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 fishers. A local birder discovered a bald eagles’ nest. Eagles 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. 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 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 Pinnacle SkyMark LLC real estate development project – for two hotels, a conference center, and residential housing. The site contains the presence of heavy metals and PCBs. The remediation requires capping, which means that the eagle, along with 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 remedi- diate 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 esti- mated 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 music and dance 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) and State Senator Linda Greenstein (D, 14th District), who won our awards in previous years.

A special event was the silent auction photographs, taken by Wynn Johanson for whose obituary is on p. 2 of this issue. Joan and George Denzer organized the silent auction. Additional talks were given by Congressmen Rush Holt (D, 12th District) and Paul Sanderson: Congresswoman Hail with Joe Testa, Anne Mandel, Laura Stone, Greg Auriemma, and Margaret-Mary Piccolo.

Congressman John with Joe Testa, Anne Mandel, 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 was no mean feat to be smarter than our response. We’d be sticking our heads in the 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 repair, restoration, recovery, and adaptation, 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 ten northeast states to cut carbon emissions from electric power plants. A report by the National Association of Regional Utilities pointed out that New Jersey’s (brief) participation in RGGI (under previous Governor Corzine) represented $1.5 million in economic benefits and 1,772 new jobs in our state. NJ reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 19%, then Governor Christie withdrew from the compact – with serious consequences. Prior to 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 portfolio standard from 22% to 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 actively complement the Global Warming Response Act. We need programs and realistic maps to deal with sea level rise: elevating streets, preserving and moving vital infrastructure to higher ground, and fixing related problems like combined sewer overflows.

The FEMA maps being used for rebuilding contain the worst flood scenarios 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 rebuild- ing efforts, requires use of the new resilient building standards. If we don’t use them, we jeopardize that funding.

On energy, HUD calls not just for hard- ening the grid, but making it more resil- ient, 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 ini- tiatives. More planning for natural systems and adding dunes along our coast would be undertaken. There has been no comprehensive plan for buy- outs in our coastal areas and no new funding for buyouts.

Two critical bills would better protect our coast. A S921 would close major loop- holes in the Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA) by redefining developments that need permits. A Coastal Commission as proposed in A 5920 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!
Sierra Club Ballot: Central Jersey Group

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

If the Sierra Club has your e-mail address, you may vote either online or by mail, as indicated 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 vote for members of your Group (including those in your household and sister community). To vote by paper ballot: Please use the ballot below; then clip it on the heavy-dashed line, and return it in your envelope to the address provided in the card mailed from the Sierra Club. 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618. P&R boxes are to enable two members of family memberships to cast separate votes. Note that a properly-clipped ballot will include the label on the box, and your memberships 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
• Sandra Ford
• Bill Wowk
• White in
• White in

Report on New Jersey’s Bees

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

Sierra Club Ballot: [Image 36x1136] these toxic pesticides and save our bees.

The Oct 29th, 2013, issue of the Sierra Club ballot requested that people vote for members of their Group ExCom, including the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club. So I wasn’t surprised that the letter leading the ballot began with a statement about Colony Collapse Disorder, others blame toxic pesticides known as neonicotinoids, 25 percent less than...in 1995 (when adjusted for inflation). “How is that 1 billion US contribu- tion invested? A paper (Diuson et al) in the International’s web site, we have support- ed family planning and reproductive health care programs since 1965. “Polls have consistently shown that 75 to 90 percent of Americans support international family planning and reproductive health care programs.”

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 agricul- tural, promiscuous use of neonicotin- oids. 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 producers, beekeepers and environmentalists are working on legislation to help keep beekeepers in business and save their bees. These are working their way through the NJ Legislature: A4456 - Penalty for destruction of man- made native beehives A4459: Ban on neonicotinoid pesticides An amendment to the National Farm Bill (S3945): SA1027 calls for studies on pollinator decline. Each beehive houses 50,000 to 50,000 bees. They forage from 3 to 5 miles around. A starter hive costs approximate- ly $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 bee- keeper must protect them from mites, noxae pests, small hive beetles, and bees. Mites do not hibernate: they cluster in their boxes and feed off the honey stores and only survive during the winter. It’s not just the beekeeper who cares about bees. How about the farmers, and everyone who relies on pollinators for their livelihood? 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 garden- ers will also use these common garden products and this is bad news for the honey bees and other pollinators. We need to support A4456. Please help save our bees.

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Population Issues Coordinator’s Report

What Will $1 Billion Buy?

By Bonnie Tiley (bit44bit@man.com)

What will $1 billion buy? This is the question the Sierra Club Global Population and Environment Program and other health, environmental and popu- lation organizations are asking of the United Nations Population Fund informs us that 222 million women in the develop- ing world would like to delay or to stop having children, but do not plan their families, spacing births so that both mother and child are healthy, and so that they are able to educate their children, and to plan for the future. 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 of people without access to drinking water will grow to 3.1 billion. There are 925 million chronically malnourished people in the world. A 30% 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 85% of the reductions needed to avert (more drastic) climate change.”

Why should the U.S. contribute $1 bil- lion for international family planning? According to the National Geographic Channel, it’s enter- tainment that the GDP of the donor country. “Deseret News,” Salt Lake City, much-it-will-cost-the-us-to-invest-in-global-family-planning for $1 billion for international family planning. The cost, $590, includes an evening tour of the Chumash and other exhibits, plus the services of a ranger/natura- list and a contribution to the Club’s Public Relations budget.

To reserve space, send a $100 check payable to Sierra Club, to leader: 229 S. Main Street, Lake City, CA 92830.

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

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 stone lion, or $75.03 per person. (1) By con- suming that by the GDP of the donor country. “Deseret News,” Salt Lake City, much-it-will-cost-the-us-to-invest-in-global-family-planning for $1 billion for international family planning. The cost, $590, includes an evening tour of the Chumash and other exhibits, plus the services of a ranger/natura- list and a contribution to the Club’s Public Relations budget.

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Constitution

The Environment

Personal habits seem to be imposed by a society that one adopts. There are too many competing interests, campaign finance, and incumbency. Surely there are other political models, starting with my favorite, advocated in the Sierra Club meeting, in San Francisco, of delegates from Chapters around the country. We asked the Federal EPA to require that PSE&G's Transmission and Distribution infrastructure be made safer for the future, which outlines criteria for federal funding for the improvements. PSE&G's Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure Investment Report proposes $3.9 billion over five years to reduce the risk of failures and accidents, and to improve the reliability of the grid. 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 bequest that will last well into the future, consider including the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club in your estate plan. 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.

Chair's Message

Fundraising

By Ken J ohanson (kjohnson@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 them what they would be willing to do. 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 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 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 Sierra Club: The Jersey sierran: January–March 2014. While the responses I receive vary, one thing is for sure: “anything but fundraising.”

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 big- gest 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 to move away from propping up more energy efficiency programs to reduce the need for electricity, and promote distribut ed 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 $3.9 billion over five years to reduce the risk of failures and accidents, and to improve the reliability of the grid. The chapter is making a difference and is worthy of our continued support.

You have more to know

Maybe you can’t make a gift to protect the environment during your lifetime, but you can become a Sierra Club member. 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 609-799-9389.
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 vitamins 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.anu.edu.au/stu/arch/sep/wp7/ potato6997.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.thekitchen.com/vegetable-ies/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 or cumin-cayenne mashed potatoes. Mashed potatoes, including Purple Majesty, Yukon Gold, All Blue, and Kennebec. There are more than fifteen varieties of potatoes, including Purple Majesty, Yukon Gold, All Blue, and Kennebec.

Cumin-Cayenne Mashed Potatoes with Carroled Onion (from “Vegan Soul Food”)

2 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled, cut into ½” chunks
5 T. olive oil
1 large onion, ¼” diced
1 t. salt
3 T. soy sauce
2 c. firmly packed mashed potatoes
1 T. ground cumin
½ t. cayenne pepper
½ c. unflavored rice milk
2 T. thyme
Ground white pepper

Boil potatoes about 25 minutes until you can pierce them with a fork. In a large saucepan, combine oil, onion, cumin, cayenne & ½ t. salt. Sauté, stirring often until 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. Whiz 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 Spat”)

2 c. firmly packed mashed potatoes
2 T. ground cumin
2 T. black sesame seeds
2 T. Oriental sesame oil
1 T. fresh ginger
2 T. soy sauce
3 T. chopped scallions
3 oz. chew mein noodles
1 tablespoon vegetable oil for greasing baking sheet
Salt & pepper

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Combine mashed potatoes, soy sauce, sesame seeds and sesame oil. Pepper to taste. Firmly pack ⅛ mixture into each shell. Place on greased sheet. Insert chew mein noodles into mashed potatoes for “pot cupunie” look. Bake 10-15 minutes till heated through.

Cumin Dragun is a former WCTC radio talk show host and a nurse.

New Jersey’s Green Acres program is just over 50 years old. It has been a spectacular success. Through direct purchases and estate levering, the program has preserved almost 640,000 acres during that time, according to the DFP website. “Leveraging” includes contributing part of the funds needed for an open space purchase, but there are other ways Green Acres are leveraged. When a County or municipality receives Green Acres funding, they may sell all land that is being leveraged into 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 (i.e. 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.

First, it doesn’t stop with that. What can we look for over the next 50 years? Our remaining open spaces are fast filling up, but in pressure to build up with us. Something has to give. Many who want to build, including some municipal official, are casting their eyes upon Green Acres-protected properties. But in open open space, the law is that not being a developed parcel and tear down an existing facility.

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 aren’t the same as the land, even if not in name, already being held as open space. For example, there’s a parcel in Monroe Township (Gloucester Co.) that was extemely discussed by the municipal council. They wanted to use it as park land, and passed a resolution asking the planning board to put it in the master plan, which was done, and now the parcel is being offered as replacement land. The Chapter has questioned such a use, as part of the public comment process.

The arbour project to trees Howe Lane into a continuation of Route 18 necessitated the taking of a piece of property. 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 a almost acheckerboard pattern of primarily-occupied 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 taking this parcel, and the mayor said, “It’s just vacant land that we’re holding”. The Chapter has questions this.

In Toms River, a tract owned by the municipality is posted with a large sign that says “Green Acres land, no development is allowed”. Yet, a municipal records-storage facility is now being built on that property. When 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 appeals to the Office of Green Acres to stop this project before ground-breaking 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 at the race as a tossup, so there’s a real chance New Jersey could replace a bad environmental record in New Jersey’s Congressional Districts most interesting development is that Rep. Jon Runyan, with one of the worst environmental records in New Jersey’s Congressional Districts (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.

Peering into the mists of 2014 from 2014–Political Possibilities

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

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

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Transportation Activists Sought

Steve Lanset is our Transportation Issues Coordinator. He invites additional Club members to join his e-mail group of people who want that promise kept. Tell them that the people were told the people were told the people were told that the people were told the people were told that the people were told that the people were told that the people were told that the people were told that the people were told. If you spot a questionable use of Green Acres land, call and contact your officials. Working to do what we can. If you spot a questionable use of Green Acres land, contact your own government officials. Tell them that the people were told the land was permanently protected, and you want that promise kept.
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 identified a 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 GOP legis-lation, which was deemed unconstitutional, would have provided billions 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 ratepayer 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 profited fracking in Pennsylvania. The cost of using this dirty extraction method and infrastructure destroys natural resources and beauty of Northwest New Jersey.

Unfortunately, the court’s ruling does not mean that the Christie Administration will not find other creative 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 up to 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 (FERC) ordered the state not to subsidize these plants. FERC’s order is expected to become the standard practice across the country.

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Both the grid operator PJM and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) ordered the state not to subsidize these plants. FERC’s order is expected to become the standard practice across the country.

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North Jersey Group (Bergen and Passaic Counties)

WEBSITE: http://newjersey.sierrclub.org/North/
MEETUP: http://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/
FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/northjerseysierracub

Officers:
Chair: John Kashwick
Treasurer: Mary Ellen Shaw
Secretary: Jennifer Rothschild
Conservation Co-Chair: Beth Ravit
Publicity Chair: Laura Cohler
Events Chair: Mary Walsh
Membership Chair: Ali Jensen
Outings Chair: Ellen Blumenkrantz
Programs Chair: Jessica Epstein
Publicity Chair: Mary Cohen
Trail Maintenance: John Kashwick
Wildlands Issues: Janine Jurick
Wetlands Issues: Mary Ellen Shaw
Ex-Com Member-at-Large: Nancy Wysocki

*Group Executive Committee Member*

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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.sierrclub.org/nj/calendars.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, 154Ruckman 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 stunning 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 himself that would push his career to new levels of commitment. Combining image, story, and music, Balog’s photography gives us a new understanding of climate change. Please come and enjoy the show!

Feb 25 (Tue): Environmental Benefits of Historic Preservation: 7:30 pm at Oradell Library, 575 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 to lead toward the goal of sustainability.

Mar 25 (Tue): Fracking in New Jersey: 7:30 pm at Louis Bay 2nd floor, 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 3.6 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 recognition organization meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 7 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 learn about events. Please contact Beth Ravit at ravit@tenso.n.rutgers.edu or buddy.jensen@gmail.com with your interest in attending. Please let her know the dates you plan to attend.

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GROUP NEWS

South Highlands Group (Hunterson and southern Warren Counties)

WEBSITE: http://newjersey.sierrclub.org/SouthHighlands/

OFFICERS:
Chair: Jonathan Wall
Vice Chair: Carol DePiero
Conservation Chair: Clancy McGonagle
Secretary: Jonathan Wall
Treasurer: Carol DePiero
Outings Coordinator: Jonathan Wall
Webmaster: Jonathan Wall

*Group Executive Committee Member*

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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.sierrclub.org/nj/calendars.asp or by emailing John Kashwick at jkashwick@optonline.net prior to any event.

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 own! If you plan to bring your next vacation’s next outing, please contact Jonathan to register and let him know what you are bringing at psychologist@jonwall.com.

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. Join Jonathan Wall, 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 own! If you plan to bring your next vacation’s next outing, please contact Jonathan to register and let him know what you are bringing at psychologist@jonwall.com.

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Mar 19 (Wed): 7pm Meet & Greet; 7:30 at Hunterdon Medical Center’s Auditorium – Auditing the Appalachian Trail that we maintain in Wawayanda State Park. Maskless, but armed with a camera, Jonathan will take us to the 25 miles of hiking we do in Wawayanda State Park. Come prepared with a camera and a video recorder for the 25 miles we will hike.

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DINNER AND A MOVIE: Run on 2nd Thursdays of the month at 7pm. Films are rele-
vant 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.sierrclub.org/nj/calendars.asp or www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/

For additional information, please contact: Susan Schirmer: soupsy@att.net or 908-797-6725. Space limited to limited to 25. See movie listings below:

Jan 9 Film: Queen Of The Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us? A profound, alterna-
tive look at the bee crisis and dramatic stories of the heart-felt struggles of beekeepers.

Jan 17 Film: Redrock Wilderness, a short video plus slides, which showcases citizen efforts to pro-
tection of an area of New Jersey in the 1970s.

Feb 6 Film: The Great Outdoors: A portrait of the American wilderness and for the first time, rise 143 feet above grade—far higher than the 35-foot limit that has, until now, been rise 143 feet above grade—far higher than the 35-foot limit that has, until now, been.

Feb 22 Film: 30 years. The Sierra Club and other conservation groups joined the Wild-
erness Alliance, will present an inspirational talk and show: Wild Utah: America’s 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 own! If you plan to bring your next vacation’s next outing, please contact Jonathan to register and let him know what you are bringing at psychologist@jonwall.com.

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Mar 19 Film: Ridgefield Park Eagle Nest: The Eagle Nest is going on, please contact our Conservation Co-Chairs--Mary Ellen Shaw at meshaw.001@gmail.com or Mary Ellen Shaw at meshaw.001@gmail.com prior to any event.

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April 10 Film: King Of The Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us? A profound, alterna-
tive look at the bee crisis and dramatic stories of the heart-felt struggles of beekeepers.

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CURRENT ISSUES: Delaware Water Gap: We support efforts to enhance park protec-
tion and funding by developing the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to a National Park and Preserve. We are working with local and state governments, outdoor environ-
mental organizations, and environmental game groups…together with you...to come-
serve and enhance our local environment and protect it from the pressures of subur-
bahn sprawl, power lines, gas pipes and mineral and gas extraction.

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There’s a new bi-weekly Chapter Alert Service. Sign up at www.scnj.convio.net.
OUTINGS: If you have an idea for an outing you would like to lead, please contact Ellen: elbuenkenrantz@hotmail.com to find out how.

Sign up for North Jersey Group e-mail notices by e-mailing John at jnk handheld@optonline.net.

Hudson County Group

The NJ Chapter understands the importance of urban areas 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 getting 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.


OFFICERS:
Chair:
David Yennior 973-844-1384 dyennior@msn.com

Vice-Chair:
John Beadle 973-284-1594 jbeadle571@verizon.net

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Program Co-Chairs:
John Beadle see above,
and Barbara Conover 201-452-9389 bcomiller22@gmail.com

Publicity Chair:

Conservation Co-Chairs:
ZaShah Khademi 201-618-8772 za.shah@aol.com

and David Korthage 973-932-0742 dkorthage@gmail.com

Political Chair:

Fundraising Chair:

Membership Chair:

Co-Chairs:

Water, Newark Issues Chair:
Bill Chappel 973-623-6490 chappebl1@gmail.com

Recycling Issues Chair:
Lyle Landon 201-247-0882 lylelandon@aol.com

Co-Chairs:
Brenda Toyloy 973-856-7056 brendatoyloy@yahoo.com

and Jeff Weiss 973-650-1030 bonestilfish5000@gmail.com

Elizabeth Issues Chair:
Paula Borenstein 988-289-5384 brandmkt@aol.com

Outings Chair:

Open Position!

Group Executive Committee:
Chair:
David Yennior, John Beadle, and ZaShah 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 ask your support as we 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 erichomass@gmail.com
and Paul Sanderson 908-253-2414 paulsanderson@aol.com

Treasurer:

Scott Morton 908-253-2414 paulsanderson@aol.com

Secretary:

Conservation Chair:

Bill Martin 906-604-2505 WP.Martin@yahoo.com

Union County:

Open Position!

Political Chair:

Open Position!

Program Chair:

Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 erichomass@gmail.com

Fundraising Chair:

Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 erichomass@gmail.com

Outreach & Events Chair:

Open Position!

Publicity Chair:

Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442 wynn.johanson@comcast.net

Meetings Chair:

Bill Martin 906-604-2505 WP.Martin@yahoo.com

Air Quality Coordinator:

Bob Campbell 973-761-4461 bobe2023@verizon.net

Webmaster:

Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442 wynn.johanson@comcast.net

At Large:

Seabastian Dutta 361-902-9984 sebadiutta@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://loantaka.sierraclub.org/archives/ajloantaka/news.html

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

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

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

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

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

MEETING SCHEDULE:
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 Schmier 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 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.

Apr 9: $200 prize will be given for the most creative idea for a local environmental project.

May 14: Information will be available about the proposed Transco natural gas pipeline through New Jersey and the environmental issues it may cause. As the pipeline will impact New Jersey’s unique and fragile ecosystems, the Open Space Institute and New Jersey Audubon will present their views on the environmental impacts of the Transco pipeline.

Jun 8: The Gateway Group will present details on the proposed Transco natural gas pipeline and an overview of the process through which the project is being reviewed by New Jersey regulatory agencies.

Jul 13: Local solutions to local problems are the focus of this meeting. Civic projects that will benefit our county will be presented.

Aug 17: “Green seniors” will be on hand to share tips on how to “green” your own community.

Sep 14: Native plants are the key topic at this meeting. Many native plant experts will be available to answer questions.

Oct 19: The timing of the meeting will be announced.

Nov 16: The timing of the meeting will be announced.

Dec 7: The timing of the meeting will be announced.

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer 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 terystimp@hotmail.com

Vice-Chair:
Open Position!

Secretary:

Memorial Chair:

Open Position!

Outings Chair:

Joanne Pannone 609-445-6992 joanpamewbrook@gmail.com

Political Chair:

Terry Stimpfel 609-731-7016 terystimp@hotmail.com

Publicity Chair:

Joanne Pannone as above

Program Chair:

Lynne Weiss 732-821-9068 lbnat95@gmail.com

ExCom At-Large:

Kip Cherry 609-587-9060 robert.benjamin@greenwinds.net

Outreach:

Open Position!

Webmaster:

Open Position!

Trail and Field:

Bob Sokol 609-918-1149 rob.sokol45@gmail.com

ExCom At-Large:

Bill Wovk 609-587-0902 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 hydraulic fracturing wastes in New Jersey and to protect the Princeton Battlefield and a nearby stream from adjoining development. We continue to support the NJ DEP’s rule, the Susquehanna Act, which requires the use of green and “eco-friendly” electric transmission lines, natural gas transmission pipelines through New Jersey and horizontal hydraulic fracturing.

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/CentralGroupNJS.

We invite you to become more involved, share your ideas, 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:
Roozai Nusrat 609-389-0036 sierra_r_araritan@outlook.com

(Continued on page 8)
Meetings Location and Updates: Because meeting dates and locations change, please subscribe to our E-mail list: NJ-RIATITAN-VALLYNEWS after creating a password on http://lists.sierraclub.org/

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

General Meetings:

Co-Chair:
Roseann Joshua 732-754-5023 roseann@bellsouth.net
Vice-Chair:
Pat Galle 732-255-6056 pgalle@msn.com
Secretary:
Nancy Brown 732-892-6089 nancybrown624@comcast.net
Treasurer:
Joe Deluca 732-889-3015 jdeluca@alumni.haas.org
Membership Chair:
Don McBride 732-544-1726 gmofattgt@aol.com
Coordinator:
Nancy Gladfeltzer
Communications:
Emma Schilling
Fund-Raising:
Co-Chair:
Bob Grizzi 732-829-0084 mncwpwp@bpb.org
Program Chair:
George Morfitt 732-544-1720 gmofattgt@aol.com
Co-Chair:
Lois Blake 732-865-5917 loblake@optonline.net
Outings:
Janet Tousman 908-561-5504 jtousau@aol.com
Webmaster:
Don McBride 732-544-1726 gmofattgt@aol.com
Open Position!
Open Position!
Open Position!
Open Position!
Open Position!

WEBSITE: http://new.jersey.sierraclub.org/monmouth
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/monmouthgroupNJ

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

Group News:

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

Help needed for Whale Cleanups: If you would like to participate in cleanups of our other local waterways, please contact another dynamo, Laura Bagwell at lagwell@verizon.net. Laura focuses on the Red Bank area watersheds. In this effort, we work with the Navesink Watershed River Group which, since 2002, has removed more than 20 tons of debris from our local banks and streams. Also, 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, retired BCC Director Bob Macaluso. We meet at BCC to share our speakers with environmentally-concerned BCC college students, the NJ Friends of Clean Water, 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 Nj highway exit 109 to Rte 520 West (Newman Springs Rd. which becomes E. Main St. at the Lincroft campus) cross 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 connect your phone to Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association Bluetooth in Room 4. When parking lots 4 or 6 a campus map is at http://www.brookdale.edu/EDUC/Resources/STUDENT_SUPPORT/LOCATIONS/SC_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, Highlights Coalition, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, and New Jersey Audubon will support the bill. However, the NJ Sierra Club and Environment New Jersey oppose the bill. Opponents fear that environmental regulations controlling logging by private companies may lead to major loss of habitat.

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 and their destruction by commercial fishing, pollution, and climate change. The CCMI in 2007 published the world’s largest study of coral reefs. The study compared more than 2000 sites and found that 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 more than 25,000 species of fish and invertebrates, and more than 25 percent of all known fish species, 4,000 species at least. The CCMI finds that the health of these archipelagos is in great danger from rising sea temperatures and coastal development, which have threatened coral reefs.

Mar 24 – Dan Lieb, President of the NJ Historical Divers Association, will discuss his organization’s exploration of shipwrecks 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 Monmouth Army site in Wall Township. The divers’ association follows accepted archaeological standards and practices to map and photograph shipwrecks primarily off the New Jersey coast, and includes about 40 members and upwards of 50, but only about 500 have been documented. In 1992, a group of scuba divers met informally to discuss the possibility of investigating New Jersey’s shipwrecks and began learning 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.

2014 National Calendar

RECRUIT A FRIEND
~ 2014 Sierra Club National Convention @ 2014 Sierra Club National Convention ~
Continuous, 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 in the group and with the Great Egg Harbor 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 FL Electric generating plant in Marmora (Cape May Co), led by Georgina Shanley (shanleyg2001@yahoo.com) and the organization New Jersey 350. The Pinelands Commission is expected to make a decision shortly. Campaigns to prevent the use of photovoltaic installations (especially in each municipality in Atlantic County), and support for a New Jersey Bottle Bill, known as the Smart Container Act (A390/H1467).

Some Possibly Relevant Meetings of Allied Organizations:
- 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 historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Lillian Armstrong (CU) at 609-774-9553 or lillian.armstrong@cumariever.org. Website: www.cumariever.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. WEBSITE: Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

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 issue being raised 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 (A390/H1467).

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 historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Lillian Armstrong (CU) at 609-774-9553 or lillian.armstrong@cumariever.org. Website: www.cumariever.org.

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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 Sowell.

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 (jwall21933@email.com). 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 cancel(s) 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.

You 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.

Airline 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!)

YOUNG SIERRAN COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Head Chair & Coordinator: William Sevuch wsevuch@yahoo.com
Vice Chair: Open Position
Moderator: Diana Christine Eichholz MistyAngel22@aol.com
Conservation Chair: Steve Timmerman skingstein@aol.com
Webmaster: Julie Garber journey7@optonline.net
Ex-Com/YS Naturalist Rep. (CA): Jackie Enfield jackie@jackieenfield.com
Northern Jersey YS Rep.: Jim DeSantis green@northjerseygreendrinks.com
Outings Chair: (Northern Jersey) Open Position!
Outings Chair: (Central Jersey) Open Position!
Outings Chair: (South Jersey) Open Position!

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 email 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 201-670-8583 martycohen@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 revitalization 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: ic0.sierraclub.org/newjersey.

On the Trail

GEHWA’s Fall Adventure
By Lynn Maun, Education Coordinator of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association (lynnmaun@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 over-night 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 teacolored river, fish could be seen darting through the water.

Headwinds as we approached Lake Lenape required some strenuous padding. 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 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 bunk's! 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.
January

Jan 1 (Wed) New Year's Day Paddle on the Ossawipo River (Burlington Co). 10am. Bring in the New Year with the NJ Sierra Club at Lake Grove and paddle 8 miles on the “Jewel of the Pinelands”. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jan 3 (Fri) Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. A winter trip on the Wading River near Tinton Falls. This is an easy-paced, 9-mile paddle. You can bring a canoe or kayak if you have one. Contact leaders to confirm participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jan 11 (Sat) Washington Valley Park, Martinsville (Somerset Co). Singlehike, 10am. http://www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/675901. The walk will pass along two reservoirs, visit the hawk watch station and take in views of the quarry. Activity at the parking lot. No pets. Hiking boots and warm dress are recommended. A great way to warm up for a New Year's Day of energetic activity! Leaders: Joyce Oleksiak: <the_hikist@mac.com>.

Jan 12 (Sun) D&R Canal Bike (Burlington Co). 10am, 5 miles, easy pace. We'll bike over the new Loch Raven Dam (100 years old) and see the new bike path for the Rancocas/Delaware River/DelawareNJ parking lot in Bordentown City. Option for lunch at Heart of Bordentown Restaurant. Ledners: George & Leona F 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jan 16 (Thurs) Hike at the NJAs Plainsboro Preserve (Middlesex Co). 10am. Easy, 3 miles. The section we plan to hike will depend on the weather conditions. Experience winter hikes on the trails with the leaders. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3744 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jan 18 (Sat) - Jockey Leader’s Choice (Morris Co). Singlehike, 10am. Moderate pace, some ups and downs, 6 miles. Leader’s choice of trails depending on conditions at Jockey Hollow Park in Morristown. The hike will pick up the Raritan River at Dake Park and view the berms and salt marsh. We will then walk the mile-long Piermont pier half a mile before the shore. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3744 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jan 20 (Wed) Hike at Lakes Branch Campground (Ocean Co). 10am, 6 miles, easy pace. Lakes Branch is a nature center owned by the decision by the Department of Environmental Protection. The lake is located in the Pinelands. Meet at Lakes Branch Campground. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3744 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

February

Feb 1 (Sat) - Whitesbog Village Winter Hike (Burlington Co). 10am, 4-5 miles, easy pace. Experience” – paddle 12 miles from Cherry Tree Lane to Kingston. Bring lunch and beverage. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip. George & Leona F: 609-259-3744 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Feb 2 (Sun) Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek on Groundhog Day (Ocean Co). 10am. What was “Pine Pinnies” is now Pinnies. (Paddlers.com) (W)

Feb 8 (Sat) High Point State Park Ski & Snowshoe (Sussex Co). Singlehike, Outing. 10am. http://www.njstateparkspaarks.com/highpoint/highpoint.html. There is a full-service cross-country ski center on the mountain. Bring your skis (or snowshoes), snow pants, snow bowl (to melt snow into water), lunch, and beverages. Contact leaders to confirm trip. George & Leona F: 609-259-3744 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Feb 10 (Sun) - Jockey Leader’s Choice (Morris Co). Singlehike, 10am. Come take a moderate paced, easy stroll on Pattison Path in Moretown. This 5-5 mile almost flat walk will start from the Speedwell Lake parking lot across the stream from Historic Speedwell, the site of the Morris County Parkwa web site (http://www.morrisparks.org/) for directions. The path is wide, partly paved, partly crushed stone, gear will vary with the elevation. Some will be evidence. Please bring plenty of water and a light snack. Great for beginners. No pets please. Inclement weather cancels. Your cooperation will help assure a safe and enjoyable experience. Leaders: Joyce Oleksiak: <the_hikist@mac.com>.

Feb 15 (Fri) - A Sweet Hike on Valentine's Day (Burlington Co). 10am, 4-5 miles, easy pace. Our long-time friend, Historc Smithville Park in Vinncicorn. The Park features a diverse collection of habitats and terrain and also offers a scenic view of the Pinelands. Meet in front of the Historic Smithville Park visitor center. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3744 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Feb 16 (Sat) - Joint ADK/Sierra Club Hike in Allaire State Park (Monmouth Co). 10am, 3-5 miles, easy pace. Hike the trail to Historic Smithville Park in Vinncicorn. The Park features a diverse collection of habitats and terrain and also offers a scenic view of the Pinelands. Meet in front of the Historic Smithville Park visitor center. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3744 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Feb 16 (Sat) - Pine Meadow Lake / Hartrum State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 8-9 mile hike at over 5000 feet elevation. We will hike on the “Jewel of the Pinelands”. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip. George & Leona F: 609-259-3744 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Feb 22 (Sat) - A Special Guided Hike at Mill Creek Reserve (Warren Co). 10am, 5 miles, easy pace. Join us for a very special guided hike with Jan Bolli, Mill Creek Reserve Naturalist. Mill Creek Park is a 1400 acre wildlife preserve and is a great source for birds, wild flowers and wildlife. Meet at Mill Creek entrance (on the Rte 560-562 border). Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3744 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Feb 23 (Sun) - Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 10am. We're paddling from Peas Pleasure to Wymouth Furnace. Meet at Harley Dawn Diner, Black Horse Pike Rte 522. Arrive early for breakfast! Experience paddling the scenic Egg Harbor River. Optional lunch afterwards. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3744 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

March

Mar 1 (Sat) - National Peanut Butter Day Hike at Pineville Lake Park (Monmouth Co). 10am, 4 miles, easy pace. Leashed dogs are welcome! Beautiful woods, natural fields and a picturesque lake in the heart of the Jersey Shore Pine Barrens. Meet at the Pineville Lake Park parking lot. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3744 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Mar 4 (Fri) Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 9-10am, 4-5 miles. The section we plan to paddle will depend on the weather conditions. Experience winter hikes on the trails with the leaders. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3744 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Mar 6 (Sun) - Lewis Morris Park (Morris Co). Singles hike, 10am. Moderate pace, some ups and downs, 5 miles. We will start at Sunrise Lake, then hike to the parking upper lot and back down to the trailhead. Some elevation changes. Partly sunny skies and nice views make this hike a winner. Yellow Trail is the one to choose! Morris County Parks Commission website http://www.morrisparks.org/applets/bndsc/index.asp for directions and locations/directions. Bad weather or temperature below 15 will cancel hike. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3744 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Mar 9 (Sat) - Cooper Geotrail on Black the River Hike. Chester, NJ (Morris Co). Singles hike, 10am. http://www.morrisparks.org/applets/cooper/multiday.asp. Moderately strenuous 7 miles in a one way trip from the park by the Rte 206 to Chester. The hike will proceed down the river along the Black River. There is a Port-A-John in the park lot. Winter Tractions devices are required if there is slush on the ground. This hike is on the groomed trail. Lunch will be at the park with rentals and a ski lodge. http://www.xcskihighpoint.com/. We expect to take 4-5 hours in hilly terrain. The hike will cover 7 Miles in 3-4 hours in moderately hilly terrain in a picturesque setting. The hike will be warm and will be Joe's favorite. Leashed dogs are welcome! Option for lunch at La Piazza, Allentown. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3744 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Mar 8 (Sun) - Lewis Morris Park (Morris Co). Singleshike, 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 trailhead. Some elevation changes. Partly sunny skies and nice views make this hike a winner. Yellow Trail is the one to choose! Morris County Parks Commission website http://www.morrisparks.org/applets/bndsc/index.asp for directions and locations/directions. Bad weather or temperature below 15 will cancel hike. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3744 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Mar 12 (Wed) Canoe/Kayak Crosswicks Creek (ABA) - Abbotts Marsh (Burlington Co). 10am, easy pace. This is a 4-mile paddle on the scenic, well-sheltered Crosswicks Creek. You may see wintering Tundra Swans as we hike around the bogs. Optional guided tour of the Village at 1pm. Bring lunch and beverage. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip. George & Leona F: 609-259-3744 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Mar 14 (Fri) - Joint ADK/Sierra Club Hike in Allaire State Park (Monmouth Co). 10am, 3-5 miles, easy pace. Hike the trail to Historic Smithville Park in Vinncicorn. The Park features a diverse collection of habitats and terrain and also offers a scenic view of the Pinelands. Meet in front of the Historic Smithville Park visitor center. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3744 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)
NEW JERSEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Issue Coordinators

Alaska Issues
Jonathan Wail (928) 295-1890 psy@uk.com

Clean Air Issues
Bob Campbell (973) 761-4461 bobc@comcast.net

Community Solar
Dick Colby (see left column)

Cool Cities
Faith Teletaba (732) 513-5445 faith@teletaba.com

Delaware River Issues
Gina Carola (see left column)

Genetically Modified Organisms
Barbara Convore 201-452-9389 bconvore@comcast.net

Global Warming
Suni Somalwar (see left column)

Green Acres Issues
Bob Moss (973) 743-5203 bsmoss@bellsouth.net

Marine Issues
George Auriemma (see left column)

Natural Gas and Fracking Issues
Terry Simple (973) 731-7016 terry@simple.org

Personnel Committee
Ken Johanson**, Joan and George Denzer, Joan Denzer** (JDenzer73@yahoo.com)

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

Tiger Conservation Issues
David Yennior (973) 844-1384 dyennior@msn.com

Transportation Issues
Mike Gallaway (M.Gallaway@comcast.net) liaison to Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Pine Trees and Sprawl Issues
David Yennior (see above) Bob Moss (973) 743-5203
dyennior@msn.com

U.S. Forest Service Issues
Rich Isaac**, Greg Auriemma
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Water Quality and Habitat Issues
John Kashwick (201) 660-8820 jkashwick@pineypaddlers.com

Weather, Water and Water Quality Issues
Don McBride (732) 560-0369 cimacup@gmail.com

White Pine Preservation Issues
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Wildlife Issues
Bill Singer, Esq. (908) 359-7873 wsinger@singerfedun.com

Peterson Chair
Marty Cohen 201-670-8383 petersonchair@comcast.net

The Chapter newsletter, The Jersey Sierran, is produced mostly by volunteers.

Is your Email Address Up-To-Date?

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 email address (along with your street address and membership number if you know it) to membership.services@sierraclub.org.