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 statements were ranged from cutting clean energy goals, to weakening water protections, and promoting dirty fuels. With Governor's speech, our State of the Environment is the worst it has ever been.

The cutback anti-environmental Administration in modern history, systematically rolling back 80 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 will be the new generations as our air and water become more polluted.

Rebuilding after Hurricane Sandy
Denies Climate Change and Planning for Sea Level Rise
We are building on outdated mapping and under a DEP process that allows people to build in places that were completely destroyed.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 CAPRA, Flood Hazard Area, and wetlands protections under Coastal and Land Use Compliance and Enforcement. The Governor has yet to announce a plan for coastal buyouts to restore natural systems in the barrier islands to a sustainable structure. 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). 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). Community Block Grant program. This could jeopardize federal funding.

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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

This 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 from this result of the palm oil industry—they are landless, hungry, socially conflicted and forced migration. Air, water and land 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 excellent guide to various forms of palm oil, check out: http://www.saynotopalmoil.com/palm-oil.php

Avocados

Avocados 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. About 90% of the citizens are covered by a social security system. The literacy rate is 98% and healthcare. Every town in Costa Rica has a school, primary and secondary education are mandated by law and 97% of adults can read and write. In a small town up the valley from Lake Arenal, the school also served as a clinic for one day a week when a doctor was in its. About 90% of the citizens are covered by a form of national health insurance. Life expectancy is 80 and it is considered to be that in the United States.

Yoplait Yogurt Containers

These have a small lip (flange) that angles inwards, not outwards. Wildlife and domestic pests attracted to the sweet smell in the discarded container can insert their heads into the Yoplait cups but can’t get out. Unless rescued, the entrapped animal ultimately dies. Since 1978, people have been asking Yoplait Mills to replace the Yoplait containers so animals do not get their heads caught inside. The company could make a redesign change, but it has yet to yield. Check out http://www.centraljersey.com/pages-Yoplait35-year-yoplait-cups-have-been-killing-wildlife

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

New Jersey’s Palisades under Attack

By John Kashwick, Chair of our North Jersey Group

New Jersey’s Palisades peer down on us from 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 cramp up its view. They propose build a 184 foot tower adjacent to the Palisades in Englewood Cliffs, rising four times higher than the 55 foot zoning limit. This building would be a billboard visible from both sides of the Hudson River. Its proposed height would 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 Valley River, 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 ridge line.

For more information, or to see a sample letter, please visit www.protectthepalisades.org.

Projected revenue for the 50,000 tons of Hass avocados to be imported to the US in 2014 is estimated at $1 billion. Retailers call it “as good as gold,” these creamy, delectable fruits are actually “blood avocados” similar to the dashboard of west African countries. An avocado cartel, Knights of the Palisade, is extorting, kidnapping and killing the farmers and packers. The Mexican government is supposedly taking action and the Avocado Growers Association has called for vigilante groups to protect themselves and their avocados interests. But there are more murders, land theft and extortion.

The US officials are aware of these activities but have no matter on the policy. (Oro Verde: Bloody Struggle Erupts over Avocado Trade, Wall St. Journal 02/20/2014 pages A1 & A10)

Avocados and Yoplait Yogurt

Nearly 50% of the US is covered by 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. Education is education mandatory. The literacy rate is 98% and redirected its revenue to education and healthcare. Every town in Costa Rica has a school, primary and secondary education are mandated by law and 97% of adults can read and write. In a small town up the valley from Lake Arenal, the school also served as a clinic for one day a week when a doctor was in its. About 90% of the citizens are covered by a form of national health insurance. Life expectancy is 80 and it is considered to be that in the United States. Also equal to the US, the Costa Rican birth rate of 1.9 children per woman is just under the replacement rate. This can be seen as a result of high literacy since we will be able to 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 one hour physical education for all children.

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 sliding gently 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 is free and it is thanks to forward looking health and environmental policies that help preserve Costa Rica.

California almonds bloom in February and March, 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 and more dead from Colony Collapse Disorder. Why? Scientists are pretty sure that, as the bees help to produce our food, they encoun- ter toxic compounds—even on organic farms. These are the neonicotinoids that were designed to antagonize the recep- tors of nerve cells of invertebrates, but more recently with similar receptors of vertebrate animals.

Neonicotinoids have been declared safe for fish, mammals, birds, reptiles, humans. But not for bees! You’ll find in them small spray bottles, convenient and inexpensive for use in your home, garden, such as Bayer Advanced Complete Insect Killer, Ortho Flower, Fruit and Vegetable 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.

Neonicotinoids are harmful to bees. It is up to us to make sure they remain free from these pesticides. As in the past, we will need to pressure the EPA to ban their use.

Population Issues Coordinator’s Report

Costa Rica on the Right Track

By Bonnie Tilley (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 legs. Once free, they faced the challenge of getting across 100 feet of mud to sandy beach. Once on the beach, they energetically moved, they pulled their little 3 inch bodies, trying to beat the hawk sit- ting in a branch outwards to catch the whirred walking in the surf.

We were in Costa Rica witnessing one of the mysteries of the world. How do these min- tine creatures know to head to the surf? In fact, with only luck will about 1 out of 1,000 survive to become a 3 inch bodies, trying to beat the hawk sit- ting in a branch outwards to catch the whirred walking in the surf.

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 resolves the president's political endorsement...
Next Nov 4th, voters in New Jersey’s Third Congressional District (most of Burlington and Ocean Counties) will vote to fill the congressional seat once held by Local Sergeant of the Army Jon Runyan (R). Current candidates include Freeholder Aimee Belgard (D), former New Jersey General Assembly member, and M. Longenig (R), Tom’s River Councilman Maurice ‘Mo’ Hill, and State Assemblmeny David Wolfe (R).

After sending out questionnaires to all these candidates, the EPA needs to come up with the health and safety of millions of people. The EPA needs to come up with safe plans and regulations to clean up our air. That is why TRI data has been collected and monitored at plants since the Bush administration tried to eliminate it. Only by demanding changes in policies and regulations can we demand changes in policies and regulations to clean up our air. jittery citizens – so that they can demand changes in policies and regulations to clean up our air. jittery citizens – so that they can demand changes in policies and regulations to clean up our air.

There are thousands of facilities in New Jersey. A safe plan for each one is essential. There was an accident in New Jersey in 2012 at a DuPont site. On Feb 4, 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a press release on the TRI report. Three Commissioners were swayed by different factors. Two of the Commissioners were swayed by different factors. Two of the Commissioners were swayed by different factors. Two of the Commissioners were swayed by different factors. Two of the Commissioners were swayed by different factors.

The December lane closures of the Fort Lee entrance to the George Washington Bridge were ordered by Gov. Christie’s staff (or not if the governing Christie himself), had environmental consequences. The Port Authority, the traffic jam caused 2,800 hours of waiting time for drivers caught in traffic, a day, which $5,000 to 60,000 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.
The federal Environmental Protection Agency has finally moved toward updat- ing the country’s smog pollution stan- dards, by issuing something called the "Second Draft Policy and Risk and Exposure Assessments." This will help resi- dents of New Jersey who 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 groundlevel ozone. Inhaling it is like getting sunburn on your lungs. A strong, science-based smog standard would pro- tect 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 stan- dards 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 prof- its 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/tnn/naaqs/standards/ozone/date/20140131pa.pdf

Second Health Risk and Exposure Assessment:
http://www.epa.gov/tnn/naaqs/standards/ozone/date/20140131healthrea.pdf

Second Health Risk and Exposure Assessment:

The Jersey Sierra Club: April–June 2014

From a press release issued on Feb 4th

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 impor- tant 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 pro- cess. Given all the people still homeless and the scandals, we need more trans- parency. We need action on climate change and sea level rise, improved building codes, TRACE, and more. We need to rebuid the state in a smarter and better way.

Hammerman & Gainer Inc, the compa- ny 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 large projects that were not neces- sary. 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 Frez. He had no public hearings until late in the process, he refused questions form the press, and he declined to attend oversight committee meetings before the Legislature. The Governor, although requiring 20% more efficiency than the previous code, has no plan to implement Green Infrastructure, national systems and engi- neered systems that mimic natural sys- tems, 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 technlogies.

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.

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 orga- nizations active on fracking, pipeline, compressor station and LNG issues. A panel dis- cussion will follow, moderated by Executive Producer Mark Lichy. It will be a solu- tion-focused discussion.

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

South Highlands Group
(Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties)

WEBSITE: http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/NewHighlands/

OFFICERS:
Chair: Jonathan Wall* jonathanwall@verizon.net
Vice Chair: Celeste Martin* cmartin@mac.com
Conservation Chair: Cynthia MacGonagle* cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Secretary: Jonathan Wall* jonathanwall@verizon.net
Treasurer: Celeste Martin* cmartin@mac.com
Political Chair: Jonathan Wall* jonathanwall@verizon.net
Publicity Chair: Susan Schirmer* soupy64@att.net
Membership Chair: Jim Fleming* jimfleming88@comcast.net
Outings Coordinator: Jonathan Wall* jonathanwall@verizon.net
Webmaster: Jonathan Wall* jonathanwall@verizon.net

(*Group Executive Committee Member)

Outings Chair: Jonathan Wall* jonathanwall@verizon.net
Treasurer: Susan Williams 973-600-4960 skylandsgroup@gmail.com
Events Chair: Marvin Feil  mfeil@writeme.com
Political Chair: Marvin Feil  mfeil@writeme.com
Programs Chair: Mike Cross  mckreadlander@gmail.com
Outings Chair: Tim Helling  thelling@comcast.net
Events Chair: Bob Jones  bobjones@comcast.net
Members-at-Large:
Joyce White  joyce00201@yahoo.com
Celeste Martin* onecentral@mac.com
Members-at-Large:

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

EASTERN GROUP:
River Group: Passaic & Morris
Gateway Group: Sussex & Warren
Central Jersey Group: Hunterdon & Somerset
Raritan Valley Group: Middlesex & Monmouth
Atlantic Ocean Group: Ocean & Cape May
South Jersey Groups: Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland & Salem

These designations are approximate: members are welcome to participate in whichever Group(s) they find convenient

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

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

Another new Sierra Club website to explore: www.sierraclubgreenhome.com.
GROUP NEWS

May 18 (Sun): Duke Farms Hike, 10am to 2pm. Traipse around a tobacco millionaire's overgrown backyard, filled with statues and wild flowers, mansions and stables. Together we will tour the beautiful orchard garden greenhouses and then have Lunch Farm Café for Lunch which offers a selection of healthy sandwiches, wraps, salads, snacks and beverages. There we can get more acquainted and watch the Eagles Cam. Admission is free. 1112 Duke Parkway West, Hillsborough, N.J. 08844. Registration required. For more information, contact Susan Schimrer at soups@att.net or register on MeetUp.

May 21 (Wed): 7pm meet & greet; 7:30 presentation at the Hunterdon Medical Center for the education of the community on environmental issues. 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 how to contact your State Senator or Congressperson. Parking is no problem, since it is on the street or across the road in the church parking lot. For listings of films, please visit http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp or www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub.

For additional information, please contact: Susan Schimrer at soups@att.net or 908-787-6725. Space 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 worldwide 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: PlanSAT 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.

OFFICERS:

Chair: John Kashwick
Vice Chair: Mary Ellen Shaw
Treasurer: Tom Thompson
Secretary: Jennifer Rothschild
Conservation Co-Chair: Parking Ravi
Organizing Co-Chair: Parking Beth Ravi
Political Chair: Jennifer Rothschild
Air Quality Issues: Laura Gol
Events Chair: Mary Walsh
Membership Chair: Buddy Jenner
Outings Chair: Ellen Blumenkrantz
Program Chairs: Jeffrey Epstein
Publicity Chair: Mary Cohen
Trail Maintenance: Mary Cohen
Webmaster/Listmaster: John Kashwick
Wildlife Issues: Mary Ellen Shaw*
Ex-Com Member-at-Large: Nancy Wysoci

(*Group Executive Committee Member)

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/njsierrach 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) Greenwich Sanctuary Guided Walk. Greenwich Sanctuary is a 165-acre woodland preserve on top of the Palisades in Ten Broeck 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 ani-
mals that call the place home. Registration and a small donation to the Greenwich Sanctuary will be required.

June: Date, topic and location TBD. Please visit http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp or meetup.com/njsierrach 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 online 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:

LG Tower in Englewood Cliffs: LG Electronics, a multinational corporation, is planning to build an office tower in Englewood Cliffs that will rise high above the treeline of the Palisades, and for the first time, violate the unspoiled ridgeview—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 next in an urbanized area, have been under threat by construction at the industrial site upon which they have 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, contact our Conservation Co-Chair, Mary Ellen Shaw at meshaw.001@gmail.com or Beth Ravi at ravi@enwsci.rutgers.edu.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE: As we write this we are still reelin from yet another snows/ice fall. Typing fingers slowed by their need to recover from shoveling eight inches of very heavy snow from our driveway. Accordingly, our thoughts (hope?) turn toward Spring, and what is the first thing we think of when Spring is mentioned?—trail maintenance! The Sierra Club North Jersey Group is part of the 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).

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


OFFICERS:

Chair: David Vennin 973-844-1384 dyennin@msn.com
Vice Chair: John Beadle 973-284-1594 beadley571@verizon.net
Secretary: Treas.: Anne Hirs 973-844-1121 annehirs@verizon.net
Conservation Co-Chair: 973-844-1121 see above
Publicity Chair: Open Position! see above

Membership Chair: Open Position! Zaat Khadem 201-618-8572 zahaz@aol.com
and
David Korfhage 973-592-0247 drkorfhage@gmail.com

Political Chair: Open Position! Open Position! see above

Funding Chair: Open Position! Open Position! see above

Water, Newark: Bill Chappell 973-636-6990 billchappell@aol.com

Recycling Issues

Chair: Ilye Landlon 201-247-0288 ilylelandlon@aol.com

Co-Chairs: Brenda Toyloy 973-856-7056 brandtoyloy@yahoo.com
and
Jeff Weiss 973-650-1050 bonelife5800@gmail.com
Members in commuting distance of Trenton are invited to volunteer time to help run our state office: Call Nicole Dallara.

Central Jersey Group (Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

Find the latest at https://www.facebook.com/CentralGroupNJC.

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

OFFICERS:
Chair: Terry Szympek
Conservation: Kip Cherry
Energy: Rob Benjamin
Membership: Bill Worok
Political: Terry Szympek
Trails: Bob Sokol
Ex-com: Joanne Panney
Ex-com: Lynne Weiss

terri@tszympek.com
kipben@yahoo.com
robbi@outlook.com
billw@ttd.com
terri@tszympek.com
bob@msk.com
jpanney@msk.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 Lifestyle social. Have you ever been frustrated being around people who don’t share your enthusiasm for a healthy, low environment impact lifestyle? Join with others like yourself over a cup of tea and plan for more events. Infini-Tcfe, 4 Hulfish Street, Princeton.

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

June 4 (Wed): 7:30pm - NJ Energy Efficiency Resource Standard. Presented by Christine Gulh Sadowsky, Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign, and Rob Benjamin. Do we need more power plants or more energy efficiency? What about resilience and residential use? Infini-Tcfe, 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:
Chair: Roomi Nazar
Group Vice Chair: Open position!
Conservation: Open position!
Membership: Open position!
Recycling: Open position!
Webmaster: Open position!
Treasurer: Open position!
Conservation Chair: Nancy Gladfelter
Secretary: Open position!
Chair: Elizabeth Spreckley/Parry

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_raritan@att.net to participate.

Meetings Location and Updates: Because meeting dates and locations change, please subscribe to our Email list: NJ-RARITANVALLEYNEWS 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_raritan@att.net.

Northern NJ Group

(Occupying the North Hudson Region as far as Elizabeth and Elizabeth and Hilsdale, plus Livingston, Millburn and Roseland, approximately)

WEB SITE: http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/loantaka/
Siena Club’s N.J. 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 late 2004 to rejoin the N.J. 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 uphold- ing environmental laws and policies through science. PEER assists state and local environmental agencies when they discover that regulations in the public interest are not being enforced by the appropri- ate 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 move- ments — 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

WEB SITE: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean

OFFICERS:

Treasurer: A. Gregory Auricena, Esq. 732-451-9220 sierraclubOC@aol.com

Virtual Chair & Event Coord: Bill Reid 609-278-6798 mattreid@comcast.net

Secretary: Frank Zinni 609-312-6798 bearcats@msn.com

President: Gina Carola 856-848-8851 ginaceee@verizon.net

Vice-Chair: Frank Zinni efzin4@aol.com

Treasurer: Trish Clements pant1321@gmail.com

Publicity Chair: Alice Carrand efzin4@aol.com

Conservation Chair: Stacie Ayala thunderwholgal@yahoo.com

Political Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer. 856-848-8851

Outings Coord: Frank and Ellen Zinni efzin4@aol.com

Environmental Chair: Matt Reid 609-312-6798 mattreid@comcast.net

Co-Chair: Matt Reid 609-312-6798 mattreid@comcast.net

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

WEB SITE: https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseyGroupNC

Log on and Like Us

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Gina Carola 856-848-8851 ginaceee@verizon.net

Vice-Chair: Frank Zinni efzin4@aol.com

Secretary: Frank Zinni efzin4@aol.com

Treasurer: Trish Clements pant1321@gmail.com

Publicity Chair: Alice Carrand efzin4@aol.com

Conservation Chair: Stacie Ayala thunderwholgal@yahoo.com

Political Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer. 856-848-8851

Outings Coord: Frank and Ellen Zinni efzin4@aol.com

Environmental Chair: Matt Reid 609-312-6798 mattreid@comcast.net

Co-Chair: Matt Reid 609-312-6798 mattreid@comcast.net

Group ExCom:

Member: Monica Zabrowski 609-384-2693 monicazabrowski@gmail.com

Member: Hudson South, which is Kings Hwy (you will have to exit to the right into a jug handle and Haddonfield.

Directions: From I-295, take exit 34h onto Rt 70 West. Follow the signs for Rt 41 South, which is Kings Hwy (you will have to exit to the right into a jug handle and then turn left onto Rt 41 (Kings Hwy). Cross over Rt 70 and you will be briefly on Rt 154 (Brace Road). Make the next right and then the next left onto Kings Hwy. After

Please share this newsletter with a non-member friend, inviting use of the coupon on p. 12.
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 onto 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.


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. April 9:

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 with in the Sierra Club and in the Watershed Association (GHHWA) that "spun off" from the South Jersey Group. 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 are looking for new officers to take up the mantle. If you have questions (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 email Dick.colby@stockton.edu.

Current Issues: There is much regional opposition to the construction of a large-diameter pipeline to transport natural gas to feed the EL electric power plant in Marmora (Cape May Co), led by Georgina Stanley (shane32001@yahoo.com) and the organization 350.org South Jersey (Glen 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 installations (especially in each municipality in Atlantic County), and support for a New Jersey Bottle Bill, known as the Smart Container Act (H459/15467).

Some Possibly Relevant Meetings of Allied Organizations:

Apr 2 (last Wednesday), 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 Weddays), 7pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens united to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries: Meeting place: George Luciano Center, Cumberland Community College. Cumberland County development issues are scheduled, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Lillian Armstrong (CJ) at 609-774-8855 or lillian.armstrong@cumauriceriver.org. Website: www.cumauriceriver.org.

Apr 16 and June 18 (alternate third Weddays), 7pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Historic 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 lynnmaman@comcast.net.

350.org South Jersey is a recently formed organization that opposes Climate Change, and the impact of sea-level rise. It will hold meetings at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Port Norris Rd (Rt 57) opposite the Stockton College campus in Galloway Township. 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 Township Library, 306 E Jimmie Leeds Rd. www.atlanticaudubon.org.

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

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 onto 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.


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GROUP NEWS

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.

Afline 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.

Sierra Yarriens

(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 Yarriens regardless of marital status, so whether you are single, dating or married, please come join us!) Special Interest Sections provides 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.

We welcome all events which are open to everyone, but especially for the Northern and South Jersey areas. We are planning to have a first training session on Friday, April 25th, at 7:00 P.M. This is an opportunity to learn more about what we do, and how you can become involved.

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 the list, send your area! Publicity provided. Contact Coordinator at YoungSierrans@yahoo.com.

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
201-670-8385
martincohen@verizon.net

Treasurer: Anne Dyjak
732-560-0955
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 interested contact Chair or Young Yarrienn Coordinator at YoungSierrans@yahoo.com.

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**APRIL**

**MARCH**

**JUNE**
Ski trips recommended for kayakers. Bring or buy at the famous Hot Dog Man’s River Restaurant.

Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Registration required. Current NJ Sierra Club membership required. George & Lee: 609-259-5774 or lee@pinetypewaddlers.com (W)

Jun 15 (Sun): Canoes/Kayak Cedar Creek on Father’s Day (Ocean Co). 9am. We’re paddling 7 miles one way from the trailhead. Bring or buy at the famous Hot Dog Man’s River Restaurant.

Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Registration required. George & Lee: 609-259-5774 or lee@pinetypewaddlers.com (W)

Jun 21 (Sat): Decorated Boat Parade on the Delaware Canal in Yardley, PA (Bucks Co). 11am-8pm. 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.fdccc.org) or contact George & Lee: 609-259-5774 or lee@pinetypewaddlers.com (W)

Jun 22 (Sun): Columbia Trail Bike Ride Sierra Silver Mines (Morris Co). 10am. Join us for a bike trip on the Columbia Trail. We will cover 25 miles on the trail through the half-way point. Bums cans. We will meet at the Long Valley end of the trail. To reach the East, or Long Valley end of the trail, take Rte 389 out of By the 325-323 north. North. West. West. Continue onto Rte 290. Left onto the Route 29. Right. 29. By turning right onto Schoolcraft Mountain Road. The trailhead parking lot is on your left. Contact leader for more information, or contact George & Lee: 609-259-5774 or lee@pinetypewaddlers.com (W)

Jun 25 (Wed): Canoes/Kayak the Delaware Watershed (Mercer/Burlington Co). 9am. This is an 18-mile paddle - for experienced distance paddlers. Helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Kayaks must be 12’6” or over. Registration required. Current NJ Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George & Lee: 609-259-5774 or lee@pinetypewaddlers.com (W)

Jun 26 (Thu): Canoes/Kayak the Mullica River (Burlington Co). 9am. It’s officially summer and the aquatic bumbling Jellies of the NJ Pondscapes will be in residence. This is a Level 2 trip for experienced Pines paddlers; expect downwells and portages. Current Sierra Club members are required. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Registration required. George & Lee: 609-259-5774 or lee@pinetypewaddlers.com (W)

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

All meetings are welcome to attend these monthly state-wide policy deliberations, usually held on SECOND SATURDAYS. Details, including agendas and travel instructions, are available from Ken Johnson, the Chapter Chair. (Best confirm!)

Conservation and/or Political Committee meetings usually start at 7:30. Lunch is shared at noon. The main meeting starts at 1pm.

Members please send address changes to: bobmossnj@verizon.net or NJ Sierra Club Membership. 85 Second St, 2nd Floor San Francisco CA 94105, 415-977-5653, or NJ Sierra Club, 145 West Hanover St. Trenton NJ 08618

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The Jersey Sierran is published quarterly by the Sierra Club/NJ Chapter.

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Thank you to all who contributed to this issue! This newsletter is produced ready by volunteers.

To address changes, please contact: 609-656-7618 or membership@sierraclub.org