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Vol. 43, No. 2 Roughly 16,000 Members in New Jersey April-June 2014

Report from Trenton

State of New Jersey's Environment

Chapter Director Jeff Tittel's Commentary to accompany Gov. Christie's "State of the State" speech, delivered on Jan. 15th

The Sierra Club hoped that Governor Christie's State of the State speech would have had something to say about the state of New Jersey's environment. But our hopes were not high. The Governor's environmental attacks have ranged from cutting clean energy goals, to weakening water protections, and promoting dirty fuel sources. As the Governor gave his speech, our State of the Environment is the worst it has ever been.

This is the most anti-environmental Administration in modern history, systematically rolling back 30 years of environmental protections. The Administration has reduced enforcement, denied climate change, and reversed protections for air and water. The real scandal in New Jersey has been the attacks on the environment and what it will mean for future generations as our air and water become more polluted.

Rebuilding after Hurricane Sandy Denies Climate Change and Planning for Sea Level Rise

We are rebuilding based on outdated mapping and under a DEP process that allows people to build in places that were completely destroyed. The Governor has closed the DEP's Office of Climate Change, and is not implementing climate adaptation or mitigation planning in rebuilding. DEP Commissioner Bob Martin signed an Administrative Consent Order waiving compliance with CAFRA, Flood Hazard Area, and wetlands protections in the rebuilding of infrastructure.

The Governor has yet to announce a plan for coastal buyouts to restore natural systems along the coast. He has also failed to meet standards on energy efficiency, building codes, and climate adaptation required by HUD as part of the Community Block Grant program. This could jeopardize federal funding.

Clean Energy Progress Lost

New Jersey has dropped from 2nd in the nation to 4th in solar panels, and from 8th to 16th in energy efficiency programs. The Governor has diverted close to \$1 billion from Clean Energy programs, including \$152 million in 2013. The Administration has eliminated rebates for families and residents who put solar panels on their homes, and has made it difficult for small projects to get Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs). Compare that with \$3 billion in subsidies for natural gas power plants.

Three years after signing the Offshore Wind Economic Development Act, the Governor has failed to implement it: i.e. to establish a funding mechanism for offshore wind, to jump-start the manufacturing of wind turbines in our state, and to locate them off our coast.

In 2011 the Governor pulled New Jersey out of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a ten-state compact to reduce carbon pollution. Since that time he has vetoed legislative efforts to return New Jersey to the program, costing jobs, energy savings, and cleaner air for our state.

Open Space Funding Has Run Dry

We are out of open space funding. As

the Legislature debates the best way to fund open space, the Governor has opposed different funding sources and has not outlined a plan to keep land acquisitions moving forward. This is especially important as Blue Acres funding will allow us to purchase many of the sites that see continual flooding and storm surges.

Decreased Enforcement at NJ-DEP

This year DEP released data for compliance and enforcement for Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012, which showed a very disturbing trend. The amount of violations has not gone down, but there has been a significant drop, almost 60%, in enforcement actions. In 2008 there were 29,579 enforcement actions; in 2012 13,555 actions. Some program areas also saw a decrease in inspections and investigations.

A report released by the State Auditor found \$1 million in uncollected penalties under Coastal and Land Use Compliance and Enforcement. Not collecting fines sends a signal to violators that even if you get caught you are let off the hook.

Rollbacks to Clean Air

The Governor signed an Executive Order calling for no air quality standards stricter than federal standards. Moreover, DEP petitioned EPA to weaken protections under the Clean Air Act. Its State Implementation Plan included requests to re-designate areas that do not meet particulate matter (soot) standards, even though there has been no overall improvement in New Jersey's air quality.

The RGGI states seek to reduce the toxic substances carried by winds from coal-burning power plants to our west and south. This pollution causes asthma and other respiratory diseases.

Gutting Clean Water Protections

Fracking is a drilling technique for natural gas, now used extensively in the Marcellus Shale formation of Pennsylvania, that threatens our drinking water quality and quantity. The process uses more than 750 chemicals, many toxic, and millions of gallons of water per well. A weak one-year moratorium on fracking in New Jersey expired last year and in September the Governor vetoed a bill that would have kept the toxic wastes generated by fracking (some of which is radioactive) from being dumped in New Jersey.

Christie's Administration helped write the Dirty Water Bill (S3107/A4531). It is the broadest attack on clean water in decades: it delays adoption of the Water Quality Management Planning rules for two more years, it exponentially increases discharges into streams and groundwater, it removes the planning requirements for septic systems and stormwater, it limits public participation, and it is not based on sound science and planning, especially when it comes to flooding, storm surges, and sea level rise.

Rollbacks to Highlands Protections

The administration has enacted policies that roll back and weaken critical protections for the Highlands Region.

Protect New Jersey from Plastic Bags

By Noemi de la Puente, founder of NJThinkOutsideTheBag (NoemiDLP@yahoo.com).

The Chapter's monthly Conservation Committee meeting, Feb 8th, was mostly devoted to a presentation reviewing efforts to limit New Jersey's pollution by plastic bags. Here's a synopsis:

Why is the disposable shopping bag such a big deal? The average American brings home 500-700 bags a year (estimates from the EPA, the plastics industry, and from trash-anthropologists in Garbology, by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edward Humes). In Mercer County alone, for example, that's about 220 million shopping bags (low estimate), and in New Jersey it's 5 billion bags per year. Yes - billion. That's an enormous amount of trash that can be easily eliminated.

Shoppers in America expect a complimentary bag with each purchase. Of course it's not free - the cost is factored into the price of your items. Then you pay for it again when it's discarded at home and your taxes are spent on municipal waste disposal. As a tax-payer you might even pay for it a third time if it ends up as litter that clogs a pump station, or recycling machinery, or has to be fished out of a wastewater treatment plant. There is also the cost to ocean life: whales, dolphins, and sea turtles eat plastic bags because they resemble jellyfish (food); the animals end up starving to death because their digestive organs fill with plastic, blocking the absorption of real food. Large sea animal populations are down 90% since the 1970s.

Many American communities now require a fee for disposable plastic shopping bags. Fees reduce bag usage 80-90% - consistently and across cultures: in cities, counties, and entire states, in the USA, Ireland, and China. Fifty four percent of the world's population now lives under some sort of plastic bag ban or fee. If people practice a small sustainable behavior like bringing reusable bags on shopping trips, they will be more likely to adopt other sustainable behaviors (Fostering Sustainable Behavior by Doug McKenzie-Mohr).

Communities that have enacted successful bag fee/ban legislation tend to be too big in area for an aggrieved customer

The Governor's political cronies now serve on the Highlands Council and as its senior staff. In March, 2013, Christie appointed a Chief Counsel who had opposed the Act. The conformance process has come to a halt.

The Economic Opportunity Act

This year the Governor signed the Economic Opportunity Act, legislation that gives huge tax breaks to developers and targets some of the state's most environmentally sensitive areas, especially in the Highlands, Pinelands, and around

to drive elsewhere to shop: San Francisco county and San Jose in California, Washington D.C., and all of Hawai'i. Mercer County (226 square miles) is probably large enough to support a successful bag/fee law. What if the Mercer County Improvement Authority passed an ordinance saying "no more complimentary bags, and merchants keep the fee as part of a solid waste reduction plan?"

We have to think outside the bag! Recycling will not help - it never has. According to the EPA Municipal Solid Waste Report, 2011, recycling rates for the average HDPE (#2) bag was about 8%. The recycling containers in front of our favorite grocery stores are almost always just an intermediate stop before the bags are landfilled.



Someone has to go first for the State of New Jersey to seriously consider a single use disposable bag fee bill. In 2013, Senate Bill 812 - the first bill of this nature to make it out of committee - was never posted for a vote, so it died with the last session. Activists instrumental

in getting legislation passed in California have given the same advice over and over: "You need a local victory for everyone around to see how well this works." I think we can make Mercer County the first county in NJ to do this and pave the way for NJ to get rid of its 5 billion bags.

How you can help: (1) use your reusable bags - tie your keys to them if it's hard to remember them; (2) post your bag stories and pictures on NJThinkOutsideTheBag (facebook); (3) Reach out to your local merchants association - I'd be happy to give a presentation there; (4) Reach out to your township council - I would be happy to attend a meeting and discuss this in more detail; (5) Attend the special "Bag It" screening at Mercer County Library on March 15th at 2pm (free and open to the public - guest speaker: John Weber of the Surfrider Foundation).

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Sustainable Lifestyle

Re-thinking Palm Oil, Avocados and Yoplait Yogurt

by Suzanne Dragan, our regular correspondent

Not to worry—I am not suggesting that you put palm oil and avocados in your Yoplait yogurt. I would like to alert you to a few of the consequences of consuming these three foods:

Palm Oil

The high demand for palm oil, used in products from confectionary, bakery goods, cosmetics and toiletries to cleaning agents, has resulted in the massive destruction of pristine Indonesian and Malaysian rainforests. Large palm plantations in Borneo and Sumatra have decimated the habitat of orangutans, elephants, tigers, rhinos and other species. This colossal deforestation is pushing orangutans as well as other indigenous animals, birds, insects and plants to extinction. Local people suffer too as a result of the palm oil industry—there are land grabs, loss of livelihoods, social conflict and forced migration. Air, water and soil are polluted and eroded. Alternatives to palm oil are available but companies are reluctant to switch to them because palm oil is so inexpensive. We have the option to avoid palm oil, but it is often hard to determine if palm oil is in a product since it can be listed under many names. For an extensive list of various forms of palm oil, check out: <http://www.saynotopalmoil.com/palm-oil.php>.

Avocados

Americans love guacamole and eat most of it on Super Bowl Sunday. Most avocados consumed in the US come from the state of Michoacan in Mexico. Projected revenue for the 500,000 tons of

Hass avocados to be imported to the US in 2014 is estimated at \$1 billion. Referred to as oro verde (“green gold”), these creamy, delectable fruits are actually “blood avocados” similar to the diamonds sold from war-torn African countries. An avocado cartel, Knights of the Templar, is extorting, kidnapping and killing avocado growers and packers. The Mexican government is supposedly taking security and economic measures, but the avocado farmers have formed vigilante groups to protect themselves and their avocado interests. The result has been more murders, land theft and extortion. The US officials are aware of these activities but have no policy on the matter. (Oro Verde: Bloody Struggle Erupts over Avocado Trade, Wall St. Journal 02/01/2014 pages 1 & A10)

Yoplait Yogurt Containers

These have a small lip (flange) that angles inwards, not outwards. Wildlife and domestic pets attracted to the sweet smell in the discarded container can insert their heads into the Yoplait cups but can't get them out. Unless released, the entrapped animal ultimately dies. Since 1978, people have been asking General Mills to (slightly) alter Yoplait containers so animals do not get their heads caught inside. The company could get a lot of positive PR by doing so, but it has yet to yield. Check out: <http://www.change.org/petitions/for-35-years-yoplait-cups-have-been-killing-wildlife>.

Suzanne Dragan is a nurse and former WCTC radio talkshow host.

Population Issues Coordinator's Report

Costa Rica on the Right Track

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@msn.com)

The small Green turtles poked their heads out of the rubbery, white, ping-pong ball-sized eggs and struggled to free their bodies. Once freed, they faced the challenge of getting across 100 feet or more of sandy beach to the sea. Flippers frantically moving, they pulled their little 3 inch bodies, trying to beat the hawk sitting in a branch overhead, and to outrace the whimbrel walking in the surf.

We were in Costa Rica witnessing one of the mysteries of nature. How did these tiny creatures know to head to the surf? In fact, only with luck will about one in 1,000 survive to become a 250 to 450 pound, 3-4 foot long adult who will return to this beach to lay its eggs on the edge of the tree line and start the process all over again. But there will be a beach and a tree line for them to return to thanks to Costa Rica's environmental and health-related policies.

Almost 30% of Costa Rica is preserved as national parks, refuges, reserves, or other havens. Most years the country gets 80-90% of its power from sustainable sources such as hydroelectric, wind, geothermal or solar. They hope to be carbon neutral by 2021.

In 1949, the country abolished its army and redirected its revenue to education and healthcare. Every town in Costa Rica has a school, with primary and secondary education mandatory. The literacy rate is 97%. In a small town up the valley from Lake Arenal, the school also served as a clinic one day a week when a doctor visits. About 90% of the citizens are covered by a form of national health insurance. Life expectancy is 79, equal to that in the United States.

Also equal to the U.S. is the Costa Rican birth rate of 1.9 children per woman, just under the replacement rate. This can be seen as a result of high literacy since we know that the more education a woman has, the fewer children she is likely to



want. This could also be a reflection of the fact that contraceptives are available over the counter and without a prescription. Finally, it could, in part, be traced back to a law in 2001 that mandates a man pay to support any children he fathers. If there is any question, government-paid DNA testing makes the determination. If the man refuses the testing, it is automatically assumed he is the father and is liable for child support.

Everything is not perfect in this beautiful country. The teen pregnancy rate is too high, perhaps in part as a result of abstinence-only education in the schools. We also heard mention of official corruption that enables illegal logging. There is habitat loss due to farming, and species loss due to unauthorized wildlife trade. Despite these challenges, if you visit you will still see orchids growing along the roadsides, scarlet macaws calling from the trees, butterflies like the Blue Morpho fluttering and hummingbirds zooming around the brilliant flowers, crocodiles and caimans silently gliding in the rivers, toucans with their rainbow-colored bills, white-nosed coati rummaging in the underbrush, and monkeys swinging through the trees. All of this and more you will see thanks to forward looking health and environmental policies that help preserve Costa Rica.

New Jersey's Palisades under Attack

By John Kashwick, Chair of our North Jersey Group



photo credit protectthepalisades.org

New Jersey's Palisades peer down on the Hudson – one of the great fjords of the world. For centuries, they have beckoned ships as an entrance into our continent. They are among the most dramatic geologic features in the region, a canyon of the Hudson north of the George Washington Bridge.

LG is a consumer electronics giant that wants to crap it up. They propose building a 143 foot tower adjacent to the Palisades in Englewood Cliffs, rising four times higher than the 35 foot zoning

limit. This building would be a billboard visible from both sides of the Hudson River. Its precedent would open up high-rise development all along the Palisades north of Fort Lee.

Tell LG to pull the plug on their plan. They have 27 acres to build on—they can build OUT instead of UP. They need to respect our communities and our landscape.

For the sake of all Americans who take pride in the Hudson River Valley, please take 30 seconds to write to: William Cho, CEO, LG Electronics USA, 1000 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs NJ 07632. Urge LG to redesign their office building, honoring the Palisades' natural ridgeline.

For more information, or to see a sample letter, please visit www.protectthepalisades.org. Protect the Palisades is a coalition of individuals and organizations, including the Sierra Club's NJ Chapter.

More Buzz on Bees

Follow-up on an article in the previous Newsletter, by Joanne Pannone of our Central Jersey Group (jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com)

California almonds bloom in February and bees are shipped from all over the nation to pollinate them. As beekeepers are waking up their bees to go to work, they are finding more of them dead from Colony Collapse Disorder. Why? Scientists are pretty sure that, as the bees help to produce our food, they encounter toxic compounds—even on organic farms. These are the neonicotinoids that were designed to antagonize the receptors of nerve cells of invertebrates, but not interfere with similar receptors of vertebrate animals.

Neonicotinoids have been declared safe – for fish, mammals, birds, reptiles... humans. But not for bees! You'll find

them in small spray bottles, convenient and inexpensive for use in your home and garden, such as Bayer Advanced Complete Insect Killer, Ortho Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Insect Killer, Bayer Advanced Rose and Flower Insect Killer, and Ortho Bug-B-Gone. Fortunately, because honey is “lipophobic” (i.e. water and oil don't mix) the honey rarely ever picks up detectable levels of pesticides and remains safe. But bees do retain the pesticide—and they die.

Bees travel up to three miles from their hives. It is up to us to make sure they return without these pesticides. As in the fight to ban DDT, we need to pressure the EPA to ban their use.

Thank You for Your Support!

Supplied by Ken Johanson, Chapter Chair

The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club wishes to recognize all those who made a financial contribution to the Chapter during 2013. As in prior years, our members and supporters were there when we needed them the most. If you are one of those who were able to help us out this past year, I offer you my most sincere thanks. Listed below are the names of those who contributed \$100 or more during 2013. But please be assured that all contributions are very much appreciated, regardless of the amount.

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(\$1000 and above)

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Anonymous (11)

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

Editorial

Second Thoughts on the Environment and the Constitution

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

My previous editorial argued for the unlikelihood that the US Constitution is to blame for America's political problems of lopsided lobbying clout by special (corporate and other) interests, gerrymandered districts, campaign finance unfairness, and incumbency.

But it didn't consider the more fundamental question of what, if any, environmental protections would be appropriate to federal and other constitutions. One thinks of a constitution as a rulebook for the operation of government, but then one remembers the Bill of Rights, a series of early amendments to the US Constitution that extended it into other territory. Racial and sexual equality (before the law!) were provided by later amendments. If HUMAN rights deserve protection by the Constitution, how about ENVIRONMENTAL rights?

The nearest I came in my googling of "environmental rights" is the 1992 United Nations Conference on the Environment, also known as the Rio Summit, which produced 27 principles. Only one of them seems appropriate for constitutional enshrinement: the idea that the planet deserves SUSTAINABILITY. But interpreting the mandate would seem impossible, especially as Malthusian limits are approached. What level of atmospheric CO₂ would be considered unconstitutional, and what would the remedy be? Nearly all of the Rio principles seem to be anthropomorphic sops to corporate and other political interests: state sovereignty, right to economic development - especially for underdeveloped countries, eradication of human poverty, public participation - especially by women, rights of indigenous peoples, and the need for environmental impact assessments.

Quite common in the environmental literature is the emphasis on environmental rights for humans: rights to clean air and water, rights to aesthetic, economic and public health benefits ("environmental justice"), and rights to recreational opportunities that include a safe environ-

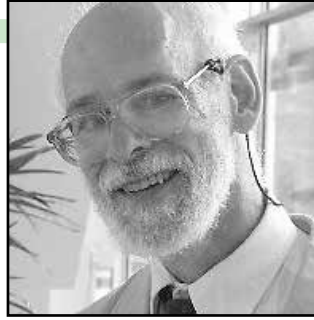
ment. The US EPA seems to be able to promote our (human!) environmental protections without specific constitutional proscriptions. But perhaps other countries would benefit from them.

Perhaps a "Sierra Club" issue worthy of constitutional language is a guarantee of some level of protection to WILDERNESS: possibly a "requirement" that some percentage of each geographical region be preserved from human degradation, hopefully applied to habitats that are richest in species diversity and complexity. Again, it has happened in our country without reference to the Constitution: in the designation of National Parks, Wildlife Refuges and Wilderness Areas - largely at the behest of environmental champions in Congress and the Presidency, but greatly helped by the lobbying of Sierra Club members and our colleagues in other organizations.

My final candidate for specific constitutional protection [pun!] is for some extra-human subset of the evolutionary tree of life: primates? marine mammals? migratory birds? critical pollinators? endangered species in general? Once again, the US experience shows that such protections are possible without specific mention in our Constitution, but a universal declaration of environmental rights should be inclusive! What do you think?

This question of universality, analogous to the attempt to declare human rights as universal, raises the thought that some modern religions - and cultures - feel entitled to restrict the political and economic freedoms of women and other groups. Some even continue the practice of slavery!

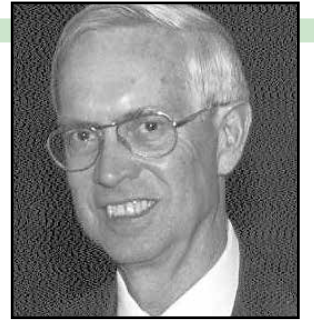
Wikipedia notes that, whereas the US Bill of Rights was intended only for Americans, the French Declaration of the Rights of Man (which originated in the 1790s, only a few years later) was the first intended to apply to people everywhere. The current basis for universal human rights was established in 1948 by the General Assembly of the United Nations.



Chair's Message

Better Times Ahead

By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)



Chris Christie began his first term as governor of New Jersey in January of 2010. Since then it's been all downhill for the environment. During his first term Christie diverted \$1 billion from clean energy funds, funds that should have been used to promote clean energy initiatives, withdrew New Jersey from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), blocked a legislatively approved moratorium on fracking, vetoed a bill that would have prohibited the in-state disposal of fracking waste, conditionally vetoed a bill to promote fuel efficient vehicles, drastically reduced funding for family planning services, rejected a measure to restrict trading in tiger parts and, in a move that some may view as prescient, refused to approve a bill to promote transparency and accountability within the Port Authority.

Unfortunately, the governor has not let up on his anti-environmental crusade since his election to a second term. At the close of the last legislative session he pocket vetoed a number of pro-environment bills, including bills to require public notice of combined sewer overflows, protect coastal areas by prohibiting the grading or excavation of dunes, assist those affected by Sandy by providing funding for storm resistant projects, provide standards for home elevation contractors and promote energy efficiency through the creation of an Office of Clean Energy.

On October 20 The Star-Ledger, in its inexplicable endorsement of Christie for a second term, noted that "He's been a catastrophe on the environment." I couldn't agree more. It's too bad though that the Ledger did not consider the future of the planet to be a matter of particular concern in arriving at its endorsement decision.

Yet despite it all, I am cautiously optimistic that things will get better in 2014. While the governor continues to wield a tremendous amount of power, there are clear indications that his luster is beginning to fade and his power beginning to wane.

In the past few months two independent authorities have stood up to pressure from the governor and his administration and have refused to approve proposals that would have adversely affected the environment of this State.

In December the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission rejected a proposal from the Christie administration to clear-cut large portions of a mature forest on Bull's Island, a protected area overlooking the Delaware River, and in January the Pinelands Commission, despite intense pressure from the Christie administration, refused to permit the construction of a natural gas pipeline through protected areas of the Pinelands region. These were both major victories for the environment and for the people of this State.

And while Republican legislators, fearful of retribution from the governor's office, have been reluctant to support overrides of Christie's anti-environmental

veto, Republicans in the State Senate recently did stand up to the governor and refused to replace Senator Tom Kean, Jr. as their minority leader.

Now with Bridgegate, Hoboken-gate, Sandycage and other alleged abuses of power bringing into focus the Christie administration's propensity for revenge and dirty tricks, as well as a sharp drop in the governor's approval rating, I am cautiously optimistic that responsible members of the Republican caucus will be emboldened to stand up to pressure from the governor and his administration and do the right thing. I sincerely hope that my optimism is not misplaced.

So, assuming that my optimism is not misplaced, just what does the New Jersey Chapter hope to achieve in 2014? Here are some of the highlights:

We plan to lobby for a ballot initiative to get New Jersey back into RGGI, a cap and trade regional initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide funding for clean energy projects. We believe that we have a good shot at convincing voters that Christie's action in withdrawing from RGGI was misguided and not in the best interest of the people of this State.

We plan to continue our efforts to obtain passage of a fracking waste bill. We were able to obtain bipartisan support for a bill this past legislative session, only to see the bill vetoed by the governor. We hope to be able to obtain passage of a similar bill this session. No doubt the governor will again veto the bill. But will Republicans who do in fact care about the environment stand up to the governor, now that his invincibility has been called into question, and support an override of the governor's veto? Time will tell.

We plan to continue to lobby for measures to increase energy efficiency, including a legislative initiative to reduce consumer energy consumption by 20%.

The green acres program has run out of money. We will continue to work on developing a sustainable funding package that will provide the necessary funds without jeopardizing other vital programs.

We will continue to work on Sandy-related bills, including bills to establish a coastal commission to coordinate development along the coast, close a loophole in the Coastal Area Facility Review Act that allows certain projects to proceed without regard to the requirements of the Act, require that green building standards be incorporated in rebuilding projects, impose accountability requirements on the administration for the expenditure of governmental funds and include climate change mitigation measures in rebuilding plans.

This is just a snapshot of what we have in mind for 2014. As in the past, we will be working on a wide range of issues, including issues that arise with little or no notice. But as the governor's influence continues to wane, our prospects for achieving favorable outcomes continue to improve.

Resolutions Passed by the Chapter Executive Committee in January and February

We re-elected Ken Johanson to serve as our Chapter Chair in 2014, and approved his reappointments of our other officers: Rich Isaac as Vice-Chair, Laura Lynch as Conservation Chair, and others listed on p. 12 of this Newsletter. We then approved Laura Lynch's recommendations for our Issue Coordinators, also listed on p. 12. New for 2014 include Greg Gorman as Issues Co-Coordinator for Natural Gas and Fracking, and a new title for Faith Teitelbaum: Climate Change Issue Coordinator. (Jan)

An additional political endorsement was approved for this year's Congressional races: Burlington County Freeholder Aimee Belgard (D) in the 3rd District, to fill the open seat left by Jon Runyan (R). (Jan) See the article on p. 4.

Another Congressional political endorsement: Roy Cho (D) in the 5th District, to oppose Congressman Scott Garrett (R). (Feb)

Governor Christie Out-Vetoes Himself

From a Press Release issued by our Trenton staff on Jan 22nd

On Jan 21st, Governor Christie signed 100 bills passed during the Legislature's lame duck session, and he pocket vetoed 44 bills, breaking the record for the most vetoes of any Governor. (A pocket veto consists simply in his not signing a bill, requiring the Legislature to start over in its next session.)

In total he has vetoed 164 bills, many of which have put public health and the environment at risk, such as a veto of the

fracking waste ban bill, a bill that would have brought NJ back into RGGI, and a bill for cleaning up Barnegat Bay.

Bills Vetoed

Notices on Combined Sewer Overflow A2852/ S831. This legislation would have required municipalities to inform residents when that toxic material enters waterways at the more than 200 permitted combined sewer outfalls across the state, or when raw sewerage backs up

out of manhole covers.

Repeals CAFRA S2602/A3893. Even though CAFRA legislation calls for protection of dunes those protections are waived by the DEP Commissioner all the time. This is a loophole that needs to be closed.

Standards for Home Elevation S2976/A4394.

Standards for Mold in residential and school buildings A1588/S2081.

Establish Transportation Infrastructure Bank A3177/ S2143: Now we need another way of refilling the Transportation Trust Fund. (It's unlikely to be from increasing the gas tax!)

Create Office of Clean Energy A2888/S2733. The Board of Public Utilities has failed to serve in this role of promoting energy efficiency, decreasing the use of fossil fuels, and expanding our renewable energy.

Sierra Club Endorses Aimee Belgard for Congress

By Andrew Gruna, Ocean County Group (Andrew.Gruna92@gmail.com)

Next Nov 4th, voters in New Jersey's Third Congressional District (most of Burlington and Ocean Counties) will vote to fill the open seat left by Congressman Jon Runyan (R). Current candidates include Freeholder Aimee Belgard (D), former Mayor of Bogota Steven M. Lonegan (R), Toms River Councilman Maurice "Mo" Hill, and State Assemblyman David Wolfe (R).

After sending out questionnaires to all these and other potential candidates, and rigorous consideration, the Sierra Club has endorsed Burlington County Freeholder Aimee Belgard.

Freeholder Aimee Belgard received a degree in Environmental Sciences from Stockton College, and then studied environmental law at Widener University. She was instrumental in saving Burlington County's Rancocas Nature Center after it was scheduled to be closed. She also played a pivotal role in establishing single-stream recycling in Burlington.

Aimee Belgard has also devoted time to the American Cancer Society, lobbying Congress to increase funding for cancer research, and receiving the National Saint George Award and the Capitol Dome Award for this work. While sitting on the Edgewater Park Township Committee, she served as the liaison to the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.

One of her possible opponents, Lonegan, is an invasive species, moving from Bergen County to enter this race.

He is the former Director of the NJ Chapter of Americans for Prosperity, a conservative, Koch brothers funded, public policy group that openly opposes EPA's CO2 standards for electricity-producing power plants. He also opposed relief funds to the victims of Hurricane Sandy, describing the amount as "over the top."

Assemblyman David Wolfe, another possible opponent, was endorsed by the Sierra Club for State Assembly in 2005, 2007, and 2009. But, sadly, after the election of Governor Christie his environmental record declined significantly.

None of the other possible opponents returned our endorsement questionnaire, or gave us any other sign of interest.

With Belgard's entry into the race, we think the 3rd District is now one of the most competitive in the nation. Her success would raise the District's League of Conservation Voters Legislative Score from Runyan's 14 (in 2012) to a level closer to the NJ Democratic average of 87. Club members in the 3rd district who would like to participate in Freeholder Belgard's campaign should contact Rich Isaac at risaacx@aol.com or 973-716-0297.



Reports from Trenton

Pinelands Pipeline Rejected

From a press release dated Jan 10, with editorial additions

By a rare 7-to-7 split vote, the NJ Pinelands Commission has rejected a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that would have allowed South Jersey Gas Co. to construct a new pipeline through the Pinelands Forest Zone, to deliver fuel to the BL England power plant at Beasley's Point (at the northern tip of Cape May Co).

There were five issues at stake, and it appears that different members of the Commission were swayed by different issues. One was the ecological integrity of the Pinelands itself, with the pipeline (or the construction process) threatening to leak gas or other pollutants into wetlands. Next was the legal interpretation of Pinelands regulations. Another was the fact that the gas itself was likely to have originated from fracked wells in Pennsylvania, causing pollution there. A fourth was perhaps the question of whether the BL England plant is really needed. Finally, some Commissioners may have felt like doing their bit to oppose the greenhouse gas emissions that result in Global Warming.

Chapter Director Jeff Tittel thinks this the biggest environmental victory under the Christie Administration. The Commissioners were heavily lobbied by polluters and other special interests. One of them was even forced by the

Governor's Attorney General to recuse himself from voting.

Under the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, MOAs are restricted to projects constructed by government agencies, i.e. not South Jersey Gas, and not the BPU (which is not constructing the pipeline). (In exchange for this special exception, SJG had offered the Commission a "bribe" of \$8 million for mitigation and education projects.)

The pipeline was widely opposed, for example by four former New Jersey Governors and a number of state legislators. Many newspapers in the region had written editorials in opposition based on expected environmental impacts. The Pinelands Commission received more than 1600 negative letters during the official comment period, and many petitions opposing the project. Hundreds of people objected to the project at public hearings before the Commission.

Instead of burning fossil fuel, the Sierra Club would like to see the site used for the production of clean electricity. For example, Beasley's Point would be the ideal location to site the onshore end of undersea cables delivering electricity produced by offshore wind turbines, since the "electrical switchyard" to distribute electricity through high-voltage transmission lines already exists there.

The Need for Chemical Safety

From a Press Release issued on Jan 21

A horrific chemical spill in West Virginia, which contaminated the drinking water of thousands of people, has brought to light to the failed regulatory systems in our country. Already this year we have experienced chemical spills, pipelines bursting, plants exploding and train derailments. This shows the need for functional regulations that provide inspection of facilities that put the public and the environment at risk.

On Jan 21, the Environmental Protection Agency held a listening session on President Obama's Executive Order on Chemical Safety and Security. There are thousands of facilities in New Jersey at which an accident could threaten the health and safety of millions of people. The EPA needs to come up with plans and rules that protect the public, workers in factories, and first responders. This is especially important in our state, since the Christie Administration has cut back enforcement and inspection that were previously provided by our state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

In New Jersey nearly 100 facilities use high hazard chemicals and are covered under the NJ Toxic Catastrophe Prevention Act. A release or spill, wheth-

er accidental or deliberate, could have devastating impacts on the surrounding communities, contaminating water supplies, rivers, fisheries, and ecosystems.

At the EPA listening session, The New Jersey Sierra Club called on the EPA to require these facilities to use inherently safer technologies: replacing hazardous chemicals with safer ones where possible, and improving standards for the storage of chemicals. There need to be worker and management committees that work together making the plants safer. There needs to be public education and outreach - educating the community on the hazards at the plant and what to do if there is an accident.

First responders and local government should be involved in safety plans and plans for evacuation. Transportation needs to be considered since chemicals and hazardous materials are transported by trucks and rail.

On Jan 20 a train derailed going over a Philadelphia bridge; it was carrying crude oil and sand. Luckily no oil leaked out. There were three train derailments in New Jersey last year: in December a Conrail tanker train, carrying noxious flammable chemicals, derailed near Carteret, backing into a factory.

EPA Toxic Release Report Shows Pollution Down but Still a Lot

From a press release issued on Feb 4

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has just issued its annual Toxics Release Inventory -- of toxic chemicals released in New Jersey in 2012. This report catalogs discharges into the air, land, and water, by individual industrial locations. Discharges decreased from 2011 (11.2 million pounds) to 2012 (8.6 million pounds). However, much of this reduction was because a DuPont site stopped accepting out-of-state waste!

Too many people in New Jersey still live near polluting facilities. The worst are Bayway Refinery in Linden (Union Co), Paulsboro Refinery (Gloucester Co), Mercer Generating Station, Hudson Generating Station, Geradu Ameristeel in Sayreville (Middlesex Co), Hess Refinery in Port Reading (Middlesex Co) - about to close!, Microseal Site in Passaic County, and Architectural Window Manufacturing in Bergen Co.

The purpose of the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) is to educate the public on what chemicals are impacting their families and communities - so that they can demand changes in policies and regulations to clean up our air. That is why the Bush administration tried to eliminate TRI reporting: because they understood that knowledge is power. TRI data has helped the EPA adopt regulations to reduce air pollution, and informed people of the relationship between energy

conservation and air pollution.

The DuPont site (Salem Co) was treating fracking waste from Pennsylvania. Even though legislation to prohibit such treatment was vetoed by Governor Christie, DuPont still agreed to stop accepting the waste. But there is no guarantee that such waste won't be accepted in the future. Other New Jersey facilities have accepted fracking waste: Clean Earth in Kearney (Hudson Co) and Carteret (Middlesex Co), and LORCO in Elizabeth (Union Co). None of these facilities are equipped to safely handle this radioactive waste, which is why a ban on the disposal of fracking waste is needed in the state.

In New Jersey, close to 100 facilities use high hazard chemicals that are covered under the NJ Toxic Catastrophe Prevention Act. A release or spill could have devastating impacts on nearby communities. In addition there are hundreds of smaller facilities that use toxics. The environmental impacts from a potential accident could contaminate water supplies, rivers, fisheries, and ecosystems.

Enforcement actions by Christie's DEP have dropped by almost 60%, as have inspections. The DEP has cut staff drastically, impacting its ability to investigate and monitor violations.

To view New Jersey's TRI fact sheet, visit: <http://epa.gov/triexplorer/statefact-sheet.htm>.

Report from Trenton

GW Bridge Dirty Trick: Dirty Air!

From a Press Release issued on Jan 9

The December lane closures of the Fort Lee entrance to the George Washington Bridge, ordered by Gov. Christie's staff (if not by the Governor himself), had environmental consequences. According to the Port Authority, the traffic jam caused 2,800 hours of waiting time for drivers caught in traffic, during which 35,000 to 40,000

pounds of air pollutants were emitted, and 1,400 to 1,500 gallons of gasoline were wasted, costing drivers approximately \$5,000.

The increase in air pollution occurred on days when New Jersey experienced an Orange Ozone Alert, contributing to respiratory problems (e.g. asthma) over a wide region.

NJ's Environment

(Continued from page 1)

Barnegat Bay. Under this bill subsidies will be given for developments in Pinelands Villages and in sensitive portions of the Highlands. This bill hurts development in appropriate areas by subsidizing growth in inappropriate (rural) areas, taking away jobs and resources from our cities and other existing communities.

Subsidies Continue to Xanadu/American Dream

The Christie administration has given

\$2.5 million in corporate subsidies to developers, the most in the nation.

In November the Economic Development Authority approved the latest scheme to keep the American Dream going with taxpayer dollars. They approved a \$276 million financial plan. The money is basically being used to pave over 12.5 acres of wetlands to build another mall in New Jersey and a water park. We could finance solar on 24,000 homes in Bergen County with \$800 million, or 500 megawatts of offshore wind - enough to power Bergen County.

Reports from Trenton

EPA Updates Smog Standards

From a press release issued on Feb 4th

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has finally moved toward updating the country's smog pollution standards, by issuing something called the "Second Draft Policy and Risk and Exposure Assessments." This will help residents of New Jersey, since we have some of the worst air quality in the nation. Every NJ county fails the standard for ground level ozone.

Smog is a reaction product of sunlight and ground-level ozone. Inhaling it is like getting sunburn on your lungs. A strong, science-based smog standard would protect public health and help millions of Americans breathe easier.

The release of this report suggests that there will be new rules soon, hopefully as strong as those proposed by Lisa Jackson when she headed the EPA. The delay has

not only hurt the environment, but impacted people with asthma (especially children), and people with cardiovascular diseases. Previous updates of smog standards have helped America reduce ozone levels by approximately 25 percent since 1980, according to the EPA.

Big polluters will lobby fiercely against these standards, once again putting profits over people. This time President Obama will need to stand firm and do what is best for our children's health.

Here's a link to the Second Draft Policy Assessment:

<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/ozone/data/20140131pa.pdf>

Second Health Risk and Exposure Assessment:

<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/ozone/data/20140131healthrea.pdf>

Sandy Bill of Rights

From a Press Release issued on Feb 3rd

The Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee has just passed A818 (Coughlin), which would establish the "Superstorm Sandy Victims' Bill of Rights". This bill is important because it would improve access to appraisals and the process of having one prepared for property owners after storms. This is a good first step, but the people on New Jersey need additional protections in the Sandy recovery process. Given all the people still homeless and all the scandals, we need more transparency. We need action on climate change and sea level rise, improved building codes, more green infrastructure and more.

Hammerman & Gainer Inc, the company hired by the NJ Dept. of Community Affairs to oversee funding distribution to Sandy victims for two programs, was removed in December for incompetence. New Jersey has not put in place monitors and there is no oversight. There have been claims that Sandy recovery funding was politically influenced, with the money going to strange projects. There is an investigation underway by US-HUD's Inspector General.

Rebuilding has been overseen by the Czar of the Office of Rebuilding and Recovery, Marc Frezan. He held no public

hearings until late in the process, he refused questions from the press, and he declined to attend oversight committee meetings before the Legislature. The Governor's budget omits measures in the community block grant program to address climate change and sea level rise, violating HUD requirements.

The State's Action Plan violates federal requirements by:

- Not addressing climate change or sea level rise;

- Continuing to call for the use of the outdated 2009 energy efficiency code, even though the 2015 standards are now final, requiring 20% more efficiency than the previous code;

- There is no plan to implement Green Infrastructure, natural systems and engineered systems that mimic natural systems, such as blue and green roofs and restoring marshes and coastal wetlands;

- For energy infrastructure the focus is on hardening, not energy efficiency, demand response, renewables, or improved distribution technologies.

The new State Action Plan continues old failed policies. The Legislature needs to step in: not only to get people back into their homes and businesses, but also to ensure that we rebuild our state in a smarter and better way.

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:	Edgar Sheperd		shepherd_edgar@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Jeri Doherty		bjd42@nac.net
Secretary:	Norene Haberski		habersn@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair:	Greg Gorman		chachabacon@yahoo.com
Political Chair:	Edgar Sheperd		shepherd_edgar@yahoo.com
Outings Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Acting Publicity Chair:	Jeri Doherty		bjd42@nac.net
Membership Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Programs/			
Events Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Ex-Com			
Members-at-Large:	Dave Alcock		dwhoob@hotmail.com
	Marvin Feil		mfeil@writeme.com
	Joyce White		joyce00201@yahoo.com

ACTIVITIES: We provide education about a variety of environmental issues by hosting movies or speakers at our general meetings. We also provide information to residents by tabling at town days and other events throughout the spring/summer/fall seasons.

We join with other grassroots organizations to protect the natural resources and beauty of our environmentally sensitive area in Northwest NJ. Some of our activism includes protecting open space, maintaining water quality, promoting clean energy, and addressing local, national and global environmental issues as they arise. We participate in activities to protect the Delaware River Basin and oppose hydro-fracking and all the subsequent infrastructure needed for it. The Skylands Group also sponsors hikes and other outings throughout the region to encourage people to reconnect with the outdoors.

GENERAL MEETINGS: SECOND TUESDAY of the month from 7-8:30pm at the Unitarian Fellowship, One W. Nelson St, Newton. Best check electronic sites for more current information.

April 8 (tentative): 7pm. Film Play Again, cosponsored by Transition Newton and Skylands Group. Once the date is finalized, we will send a notice and post on website and Facebook.

May 2, 3, 9 or 10 (tentative): Film Groundswell Rising, cosponsored by several organizations active on fracking, pipeline, compressor station and LNG issues. A panel discussion will follow, moderated by Executive Producer Mark Lichty. It will be a solution-focused discussion.

June 10: 7pm. Kyle Richter of the Musconetcong Watershed will review his environmental concerns.

July, date TBD: Skylands Group Picnic.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: We usually meet after the general meeting. The public is welcome to stay and provide input.

EVENTS: Posted on our FaceBook website and the online events calendar on the Chapter website. We also advertise on various media sites throughout the Skylands region.

South Highlands Group

(Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties)

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

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com
Vice Chair:	Celeste Martin*	onecentral@mac.com
Conservation Chair:	Cinny MacGonagle*	cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com
Treasurer:	Celeste Martin*	onecentral@mac.com
Political Chair:	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com
Publicity Chair:	Susan Schirmer*	soupys@att.net
Membership Chair:	Jim Fleming	jfleming18@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 calendar at http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: May 7 (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:

Apr 20 (Sun): Hike and Tour of Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, New Hope PA, 10am to 2pm: Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve showcases an extraordinary diversity of plants native to Pennsylvania and the Delaware Valley region. Of the approximately 2000 species native to Pennsylvania, the Preserve is home to nearly 800 of them. Of these, more than 80 species are rare, threatened or endangered native plants designated as Plants of Special Concern in Pennsylvania. Registration required. Bring a bag lunch as food is not available for sale. The will be an exciting outing for family fun. For more information, contact Susan Schirmer at soupys@att.net or Celeste Martin at onecentral@mac.com. You can also register on our Meetup page.

(continued on page 6)



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)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 5)

May 18 (Sun): Duke Farms Hike, 10am to 2pm: Traipse around a tobacco millionaire heiress' overgrown backyard, filled with statues and wild flowers, mansions and stables. We'll hike around the grounds, visit the beautiful orchid garden green houses and then have lunch Farm Barn Café and watch the video in the grand stable's visitor center. Duke Farms serves as a model of environmental stewardship and inspires visitors to become informed stewards of the land. We'll conclude our visit at 1:30 back at the Farm Barn Café for Lunch which offers a selection of healthy sandwiches, wraps, salads, snacks and beverages. There we can get more acquainted and watch the Eagle Cam. Admission is free. 1112 Dukes Parkway West, Hillsborough, N.J. 08844. Registration required. For more information, contact Susan Schirmer at soupys@att.net or register on Meetup.

May 21 (Wed): 7pm meet & greet; 7:30 presentation at the Hunterdon Medical Center 1st Floor Board Room. Kate Millsaps, program assistant on-staff in our Trenton Office, will present on environmental advocacy. She will present on effective ways to spur politicians and Town Officials into action on environmental issues. Plan to learn the nuts and bolts of advocacy as well as hearing about past efforts and how and why they were successful or not. If you have a bone to pick on a green topic, come!

June 20 (Fri): Firefly Hike on the Summer Solstice, Landsdown Trail, Clinton, NJ at 7:30pm. Join us for our annual 3-4 mile hike along the crushed gravel rail trail as we enjoy the long hours of daylight. Fireflies should be at their peak and we hope their warm glow will guide our way back. Registration required. Contact Jonathan at psychologist@jonwall.com for meeting location. Afterward we'll stop back at Jonathan's office for wine, cheese, and dessert.

Early planning stages for a Local Paddling Outing to Merrill Creek Late June/Early July: Contact Jim Fleming jfleming18@comcast.net if you want to help coordinate and/or participate in this adventure!

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: soupys@att.net or 908-797-6725. Space limited to limited to 25. See movie listings below:

April 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.

May 8 Film: Deep Green: Solutions to Stop Global Warming Now is a good roadmap of the best world-wide solutions of what one person or one city can do to lower their carbon footprint to Net Zero and restore the Natural world.

June 12 Film: PlanEAT is the story of three men's life-long search for a diet, which is good for our health, good for the environment and good for the future of the planet.

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	jkashwick@optonline.net
Webmaster/Listmaster:	John Kashwick*	jkashwick@optonline.net
Wetlands Issues:	Justine Jurick	ljurick@yahoo.com
Wildlife Issues:	Mary Ellen Shaw*	meshaw.001@gmail.com
Ex-Com Member-at-Large:	Nancy Wysocki*	nape2@aol.com

EVENTS:

General meetings are free and open to general public, expect where noted. For the most up to date information on topics, dates, times, and venues of our general meetings, tabling events, and outings—please visit http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp, [meetup.com/njsierraclub](http://www.meetup.com/njsierraclub) or by emailing John Kashwick at jkashwick@gmail.com.

April: Date, time and location TBD. National Parks: The Logistics of Organizing a Trip. John Kashwick, Chair of the North Jersey Group and Member of the national Sierra Club's National Parks and Monuments Team and Jonathan Wall, Chair of the South Highlands Group will speak on how to plan to trip to a national park. The presentation will feature the easy and fun trips they've made in recent years to various National Parks, which include, Acadia (in Maine), Glacier (in Montana), Joshua Tree, Sequoia/

Kings Canyon, and Channel Islands (in California), Arches, Canyonlands, and Capitol Reef (in Utah), and Denali and Kenai Fjords (in Alaska).

May: Date and time TBD. (Tentative) Greenbrook Sanctuary Guided Walk. Greenbrook Sanctuary is a 165-acre woodland preserve on top of the Palisades in Tenafly and Alpine, New Jersey, 4.7 miles north of the George Washington Bridge, off U.S. Route 9W. One of the naturalists will provide us with a guided tour of sanctuary explaining the history of the sanctuary and pointing out some of the plants and animals that call the place home. Registration and a small donation to the Greenbrook Sanctuary will be required.

June: Date, topic and location TBD. Please visit http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp or meetup.com/njsierraclub for meeting information.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The Executive Committee of the North Jersey Group meets quarterly during the first week of February, May, August, and November. Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, May 8 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@gmail.com, or Mary Ellen at meshaw.001@gmail.com for location or more information.

CONSERVATION ISSUES:

IG Tower in Englewood Cliffs: IG Electronics, a multinational corporation, is planning to build an office tower in Englewood Cliffs that will rise high above the treeline 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.

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: As we write this we are still reeling from yet another snow/ice fall, typing fingers slowed by their need to recover from shoveling eight inches of very heavy snow from our driveway. Accordingly, our thoughts (hopes?) turn toward Spring, and what is the first thing we think of when Spring is mentioned?—trail maintenance! Our group maintains the most magnificent section of the Appalachian Trail in NJ, up Wawayanda Mountain. If you think might want to join us on occasion just send an email to 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@gmail.com.

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-Chair:	John Beadle	see above	
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	bconifer011@gmail.com	
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: *Open Position!*
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.

EVENTS:
 We sponsor informative programs and/or fun socials almost every month, usually on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Check our webpage: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/Gateway/> and/or our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gateway-Group-NJ-Sierra-Club/128998363842782> for the latest. Be sure to sign up for our events via MeetUp too: <http://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/>.

Loantaka Group

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

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

OFFICERS:
Group Co-Chairs: Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com
 and Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com
Treasurer: Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com
Secretary: Scott McCarthy hi_risescott@earthlink.net
Conservation Chair:
Morris County: Bill Martin 908-604-2505 WP_Martin@yahoo.com
Union County: *Open Position!*
Political Chair: *Open Position!*
Programs: Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com
Fundraising Chair: Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com
Outreach & Events Chair: *Open Position!*
Publicity Chair: Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442 johansons@comcast.net
Membership: Bill Martin 908-604-2505 WP_Martin@yahoo.com
Air Quality Coordinator: Bob Campbell 973-761-4461 bobc2023_sc@verizon.net
Webmaster: Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442 johansons@comcast.net

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

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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: are held on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St, Chatham. All members are welcome at Executive Committee meetings. Right now, we have open positions on it! If you would like to find out more, please contact Paul Sanderson.

GENERAL MEETINGS: are held on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at the Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St, Chatham. Come learn something new and make some new friends. We'd welcome the chance to meet you and to introduce ourselves. Please see the schedule, below, and join us!

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

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Apr 9: History of the Sierra Club: How well do you know the conservation club that you are supporting? Co-chair Eric Hausker will give a review of the Sierra Club's history starting with its founding in 1892 by John Muir, as a hiking club with 182 members with a view to protecting Yosemite National Park, all the way into its 2nd century as one of the major players in the fight to preserve the biosphere of the entire planet. Its major triumphs and setbacks will be mentioned in detail. The club has had controversies and inner conflicts, as will be seen, but it is still the preeminent organization fighting the nation's looming environmental crisis.

May 14: Margaret Gossett, a Trustee for Citizens for Health, Safety and Welfare (CHSW), will speak about the fledgling organization's first milestone victory: defeating the rezoning of the 26.6 acre tract called Waterview in Parsippany, NJ. The completion of nearby Interstate 287 in 1994 has created a climate in which it has been threatened with development despite its rugged topography, environmental constraints, wildlife habitat and protection by Parsippany's steep slope ordinance. The most recent threat of development was RD Realty's proposal to build 195,000 square feet of big box retail as well as 60 town houses with more than 80% impervious coverage. The developer has threatened to build 530 apartments with 100 + designated as low income housing if their request for a zoning change was not granted and has already begun discussion with the Parsippany administration to create a new plan for development. CHSW will continue to work with the Parsippany governing body to educate them on ways to preserve and protect Waterview as open space into perpetuity.

June 11: Dr. Mira Franke of Kean University will offer us a PowerPoint Presentation on the wide-ranging topic of Sustainability and Renewable Energy, both of which she has taught college-level courses recently. Dr. Franke played the part of the Climate Change Scientist two years ago for the mock debate staged at one of our meetings (then, of course, she is a scientist).

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)

Find the latest at <https://www.facebook.com/CentralGroupNJSC>.

Join our distribution list to receive timely information in infrequent emails. Please volunteer to help us. Openings for Outings, Outreach, Publicity, Webmaster and more. Contact Nicole Dallara at nicole.dallara@sierraclub.org.

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Terry Stimpfel	609-731-7016	terystimb@hotmail.com
Conservation:	Kip Cherry	609-731-9336	kcherry10@gmail.com
Energy:	Rob Benjamin	609 587-9069	robbenjamin@outlook.com
Membership:	Bill Wowk	609-610-6349	bwowk1@gmail.com
Political:	Terry Stimpfel	609-731-7016	terystimb@hotmail.com
Trails:	Bob Sokol	609-918-1149	robert.sokol435@gmail.com
Ex-com:	Joanne Pannone	609-443-6992	jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
Ex-com:	Lynne Weiss	732-821-9688	lshari05@gmail.com

The Central Group is working on local environmental issues to preserve open space, promote effective planning, control invasive species, protect wetlands and build trails. We actively oppose the Transco pipeline in Princeton/Montgomery, natural gas pipelines in New Jersey, fracking and fracking waste disposal in New Jersey.

Apr 9 (Wed): 7:30pm* - A Healthy Lifestyles social. Have you ever been frustrated being around people who just don't share your enthusiasm for a healthy, low environmental impact lifestyle? Join with others like yourself over a cup of tea and plan for more events. Infini-Tcafe, 4 Hulfish Street, Princeton.

May 7 (Wed): 7:30pm* - Common and Uncommon Butterflies of New Jersey. Slide show and discussion by Jim Springer, Vice-President, North American Butterfly Association. He is participating in the update of the NJ list of threatened and endangered species. Infini-Tcafe, 4 Hulfish Street, Princeton.

June 4 (Wed): 7:30pm* - NJ Energy Efficiency Resource Standard. Presented by Christine Guhl Sadovy, Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign, and Rob Benjamin. Do we need more power-plant generated electricity? What about resilience and residential use? Infini-Tcafe, 4 Hulfish Street, Princeton.

***Planning to attend a meeting?** Please RSVP to Nicole Dallara, Nicole.dallara@sierraclub.org or 609-656-7612.

For Central Outings, sign up for the Central distribution list and visit the NJ Sierra Outings webpage.

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Roomi Nusrat	609-389-6036	sierra_nj_rartian@outlook.com
Group Vice Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Conservation Advisor:	Jane Tousman	908-561-5504	jdtous@aol.com
Outings Coordinator:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Webmaster:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Treasurer:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Recycling Coordinator:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Conservation Chair:	Nancy Gladfelter		
Secretary:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Political Chair:	Daphne Speck-Barynski	732-390-5311	speckbartyn@comcast.net
Membership:	<i>Open position!</i>		

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

Our monthly meetings are usually on a weekday evening of the third week. 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.

(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)

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 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	lqblake@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.

April 28 -Patty Lovera, Deputy Director of Food & Water Watch, will discuss the new book by F&WW Executive Director Wenonah Hauter, "Foodopoly," an exploration of the corporate food industry that produces 80 percent of the nation's food. Hauter owns an organic farm as part of the growing Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) movement. Yet she believes that this movement isn't enough to solve America's food crisis and the public health debacle it has created, where 35 percent of all U.S. children and adults are obese. In Foodopoly, Hauter takes aim at the culprit: the control of food production by a handful of large corporations—backed by political clout—that prevents farmers from raising healthy crops and limits the choices people can make in the supermarket. Foodopoly explores the businesses behind the food that most Americans eat every day, including some of our favorite and most respected brands. Hauter also reveals how agricultural policy puts the interests of food processors — such as Cargill, Tyson, Kraft and ConAgra — above the needs of independent farmers. She argues that solving this crisis will require a complete structural shift—a change that is about politics, not just personal choice. As one reviewer put it, "In the various arms of the meat industry, in biotech, in vegetable production and even organics, extreme concentration of power in the hands of a few huge companies has enormous negative impact on the way we produce and consume food, at great cost to society, especially when we account for hidden costs in public health and environmental impacts."

May 19 - Bill Wolfe, director of the NJ Field Office of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), will discuss the political and economic reasons why New Jersey's enforcement of environmental regulations have suffered in the past decade. Wolfe, who spent 13 years as a Policy Analyst and Planner with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (1985-1995; 2002-2004), left the agency in 1995 after he publicly disclosed a memoranda between Governor Whitman and the DEP for not aggressively responding to scientific research documenting high levels of mercury in NJ freshwater fish. Bill then left DEP to become the Policy Director for

Sierra Club's NJ Chapter from 1995-2002. Then in 2002, DEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell invited Bill to rejoin DEP and serve as the "conscience of the Agency." Wolf left the Agency in July 2004 to rejoin the NJ environmental community and joined PEER in 2005. PEER is a national non-profit alliance of local, state and federal scientists, law enforcement officers, land managers and other professionals dedicated to upholding environmental laws and values. PEER assists state and federal employees when they discover that regulations in the public interest are not being enforced by the appropriate regulatory agencies.

June 23 - Ethan M. Handel, Research Project Coordinator for Rutgers' Coastal Ocean Observation Lab, and his team members will discuss their work in using state-of-the-art radar systems and underwater drones to map the surface and deep-water currents of the world's oceans. These currents have been compared to huge rivers or energy conveyor belts. Surface currents distribute warm water, one form of marine energy, while deep water currents distribute nutrients, another form of marine energy. The teams hope to capture the most complete picture yet of the oceans' many mysterious underwater movements — from deepwater currents to migrating fish. Rutgers manages both programs for NOAA. The drone program was described in November in the New York Times.

Ocean County Group

WEBSITE: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean

OFFICERS:

Chair & Treasurer:	A. Gregory Auriemma, Esq.	732-451-9220	sierraclubOC@aol.com
Vice-Chair & Conserv Chair:	Margit Meissner-Jackson	609-296-4367	sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Jill Palmer	732-928-0988	palmer2x2@aol.com
Outings Chair & Env'l Ed'n Coord:	Terrance Brown	848-333-7331	
Outings Co-Chair:	Monica Zabroski	609-384-2693	monicazabrowski@yahoo.com
Political Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Publicity Chair:	Matt Reid	609-312-6798	mattreid@comcast.net
Fund-Raising:	Joyce M. Isaza	732-920-9270	realtymstr@aol.com
Environmental Consultant:	Helen Henderson	908-278-9807	hhlaceyrailtrail@msn.com
Group ExCom Member:	Nancy Brown	732-892-6089	nancybrown624@comcast.net
Group ExCom Member:	Sierra Palmerr		

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:	Anne Caridi		bears4cats@msn.com
Political Chair:	<i>Open position!</i> Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831		
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.

Apr 9: Kelly Wenzel presents Petty's Island: The Making of an Urban Oasis - 2014 Project Update.

May 14: 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.

The West Jersey Group does not meet in June, July or August. Please join us on a hike or paddling trip. Meetings resume on Sept 10.

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:

Apr 2, May 7 and June 4 (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 (WFNC*), Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor, Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 3½ miles south of Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

Apr 9 and June 11 (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@cumauricriver.org. Website: www.cumauricriver.org.

Apr 16 and June 18 (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.

May 27 (alternate fourth Tuesdays) Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: Membership meeting, open to the public, Annual Frog Walk, location and time TBA. Contact Lynn Maun, 856-453-0416 or email lynnkmaun@comcast.net.

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 (Apr 23, May 28 and June 25) 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 to receive announcements for all of our events a few weeks before each event. Events are also listed on the online calendar on the Chapter's web site: newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp.

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:	<i>Position Open.</i> Contact us! We need you!	
Membership:	<i>Position Open.</i> Contact us! We need you!	
Nominations:	Nancy Sullivan	nancysullivan@comcast.net

2014 Executive Committee members: Susan Browne, Joyce 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).

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 and the Chapter's online calendar. See the Outings section of this Newsletter for singles outings led by Jimi Oleksiak (April 12, May 10, and June 14) and Jeff Sovelove (April 26, May 17, and June 7). Please join the listserv to receive notification of all of our outings (see above for instructions on how to subscribe).

Sierra Silver Singles is a subgroup that organizes hikes and other social events to appeal to Singles over 50. Most events are scheduled followed by an optional meal at a location determined by the leader. See the Outings section of this Newsletter for Silver Singles outings on April 19, May 18, and June 22. Check the Singles listserv for announcements of more Silver Singles outings.

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.

OFFICERS:

Acting Co-Chair:	Jonathan Wall	psychologist@jonwall.com
Acting Co-Chair:	John Kashwick	jkashwick@gmail.com

NEXT OUTING:

May 3 (Sat) Exploring Sandy Hook: Gateway National Recreation Area. 10am. We'll hike along the dunes trail and along the beach. We'll also explore some of the historic sites in the recreation area. Total length of hike will be 6-7 miles. Bring a picnic lunch, water, snacks, and sun screen. 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, at meetup.com/njsierraclub, or by emailing a leader. Rain 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 or meetup.com/njsierraclub.

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

(continued on page 10)

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

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

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

In addition, a monthly Buy & Sell newsletter is sent out to members 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

During the dark nights of winter (some say summer also suffers from the same phenomenon), while you no doubt were frolicking in Super Bowl activities, our steering committee was industriously engaged in planning our activities for the upcoming season. Our first big social and educational event will be our annual April training session. If you thinking of volunteering with us, or if you would just like to learn more on how we operate please send us an email (address above) and we'll notify you of the date and other details of this prime April event.

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.

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.

On the Trail

Canoeing and Kayaking the Waterways of the New Jersey Pinelands

By George and Leona Fluck (Leona@pineypaddlers.com)

The New Jersey Pinelands was the first National Reserve to be designated in the United States; it is a critically important ecological region over a million acres in size. It covers the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer, estimated to contain more than 17 trillion gallons of some of the purest water in the country.

Miles of tea-colored streams and rivers are fed by this aquifer, which extends to just a few feet below the ground surface throughout much of the Pinelands.

The Mullica, the Oswego, the Wading, and the Great Egg Harbor Rivers, and Cedar Creek are popular Pinelands streams enjoyed by canoeists and kayakers on our NJ Sierra Club Outings. Paddling them is a special experience for New Jerseyans, and we also host many visitors from VA, PA, NY and other states.

Each season offers a different experience: in spring and summer there's a progression of blooming wild orchids such as Grass-pink and Rose Pogonia, not to mention the carnivorous Pitcher Plants, Sundews and Bladderworts that we look for during our breaks on the Oswego at Martha Furnace. The fall brings colorful foliage and bogs active with cranberry harvests by local farmers. As for winter, Tolkien's Treebeard put it this way: "Ah,

the wind and the whiteness and the black branches of Winter . . ."

Exploring Pinelands streams from the water presents a surprise around every bend - which can be challenging and fun. Some rivers are more suitable for beginning paddlers. Our trips vary in length between two and seven hours. On some of them outfitter rentals are available between May and mid-October. We hope you'll join us.

One of our Spring trips is especially appropriate for beginners: Jun 8 (Sun): Canoeing/Kayaking Skills Refresher on Lake Oswego (Burlington Co). 9am. ACA Certified Instructors from the Sierra Club will share information about paddling efficiencies, safety practices, rescue techniques and equipment. The refresher is held on Lake Oswego. Boats can be rented from Mick's Canoe and Kayak Rental 800-281-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com/. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Contact leaders to confirm the event and your participation. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com.

As River Rat said to Mole in Kenneth Grahame's "The Wind and the Willows": "There's nothing . . . absolutely nothing . . . half so much worth doing as simply messing around in boats."



Outings

Learn more about your environment...

take a Sierra Club

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

(roughly north to south)

Skylands: Vacant
South Highlands: Jonathan Wall
 psychologist@jonwall.com
North Jersey: Ellen Blumenkrantz
 eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417
Gateway: David Ogens, 973-226-0748 (H)
 64 Elm Rd, Caldwell 07003
Loantaka: Vacant
Central Jersey: Vacant
Raritan Valley: Vacant
Jersey Shore: Mike Verange, 908-732-8364 (H)
 1497 W Front St, Lincroft 07738
Ocean County: Terrance Brown, 848-333-7331
West Jersey: Vacant
South Jersey: Tom Boghosian, 609-625 0878 (H)
 4794 Andorea Drive, Mays Landing, 08330
 boghosian1@verizon.net
Singles: Joyce Haddad, jkhaddad@juno.com
Young Sierrans (Central region): Leon Yerenburg,
 lyerenburg@gmail.com
Inner City Outings: Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H)
 NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd, Warren, 07059

River Touring: Fred Tocce, 908-453-2205 (H)
 RD-1, Box 277, Washington, 07882
Chapter Outings Chair: Ellen Blumenkrantz
 eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417

Outing Leaders: Please send July-September 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 May 5. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it for the previous Sierran, due to the occasional lag in mailing. Also, please send outing rosters or sign-up sheets to the Chapter Office as soon as possible after each outing.

Note: Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your July-September 2014 trip write-ups by May 8.

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

Sierra Club outings are arranged by volunteer leaders who are in charge of the trip and responsible for the safety, welfare and enjoyment of all participants. Leaders

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

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

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

Watercraft trips let you experience the unspoiled parts of our region, but water safety does impose special

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

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

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

Apr 26 (Sat): Blauvelt Parks: Piermont-South Nyack. (Rockland Co, NY) 10:15am Strenuous 10-mile hike. Visit Rockland Cemetery, an old Nike base and an abandoned National Guard rifle range. 2 quarts water. Hiking boots. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural). LP out. Return via rail-trail. Leader John P. Jurasek 845-519-4247 (no calls past 10 pm), or Jurasek@optonline.net (ACOC)

Apr 27 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River and Tour Lambertville's 33rd Annual Shad Festival (Hunterdon Co). 9:30am. We'll paddle the Delaware River and then walk around town, check out the arts & crafts, etc. There are many options at the Food Court - everything from taco salads to fried Calamari and fried Orco's. Don't forget your Wild Bill's Soda Mug! Paddling helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. Current Sierra Club membership required. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

MAY

May 1 (Thu): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am. Double Trouble State Park was established in 1964 to help protect the Cedar Creek watershed and now features over 8,000 acres of Pine Barrens habitats. Our May Day trip is 7 miles from Ore Pond to Dudley Park. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

May 4 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 9am. Tomorrow is Cinco de Mayo but we'll celebrate a day early! Our annual paddle is 10 miles from Hawkin Bridge to Beaver Branch. Boats can be rented from Mick's Canoe and Kayak Rental (800-281-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com/). Meet at Hawkin Bridge. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

May 7 (Wed): Hike at Belleplain State Forest (Cape May Co). 10am. Easy pace, 5 miles. Belleplain was established in 1928 by the State of NJ for recreation and water conservation. Lake Nummy is a converted cranberry bog. Bring lunch, snacks and beverage. Leashed dogs are welcome! Meet at the Picnic Pavilion next to Lake Nummy. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

May 9 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 10am. The section we paddle will depend on river conditions. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders for information. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

May 10 (Sat): Osio Rock and Stone Living Room Hike, Bloomingdale (Passaic Co). 10am. http://www.localhikes.com/Hikes/OsioRock_5602.asp Difficulty: Strenuous hike-climbing; Conditions: Rugged with Rock Scrambling Features: Awe inspiring distance views and closer views of rock formations. Distance: 5 miles in 4-5 hours. Total Ascent: 1600 feet No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. 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)

May 11 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Abbott Marshlands (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 10:30am. Our trip with the tide begins on the Crosswicks Creek in Bordentown. We paddle to Watson Woods in Roebling Park where we have lunch. Option, walk around Spring Lake and see the Mute Swans before returning to Bordentown. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St. Rental boats are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

May 14 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River with Fortunato (Burlington Co). 10am. This is Fort's favorite Pines stream - join us for a lovely spring trip. Meet at Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego Rd. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Rental (800-281-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com/). Contact leaders to confirm participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

May 17 (Sat): D&R Canal Hike (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. This will be an opportunity to use the Lock 1 "swinging bridge" and walk along the towpath. Meet at the RiverLINE parking lot in Bordentown City. Option for late lunch at a local restaurant in pleasant Bordentown. Leaders: Terry Stimpfel and Bob Sokol (terystimb@hotmail.com or 609-731-7016). (C)

May 17 (Sat): Turtleback Rock, South Mountain Reservation (Essex Co). 10am. We will start at Turtleback Rock trailhead. See the Essex County Parks Commission website <http://www.essex-countynj.org/p/index.php?section=parks/sites/so> for directions. Bring lots of water, and wear hiking boots. We will take the orange trail down to Hemlock Falls and also see the famous Turtleback Rock. Heavy/steady rain cancels. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove (Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com). Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

May 18 (Sun): Jockey Hollow National Park Sierra Silver Singles Hike (Morris Co). 10am. 5-mile hike. Meet at the visitor center parking lot. We shall hike most of the Grand Loop Trail at a moderate pace. Be prepared for a couple of steep sections. Boots recommended. Heavy rain cancels. Optional lunch to follow at a nearby restaurant. Any questions, contact the leader, Jay Dibble at 908 289-8813.

May 18 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Raritan River (Middlesex Co). 10am. This trip is about 16 miles from New Brunswick to Perth Amboy. Experienced paddlers; expect power boat traffic and boat wakes. Kayaks must be 12ft. or over; spray skirts suggested. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. Participants must be current Sierra Club members. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

May 22 (Thu): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 9am. The section we paddle will depend on river conditions. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders for information. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

May 24 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Mercer/Hunterdon Cos). 10am. We'll paddle 15 miles from Kingwood Access to Lambertville. Lunch break at the Famous River Hot Dog Man's Restaurant; bring or buy lunch. Paddling helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. Current Sierra Club membership required. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

May 26 (Mon): Canoe/Kayak with your Pooch on the Wading River (Burlington Co). 9am. Fortunato invites his "cousins" and dog lovers for a Memorial Day weekend trip. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental (800-281-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com). Contact leaders to confirm trip and river section we are paddling. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

May 31 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 9am. Enjoy a 10-mile paddle on the "Egg" from Penny Pot to Weymouth Furnace. Meet at the Harley Dawn Diner - arrive early for breakfast. Rentals are available from Palace Restaurant and Outfitters (609-625-8552 or www.thepalaceoutfitters.com). Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

JUNE

Jun 5 (Thu): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am. Enjoy an 8-mile spring paddle on "The Jewel of the Pinclands". Meet at Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego Rd. Bring lunch and water. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Rental (800-281-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com/). Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

Jun 7 (Sat): Sterling Forest Bare Rock Vista (Rockland Co, NY) 10am Meet at the Visitors' Center. We'll climb to the Sterling Forest Fire Tower then to the Bare Rock Vista for lunch. After lunch, we'll return to the Visitor's Center back down the Bare Rock Trail. See the Sterling Forest website for information and directions: <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/74/details.aspx>. No pets please. Inclement weather cancels. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com TC map 100

Jun 8 (Sun): Canoeing/Kayaking Skills Refresher on Lake Oswego (Burlington Co). 9am. ACA Certified Instructors from the Sierra Club will share information about paddling efficiencies, safety practices, rescue techniques and equipment. The refresher is held on Lake Oswego. Boats can be rented from Mick's Canoe and Kayak Rental (800-281-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com/). Bring lunch, snacks and water. Contact leaders to confirm the event and your participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

Jun 14 (Sat): Sterling Forest and Lake Hike, Tuxedo, NY (Rockland Co). 10am. <http://nysparks.com/parks/74/details.aspx> The hike will cover 8 miles in 5 hours in hilly terrain. The route will include lookouts on the Sterling Ridge and Sterling Lake. No beginners, no pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. 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)

Jun 14 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Hunterdon/Mercer Cos). 9:30am. Celebrate Flag Day! This is an 8-mile paddle from Frenchtown to Bulls Island. Helmets required for all paddlers; spray

(continued on page 12)

MARCH

Mar 29 (Sat): Abbott Marshlands Spring Cleanup (Mercer Co). 9am - noon. Cleanup at Spring Lake and possible shuttle to Duck Island. Bring gloves if you have them, water to drink; wear long sleeves, long pants, boots. Meet at Roebling Park. From South Broad Street turn West onto Sewell Ave. The closest intersection to the park is Sewell and McClellan. Continue past McClellan to the end of Sewell, turn left and drive down the hill to the parking lot.) Leader: Bob Sokol, robert.sokol435@gmail.com 609-918-1149. (Cosponsors with Friends for The Marsh: Central Jersey Sierra Group, Mercer County Parks, D&R Greenway Land Trust) (C)

APRIL

Apr 1 (Tue): D&R Canal Hike (Burlington Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. There's no fooling - we'll see nesting Bald Eagles in the Abbott Marshlands. Bring binoculars. Meet at the RiverLINE parking lot in Bordentown City. Option for late lunch at Heart of Bordentown (HOB) Tavern. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: Leona and George F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

Apr 5 (Sat): Hook Mountain Hike (Rockland Co, NY) 10:30am. 7 miles, with excellent views of the Hudson River and Croton Point. Meet in the Rockland Lake South Parking Lot 4 near the entrance booth. Rockland Lake is in Congers, NY, off Rte 9W. Bring lunch, hiking boots, and water. Adverse conditions will alter the route. Leader: John P. Jurasek, 845-519-4247 (no calls after 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

Apr 6 (Sun): Hike at Monmouth Battlefield State Park (Monmouth Co). 9:30am. 4 miles, easy pace. Monmouth Battlefield State Park is the site of one of the largest battles fought during the Revolutionary War on June 28, 1778. It was during an artillery battle that Mary Hays, known as "Molly Pitcher," carried water for the soldiers to quench their thirst and to cool the cannons. After the hike, Friends of Monmouth Battlefield will provide a special guided tour of The Craig House, a mid-18th century farmhouse, which has been restored to reflect life during the days of the Revolution. Meet at the newly completed Visitors Center, 16 Business Route 33, Manalapan, NJ. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Please register with leaders. Leona and George F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

Apr 10 (Thu): Canoe/Kayak the Abbott Marshlands (Burlington Co). 10am. Our trip with the tide begins on the Crosswicks Creek in Bordentown. We paddle to Watson Woods in Roebling Park where we have lunch. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

Apr 12 (Sat): Bearfort Mountain and Firetower Hike, West Milford (Passaic Co). 10am. The hike will cover 7 miles in 4 hours in rugged terrain, with great views of the Newark Watershed. <http://www.newarkwatershed.com/html/maps.html> No beginners. 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).

Apr 13 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Cleanup on the Crosswicks Creek/Delaware River Watershed (Burlington Co). 10:30am-2pm. Support the Sierra Club Water Sentinels Program and our spring cleanup with the Bordentown Yacht Club. The cleanup begins at low tide and takes place in the wetlands area above the RiverLINE bridge. These marsh flats have a lot of trash so we are in and out of our boats. Wear boots and bring gloves. Garbage bags are provided. Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St. Rentals are not available. Bring water, snacks and lunch. Contact leaders to register for the cleanup. Leona & George F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

Apr 16 (Wed): Hike at Manasquan Reservoir (Monmouth Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. The park is now the most visited site in the Monmouth County Park System. Meet at the Visitors Center 311 Windeler Road, Howell, NJ 07731. Directions: <http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com/page.aspx?ID=2531> Bring lunch, snacks and water for the hike. Leaders: George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

Apr 18 (Fri): Hike at Maurice River Bluffs Preserve (Cumberland Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. The Nature Conservancy prides itself on protecting great places like the Maurice River Bluffs, a majestic preserve overlooking the river. Bring binoculars to observe various waterfowl and a bald eagle's nest. Bring water and snacks. Leashed dogs are welcome. Option for late lunch at the Maurice River Diner. Please contact leaders to register and for directions. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

Apr 19 (Sat): Palisades Interstate Park (Bergen Co). Sierra Silver Singles Hike 10am. Maximum 4 miles on flat ground in the Palisades Interstate Park. Easy to moderate pace. Optional visit to diner or pot-luck afterwards. Contact leader: blehlw@earthlink.net for details.

Apr 20 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the N. Branch Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 9am. Paddle 14 miles on the N. Branch Rancocas Water Trail from BCCC to Mount Holly. Meet at the Vincentown Diner - arrive early for breakfast. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

Apr 25 (Fri): Earth Day Week - Barnegat Bay Blitz (Ocean Co). 9am-2pm. This is the 2nd year that the Sierra Club is participating in the "Blitz" on-water cleanup. We'll meet Lauren Keltos, NJDEP Team Captain Barnegat Township, at the Barnegat public launch area. From there we'll paddle to areas designated for cleanup in the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. Garbage bags and gloves will be provided. Bring water and snacks. Option for late lunch at Sweet Jenny's Restaurant. Rental kayaks are not available. Contact leaders to confirm participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

Apr 26 (Sat): Essex County Environmental Center (Essex Co). Sierra Silver Singles. 11am. Join us at the Essex County Environmental Center, 621 Eagle Rock Ave, Roseland, and help celebrate Earth Day. For the past 9 years, we have been providing short canoe trips to individuals and families, many of whom have never been in a canoe. We start at 11am and end at 4pm. We need about 15 volunteers. Please come and join us. Contact ronpate31@verizon.net

Apr 26 (Sat): Jockey Hollow Leader's Choice (Morris Co). 10am. Leader's choice of trails depending on conditions at Jockey Hollow National Park in Morristown. See <http://www.nps.gov/morr/planyourvisit/directions.htm> for directions and information. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Meet at the visitors' center. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footwear required (sabilicers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. Optional lunch at a local eatery if we get done in time. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike



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

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

skirts recommended for kayakers. Bring or buy lunch at the Famous Hot Dog Man's River Restaurant. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Rentals are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jun 15 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek on Father's Day (Ocean Co). 9am. We're paddling 7 miles from Ore Pond to Dudley Park. Meet at Double Trouble Park Headquarters. Boats can be rented from Cedar Creek Campgrounds (www.cedarcreeknj.com/ or 732-269-1413). Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jun 19 (Thu): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 10am. The section we paddle will depend on river conditions. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders for information. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jun 21 (Sat): Decorated Boat Parade on the Delaware Canal in Yardley, PA (Bucks Co). 11am-3pm. The Boat Parade and Rubber Duckie Race are fun family events sponsored by Friends of the Delaware Canal. Enter your decorated canoe or kayak - or just enjoy the parade from the towpath. Check the website for more information (www.fodc.org) or contact George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jun 22 (Sun): Columbia Trail Bike Ride Sierra Silver Singles (Morris Co). 10am. Join us for a bike trip on the Columbia Trail. We will cover 25 miles and have lunch at the half-way point. Rain cancels. We will meet at the Long Valley end of the trail. To reach the East, or Long Valley end of the trail from I-287, take the exit for US 206-202 North. Bear left to remain on US 206. Turn left onto Rte 24. Follow Rte 24 by turning right onto Schooleys Mountain Road. The trailhead parking lot is on your left. Contact leader for more information: rompate31@verizon.net.

Jun 22 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River Watershed (Mercer/Burlington Cos). 9am. This is an 18-mile paddle - for experienced distance-paddlers. Helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Kayaks must be 12ft or over. Rentals are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jun 25 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Batsto River (Burlington Co). 9am. The section we paddle will depend on water level. This is a 12+ mile trip for experienced Pines paddlers; expect downfalls and portages. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Group size limited. Rentals are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jun 28 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Mullica River (Burlington Co). 9am. It's officially summer and the aquatic flowering plants of the NJ Pinelands will be in bloom. This is a 12-mile trip for experienced Pines paddlers; expect downfalls and portages. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Rentals are not available. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

SEPTEMBER

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. Outings include: 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: 60-288-6737 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.

Apr 12: Hamilton (Mercer Co) Public Library, 1 Justice Samuel Alito Way.
May 10 and June 14: at New Brunswick Public Library, 60 Livingston Ave.



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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.)

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Thank you to all who contributed to this issue!
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