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The Jersey... SIERRAN

Vol. 43, No. 4

Roughly 16,000 Members in New Jersey

October-December 2014

Endorsed Federal Candidates for November Elections

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

On Tuesday, November 4, one of New Jersey's US Senators and all 12 of its Members of Congress will be elected. With many environmental issues being considered in Washington DC, we urge our members to vote for candidates who will be leaders on them.



Environmental Science degree, has studied environmental law, was instrumental in saving Burlington County's Rancocas Nature Center, and played a pivotal role in establishing single-stream recycling in Burlington. Her opponent is Tom MacArthur, a former north Jersey mayor who never responded to our questionnaire.

The national Sierra Club considers this race so important that it has assigned staff to work on it, helping our volunteers make a difference come November. Anyone interested in helping Freeholder Belgard's campaign should contact me, at 973-716-0297.

5th CD: Roy Cho (D, Challenger) - Cho's opponent, incumbent Rep. Scott Garrett (R), has the worst environmental voting record in the State's congressional delegation; a lifetime League of Conservation Voters (LCV) score of 11% - he's the only NJ Congressman to have voted for oil and gas drilling off our coast. In contrast, Roy Cho believes climate change is a national priority, and will champion initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To help his campaign, please contact Jennifer Rothschild at jenniroth2@gmail.com.



6th CD: Frank Pallone (D, Incumbent) - Rep. Pallone has a long and extremely strong environmental voting record, and we have excellent access to him. We urge Club members to reelect one of our nation's environmental heroes.

8th CD: Albio Sires (D, Incumbent) - Rep. Sires is a previously endorsed congressman with an LCV lifetime voting score of 88%.

9th CD: William Pascrell (D, Incumbent) - Rep. Pascrell is a previously endorsed congressman with an LCV lifetime voting score of 92%. He was instrumental in helping establish the Paterson Great Falls National Historic Park.

10th CD: Donald Payne, Jr. (D, Incumbent) - Rep. Payne has established a solid environmental record since winning office in a special election last year.

12th CD: Bonnie Watson Coleman (D, Open seat) - Watson Coleman built a strong environmental record as a New Jersey Assemblywoman; we endorsed her several times in the past. Her opponent, Alieta Eck, MD, did not respond to our questionnaire.

I invite questions from Club members, and would welcome the opportunity to help members support any of our endorsed candidates. Please call me at my home: 973-716-0297.

Congressional Races:

3rd CD: Aimee Belgard (D, Open seat) - The 3rd District race (most of Burlington, part of Ocean Counties) is rated "Toss-up/Lean Republican" by the nonpartisan Rothenberg Political Report.



We support Burlington County Freeholder Aimee Belgard. She holds an

Sierra Club Urges Yes Vote on Open Space Ballot Question

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

The NJ Legislature has voted to put on this November's ballot a referendum on a Constitutional Amendment that would generate a stable source of funding for open space preservation. The funding would come from dedication of a portion of the corporate business tax, and its uses would include open space purchases, farmland preservation, and historic preservation. \$71 million would be raised each year from 2016 to 2019 (from 4% of the business tax), and \$150 million each year thereafter (from 6% of the business tax). The Sierra Club supports this measure and urges everyone to vote yes.

Between 1961 and 2009, bond referendums were approved 13 times to generate money for open space preservation. But all that money has now been spent. This year's ballot question would put money back into open space programs.

It's important for the fund to be available at all times, because sensitive properties can come onto the market at any time, and would be lost to development if the fund is empty. As an example, in 1988 New Jersey could have purchased a portion of Sterling Forest for \$2 million. Four years later the state spent \$9.8 million to acquire the land. As another, Saddle Mountain was offered to the state during this time, but New Jersey had no funding so it was sold to a private compa-

ny. 25 years later we are still waiting for the state to purchase it.

Open space is a good investment in our future: Urban parks catalyze redevelopment. Open space provides outdoor recreation, helping our tourist industry that generates more than \$4 billion a year in economic activity. Preserved farmland maintains our agriculture industry. Open space also protects water supply - not only for homes but also for some of New Jersey's largest industries: food processing and pharmaceuticals.

New Jersey averaged \$235 million annually in spending for open space between 1996 and 2010. This proposal would only supply about a third of that. But given State budget problems, this is the best we can do at this time. Compare \$235 million with \$270 million spent to bail out Revel Casino, or \$650 million to subsidize the American Dream Megamall in the Hackensack Meadowlands!

Please urge your friends and neighbors to approve the ballot question!



Conservation Progress

Mercer County to Hold Referendum on Shopping Bag Pollution

Compiled from the e-correspondence of our Chapter Conservation Committee

Good news from Mercer County: on August 14th, its Freeholders passed a resolution that will put on the November ballot a non-binding referendum to determine whether there is popular support for a 5¢ fee for plastic shopping bags distributed at supermarkets.

The campaign to protect New Jersey from plastic bags was led by Noemi de la Puente, author of an article by that title in the April-June issue of this Newsletter.

Many environmental groups have pushed for the measure, which was promoted by Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes, citing the success of such a fee in reducing bag pollution in Washington DC.

The Freeholders were cautioned by their attorney, Michael Herbert, that such a referendum might violate various state laws, as well as produce lawsuits, but his testimony was opposed by that of Chapter Director Jeff Tittel, who argued that the referendum is legitimate because the Freeholders do

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SIERRA CLUB BALLOT

2014 Election of Officers of the New Jersey Chapter, and its Groups and Sections

All Sierra Club members in the New Jersey Chapter are invited to vote for Club officers, both Chapter-wide and in our Groups and Sections. Club members have the choice of voting electronically or by this paper ballot.

The Chapter ExCom consists of nine at-large members serving three-year terms, three of whom are elected each year, and one representative sent by each of our 11 regional Groups. Please vote for the three ExCom members and for the leadership of your regional Group. If you participate in the Singles Section, you may also cast a vote for its leadership. (Other optional specialty Sections are for Seniors, Young Sierrans, Gays and Lesbians, and for providers of Inner City Outings.)

This year's four Chapter ExCom candidates were selected by a Nominating Committee consisting of Sunil Somalwar, John Kashwick and Paul Sanderson. (There was a mechanism for additional nominations by petition, but no such petitions were received this year.) Club rules require two more candidates than the number of openings; when an insufficient number of candidates is on offer, write-in slots are provided.

If the Sierra Club has your e-mail address in its records, you will receive in October a ballot by e-mail, and you may vote EITHER online, as described below, OR by this paper ballot. If you cast an online ballot, any paper ballot you mail in will not be counted. Online votes must be cast by December 1, 2014.

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

To vote online: click on the link in the e-mail you receive. If you have a joint membership, pairs of boxes are provided to enable each member to cast a separate vote. The ballot page will have links to the same candidate statements as are printed in this newsletter.

To vote by paper ballot: Please vote the ballot below; then clip the ENTIRE ballot on the heavy-dashed line, and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Dec 1, to **Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618. PAIRS**

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BALLOT

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of boxes are to enable two members of family memberships to cast separate votes. **Note that a properly-clipped ballot will include the mailing label.** This is to verify your membership; it will be removed before ballots are counted.

Chapter ExCom Ballot: Candidates for three-year terms. Their portraits and 100-word statements are on the right. Name-order has been randomized. Please vote for UP TO THREE:

- Laura Tracey-Coll Lee Snyder
 Ken Johanson Joe Testa
 Write-in: _____

Group and Section Ballots

Please vote your GROUP ExCom ballot, below, and the SINGLES SECTION ballot if you are active in it.

South Highlands Group: Candidates for three positions on the Group ExCom, who will serve for two years. please vote for UP TO THREE.

- Celeste Martin Jonathan Wall
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

North Jersey Group: Candidates for four positions on the Group ExCom, who will serve for two years. Please vote for UP TO FOUR:

- John Kashwick Beth Ravit
 Tom Thompson Nancy Wysocki
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Jersey Shore Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO FIVE:

- Jim Baye Pat Fuschetto
 Bob Grize Dennis Anderson
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Ocean County Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. 2-year terms. Please vote for UP TO FIVE:

- Terrence Brown Nancy Brown
 Margaret-Mary Picollo Victor Palmeri
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

West Jersey Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. 2-year terms. Please vote for UP TO TWO:

- Frank Zinni Ellen Zinni
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

South Jersey Group: Candidates for three positions on the Group ExCom. 2-year terms. Please vote for UP TO THREE:

- Tom Boghosian
 Dick Colby
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Singles Section: Candidates for seven positions on the Section ExCom. 1-year terms. Please vote for UP TO SEVEN:

- Joe Testa Joyce Haddad
 Joe Prebish Ron Pate
 Joyce White Jeff Sovelove
 Daphne Speck Bartynski
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

LGBT Section: Candidates for three positions on the Section ExCom. 1-year terms. Please vote for UP TO THREE:

- John Kashwick Jonathan Wall
 Robert Zitzman
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Ballot Statements

(Name-order has been randomized)

Laura Tracey-Coll (North Jersey Group):

- North Jersey Sierra Club: Air Quality, Political and Executive Committees since 2006
- Stopped dangerous air emissions from Marcal Paper in Elmwood Park, NJ, by organizing a campaign resulting in a successful federal lawsuit to require a Statement of Basis for Air Permits and a billion dollar lawsuit to clean-up the Passaic River
- Participated in the COALalition against PurGen Coal Power Plant
- Lobbied EPA for portable air monitors at NJ Schools
- Obtained 2 Open Space Grants
- Participated in hearings: PurGen Linden; Covanta Incinerator, Paterson Air Study; Passaic River Flooding; BC Master Plan; Mahwah Truck Stop; Xanadu; Garbage Transfer Station, Elmwood Park



Lee Snyder (West Jersey Group):

As a Life Member of the Club, I have served for 11 years as Pinelands Issues Coordinator, and on Chapter ExCom for the past ten years. I work with the Pinelands Commission, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and other groups to protect some of New Jersey's natural treasures. My participation in Sierra Club and Pinelands-related meetings, hearings and seminars, including the Sierra Club Training Academy, has been a great learning experience. I would like to continue to proudly represent the interests of the New Jersey Chapter.



Ken Johanson (Loantaka Group):

I currently serve as chair of the New Jersey Chapter and chair of the Chapter's legislative, fundraising and personnel committees. I also serve as a member of the finance and litigation committees. I consider the New Jersey Chapter to be the most visible and most effective environmental organization in the State and I am proud to be part of this effort. I look forward to continuing to serve as a member of the Chapter's executive committee. We've accomplished quite a bit over the past few years but there is so much more to be done.



Joe Testa (Loantaka Group, Singles Section):

Currently serving as an ExCom member, the Chapter Secretary, Information Technology Chair, and Singles Section Chair, I have worked to broaden the communication between our excellent Trenton staff, volunteers, members, and the public. I've helped revise our Chapter web site, design our electronic election process, and make it easier for our Groups to publicize their events online. An avid hiker, I joined the Sierra Club 25+ years ago to participate in outings and to support a pro-environment political agenda. I would appreciate your vote so I can continue to put my experience to work to help further our Club's goals.



Population Report

Important Dates in November

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@msn.com)

Tuesday, Nov 4: VOTE - It has often been said that the party that controls the White House determines reproductive health care for women around the world. In our hyper-political atmosphere today, Republicans controlling the budget strings in Congress are also a determining factor in whether women have access to family spacing services. It is therefore important that we elect representatives who will work with the President in providing funding for these services. When women are voluntarily able to decide when and how many children they want to have, they choose to delay their pregnancies and complete their education - usually in their late teens or early 20's - and can contribute to their family and the community. This puts less stress on environmental resources and enables families to raise healthier children. In the long run, that's healthy for the environment, too. The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club has endorsed candidates who believe that women are best able to make their own decisions about their family size. We urge you to vote on November 4th for these candidates - for the health of families and the planet.

Friday, Nov 7: World Vasectomy Day - The Planned Parenthood Clinic in Kissimmee, Florida will be world headquarters for the second annual World Vasectomy Day, a "celebration of men who are willing to assume some of the responsibility for family planning." (vasweb.com) This year's goal is 250 physicians in 30 countries performing 1500 vasectomies in a 24-hour period.

On the first World Vasectomy Day in 2013, over 1,000 vasectomies were performed by 100 doctors in 25 countries. It is estimated that this reduced the world's carbon footprint by 10 million metric tons.

The physicians who organized the free clinic for this minimally invasive procedure see it as a service to society and the environment. They note that every issue you can think of - global warming, destruction of habitat, species extinction, pollution - is made more complicated by more people on the planet. "The quality of human life depends on respect for and protection of all life." This year, they are looking for men "willing to put their balls on the line for Mother Earth." (worldvasectomyday.org).

Wednesday, Nov 19: World Toilet Day - The United Nations has called for this day of observance to bring attention to the fact that 2.5 billion people around the world do not have access to proper sanitation. They note that the lives of more than 200,000 children under five years of age in developing countries could be saved from diarrhea and other preventable illnesses that lead to death through the elimination of open-air defecation which contaminates water sources and spreads disease. Women and girls are at risk as well from physical and verbal abuse as they try to meet their basic sanitary needs behind bushes and in fields. In fact, lack of private toilets is one of the major reasons girls drop out of school when they reach puberty (water.org). Despite great economic strides in India, it is estimated that 50% of the population does not have access to a working toilet. ("Poor Sanitation in India May Afflict Well-Fed Children with Malnutrition," NY Times, 7/13/14.)

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other organizations are funding pilot projects to provide energy efficient sanitary facilities that recover clean water and energy resources from feces and urine. All this while using little or no water, making the facilities viable in areas where water is scarce.

Education is the key to solving many of the world's critical issues which is why repressive governments want to suppress education, especially for women and girls. We here in the U.S. can help by calling on Congress to support funding for the U.S. Agency for International Development and organizations such as the United Nations Population Fund which stress education for women and girls as a developmental tool for countries. But the most important thing we can do is VOTE for representatives who believe that education about family spacing and the environment are important in protecting our natural world.

Conservation Report

Too Late?

By Gregory Gorman, Chapter Conservation Chair (ggorman07419@embarqmail.com)

September 1, 2014 marks the one hundredth anniversary of the death of Martha, the last known Passenger Pigeon. The Encyclopedia Smithsonian (online version) starts its entry with: "The extinction of the passenger pigeon is a poignant example of what happens when the interests of man clash with the interests of nature." A population of 3 to 5 billion at the time Europeans discovered America ranged from NY to the Midwest. A combination of converting forests to farmland and the professional hunters who netted the birds at rates as high as 50,000 per day eradicated the bird. Even after recognizing early warning signs of the passenger pigeon's demise, actions to protect the birds came too late.

In 1979, the National Academy of Science published "Carbon Dioxide and Climate: A Scientific Assessment." Also known as the Charney Report it concludes, "If carbon dioxide continues to increase, the study group finds no reason to doubt that cli-

mate changes will result and no reason to believe that these changes will be negligible. The conclusions of prior studies have been generally reaffirmed. However, the study group points out that the ocean, the great and ponderous flywheel of the global climate system, may be expected to slow the course of observable climatic change. A wait-and-see policy may mean waiting until it is too late."

Forty five years later, the consensus is that, to avert the worst consequences, the World needs to take action to contain warming to 2°C. Price Waterhouse's "Low Carbon Economy Index" 2013 report observes, "In 2008, they calculated that to achieve this objective, the G20 needed to reduce its carbon intensity by 3.5% per year. Over the next four years the rate of decarbonization failed to exceed 0.7%. ... This year (2013) the

(Continued on page 3)

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

Editorial

The Problem of Environmental History

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

A superb film on the history of the environmental movement - "A Fierce Green Fire" by Mark Kitchell, 2013 - was shown recently by two municipal environmental groups to a local audience in Atlantic County, followed by a discussion led by a Stockton College faculty colleague.

It organizes American environmentalism into five historical phases: (1) land protection for scenic spectacles such as Yosemite, following the loss of California's Hetch Hetchy Valley (1902), leading to the Sierra Club's entrapment into approving Glen Canyon Dam in the 1970s - in order to save the Grand Canyon of Arizona, (2) gradual awareness of deadly pollutants: DDT (Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring"), and the toxins in Love Canal - New York State, 1970s, (3) ecological lifestyle alternatives promoted by the Whole Earth Catalog and proponents of renewable energy sources, and including Greenpeace activism, to which I would add Ernest Callenbach's insightful utopian novel "Ecotopia" (1975), (4) globalization: efforts to save whales and the Amazon rainforest by organizations large (World Wildlife Fund) and small, and (5) understanding the need to reverse or remediate Climate Change by the likes of Vice-President Al Gore and Bill McKibben of 350.org. The film includes toothy (close-up) interviews of many current players and survivors.

There was much to discuss; I'll concentrate on one issue that bothers me exceedingly. Several people bemoaned the difficulty of recruiting young people into environmental activism. This is a problem at many levels: in the municipal organizations that sponsored the film presentation, in the NJ-Sierra Club, in Sierra Club nationally, and in many other environmental organizations. Someone proposed that the difficulty is in CONNECTING with young people - since so many of them seem to lack interest in reading/listening/studying, i.e. ENGAGING in society: putatively an effect of media overload, media dumbing down and the technological poisons of constant background music, computer games, texting and face-booking. I certainly recognize this disconnectedness in my college students: they have lost whatever it was that prompted students of my generation to take notes in lectures, and their attitude toward the history of my subject (genetics) borders on disgust.

Another explanation for the disconnectedness of Generation Y and the Millennials (today's youth) was suggested by another of my Stockton colleagues (an historian!) to whom I showed an early draft of this editorial: their preoccupation with a problem my generation never had: that of finding jobs and otherwise surviving in a time of serious economic recession. Or perhaps a third explanation might be an incapacitating effect of the horrors and hopelessness that permeate

TOO LATE

(Continued from page 2)

challenge has again increased. Our model shows we now need to reduce carbon intensity by 6% every year from now till 2100. This is over eight times our current rate of decarbonization." (<http://www.pwc.co.uk/sustainability-climate-change/publications/low-carbon-economy-index-2013-overview.jhtml>). Our failure to make "bold commitments" has placed us in a hole. It's not too late.

As I write this in early August, we are preparing for the People's Climate March,

modern life, and are again pressed upon us by the media: domestic and international atrocities, broadcast with vividness and immediacy, that no previous generation has had to face.

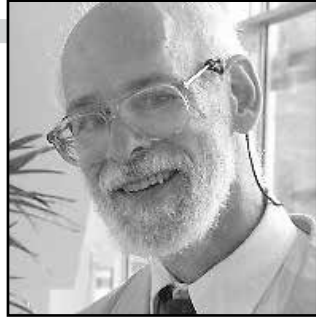
But I don't think so. Watching the intensity with which my students are absorbed by computer games and texting, to the exclusion of the conventional learning that is supposed to take place at college, convinces me that technology has done it again: first cars destroyed our sense of residential community, then TV destroyed the local culture that once filled our leisure hours, and now online activities have completed the conversion of many of us into zombies: enabling us to be bystanders almost everywhere while avoiding all effort and commitment.

But I digress from the specific problem of history, to which I propose this possible insight: my undergraduate major, more than 50 years ago, was Philosophy and Science, and my senior thesis was titled "The Influence of Immanuel Kant on Physiology." In his "Critique of Pure Reason" (1781), Kant proposed the existence in the brain of *a priori* organizing capacities such as space and time. Noam Chomsky's Universal Grammar would be a recent proposal for another organizing capacity. I suggest that the brain LACKS an organizing capacity for history*. It's an acquired taste, and only rare people have it. Human evolution may even have opposed it, since survival often required instant and instinctive reactions to dangers that would have been delayed by historical reflection. If a capacity for appreciating history is problematic, then so (at some level) is the capacity to plan for the future. Thus the Problem of Environmental History - and our doom to repeat it (since we aren't learning from it), in the words of Santayana.

Possibly related is the blandness of recent history. Technology may be roaring ahead, but great upheavals that engaged most of the public (world wars, depressions, global natural disasters) have not occurred in the lifetimes of most people living today. Sure, there are conflicts in many countries, and terrorist attacks (such as 9/11/01), and storms such as Katrina and Sandy, and economic recessions producing 12% unemployment at worst, and immigrant pressure on our borders, but they don't disrupt most of our daily lives as I remember (vaguely, now) from having lived through the Second World War. So the life-disturbing events that might gravitate people toward a consciousness of impending climate (and other) disaster aren't happening. We're like the frogs in a gradually heating kettle of water.

**I'm urged to note that cultural anthropologists would insist that creation myths and tribal legends are universal and essential.*

on Sept 21 in New York City, to urge World Leaders attending the UN Climate Conference to avert climate disruption. PV Solar has earned grid parity with fossil fuels in 112 nations and some parts of our country. Great Britain, home of the largest offshore wind farm, has recently approved an even larger wind farm. We have the ability to turn the corner toward a "Clean Energy" future. Will the World leaders heed our call to take "bold action", or are we too late?



Chair's Message

It's Not Easy Bein' Green

By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)



Kermit the Frog lamented back in 1970 that "It's not easy bein' green." Those of us in the environmental community know this all too well. Clearly the global community is not doing as much as it needs to be doing to address so many pressing issues, including climate change, species extinction, dwindling water supplies, the depletion of natural resources and overpopulation. So what do we do about it? Who do we reach out to and what is our message?

I think we need to reach out to everyone, including evangelicals and conservative Christians, business leaders and others who have not been particularly receptive to our message in the past. There are signs of change, including what The New York Times describes as "a growing embrace of environmentalism by parts of the religious right." Increasingly business leaders are taking climate change into account in planning for the future and the United States military, in a series of reports issued over the past few years, has concluded that the accelerating rate of climate change poses a severe threat to national security. We need to reach out to all these groups and do all that we can to spread the word.

But what is our message? There are a lot of bad things going on in the world. The natural environment is taking a beating. We all know this but what can we do about it? I think the bottom line is that we need to remain positive. Doom and gloom does not work. People have enough bad news in their lives. They don't need to hear that the world is coming to an end. So if we hope to attract converts to our cause, I think we need to

adopt a more positive message.

And that isn't as hard as it may sound. In reality there are a lot of good things going on. Consider for example recent actions by the Obama administration to reduce the sulfur content of gasoline by two-thirds, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants by 30 percent, at least temporarily (hopefully permanently) block a proposed gold and copper mine from the headwaters of Alaska's Bristol Bay and significantly expand protected marine areas in the Pacific Ocean.

Consider also recent decisions by the United States Supreme Court upholding interstate air pollution regulations and the administration's power and responsibility to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. And, closer to home, consider the ruling of a federal appeals court upholding the New Jersey Sierra Club's challenge to FERC's approval of a natural gas pipeline and requiring that more stringent procedures and requirements be applied in the future.

Just as in sports, no one wants to be part of a losing team. We need to let folks know that we are not a losing team, that we are capable of effecting positive change and that there is hope for the future. But we also need to let folks know that we cannot do it alone and that we need their active participation and support if we are to achieve our goals and provide our children and grandchildren with a livable planet.

Kermit was correct: It's not easy bein' green. But in spite of it all we have been able to celebrate some significant victories over the past few years and, perhaps most importantly, we're not about to give up.

Resolutions Passed by the Chapter Executive Committee in June, July and August

Legal action was authorized: to oppose the "Pinnacle Bi-County DEP Settlement Agreement" that has enabled development in the Highlands Preservation Area in Oakland (Bergen Co). (June)

We approved a resolution to be considered by the Council of Club Leaders (CCL), a Club entity representing all the Club's Chapters, to create a subcommittee that would draft and send out to Board of Director (BoD) candidates its own questionnaire of up to six questions. (June and July)

A full list of our political endorsements for the General Election on Nov 4 is to be found in an article by Political Chair Rich Isaac - on p.1 of this Newsletter. (various)

A new national Sierra Club policy on fracking (as a method for developing new oil and gas resources) would allow Chapters to do as they see fit in each State - call for a moratorium, a ban, or stronger regulations. We recommended strengthening the policy by adding a call for a moratorium on fracking on all federal lands. (July)

The Army Corps of Engineers, currently dredging six miles of the lower Passaic River to remove toxic chemicals, was urged to remove the full 6-12 feet of the contamination, rather than the current two feet plus capping. The current plan would require restrictions on the use of the river in order to avoid disturbing the cap: no use of anchors, speed restrictions on vessels to avoid wakes, and no construction of docks or boat ramps. The current plan would not restore the river to an economically and recreationally viable state. (July; see article on p.4)

We voted to support the November 4th statewide ballot referendum on open space funding and to urge the public to vote yes on the referendum. (August; see article on p.1.)

At the August meeting we also adopted another resolution for consideration by the CCL: requiring at least half of the BoD nominating committee nominees to have served for at least one year on a Chapter and/or Group ExCom prior to being nominated. We also appointed Robert Zitzman to the LGBT ExCom.

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.

Reports from Members

Passaic River Issues Coordinator's Report

Lower Passaic River Restoration Project

By David Yennior (dyennior@yahoo.com)

From the late 1600s until the 1960s, the lower Passaic River (below the Great Falls at Paterson) was a thoroughfare for shipping: tall ships, freighters, barges, paddle steamers, private yachts, and of course smaller pleasure craft. Then, during the Vietnam War in the 1960s, Newark's Diamond Shamrock Corp. produced (and spilled) Agent Orange, aka Dioxin, one of the most carcinogenic substances known to toxicology. Since the Passaic is a tidal river, the poison flowed both upstream and downstream, settled into the sediment, and has rendered surviving fish and shellfish inedible.

It's not the only culprit: mercury, DDT, copper, lead, PCBs and other industrial chemicals contribute to the toxic soup. All dredging (for ship passage) ended in the 1950s. Since the 1970s the EPA, NJ DEP, and many environmental groups have been calling for a full clean up of the Passaic River.

Finally, on April 11th the federal EPA announced its intention to clean-up the lower 8.3 miles (measured from Newark Bay). It would be paid for by the Cooperating Parties Group (CPG) and the polluters. Four alternative plans were offered for Public Comment, although the EPA clearly prefers option 3:

The alternatives are: 1. Do nothing. 2. Dredge the entire 8.3 miles. 3. Dredge the lowest 2.2 miles (to a channel depth of 30 feet at mile 0, decreasing to 20 feet

at mile 2.2), and cap the next 6.1 miles. 4. Cap only the hot spots (the CPG's initial proposal). Disposal of the dredge spoils remains to be considered.

In 2012 a high concentration of Dioxin was discovered at mile 10.9, alongside a Bergen County Park in Lyndhurst. The EPA performed emergency capping with a foot of crushed rock topped with a foot of sand, taking a year and costing \$25M for a one-mile strip on one side of the River. But by June of this year the sand had washed away, and the sharp edges of the rock are damaging the bottoms of boats.

- Here's a chronology:
- July 9: a Community Advisory Group (CAG) favored Alternative 3.
 - July 12: NJ Sierra's ExCom voted for Alternative 2.
 - July 22: NJIT held a Forum with experts to discuss Alternative 3.
 - July 27: our Gateway Group ExCom voted to support Alternative 2.
 - July 31: the Passaic River Boat Club recommended Alternative 2.
 - August 6: NJ Sierra requested a 60-Day extension of the Public Comment Period, but the EPA denied it.
 - August 20: the Public Comment period ended, before the Public and the CAG could be informed about 10.9 and the NJIT Forum.

(To be continued!)

Reports from Trenton

Smoking Ban Bill Becomes Law

From press releases issued by our Chapter staff

On June 26 the New Jersey Assembly passed A1080 (Huttle) by a non-partisan vote of 63-8. It was then signed into law by Gov. Christie on July 9. It prohibits smoking at state, county and municipal parks and beaches, except that up to 15% of municipal and county beaches may be designated for smoking.

Cigarette butts comprise much of the litter on our streets, beaches, and waterways. More importantly, cigarette smoke is a major air pollutant, damaging the lungs of both smokers and non-smokers.

In addition, this legislation will protect parks and beach boardwalks from fires caused by careless smokers.

Many towns have already passed ordinances that limit smoking: in Seaside Park (Ocean Co), Long Branch (Monmouth Co) and Sunset Beach (Cape May Co), smoking is banned on all beaches and boardwalks. Smoking is banned on the boardwalk in Belmar (Monmouth Co), and on sections of its beaches. A state-wide ban will benefit our environment, tourism, and public health.

Should Commercial Logging Take Place in State Forests and Parks?

From a press release issued by Chapter Director Jeff Tittel on June 14

The State Senate's Environment Committee has approved S2034 (Smith), which would open New Jersey's state parks to commercial logging operations. This bill will limit public access to our parks, and damage steep slopes, wetlands, waterways, and forest habitats.

It would collect fees from loggers, to contribute to the General Fund - rather than to forest stewardship projects. The bill would require logging plans that meet guidelines set by the independent, non-profit, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

The problem is that these plans would be meaningless, since the bill provides no mechanism to enforce them. Even clear-cutting of forests would not generate any penalties. The bill is also unconstitutional, because it defers planning authority over forests to the FSC, a non-governmental entity. The New Jersey Sierra Club has tried to improve this legislation, but the logging interests have prevailed at the Legislature's committee meetings.

Last year, Governor Christie conditionally vetoed similar legislation because he believed it unconstitutional. We rarely agree with his environmental actions, but in this case we very much approve of his conditional veto.

Logging operations would close off large portions of our parks to the public. Hiking trails would be turned into logging roads, staging areas would be clear cut, skidders and other equipment would

run through streams and wetlands. Erosion by stormwater runoff would damage pristine streams, reservoirs and aquatic ecosystems. Opening the canopy would lead to a loss of biodiversity in our forests as deer and invasive species take over. Infestations by invasive species would require the use of herbicides, further impacting sensitive streams and areas above reservoirs and water supply intakes.

If signed, this bill would also impact future purchases of open space. Public support for open space preservation would wane once people see what has been done to public land. When public access is restricted for long periods of time, and people see logging rigs pulling out 100-year-old oaks from our state parks, will they continue to approve future open space referendums?

The Office of Legislative Services has estimated that the program would cost \$2.7 million to implement. So loggers would have to harvest \$2.7 million worth of trees just to cover those costs. It isn't clear how much money will be brought in as fees paid by loggers. In the past, the state has charged \$75 per tree for oaks that sold on the market for over \$2000. So we might be giving away our forests for pennies on the dollar.

Our public parks and forests are held in the public trust and should not be destroyed for commercial interests.

Was Going Solar Worth It?

By Dennis Anderson, Chair of our Jersey Shore Group (dennisaza@aol.com)

Two years ago my wife and I had 43 260-Watt solar panels installed on our roof. We paid \$32,000 (after a 30% federal tax rebate), and were very pleased with the quality of the materials and the installers from gcrewillc.com.

We bought the maximum number of panels allowed, and wound up with an excess power generation worth \$342 in the first year. We received that amount of money from JCP&L. In the past 21 months of solar production, we generated 15,000 kWh and only consumed 10,000 kWh. So we way over-installed. We sold sufficient Solar credits (SREC) to receive a \$2000 tax-free check from the SREC people. In the first year we saved \$1500 on the cost of home-electricity.

In October, 2012, we purchased an electric hybrid car: a 2013 Chevy Volt. In the first full year we drove 12,000 miles, using only 43 gallons of gasoline. Using

published figures for highway and city mileage, we estimate that 10,300 of our miles were driven on solar power, and 1700 on gasoline, for a gasoline savings of 322 gallons = \$1126.

Financial summary: \$1500 home + \$1126 Volt + \$2000 SREC + \$342 JCP&L = \$4968 tax free money derived/year.

Not considering the cost of the car, which was comparable to that of a conventional vehicle, our Return on Investment (ROI) was \$4968/\$32,000 x 100% = 15.5%. In other words, our investment will pay for itself in 6.4 years. Remember: all this is tax free! Put that in your pipe and smoke it!

Remember, this ROI is independent of the stock and bond markets.

If you only buy only enough solar panels to power your home (i.e. not also your car), your reduced investment would enable you to receive a similar ROI.

Sustainable Lifestyle

He Gave Birds Flight: Remembering Len Soucy

By Suzanne Dragan

Many North Jersey wildlife enthusiasts will know of the Raptor Trust, the wild bird rehabilitation center in Millington (Morris Co).

And you know of Len Soucy, a Force for Nature, who, along with wife Diane, started the Raptor Trust more than 30 years ago. More than 60,000 birds, not just raptors, have been cared for there. Not all survived but at least they were given the best possible chance by the staff of dedicated and knowledgeable avian rehabilitators. My family has been bringing injured and orphaned birds there since their

inception—red-tailed hawks injured by continuously flinging themselves at the pigeon coop, finches blinded and infected with "Finch Eye", fledglings that neighborhood children needlessly "rescued." Always the staff would thank us, even though we were adding to their workload. If we saw Len and told him proudly that we brought in a bird for help, he usually teased, pointing a finger, saying "Oh, so you're the one!"

When I hosted a weekly radio program, Len and members of his Education Department were frequent guests, often

arriving with a hawk or an owl. Even though the listeners could not see the bird, they could certainly imagine how beautiful and regal they were. Len explained how that particular bird came to the Trust and patiently answered listeners' bird questions. We learned a lot from Len—such as why "fly-thru" bird feeders are preferable to tube feeders, which promote bird diseases, such as the bacterial infection Finch Eye.

One morning, while driving to the station, I spotted a mother Mallard and her ducklings on the divider of the Driscoll Bridge, over the Raritan River. I jumped out of the car and stopped bridge traffic in both directions. The mother got spooked & flew off. Her frightened chicks scattered. I grabbed a box from my car and scooped them up. Other people got out of their cars and helped.

Then I drove them to the radio station, arriving just in time for my show. A young board operator volunteered to drive the ducklings to the Raptor Trust. We called Len on air to tell him a legion of baby mallards were coming. With his booming voice he declared "We are prepared! Be sure to keep those babies warm!" Operation Bridge Duckling Rescue was a success thanks to the caring commuters

on the bridge but more importantly to the Raptor Trust.

Len died on June 11. I last saw him in March, a few days after a freak tornado hit a section of an aviary on the Trust property, yanking huge trees out by their roots. Miraculously, no birds were harmed. Len gave me a tour of the damage in a golf cart. He told me he was about to retire, and that his son Chris and family have come back to New Jersey to take over from him. Len planned to do some fishing and be around "to keep tabs on things and keep everyone in line". He said that working with the (young) employees and volunteers helped him feel young at heart. I congratulated for all that he has accomplished, saving so many birds and helping so many people. I told him I would be back—with more birds! He replied "yeah-yeah-yeah" and scooted off on the golf cart. I hope Len knew how beloved and appreciated he was by so many people. Maybe some rehabilitated raptor sitting somewhere high on a branch will tell him.

Suzanne Dragan is a former radio talkshow host of "Animaltalk" on 1450AM WCTC and a nurse.

Reports from Trenton

Celebrating 10 Years of Highlands Protections

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

August 10th marked ten years since Gov. McGreevy resigned from office. But more important is the 10th anniversary of the Highlands Act, a landmark law protecting 880,000 acres of contiguous forest, farmland, and most significantly, water supply.

McGreevy crafted the Highlands Act in an open and transparent way, appointing a task force and holding many hearings throughout the region. The legislation was a consensus document, receiving overwhelming bipartisan support, including that of six of the eight local Republican senators. More than 40% of the towns in the region passed resolutions in support, recognizing that their quality of life, and much of New Jersey's water supply, were threatened by overdevelopment.

The Act was modeled after the Pinelands Act of 1979, setting up a land use and regulatory program that distinguished between a Preservation Area, home to the most environmentally sensitive features and critical water supply reservoirs, and a Planning Area – less environmentally sensitive, and with more existing development, and capable of accommodating appropriate growth.

The Highlands Act is working. Towns have adopted municipal protections in line with the requirements of the Act, both in areas where it is required and where it is voluntary. 49 municipal and county conformance petitions have been approved. The DEP has produced Highlands Rules, a science-based regula-

tory program that includes some of the strongest water protection rules in the country, especially for the Preservation Area.

But now the bad news: when Governor Christie took office, he politicized the Highlands Council by removing many of its members, replacing them with his political cronies. He fired the respected Republican who was serving as Executive Director, and replaced her with a personal friend who had no relevant experience, and who used the position to pad his pension before retiring. The Governor confiscated the Council's budget for town conformance, and withdrew monies for payment in lieu of taxes for open space.

Despite the Governor's attacks, the Highlands Act is still functioning to limit residential sprawl in northwestern New Jersey, and to supply clean water to more than half of the state's population, as well as to our three largest economic sectors: food processing, pharmaceuticals, and tourism. Highlands water is found in everything from M&M's to Tylenol, Goya beans to Budweiser. More people visit the Highlands for hiking and recreation than Yosemite and Yellowstone.

We still need to protect more open space in the Highlands, perhaps by means of a water fee to fund acquisition programs. We need to fight the Governor's efforts to roll back the regulations that protect the area. As we celebrate its 10th anniversary we should raise a glass of water to toast the Highlands Act.

Movement on Offshore Wind Energy

From a press release issued by our Chapter staff

On Aug 6, the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) hosted a public seminar on the proposed lease of approximately 344,000 underwater acres for wind turbines off the coast of New Jersey. The energy potential is for 3,400 MW of electricity, enough to power 1.2 million homes, create new jobs, and contribute to the reduction in CO₂ emissions needed to reduce Climate Change. Sadly however, the Christie Administration continues to stall, causing New Jersey to lag behind other states.

Back in May the US Department of Energy awarded Fishermen's Energy \$47 million to install 6 wind turbines 2.8 miles off the coast of Atlantic City. This initial experimental project would produce 25 MW of power. However, in March the NJ Board of Public Utilities

had rejected the proposal, responding to Gov. Christie's argument that it included a potential subsidy that might raise taxes.

It's ironic that we have the federal money without BPU approval. Governor Christie signed the Offshore Wind Economic Development Act (OWEDA) almost four years ago. But his Administration has failed to implement it, refusing to establish a funding mechanism, and failing to invite manufacturers of wind turbines into our state. The BPU still hasn't produced regulations to guide the offshore wind industry.

New Jersey's legislation gave the BPU until March, 2011, to develop those regulations and establish an Offshore Renewable Energy Credit (OREC) program, but they are still in the process. The BPU and its consultants are still working on a funding mechanism for ORECs.

NJ Supreme Court Decision Eases Toxic Site Cleanups

From a press release issued by our Chapter Staff

On July 28th, the New Jersey Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision in *Magic Petroleum Corp vs. Exxon Mobil Corp*, that improves the ability of site remediators to recover costs from polluters under New Jersey's Spill Compensation Act. Previous practice had been that cleanups needed to be completed, with total costs determined, before multiple polluters could be sued for their fair shares of the cleanup costs. Now, cleanup costs can be recovered before the final amount will have been determined, and without prior approval, by the DEP, of a cleanup plan. In

this case, Magic Petroleum was cleaning up a site they owned in Clarksburg (Monmouth Co), but that had been polluted initially by Exxon Mobil.

This is also a victory for the Spill Act, which the Christie Administration has been trying to weaken, letting polluters off the hook. By installing a strict liability standard, all polluters will have to pay, and more of New Jersey's 20,000 polluted sites will be cleaned up.

Below is the link for the Syllabus on the case: <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/opinions/supreme/A4612MagicPetroleumvExxon.pdf>

Pilgrim Pipeline's Claims are Inaccurate

From a press release issued on May 29

Pilgrim Pipeline, the company proposing to construct a 178-mile oil pipeline between Albany, New York, and Linden, New Jersey, claims that pipeline transport is safer than other forms of oil transport. We disagree: whether moved by rail, barge, or pipeline, the transport of North Dakota's Bakken crude oil through our densely populated communities and environmentally sensitive areas presents serious risks to public health and the environment. Bakken crude oil is highly explosive and toxic – much more so than other crude. All forms of transportation are prone to accidents, spills, and other human error.

We think this is one of the most controversial and potentially dangerous projects ever proposed in the New York metropolitan area. We distrust any claims made by Pilgrim, based on their refusal to disclose their ownership, and misleading statements they have made about the project itself, and about who they have lobbied. So far as we know, Pilgrim is a brand new company that has never owned or operated an oil pipeline before.

By intensifying our dependence on fos-

sil fuel, this pipeline will undermine our ability to invest in offshore wind, energy efficiency, and electric vehicle infrastructure. Instead New Jersey should be making energy investments that support clean, renewable energy production and decrease our dependence on fossil fuel-powered modes of transportation.

Since 2010 there have been 37 accidents in the US in which more than 1,000 barrels of oil were spilled. Only one-fifth of the national pipeline system has been inspected by federal or state officials since 2006. The claim that pipelines with detection systems are safe is refuted by a Wall Street Journal finding that, since 2010, of the failed pipeline portions with detection systems, fewer than 20% of oil spills were discovered by the monitoring controls; spills were three times more likely to be discovered by inspectors or members of the public.

Pilgrim has been meeting behind closed doors with municipal and county officials and PSE&G. Environmental groups and the public have not been invited to those meetings to express their concerns.

Casino Not a Sterling Idea

From a press release issued on July 31

One of the Sierra Club's greatest victories in New Jersey, in collaboration with many other environmental organizations, was the 20-year struggle, starting in the late 1980s, to protect New York's Stirling Forest from development. It's a New Jersey victory because that forest, just over the New York line from Passaic and Sussex Counties, contains the upper watershed of the Ramapo and Passaic Rivers, with their many reservoirs, so that its drainage supplies more than half of our state's drinking water.

The proposal we defeated was for a new city of 35,000 people. Instead, there is now a 22,000-acre state park in New York, with a small, 240-acre, in-pocket of private land, plus a 2000-acre county park in New Jersey. Now there's a proposal by Genting, a Malaysian conglomerate, to develop the private land with a 1.4 million-square-foot casino complex including a 1,000-room hotel, 9000 parking spaces, 25 new buildings, and a new interchange from the New York State Thruway that would take land from the state park. The expectation is for approximately 7 million visitors a year.

This project would bring traffic and water pollution into the streams that we fought to protect, not to mention the destruction of wildlife habitat and the scenic quality of the surrounding forest. It would impact the view from the Appalachian Trail. The location is ten miles from the New Jersey border and within an hour's drive of most of north Jersey. It would threaten the viability of Atlantic City's casinos.

The 1980s battle united politicians as diverse as Newt Gingrich to Bob Torricelli. New Jersey contributed more than \$15million to New York to help acquire the property. Bill Bradley blocked Senate Appropriations until we got the needed \$35 million in federal support.

The visitor center in the New York state park is named after Senator Lautenberg because of his efforts. Passaic County used eminent domain to acquire the New Jersey portion of the land. Over \$100 million in public money went into the campaign. Tens of thousands of people came out to hearings and meetings. NJ Sierra Club members got more than 25,000 letters sent to Governors Whitman and Pataki. More than 180 municipalities passed resolutions in support of acquiring Stirling Forest.

The struggle was also a catalyst for efforts to save the Highlands region of New Jersey. In 2006 we acquired what we thought was the last 500 acres. We were wrong!

The site is in Tuxedo, NY, which quietly changed its zoning to allow the proposal to move forward, applying to the New York Casino Commission without notifying the state of New Jersey. Tuxedo wants to conduct the environmental review for the proposal, which we think constitutes a conflict of interest. The exit on the NY Thruway has been proposed before: it was stopped in 1992 because of the impact it would have had on the Palisades Interstate Park and the Ramapo River, as well as promoting residential sprawl into Warwick.

The project's water supply would be from the Ramapo River, with its treated wastewater returned to the River. Since New York State's water quality standards do not recognize New Jersey's water supply intakes, it would be treated to a lower level of quality than would be required by New Jersey's standards.

New Jersey should oppose this project and contribute to the environmental review. Governor Christie should ask Governor Cuomo to protect our water supply. We should sue if New York doesn't listen.

REFERENDUM

(Continued from page 1)

indeed have the power to impose such a fee. The vote was 4-1 in favor.

So now the campaign to garner support for the referendum is raging! Learn more from Noemi's website (www.NJThinkOutsideTheBag.com), from her

facebook page of the same name, and from campaigners in the West Windsor Env'l Commission, the Hopewell Valley Green Team, the Ewing Green Team, Sustainable Lawrence, and Sustainable Princeton.



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: Burlington, Camden & Gloucester
South Jersey Group: Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland & Salem

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

(Groups are arranged in rough geographical sequence: North to South)

Skylands Group

(Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

Web-site: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/skylands/> Or click from the NJ Chapter's web-site.
FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/SkylandsNJSC>
E-mail: skylandsgroup@gmail.com

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

Chair:	Susan Williams	973-600-4960	skylandsgroup@gmail.com
Vice Chair:	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.

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

EVENTS:

We've settled on a new space for our general meetings! Starting in January 2015, we will be holding them at the North Hunterdon Library in Clinton on the 1st Wednesdays of each month! We have not scheduled any fall general meetings but please check for updates at http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp or www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/

Nov 2 (Sun): Point Mountain 2.5-mile hike (Warren Co). Moderate. Steep and Rocky climb to ridge then easy walk past scenic lookouts, through woods and along stream. Well behaved dogs permitted. Leader: Celeste Martin (onecentral@mac.com) or Jonathan Wall (psychologist@jonwall.com or 908-295-1890). Meet 10am at 80 Point Mountain Rd, Washington. Parking is limited, please car pool if possible. Bring lunch. For more information, please register through our on line calendar at http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp, or at meetup.com/njsierraclub, Rain cancels-call or email leader on the morning of outing if in doubt.

Nov 5 (Wed): Executive Committee/Planning Meeting: 7:30pm at the office of Jonathan D. Wall, PsyD: 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. Contact Jonathan at psychologist@jonwall.com for more information.

Dec 21 (Sun): Lower Landsdown Trail Hike and Holiday Potluck: 2pm for the hike, and 4pm for the holiday appetizer and dessert potluck. Come out for our merry 5-mile easy winter solstice hike! This will be a fun and easy jaunt just in time to get you in shape for the holidays: Bring the kids and binoculars. Foul weather cancels hike but party will still take place. For the hike we will gather at the Fox Lumber parking lot behind Weichert Realtors. Afterward, we will all meet at 27 Center St, Clinton, for our annual holiday potluck. Please feel free to hike and party or just join us for the party afterwards. Registration required. Please contact Jonathan to register and let him know what you are bringing at psychologist@jonwall.com.

North Jersey Group

(Bergen and Passaic Counties)

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

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

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

Officers:

Chair:	John Kashwick*	jkashwick@gmail.com
Vice Chair:	Mary Ellen Shaw*	meshaw.001@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Tom Thompson*	ctrans743@aol.com
Secretary:	Jennifer Rothschild*	jenniroth2@gmail.com
Conservation Co-Chair:	Mary Ellen Shaw*	meshaw.001@gmail.com
Conservation Co-Chair:	Beth Ravit*	ravit@envsci.rutgers.edu
Political Chair:	Jennifer Rothschild*	jenniroth2@gmail.com
Air Quality Issues:	Laura Coll*	lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com
Events Chair:	Mary Walsh*	blehlwalsh@hotmail.com
Membership Chair:	Buddy Jenssen*	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Outings Chair:	Ellen Blumenkrantz	eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Programs Chair:	Jessica Epstein	jepstein101@gmail.com
Publicity Chair:	Marty Cohen	martincohen@verizon.net
Trail Maintenance:	Marty Cohen	martincohen@verizon.net
Webmaster/Listmaster:	John Kashwick*	jkashwick@optonline.net
Wildlife Issues:	Mary Ellen Shaw*	meshaw.001@gmail.com
Ex-Com Member-at-Large:	Nancy Wysocki*	nape2@aol.com

(*Group Executive Committee Member)

EVENTS:

General meetings are free and open to general public. Please confirm topics, dates, times, and venues of our meetings by visiting http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp or www.meetup.com/njsierraclub. You can also email us at northjersysierraclub@gmail.com.

Oct 28 (Tue): Protecting Alaska's Treasures, 7pm at River Vale Public Library, 412 Rivervale Rd, River Vale. Alaska's wild lands — including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Lake Teshekpuk, and the Tongass National Forest — are under attack. This extraordinary treasure trove of lands, some set aside decades ago to be protected now and in the future for the benefit of the American people, are in severe danger of being destroyed forever by short-sighted politicians and the extractive industries. Monica Scherer of the Alaska Wilderness League will speak about efforts to protect these pristine and spectacular lands.

Nov 5 (Wed): Executive and Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:30pm. Location TBD. The Executive and Conservation Committees of the North Jersey Group hold their quarterly meeting 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, plan future events, and become more active. Please check the on-line calendar of events to confirm date and time, or contact John at jkashwick@gmail.com.

Dec 14 (Sun): Holiday Potluck, 3pm at the home of a member in Ridgewood. Bring a favorite dish and share in the holiday spirit. Please register online at www.meetup.com/njsierraclub or contact Buddy Jenssen at buddy.jenssen@gmail.com to register and let him know what you plan to bring.

CONSERVATION ISSUES:

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

Sterling Forest: Once again this ecologically threatened area is under threat—this time from casino developers. The Sierra Club and many other environmental and community groups fought to save Sterling Forest more than a decade ago and now it is facing this new threat.

For more information about these issues, to become involved, or to receive local environmental alerts please contact our Conservation Co-Chairs: Mary Ellen Shaw (meshaw.001@gmail.com) or Beth Ravit (ravit@envsci.rutgers.edu).

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, just send an e-mail 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			
Chair:	Steven Yafet	908-354-2537	syafet@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:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Group Executive Committee:			
	David Yennior, John Beadle, and ZaSah Khademi		

ACTIVITIES: Please contact John Beadle or Barbara Conover, Gateway's Program Chairs, if you have a question about our program listed below or any suggestions for a program in the future. The Gateway Group invites YOU to join in the activism and asks your support as we strive to address the many issues facing our urban as well as suburban communities. Several vacant positions are listed above. For further information about upcoming activities, volunteer opportunities, or to discuss any concerns please contact David Yennior: dyennior@gmail.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, Millburn and Roseland, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Co-Chairs:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
and	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
Treasurer:	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
Secretary:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Conservation Chair:			
Morris County:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Union County:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Political Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Programs:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
Fundraising Chair:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
Outreach &			
Events Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Publicity Chair:	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
Membership:	<i>Open Position!</i>		

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:

Oct 8: Christine Sadovy will bring us up to date on the latest developments in the national Beyond Coal Campaign, which is a Sierra Club effort to reduce/eliminate the use of coal in power generation in the United States.

Nov 12: Christine Lorensen will bring us a discussion of the Gaia Wildlife Center, an animal rehabilitation center.

Dec 10: Come to our annual Holiday Party. We have a gathering where we mingle and listen and try to find out what issues are important with our members. We ramp up the refreshments and hone our listening skills, so come out and enjoy some time with us.

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, and			
Energy Issues:	Rob Benjamin	609 587-9069	robbenjamin@outlook.com
Conservation:	Kip Cherry	609-924-4232	kipatthesierraclub@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	lhari05@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.

Event: Monarch Butterflies - A Species in Crisis, Oct 23, 7-9pm, Princeton Public Library, Community Room. A panel of experts will explore the crisis facing the Monarch Butterfly: why it is facing extinction and what can be done to save it. Threats are the loss of milkweed in the United States and deforestation in Mexico. Milkweed is historically found along farm fields, and is impacted by pesticides, farming methods and genetically modified seeds that are "immune" to pesticides. In addition, there has been a 44% degradation of the oyamel, pine-oak forest ecosystem in Mexico, where Monarchs overwinter before returning north to breed. Problems in Mexico include logging and agricultural conversions. Recent work by the World Wildlife Fund in Mexico will be explained: to slow logging and protect Monarch habitat. The panel will recommend and describe milkweed gardens, and multi-colored butterfly bushes (which is controversial because they are considered an invasive species), as well as other actions to save the Monarch. The panel is co-sponsored by the Sierra Club - Central Jersey Group - and the Princeton Public Library. Free. For additional information contact kipatthesierraclub@gmail.com.

For news of other meetings, please contact 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@att.net
Group Vice Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Outings			

(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)

Coordinator: *Open position!*
Webmaster: *Open position!*
Treasurer: *Open position!*
Recycling Coordinator: *Open position!*
Conservation Chair: Nancy Gladfelter nnglad.nj@gmail.com
Secretary: *Open position!*
Political Chair: Daphne Speck-Barynski 732-390-5311 speckbartyn@comcast.net
Membership: *Open position!*

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/>

Please contribute to our Quarterly News Letter sent via the E-mail list. On our home page, please click on the link: Submit Issues, Events or other News from your Township. The due dates are 15 of February, May, August and October.

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

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. We are for preservation of open space and preventing diversion of land from State's Green Acres program to commercial development are our goals.

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

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Dennis Anderson 732-970-4327 dennisaza@aol.com
 6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747
Vice-Chair: *Open Position!*
Secretary: Joe DeLuca 732-389-1835 joe-deluca@att.net
Conservation Chair: Faith Teitelbaum 732-513-5445 faithtei@aol.com
Webmaster: *Open Position!*
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 gmoffattgt@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 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.

Oct 27: Dr. Kenneth Miller, Distinguished Professor at the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Rutgers University, will discuss the findings of a team of Rutgers researchers on sea-rise changes along the NJ coast. Their findings indicate NJ could have up to a 30-inch rise in sea level by 2050 – just 36 years or one generation from now. The devastating impact of Hurricane Sandy in 2012 dramatized the dangers storm surge and rising sea levels could pose for most oceanfront and tidal bay communities. Rising sea levels could make moot almost all mitigation efforts now under discussion along the Shore and back bay areas. Numerous environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club, have been proposing stricter land use and zoning regulations, but many elected officials still ignore the dangers in favor of continued development. Monmouth County's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has agreed to assist in publicizing this Sierra presentation to county and municipal OEM officials.

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

Dec 6, Saturday, 3-6 pm: Sierra's traditional holiday party will be held at Dennis Anderson's house at 6 Maple Avenue off of Middlesex Road, Matawan. Use MapQuest for directions, but beware, there are two Middlesex Roads in Matawan. If you get lost, call him at 732-970-4327. Everyone is asked to bring hors d'oeuvres, cakes or other hot and cold dishes, as well as soda, wine and beer. But please let Dennis know what you are bringing in advance at dennisaza@aol.com so we don't wind up with five tofu dishes. If members of other Sierra Groups are in the neighborhood, please stop by and say hello.

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: *Open Position!*
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 ginacece@verizon.net
Vice-Chair: Frank Zinni cfzin4@aol.com
Secretary: Ellen Zinni cfzin4@aol.com
Treasurer: Trish Clements patri3210@gmail.com
Publicity Chair: Anne Caridi bears4cats@msn.com
Political Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Pinelands Rep: Lee Snyder pinelands1@hotmail.com
Greenways Coord's: Frank and Ellen Zinni cfzin4@aol.com
Conservation Chair: Stacey Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Delegate at Large: Aida Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Membership Chair: Mike Brown 856-547-9221 eyebrown@verizon.net
Fundraising Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Smart Growth Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Programs Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Outings Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831

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

Oct 8: Movie Night - Queen of the Sun - What Are the Bees Telling Us? Take a journey into the mysterious world of the beehive. Learn how the disappearance of bees can have catastrophic effects on the world food supply and all species on earth, including man.

Nov 12: Movie Night - Bag It. Sometimes amusing, sometimes frightening. This movie will take you into the life of a plastic bag and show you the effects of plastic on our waterways. Additionally, learn how the American Chemistry Council reaches into all levels of government to impact legislation that allows industry to continue to skirt environmental laws. In this month of Thanksgiving, please bring a can of food or box of cereal for donation to local food banks.

Dec 10: Join us for our Year-End Wrap Up and holiday party. Bring a favorite munchie to share as we discuss our successes and ongoing efforts for 2014 and plan for 2015.

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.

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: *Open Position!*
Conservation Chair: *Open Position!*
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: (1) Our Earth Day (ACUA) table solicited interest in local legislation to encourage use of cloth shopping bags by imposing a fee on plastic bags distributed at stores. Michele Cooklin leads this campaign. (2) A land-use controversy in Millville has been in the news: complex attempts to balance public vs. private interests in environmentally-sensitive parcels in and near the Menantico Ponds Wildlife Management Area. Jane Galetto of "Citizens United" (forrivers@aol.com) is perhaps the best person to contact if you would like involvement. (3) 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 has rejected a direct route through its Forest Zone. (4 etc.) 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), support for legislation that would end the free distribution of plastic bags at supermarkets, and support for a New Jersey Bottle Bill, known as the Smart Container Act.

Some Possibly Relevant Meetings of Allied Organizations:

Sept 27-28, Annual Kayak/Canoe/Camping Weekend on the Great Egg Harbor River, based at Camp Acagisca, and sponsored by the Watershed Association: Open to the public, Contact Lynn Maun, 856-453-0416 or email lynnmaun@comcast.net.

Oct 1, Nov 5 and Dec 3 (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.

Oct 8 and Dec 10 (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@cumauric-river.org. Website: www.cumauricriver.org.

Oct 15 and Dec 17 (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.

Oct 22, Nov 26 and Dec 24 (fourth Wednesdays), 7pm: Atlantic Audubon Society is a lively member-organization with strong environmental programs and an excellent monthly on-line newsletter. Membership is free. Meetings are in the Galloway Twp Library, 306 E Jimmie Leeds Rd. www.AtlanticAudubon.org.

Nov 25 (alternate fourth Tuesdays) Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: Membership meeting, open to the public, Annual Picnic in the Park, Contact Lynn Maun, 856-453-0416 or email lynnmaun@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.

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 contact one of our officers!

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 testaj@live.com
Outings Chair: Joyce Haddad jkhaddad@juno.com
Conservation Chair: Joe Testa testaj@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: *Position Open.* Contact us! We need you!
Publicity: *Position Open.* Contact us! We need you!
Membership: *Position Open.* Contact us! We need you!
Nominations: Nancy Sullivan nancysullivan@comcast.net

2014 Executive Committee members: 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).

(continued on page 10)

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

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

HIKES AND OTHER OUTINGS:

The Singles Section sponsors many outings, ranging from beginners' level to advanced difficulty. Some of these are listed in this newsletter; others are announced only on our listserv and the Chapter's online calendar. See the Outings section of this Newsletter for singles outings led by Jimi Oleksiak (Oct. 11, Nov. 8 and Dec. 13) and Jeff Sovelove (Oct 18 and Nov 22). 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 Oct 4, Oct 19, Nov 16, and Dec 21. 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
Acting Outings Chair:	Robert Zitzman *	robertmz@att.net

(* Acting Section Executive Committee Member)

EVENTS:

Sept 27 (Sat): Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Tour and Hike on Delaware Canal. 10am. Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, near New Hope PA, showcases an extraordinary diversity of plants native to the Delaware Valley. They care for and protect a native plant collection with the goal of encouraging the public to visit, enjoy, and learn about the richness of Pennsylvania's natural heritage. Following the self-guided walk through the preserve, we'll hike along the Delaware Canal Towpath to Washington Crossing and back: about 1-2 miles in the preserve and 9.5 miles on the towpath. Bring a picnic lunch, water, snacks, and sun protection. \$5 entrance fee for the preserve. Pets are not permitted in the preserve. Leaders: John Kashwick (jkashwick@optonline.net or 201-294-1092) and Jonathan Wall (psychologist@jonwall.com or 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 e-mailing a leader. Rain cancels—call or text leader on the morning of outing if in doubt. This outing will be run in conjunction with Sundance Outdoor Adventure Society. Group limit: 12.

Nov 1 (Sat): Wells Mills County Park Hike, 10am. Wells Mills County Park, Waretown, is situated on 1,600 acres in the eastern Pinelands. Well behaved leashed dogs are welcome. Our 8-9 mile roundtrip hike is on an easy trail surface of pine and sand, some boardwalks over wet areas, and minor rolling hills (really minor - the elevation of Laurel Hill is only 130'). The boardwalks can be slippery. We'll hike the "White Trail" with rest breaks and a lunch stop. Leader: Robert Zitzman robertmz@att.net. For meeting location or more information, please register through our on line calendar at http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp, at meetup.com/njsierraclub, or by emailing the leader. Rain cancels—contact leader the morning of outing if in doubt. This outing is run in conjunction with Sundance Outdoor Adventure Society. Group limit: 12.

Nov 3 (Tues): Executive Committee Conference Call, 7:30pm. Help plan events for the winter and discuss issues. Contact John for dial in number or more information at jkashwick@gmail.com.

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 John at jkashwick@gmail.com.

Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

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

In addition, a monthly Buy & Sell newsletter is sent out to members free of charge, in which they can list items they are searching for or want to buy.

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

We work through a "List Serve," by which members learn about current environmental issues, and how they can be supported.

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

Young Sierrans

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

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

YOUNG SIERRAN COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Head Chair &

Coordinator:	William Sevchuk	wsevchuk@yahoo.com
Vice Chair:	<i>Open Position</i>	Please Contact Us!
Moderator:	Diana Christine Eichholz	MistyAngel22@aol.com
Conservation Chair:	Steve Timmerman	skingsteve@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

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 our next training 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.

On the Trail - in Harriman State Park Kids from Hoboken Brave the Woods

By Marty Cohen (martincohen@verizon.net), our Inner Cities Outings Coordinator

What's it like to take 15 Hoboken Junior High School students on a hike in Harriman State Park? Since their science teacher is a Sierra Club member, these students come already knowing what to expect from the natural environment. In their science class they had learned that stream embankments can collapse; so, as we march up the Pine Meadow Trail, the sight of tree trunks growing horizontally over streams, or with right-angle bends upwards towards the sun, was no surprise.

As we move on, the bug boxes we distributed at the start of the hike are put to excellent use as the many-legged critters are out in abundance, apparently as anxious as we to enjoy this fine spring day. Students keep showing me their "finds" (all of whom will be quickly returned unharmed to the forest floor), and asking: "What kind of bug is this?" Some I know, but mostly I reply "Go ask your science teacher."

We cross Pine Meadow Brook on a none-too-sturdy bridge (the only one to survive Hurricane Sandy) and head up the boulder field on the Kakiat Trail. Many of the kids scamper up the boulders like monkeys; others, like me, take a more cautious approach onto these ever-larger blocks of granite, remnants of gla-

ciers past. Meeting this challenge, we stop to admire the whitewater gorging down the Cascade of Slid, and then move on through the forest.

A black snake is hiding among the leaves, but its camouflage is no match for the keen eyes of the students. We gather around, waiting for it to make a move. But it freezes, head erect, tongue not even darting in and out. "Is it dead," asks someone? Not with its upper body erect and coiled.

At lunch we take the sun at Pine Meadow Lake. Although the many conversations are animated the students are all seated, no one jumping around, happy for the rest. Some geese swim over, begging for food; the students attempt to shoo them away with little success.

The hike out is mercifully all downhill, giving the students a chance to contemplate their day's experience. The tired muscles, aching joints, scrapes, and scratches will all be forgotten tomorrow, but the memory of this little adventure may last a bit longer.

Just think: instead of wasting time learning about nature first hand, these kids could have been in a classroom -

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ON THE TRAIL

(Continued from page 10)

learning how to score seven points higher on some standardized test.
(Marty Cohen invites contacts from

Club members willing to help offer Inner City children an experience in the wilderness.)



Outings

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

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)
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- 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 January-March 2015 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 Nov. 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 January-March 2015 trip write-ups by Nov. 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 outings with pets.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

western Monmouth County. Bring lunch, water and snacks. Leashed dogs are welcome. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct 18 (Sat): Bicycle Ride on the Columbia Trail (Hunterdon Co). 10am. 12+ miles, 5-8mph pace. Fall foliage will be spectacular as we bike the Ken Lockwood Gorge from High Bridge to Califon. Meet at High Bridge Municipal Lot, Main St, High Bridge. Bicycle helmets are required. Bring water and snacks. Rain cancels. Option: late lunch at Casa Maya restaurant in High Bridge. Register with leaders to confirm the ride. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct 18 (Sat): Sterling Forest Bare Rock Vista (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. 8-mile hike. Meet at the Visitors' Center. We'll climb to the Sterling Forest Fire Tower then to the Bare Rock Vista for lunch. We'll return to the Visitors' Center down the Bare Rock Trail. See the Sterling Forest web site for information and directions: <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/74/details.aspx>. Inclement weather cancels. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. TC map 100. Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com.

Oct 19 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak in the Millstone Valley National Scenic Byway (Somerset Co). 10am. We'll paddle the Millstone River and D&R Canal on this 7-mile no-shuttle trip. www.millstonevalley.org. Bring portage wheels if you have them. The Byway is formed by two roughly parallel roadways and encompasses recreational parkland, historic sites, and natural areas. We'll stop at the Byway Visitors Center located in Griggstown as well as the Canal House at Blackwell Mills; both were bridge tender's houses. Bring lunch and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm trip. Current Sierra Club membership required: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct 19 (Sun): Paulinskill Valley Trail - Sierra Silver Singles Bicycle Ride (Warren Co). 10am. Meet in Blairstown at Foot Bridge Park. We will ride to Paulinskill Lake and turn back (about 20 miles round trip). Recommend hybrid or off-road bike. Bring water and lunch. Entrance to park is off Rte 94. If need directions, contact leader Ron Pate at ronpate31@verizon.net.

Oct 22 (Wed): Hike at Manasquan Reservoir (Monmouth Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace on the scenic Perimeter Trail. This is the most visited site in the Monmouth County Park System. Meet at the Visitor Center 311 Windler Rd, Howell 07731. Bring lunch and water. Leashed dogs are welcome. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct 25 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak On-Water Cleanup in the Delaware River Watershed (Burlington Co). 1pm. Support the Sierra Club Water Sentinels Program on our annual fall cleanup of the Crosswicks and Thornton Creeks with the Bordentown Yacht Club. Wear boots and gloves. Trash bags are provided. Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St. Contact leaders to confirm the cleanup: Leona & George F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct 26 (Sun): Pinelands Month - Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 10am. We'll paddle 7 miles from Weymouth Furnace to Lake Lenape. Early breakfast at the Harley Dawn Diner, Rte 322/Black Horse Pike. Rentals are not available - participants must have their own boats. Contact leaders to confirm trip: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct 31 (Thurs): Pinelands Month - Canoe/Kayak Trip on the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 9am. We'll be looking for goblins, ghosts and skeletons as we paddle the Rancocas Creek Watershed. The section we paddle will depend on river conditions and level. Bring lunch and beverage. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

NOVEMBER

Nov 2 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. "Fall Back" and set your clocks to be on time! The section we paddle will depend on weather and river conditions. Rentals are not available. Experienced cold weather paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Rain cancels: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Nov 4 (Tues): Vote and Float - Canoe Kayak the Abbott Marshlands (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 10:30am. Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St. We're paddling 8 miles from Bordentown Beach to Watson Woods and back to Bordentown. Rentals boats are not available. Bring lunch and beverage. Experienced cold weather paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Nov 8 (Sat): Wanaque Ridge Trail, Ramapo State Forest, Wanaque (Passaic Co). 10am. <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/ramapo.html>. The hike will cover 7 miles in 4 hours, in hilly terrain. Moderately strenuous. No pets. No beginners, Hiking and a day-pack with water and lunch required. Facilities: No facilities. 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.

Nov 9 (Sun): Bicycle Ride at Duke Farms (Somerset Co). 10am. Approx. 10 miles; leisurely day with stops along the way. Duke Farms serves as a model of environmental stewardship in the 21st century. Meet at the Farm Barn Orientation Center. Free Ride Bikes are available - check the website for information. Bring lunch and beverage on the ride. Bicycle helmets are required and must be worn. Directions: www.dukefarms.org/ Rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Nov 15 (Sat): Hike at Maurice River Bluffs Preserve (Cumberland Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. The Maurice River Bluffs Preserve overlooks the river area we paddled in the summer. Bring binoculars. Directions: Take Rte 55 south to Rte 49 exit, turn right onto Rte 49 west. Cross the Maurice River in Millville, turn left at Rte 555/Cedar Street - 0.2 mile. Bear left on to Rte 627/Silver Run Rd for 1.7 miles. Look for Silver Run Farm Market sign on right side of road - entrance to preserve is directly across the street on left side. Leashed dogs are welcome. Bring water and snacks. Option for late lunch at the Maurice River Diner. Rain cancels. Contact leaders to register: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Nov 16 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the D&R Canal (Middlesex Co). 9am. This trip is 11 miles from Kingston to Amwell Rd. There is one canal lock portage, bring portage wheels if you have them. Meet in Kingston at the D&R Canal State Park, Rte 27. Bring lunch and beverage. Experienced cold weather paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Nov 16 (Sun): Hedden Park - Sierra Silver Singles Hike (Morris Co). 10am. 4.5 miles at a moderate pace over hilly, rocky terrain. Hiking boots strongly recommended. Optional lunch to follow at a nearby diner. Heavy rain cancels. Directions: I-287 to exit 39. Go West on Rte 10 for 9 miles. Turn right on the Dover-Chester Rd just before the traffic light. At the T intersection, turn left and go 3 short blocks to Concord Rd. Turn right and proceed .5 miles to the parking lot. Any questions, call the leader: Jay Dibble at 908 289-8813.

Nov 21 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am. Enjoy a fall trip on Cedar Creek from Ore Pond to Dudley Park. Experienced cold weather paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm meeting details: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W) Experienced cold weather paddlers only.

Nov 22 (Sat): Turtleback Rock, South Mountain Reservation (Essex Co). 10am. 6-mile hike We will start at Turtleback Rock trailhead. See the Essex County Parks Commission web site 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. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com.

Nov 29 (Sat): Harriman State Park hike (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. Moderately paced 8-9-mile hike to scenic views and lakes in Harriman State Park. Group limited to 12 people who must preregister with leader, who will provide driving directions. Bring lunch, 2 litres of water and snacks. Heavy/steady rain cancels. Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

Nov 30 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the D&R Canal from Lawrenceville to Kingston (Mercer Co). 9am. Work off those Thanksgiving calories with this 11-mile paddle from Cherry Tree Lane to Kingston - no portage either! Bring lunch and beverage. Experienced cold weather paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and logistics: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

DECEMBER

Dec 3 (Wed): Hike at Jakes Branch County Park (Ocean Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. Jakes Branch has a nature center with hands-on exhibits and an observation deck that offers a 360° view of the Pinelands. Leashed dogs are welcome. Meet at Jakes Branch Park, 1100 Double Trouble Rd, Beechwood. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 7 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am. Meet at Lake Oswego for an 8-mile paddle on the "Jewel of the Pinelands". Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

(continued on page 12)



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Open Position!

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Group Effectiveness Committee
Rich Isaac**, Greg Auriemma

Regional Issues Coordinator
* Joan Denzer** (JDenzer73@yahoo.com)

Fundraising Committee
Ken Johanson**, Joan and George Denzer

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

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

Litigation Oversight Committee
Greg Auriemma**, Ken Johanson

Finance Committee
George Denzer**, Sunil Somalwar, Ken Johanson

Information Technology Committee
Joe Testa**, Sunil Somalwar, George Newsome

Facilities (office, meeting sites)
George Denzer**, Joan Denzer, Paul Sanderson, Sunil Somalwar, Laura Lynch, and Bonnie Tillery

* Indicates Chapter-wide elected ExCom members.
** Indicates committee chair or co-chair

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Issue Coordinators

Alaska Issues
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bobc2023_sc@verizon.net

Community Solar
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Climate Change
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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)

Dec 13 (Sat): Whitesbog Village Fall Hike (Burlington Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace on sandy trails. Directions: www.whitesbog.org. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet in the parking lot across from the General Store. Leashed dogs are welcome. Optional, guided village tour after lunch for small fee. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 13 (Sat): Sherman Hoffman Preserve, Harding Twp (Morris Co). 10am. http://www.njaudubon.org/sectioncenters/sectionscherman/thesanctuary.aspx. Moderately strenuous: 7 miles in 4 hours in hilly terrain. Hiking through the Audubon Center, the Passaic River brook and Jockey Hollow. No beginners. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch required. Facilities: There is a rest room at the parking lot and another rest room during the hike. 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.

Dec 19 (Fri): Hike Historic Smithville and Tour Smithville Mansion (Burlington Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. After the hike we'll tour the Mansion decorated for a Victorian Holiday. (small fee). Option, late lunch at Vincentown Diner. Meet at Smith's Woods at Historic Smithville Park, East Railroad Ave, Easthampton. Leashed dogs are welcome. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 20 (Sat): D&R Canal Hike (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. The first day of winter is tomorrow - we'll end fall and celebrate Winter Solstice with a walk on the towpath from Bordentown to Trenton. Leashed dogs are welcome! Meet at the RiverLINE parking lot in Bordentown City. Option for late lunch at a local restaurant. Inclement weather cancels. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 21 (Sun): Holiday Sierra Silver Singles Walking Tour in New York City. 12:30 pm. Join us for a two-hour walking tour led by N.Y.C. Discovery. The theme is "A Victorian Christmas". The cost is \$22, payable in cash. Meet at Penn Station in New York next to the Amtrak ticket windows. We'll go for an inexpensive lunch and then walk to the tour site. Reservations are required. Call or e-mail the trip leader, Jay Dibble, by Dec 14: 908 289-8813 or jaydib41090@peoplepc.com. Please provide your name and phone number.

Dec 21 (Sun): Celebrate the Winter Solstice - Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. The trip section depends on weather conditions. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 26 - Dec 31: Patriots Week - History of the American Revolution in NJ (Mercer Co). Learn about the American Revolution during Patriots Week. This week offers fun and history for the entire family. See the First and Second Battles of Trenton Reconstructions and participate in walking tours of the Trenton battlefields. Check website for events www.patriotsweek.com. More info: Leona F: leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

FUTURE

Jan 1, 2015 (Thu): New Year's Day Paddle on the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am. Ring in the New Year with the NJ Sierra Club. Meet at Lake Oswego and paddle 7 miles on the "Jewel of the Pinelands". Enjoy a tailgate get together after the trip at Harrisville Lake. Bring something to share. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to register: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.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.

October 11 and November 8 at the New Brunswick Public Library, 60 Livingston Ave, a 10-min. walk from the New Brunswick Train Station.



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Karen Brown (karonna@yahoo.com) Designer

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

The Jersey Sierran appears in January, April, July and October. The deadline for copy is on the 10th of the month, two months before appearance. Members are cordially invited to propose articles, essays, letters, poetry and artwork. (Group/Section News columns are prepared by Group/Section Chairs; Outings are vetted by the Chapter Outings Chair, Ellen Blumenkrantz.)

Opinions, unless otherwise attributed, are of the writer only. Advertised products and services carry no Club endorsement.

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