
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Delaware River Issues

Gina Carola (see left column)

Genetically Modified Organisms

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Global Warming

Sunil Somalwar (see left column)

Green Acres Issues

Bob Moss (973) 743-5203
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Marine Issues

Greg Auriemma (see left column)

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liaison to Pinelands Preservation Alliance:

Mike Gallaway (M.Gallaway@comcast.net)

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Bonnie Tillery (609) 259-6438
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389 Sawmill Rd, Hamilton NJ 08620.

Recycling Issues

David Yennior (see above)

Sprawl Issues

Jane Tousman (see left column)

Tiger Conservation Issues

Sunil Somalwar (see left column)

Transportation Issues

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Trail Issues

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MattekDC@aol.com
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Utah, Wildland Issues

John Kashwick (201) 660-8820
jkashwick@optonline.net

Water Quality and Habitat Issues

Rich Isaac (see left column)

Chapter Office 609-656-7612

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

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Jeff.Tittel@SierraClub.org

Outreach Coordinator: Nicole Dallara

Nicole.Dallara@SierraClub.org

Conservation Program Coordinator:**Kate Millsaps**

Kate.Millsaps@SierraClub.org

Organizing Representative,**Beyond Coal Campaign:**

Christine Guhl 908-231-0202
Christine.Guhl@Sierraclub.org

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

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

Mar 15 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak Trip on the Ides of March. 10am. It will be a lucky day for us as we paddle in the Pinelands. Where will we paddle? Experienced cold weather/water paddlers only. Contact leaders for details. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Mar 17 (Mon): St. Patrick's Day Hike at Thompson Park (Monmouth Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. Wear Your Green! The preserved historic buildings offer a rich glimpse into the area's past, while the surrounding fields, trails, and lake provide a beautiful location for outdoor activities. We're hiking the Reservoir Loop: This MODERATE 4.8 mile (7.8 km) loop goes around the Swimming River Reservoir and Marlu Lake; grass and dirt trails. Meet at the Visitors Center, 805 Newman Springs Rd, Lincroft 07738. Bring lunch and water. Leashed dogs are welcome. Rain cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Mar 20 (Thurs): Hike - Celebrate the Vernal Equinox at Rancocas State Park (Burlington Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. Welcome spring with a hike in the woods. Bring water and snacks. Meet at Long Bridge Park, Deacon RD. Directions: <http://www.co.burlington.nj.us/pages/pages.aspx?cid=589>. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Mar 22 (Sun): Island Pond Loop/Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. 8-9 mile hike at moderate pace over fairly rocky terrain with a few ups/downs. Trail conditions will determine which trails we take to/from the lake and some beautiful viewpoints. Group limit 12 people. Must preregister to confirm space and will provide meeting locations/directions. Bad weather or temperature below 20 will cancel hike. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

Mar 26 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 10am. The section we paddle will depend on weather conditions. Experienced cold weather/water paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Mar 30 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am. Spring is here! Meet at Lake Oswego and paddle 8 miles on the "Jewel of the Pinelands". Experienced cold weather/water Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

UPCOMING

Sept 7-12 or Sept 14-19 (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 available. Outing includes: hiking the AT, guided kayaking or canoeing pristine lakes and rivers with our host and Registered Maine Guide, Steve Philbrick. Log cabins with fireplace, wood, bath, linens and porch. Breakfasts and dinners in the lodge dining room, sack lunches for the trail. \$1300 per person. For more information contact leader: Judy Norcross: 609-288-6737 or jsnorcross@aol.com. (W)

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

All members are welcome to attend these monthly statewide policy deliberations, usually 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.

**Jan 11: Annual Reorganization Meeting: Chatham Public Library, 214 Main St.
Feb 8 and Mar 8: at Hamilton Public Library (Mercer Co), 1 Justice Samuel Alito, Jr, Way.**

Speaking of ExCom, there is just opportunity here to congratulate Bob Moss as a new elected member, joining Rich Isaac and Jane Tousman, re-elected, all for three-year terms.



Dick Colby (dick.colby@stockton.edu) Editor
Karen Brown (karonna@yahoo.com) Designer

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

The Jersey Sierran appears in
January, April, July and October.

The deadline for copy is on the 10th of the month,
two months before appearance.

Members are cordially invited to propose articles, essays,
letters, poetry and artwork.

(Group/Section News columns are prepared by Group/Section
Chairs; Outings are vetted by the Chapter Outings Chair,
Ellen Blumenkrantz.)

*Opinions, unless otherwise attributed, are of the writer only.
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This newsletter is produced mostly by volunteers.

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Primary typeface: Garamond, 9.5 point
Printed by Redmond Press, Denville, NJ
Addressed by SHM Mailhouse, Princeton, NJ
Periodical postage paid at Princeton NJ.

The Jersey Sierran is published quarterly by
the Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter,
145 West Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618

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If you didn't receive an electronic Sierra Club ballot last Fall, and would like to receive future ballots electronically, as well as membership renewal notices, please send your E-mail address (along with your name, street address and membership number if you know it) to membership.services@sierraclub.org.

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