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January–March 2015

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Grading NJ's Response Monarch Butterflies: **Two Years after Sandy**

From a Press Release issued by Jeff Tittel; edited by Joe Testa

As we mark the two-year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy, which crossed our coastline on Oct 22, 2012, the Sierra Club has released a set of report cards grading the responses of our government agencies and leaders. It is important to understand what worked, what didn't, and what changes might still be made. This assessment will help to show how the next steps of recovery and rebuilding efforts can be smarter and better without repeating the mistakes of the past.

Our report's scores for leadership, responsiveness, policy & planning, actions, and outcomes are summarized here:

Branch <u>of Govt.</u>	<u>Overall</u>	<u>Leadership</u>	<u>Responsiveness</u>	Policy & <u>& Planning</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Outcomes</u>
Governor	D	В	D-	F	D-	F
DEP & DCA	F	F	D-	F	D-	F
Legislature	C-	С	B-	C-	D+	Inc.
President &	C+	В	D+	В	B-	Inc.
Federal Agenci	ies					

More details are on our website: http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/ PressReleases/0551.asp. Here are some highlights:

Governor Christie showed strong leadership during the storm and its immediate aftermath, and was an important advocate for securing federal funding for the recovery. But that leadership has faded. There have been problems, including:

· Lack of transparency and accountability. Representatives from the Office of Recovery and Rebuilding have refused to testify before the Legislature. No open public or stakeholder meetings have been held.

· Failure to do any strategic planning, including accounting for the likely effects of climate change and sea level rise on coastal communities. Instead, he pulled New Jersey from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and downplayed the significance of climate change science on New Jersey.

• Failure to adopt modern, energy-efficient building codes.

NJ's Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) has weakened environmental rules, short-circuited the permitting process, and reduced oversight.

• It has failed to do its job under the Coastal Zone Management Act to adequately protect our coast, do any adaptation or mitigation planning for sea level rise, or fix problems in CAFRA or other regulatory programs.

· Cleanup efforts have been delayed due to not having adequately trained staff or enough staff. Planning and cleanup operations have been behind closed doors without public input.

• DEP Commissioner Bob Martin has signed an Administrative Consent Order waiving compliance with CAFRA, Flood Hazard Area, and wetlands protections for infrastructure rebuilding after the storm.

• The DEP added environmentally sensitive areas back into sewer service areas.

(continued on page 4)

Volunteer Opportunities in the NJ Chapter

The Sierra Club is a VOLUNTEER organization! We hire staff to lobby for us and to operate the office, but WE ARE THE CLUB! That means that we VOLUNTEER: "to explore, enjoy and

Appreciation Day: Our Annual Environmental Hero Awards

On Nov. 16, at Pretty Brook Farmhouse on the campus of the Princeton Day School, our Chapter held its annual "Appreciation Day" party for our volunteers, supporters, and their families and guests, friendly politicians, and some other distinguished guests.

Hero awards went to Leslie Ficcaglia, Cumberland County's Pinelands Commissioner for 18 years until she was replaced after voting against a natural gas pipeline through the Pinelands' Forest Zone. Also to Kirk Moore, environment reporter for the Asbury Park Press, for many investigative articles on Barnegat Bay and other pollution tragedies. Finally to Bob Moss, Chapter Green Acres Issues Coordinator, for campaigns to protect open space adjacent to Ocean County College, and other locations.



Photo credit: John P. Parke

a Species in Crisis

By Kip Cherry, Conservation Chair of our Central Jersey Group

On Oct. 23rd, our Central Jersey Group

sponsored a panel discussion in

Princeton to discuss the "Crisis Facing

the Monarch Butterfly," and what can be

done to save it. The panel of experts

included Maraleen Manos-Jones, Author/ Lecturer; Michael Gochfeld, Rutgers

Professor and member of the North

American Butterfly Association (NABA); Robert Somes, Biologist with the NJ

Nongame and Endangered Species Program (DEP); and Flo Rutherford, Chief

Guide & Caretaker, Butterfly Atrium, World of Wings Museum, Teaneck. I was

We began with Maraleen's study of the

Monarch's wintering grounds in Mexico,

where the oyamel, pine-oak forests have

been subjected to increasing logging. The

Monarchs migrate to Mexico and hug the

trees en mass. It has been discovered

that the trees retain daytime heat over-

night, which helps to keep the Monarchs

warm. The logging has not only reduced

the number of trees, but also allowed

cold air to reduce the temperature of the

core forest - with devastating results.

Maraleen said that local people are trying

to protect the forests from illegal logging,

and explained the economics of logging

and ecotourism. Monarchs usually return

to Mexico at the end of October during a

holiday period that includes the "Day of

that his organization oversees, and their

overall downward trajectory. He also dis-

cussed parasites that disrupt the

Monarch's reproductive cycle. Robert

focused on New Jersey's process for des-

ignating rare and endangered species; as

a first step the DEP is considering desig-

nating the Monarch as a Species of

Mike talked about the census counts

the moderator.

the Dead."

Special Concern. He noted that New Jersey is one of the few states that protect insects, and is encouraging the installation of Monarch habitat on public property. He provided a website for locating nurseries that supply milkweed, which Monarchs require for food and reproduction: http://www.xerces.org/milkweedseed-finder/.

Finally, Flo explained how to create milkweed gardens and suggested varieties of milkweed that might work best. Monarchs lay their eggs only on milkweed.

A concern was raised that global warming is changing the timing of the Monarch's life-cycle. e.g. the Monarchs' return to Mexico has recently become delayed by a week or more, which means that they are subjected to cooler temperatures sooner.

Create Milkweed Gardens: The panel members agreed that butterfly gardens, besides being beautiful, provide Monarch breeding habitat and bring greater visibility to the crisis. Butterfly gardens are recommended for homes, public parks, garden clubs and schools, and municipal, county and state highway departments should be advised to plant milkweed along roadsides. It is essential to choose milkweed seed or plants that have not been treated with fungicides and insecticides, which is a major problem with "big box" nurseries. Recommended varieties include: Orange Milkweed (Butterfly Weed), and Common and Swamp Milkweed. Gardeners should approach nurseries in the Fall - to ask that recommended varieties of untreated milkweed plants be stocked in the Spring. It was also noted that the (continued on page 4)

protect the wild places of the Earth"!

All volunteers are provided with free training, and the time involved is flexible, and tailored to the individual needs of volunteers. Finding out more about our volunteer openings is as easy as picking up the telephone and calling our Group Effectiveness Chair, Richard Isaac at 973-716-0297, or emailing him at risaacx@aol.com. Potential volunteers interested in other areas are encouraged to contact Rich as well.

State Level Opportunities

Chapter Membership Chair -Provide a membership report at each meeting and/or directly to the Chapter Chair based upon Membership Reports from Club office in San Francisco; also to respond to member and prospective member inquiries. Advertising Director - Maintain and increase the Jersey Sierran's adver-(continued on page 11)

37-year-old Steven Fulop, mayor of Jersey City and a possible Democratic candidate for Governor, gave a rousing thank you to the many of us who campaign for open space preservation, etc.

Special recognition went to Kate Millsaps, our Conservation Program Coordinator, who is leaving us.

As for many years, George and Joan Denzer masterminded the arrangements.



Pictured (by Wynn Johanson, left to right): Ken Johanson, Kirk Moore, Leslie Ficcaglia, Steven Fulop, Bob Moss and Jeff Tittel.

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

SIERRA CLUB BALLOT

Loantaka Group Ballot: Sierra Club members in the Loantaka Group (Morris and Union Counties and thereabouts) are invited to vote for members of their Group Executive Committee (ExCom).

Please use the ballot here; then clip it on the heavy-dashed line, and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Jan 31, to Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618. PAIRs of boxes are to enable two members of family memberships to cast separate votes. Note that a properly-clipped ballot will

include the mailing label overleaf. This is
to verify your membership; it will be
removed before ballots are counted.

Loantaka Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Two-year terms. Vote for UP TO FIVE. Paul Sanderson
Eric Hausker

U Write in:____ U Write in: U Write in:_

U Write in:_

Lower Passaic River **Restoration Project, Part 2**

By David Yennior, Gateway Group Chair and Passaic River Issues Coordinator

The EPA's Public Comment Period for restoration of the lowest 8.3 miles of the Passaic River ended on August 20, 2014. NJ Sierra had requested a 60-day extension to learn more about the problems, described below, encountered in the capping of an upper section of the Passaic River at Lyndhurst, completed last year.

Montclair State University held its Annual Passaic River Symposium October 9-10, yet another opportunity to discuss the planned remediation. Rep. Bill Pascrell criticized the \$190M settlement between NJ-DEP and Occidental Chemical. Only \$50 million will go to rehabilitating the River, severely polluted with Dioxin, Mercury, and PCBs. DEP Commissioner Bob Martin argued that the State won this compensation for loss of use of the River. not specifically for clean-up.

The Lower Passaic River Restoration Community Advisory Group (CAG) met with the EPA on September 11th and many questions were raised. They have been posted at http://www.ourpassaic. org/EarlyAction.aspx. The EPA will answer the more than 100 comments from the public in approximately six months. The EPA also promised to address some of the questions and report at the next meeting, which was Nov. 14th.

At that Nov. 14 meeting, the EPA reviewed the \$25M single-bank capping project at Lyndhurst. Dredging began in August 2013 and was finished in November 2013. The capping was carried out in May 2014. But by mid-June the Passaic River Boating Club found that sand had washed away, exposing dangerous rocks. In September the protruding rocks were removed and more sand added. There will be annual and afterstorm monitoring. Yet bank-to-bank capping is the announced remedy for the lower Passaic.

NJ Sierra and its Gateway Group feel that the problems in Lyndhurst are a strong indication that capping of the lower River will fail. The EPA's proposal for bank-to-bank capping of the six miles between river-miles 2 and 8 has never been tried in a tidal river. Capping would also require a NO ANCHOR, NO WAKE, NO BUILDING POLICY, meaning boats could not stop, have to keep under 5 mph, and no docks, ramps, or bulkheads could be built. The River would never be dredgable for shipping as it accumulates sediment from upstream. The 10-12 feet of existing contaminated sediment will remain. The EPA's preferred plan is NOT a restoration.

Watch for my next installment that may include the EPA responses to Public Comments and/or the final decision on restoration.

Conservation Chair's Report What Happened to Democracy?

By Greg Gorman (ggorman07419@embarqmail.com)

OPEN SPACE: On Nov 4, New Jersey voters approved a constitutional amendment to stabilize the funding for the State's virtually bankrupt "Open Space" programs. "NJ Keep It Green" was the principal advocate for the measure, arguing for the environmental and economic necessity of open space preservation. Opposition leaders from "NJ Americans for Prosperity" and 'NJ Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility" argued that the funds could better be used for other purposes: The measure diverts/reduces the dedication of Corporate Business Tax (CBT) income to hazardous site cleanups, monitoring water quality, and keeping tabs on water supply in aquifers to prepare for drought. The measure is by no means a perfect solution; but after much deliberation, our Chapter endorsed the measure as did 65% of the voters.

The open space funding issue allowed an honest debate, and is a perfect example of democracy in action. In recent years new taxes and new bond issues were considered and rejected. A realignment of the CBT dedication was thought to be the best solution. Placing the referendum on the ballot for voters to choose was proper because of its high importance now and in the future.

PRIVITIZING WATER AND SEWER: Recently, the NJ Legislature has been considering the "Water Infrastructure Protection Act," a bill to allow public entities to fast-track the selling (i.e. privatizing) of water and sewer systems, eliminating public participation in the decision

process Supporters of the bill believe it will attract needed investment for repair and modernization. Opponents fear that private managers will be driven by profit motives and other shareholder inter-



ests rather than the "public interest." Either way, the consumer ends up paying the bill.

According to Jeff Tittel, our Chapter Director, "The whole purpose of this legislation is not only to make it easier to privatize water and sewer, but to take away public oversight and input. This will lead to more pollution, dirty drinking water, and pay-to-play abuses or worse...," (See http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/PressReleases/0548.asp.) Jeff provides this example:

"The privately-owned United Water Company maintains Boonton Reservoir, the water supply for Jersey City. The company began selling some of Jersey City's water to suburbs in the Rockaway River watershed, upstream from Boonton Reservoir. This resulted in more pollution from sewer plant discharges entering the reservoir. In addition to the increased pollution, Jersey City lost future growth capacity. Who do you think profited from this mismanagement? Not the citizens of (continued on page 4)

Population Issues Coordinator's Report

By Bonnie Tillery, Volunteer Population Issues Coordinator

For those of you who may have missed reading about population, reproductive health and the environment in the November/December 2014 issue of Sierra Magazine, you can find this informative piece at the link below. Find out what a manicure has to do with reproductive health, or what it would cost to supply modern forms of contraception to the 222 million women in the developing world who want to use family planning/family spacing but do not have access.

http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2014-6-november-december/feature/one-woman-time

West Jersey Group Marches for the Climate

By Frank and Ellen Zinni, with Trish Sebastiano and Gina Carola (all members of the Group Executive Committee; L-to-R in the photo: Trish, Frank, Gina and Ellen)

Though we traveled separately on Sept 21 to the Climate March in New York City, the four of us easily found each other among 400,000 of our closest environmental friends, thanks to the miracle of cell phones.

Stretching from Columbus Circle many blocks north on Central Park West, the assembly was a sight to amaze even the most experienced environmentalist. The throng was composed of many groups including religious organizations, professional societies, and environmental organizations, as well as many rugged individuals. The pre-march gathering inspired an aura of excitement and determination. There were endless displays of personal creativity: signs, costumes, giant figures of "Mother Earth," polar bears and various types of flowers. People from all over the country and the world greeted each other, comparing their plans and hopes for a clean environment, saved from global warming. Several giant tele-screens along the route showed scenes of other marches in the US and overseas. One of the most moving events was a message on the giant screen that called for a minute of silence for the many victims of climate change and environmental disasters. An amazing silence then



Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Speaks at Camden **Environmental Forum** by Frank and Ellen Zinni . West Jersey Group

On Oct 4th, The Center for Environ- human history. While the impacts of climental Transformation in South Camden mate change are finally getting some hosted RFK Jr, who spoke to a standing- attention by America's lethargic press, our room-only crowd at Sacred Heart Church. attention is diverted by a mass-media Center is an environmental retreat with an urban farm that engages and educates people of all backgrounds to practice a more ecologically responsible way of life. Kennedy spoke about the urgent need of the US to switch to clean, sustainable energy. He mentioned the Koch Bros. and Exxon-Mobil as major global-warming deniers, as well as the "Citizens United" Supreme Court decision that now allows corporations to donate money to political campaigns, as some of our biggest obstacles. He referred to many corporations as machines that try to get others to pay their costs of production. Pollution is one way that corporations get rich by making everyone else poorer. He said, "Show me a polluter, and I'll show you a subsidy". A "fat cat" who uses political power to evade the discipline of true free-market capitalism forces the public to pay production costs.

more involved in entertainment than essary information. America's addiction to oil is a road-block to progress. While subsidies to carbon-based energy producers are "astronomical," those for renewables are tiny. If America took into account the true cost of non-sustainable energy, including oil spills, nuclear accidents and wars involving oil-rich countries, our energy costs would truly be astronomical. Kennedy also mentioned the serious health effects of burning fossil fuels, including mercury emissions that end up in in fish, and particulates that end up in our lungs. There was also good news: he cited the prosperity that has come to countries that have decarbonized, and noted the abundance of renewables such as wind, solar and geothermal. He said that the US could easily be powered today by these alternatives. I was most inspired by his prediction that we will ultimately be judged by how we treat the least among us, and how we respect our environment.

descended. After the minute, a spontaneous roar from the marchers echoed off of the surrounding buildings. It was unlike any sound we have ever heard or are likely to hear again.

At Columbus Circle, TV and radio host Amy Goodman, of "Democracy Now," interviewed activists such as Robert F. Kennedy, Jr, and two New England fishing boat captains who had prevented a large coal barge from delivering its load to a polluting power plant. Along the course of the march, onlookers cheered for us and many joined. We were well protected by the NYPD, which seemed to have little to do but direct traffic and enjoy watching the parade. We saw no unpleasant incidents.

Afterwards, the four rested in a cafe, elated and hopeful that our efforts might someday be seen to have made a difference.

Kennedy called global warming the greatest moral and political crisis in

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

Editorial Progress Report on NJ's High Point to Cape May Point Hiking Trail and Greenway



By Dick Colby (dick.colby@stockton.edu) and Dave Mattek, Chapter Trail Issues Coordinator (mattekdc@aol.com)

Since about 2005, a hardy group of Chapter officers, and others, have been working with David Mattek to fulfill his dream of creating something like Vermont's "Long Trail" (see the book review on p.10): a continuous footpath and greenway extending the length of New Jersey, North-South, from High Point to Cape May Point.

We spend about one glorious day each week: following abandoned railroad lines and power-line easements, probing (often bushwacking) for dry routes through State and county parkland, State Wildlife

Management Areas and other municipal, county and otherwise preserved 📓 open space, and peering over satellite views, lidar shadows, topographic maps, and 讝 the GIS printouts of the routes we have taken.

We've met with state and county park superintendents, Fish and Wildlife (DEP) officials, county planning directors and many others. Frank Pearce, Activities Director of the South Jersey Outings Club, joined us in 2009. He is adept at generating map overlays on his computer,

and he has produced the rough routemap shown below.

New Jersey is fortunate to already have many scenic and well-maintained longdistance trails, including portions of the Appalachian Trail, the Batona Trail, the Highlands Trail, and the Delaware and Raritan Canal towpath.

Our trail and greenway will include segments of many existing trails, especially in the northern half of the State. It will wander considerably - to take in many of New Jersey's most scenic highland, woodland, meadowland, wetland and shoreland vistas. There will be many streams to cross, on bridges that will take years to complete - needing environmental permits as well as millions of dollars for engineering studies and construction. The ultimate route will also require many large and small purchases of private lands, or easements, hopefully utilizing some of the open space funding just approved by the voters.

The trail will be publicized on the Chapter's website, as will our progress in completing the routes. Initially, many temporary connections between segments will require coming out onto paved roads to bypass privately-owned parcels, and to accomplish stream-crossings where bridges haven't yet been built. This is especially true in central and southern New Jersey, where there are many streams to cross, and where the complexity of permitting may delay construction.

> For the future, we need persons or groups to act as ramrods for the cutting and marking and then the maintaining - of the Assunpink Creek Trail and Greenway, the Northern Pinelands Trail, the Cedar Creek Trail, and the Southern Pinelands Trail.

We have a long way to go, and will need working parties to install blazes and other signage, perhaps including interpretive narratives (and maps) accessed by QR codes. So far, all the work has been done by volunteers, both in and outside the Sierra Club.

We don't expect many hikers to attempt the entire Trail as a continuous route. There are few campsites along the way. But there are many road crossings for access, and for access to nearby eateries and motels. The approximately 350 miles could be achieved in 20 (or 40) weekends, but most users will probably pick convenient portions for occasional dav-hikes.

We thank Paul Sanderson, Bob Sokol, Jim Baye, Joanne Pannone and Joe Testa for many days of work on this project, other Sierra Club members who came out less frequently, and many non-members who came out many times or less often. We also thank the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference for cutting, marking and maintaining the Highlands Trail and many other trails in northern New Jersey. We also thank the Outdoor Club of South Jersey for recently rerouting and long-time maintaining the Batona Trail.

Chair's Message **Climate Change**

By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)

This past September from 400,000 to 600,000 people from all walks of life environmentalists, students, scientists, religious leaders, advocates for the poor and disadvantaged, community leaders, peace activists, governmental officials, labor leaders, health care workers, educators, animal welfare activists, Sandy survivors and ordinary people like you and me - marched through the streets of New York City to demand that world leaders take meaningful steps to address climate change and global warming. I was one of those marchers.

Upon my return home from the march one of my neighbors asked me how things went. I told her what an uplifting and energizing day it had been and how wonderful it had been to be with so many like-minded people, many of whom had traveled great distances to be part of the march. But what she really wanted to know was whether I thought my fellow marchers and I were going to be able to make a difference. I believe the answer is yes, that ordinary people, working together, have tremendous power to influence governmental policy and to effect positive change.

One need only look back to April 22, 1970, the date of the first Earth Day, to realize just what can be accomplished when people come together to achieve a common goal. On that day an estimated 20,000,000 people from throughout the nation attended marches, rallies and other Earth Day events, demanding that action be taken to address air and water pollution, as well as other environmental concerns. Congress and the Nixon administration took notice, and before long the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act and legislation creating the Environmental Protection Agency, were passed by Congress and signed into law by President Nixon. None of this would have happened had it not been for people coming together and making their voices heard on that first Earth Day.

Back in 1970 members of Congress, as well as the population as a whole, were able to put aside partisan differences and come together to achieve a common goal. Unfortunately, those days of cooperation and good will appear to be over. Today Congress is polarized and a major portion of the Republican Party, despite overwhelming evidence from the scientific community, appears to be unwilling to accept even the existence of maninduced climate change, much less the need to do something about it.

But fortunately for the sake of the planet, the people of this nation do not appear to be as clueless as so many of their leaders. A recent poll by The New York Times and CBS News shows that nearly half of those polled believe that global warming is an environmental problem that is causing a serious impact now. Numbers are even higher for young people. However, only one percent of those polled consider the environment to be a top concern for the country, with economic issues topping the list of the nation's most important problems. It appears that a good portion of the population has bought into the Republican Party's specious argument that measures to address global warming and climate change will of necessity entail significant economic disruption and personal sacrifice. Those of us in the environmental community have been arguing for years that there is no evidence to support the Republicans' position, that taking action now to address global warming and climate change will create green jobs and give a boost to the economy, as well as reduce health care



costs and improve the quality of life for so many of our citizens.

Fortunately, we now have support for our position from two reputable authorities, the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate and the International Monetary Fund. Both the Commission and the IMF, in a working paper prepared on behalf of the Fund's Fiscal Affairs Department, conclude that measures to limit carbon emissions, including a carbon tax, would have few if any negative effects on world economies and in most cases would actually stimulate economic growth.

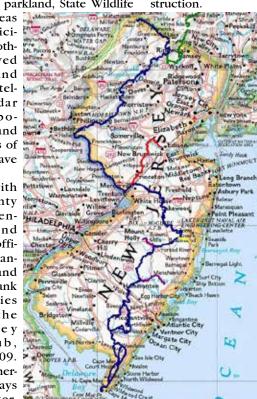
The IMF report concludes that carbon pricing will allow for tax reductions in other areas and will result in immediate environmental benefits. The primary environmental benefit referred to in the IMF report is in the area of public health. Imposing a tax on carbon will reduce the use of coal, natural gas and petroleum products, which in turn will significantly reduce the number of people who die each year as a result of outdoor air pollution. The report notes that currently an estimated 3.7 million people die every year from outdoor air pollution, including fossil fuel emissions.

Both reports conclude that for most countries, including the United States, the costs associated with limiting carbon emissions would be outweighed by the benefits to be derived, including an influx of revenue from a carbon tax or other comparable measure and a reduction in the number of people who die each year as a result of outdoor air pollution. And this analysis does not even take into account the significant climate benefits to be derived from such a program.

Nor is there any reason to delay action until world leaders are able to arrive at a global solution to the problem of climate change. The benefits to be derived by countries that adopt measures to limit carbon emissions would be immediate and would not depend upon international cooperation.

We have a long way to go, but we are making progress in our efforts to convince people that climate change and global warming are real and that actions need to be taken now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The New York Times recently reported that the environment, which was ignored in the 2012 presidential campaign, played a more important role in a number of midterm races. While the results of some of those races were not what we had hoped for, the fact that candidates are beginning to recognize that climate change and other environmental issues need to be addressed is an encouraging sign for the future. And the reports of the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate and the IMF should help to convince people that the adoption of meaningful measures to address climate change are in their own best interests and will not result in economic disruption or require personal sacrifice. So we need to keep doing what we're doing - reaching out to people and providing them with the facts they need to arrive at informed decisions. But we also need to continue to let legislators, governmental officials and others know that we are a force to be reckoned with and that the status quo is not an option. This is what we did in 1970, by organizing marches and events throughout the nation, and this is what we did again in 2014 in organizing the largest ever climate march in New York City, as well as marches and events in cities throughout the world.



Resolutions Passed by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in September, October and November, 2014

We approved a draft of a Chapter policy on public transportation, prepared by members of our Transportation Committee, understanding that it is a document likely to be changed occasionally. Steve Lanset (slanset@hotmail.com) is our Transportation Issues Coordinator. (Sept)

Litigation was authorized: to join a coalition of environmental organizations opposing the Hovnanian sewage plant in Tewksbury Twp (Hunterdon Co). (Oct)

The Star-Ledger, in an editorial sup-(continued on page 4)

A variety of Club books, notecards, badges and clothing is available from www.sierraclub.org/store

CHAIR'S MESSAGE CONSERVATION (Continued from page 3)

porting the New York City march, (Continued from page 2) observed that "Great social movements" Jersey City!" start in the streets." It worked in 1970 Water is and it can work again in 2015. But to • Water sustains industry, agriculture, tourmake this happen we need to build on • ism, and people. The Pinelands and the momentum we have created and do . Highlands protections were enacted to all that we can to ensure that our vision \bullet preserve our natural water supplies. A for the future becomes a reality. The deliberative process for NJ citizens to stakes are too high to do anything less.

MONARCH

(Continued from page 1)

Butterfly Bush, a multicolored shrub that is an invasive species, can be useful if it maintained properly to prevent proliferation. A milkweed garden should also include a variety of other native plants for nectaring, and host plants for other indigenous butterflies.

Participate in the Annual Monarch Census: The public is invited to help conduct the NABA's field census, especially the Fourth of July count. To register: www.naba.org.

Political Action: Congressional legislation is needed to create milkweed corridors. We understand that such corridors have been brought up in discussions between President Obama and Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto. They

GRADING NJ

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(Continued from page 1)

• We are concerned that political pressure is being brought to bear on DEP staff that are working outside their areas of expertise.

NJ's Dept. of Community Affairs (DCA) has seen many delays with getting money to people and handling applications. Very little of the money is getting out to where it needs to be.

• It failed to update building codes even though this is required by the federal government. The codes being used are 15% less efficient than newer codes being adopted by other states affected by Sandy.

· Victims seeking help have been frustrated with the consultant brought in by DCA to oversee rebuilding efforts. The consultant has failed to expedite funding to families.

The Legislature held hearings on Sandy recovery efforts and supported efforts to deal with climate change, but there has not been any substantive follow-through.

• It failed to pass any major legislation dealing with planning, mitigation and adaptation, or fixing existing regulatory problems. It has ignored the bill that would establish a Coastal Commission.

• It passed bills that put more people in harm's way, such as a bill that would have allowed for development on piers in high hazard areas (vetoed by the Governor) and the Economic Opportunity Act that will allow develop ment in sensitive areas. The Legislature did pass a bill requiring more transparency in recovery efforts, but that was vetoed by the Governor. • It has not been able to hold the Governor and his administration accountable. The recovery "czar" has not testified before Legislative Committees and they have not issued a subpoena to compel him to appear. • The majority of the Legislature agrees with climate change scientists. It has brought in scientists for hearings around climate issues, but has not yet implemented new policies with that information. It has not passed any legislation that would require state agencies to mandate mitigation and adaption planning for sea-level rise. It passed a bill to reinstate NJ in the RGGI, but the bill was vetoed by the Governor. • It has failed to stop the Governor's raiding of Clean Energy funds for other purposes.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Water is as essential as open space. influence water system issues is essential.

would require property easements/

acquisitions of sufficient size so as to avoid herbicide and pesticide spraying in nearby agricultural fields. (Milkweed near farm fields is killed by herbicides sprayed on crops that are grown from genetically modified seed.) There is also a need to police forests to stop illegal logging, and a benefit to be desired by the careful development of Mexico's ecotourism industry. The governments of Mexico and the United States, and the World Wildlife Fund, all have major roles in saving the Monarch.

Bottom-line: there is much that individuals can do, and the window for action is closing. If you find a nursery that plans to carry milkweed, or a public entity planning to install a milkweed garden, please send me an e-mail: kipatthesierraclub@gmail.com.

The President & Federal Agencies have led on climate change and efforts in rebuilding, with mixed results.

• In June, the President released his Climate Action Plan which includes scaling up responsible clean energy production on public lands, new energy efficiency standards for federal buildings, and using the Clean Air Act to cut dangerous carbon pollution from power plants. Last month EPA has released draft regulations to limit such carbon pollution.

• HUD issued a task force report that requires state and federal agencies to work on climate change and sea level adaptation and to restore natural systems. HUD is calling for not just hardening the power grid, but making it more resilient including distributive generation, microgrid, combined heat and power, smart grid, renewable energy and energy efficiency. HUD has had a relatively good process with public hearings and input. We are concerned that HUD's recommendations might not be implemented by state and other federal agencies.

• FEMA made the disaster worse with delays in funding, denying funding requests, and sending people to the wrong programs. FEMA has not incorporated future sea level rise into their mapping and fell to political pressure to remove areas from the "V zone" that were impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Between high rates and denying people coverage there have been major problems with the flood insurance program.

EPA Reports Greenhouse Gas Increase in NJ

From a Press Release issued by our Chapter staff

Early in October the federal EPA released data from its Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, other hydrocarbons, and fluorocarbons such as were formerly used in refrigerators, freezers and air-conditioners. They cause global warming and thus climate change.

According to the report, the 115 largest facilities in the state increased their carbon emissions by 5% last year. The biggest increases were from the Linden and Hudson power plants and refineries, and DuPont's Chamber Works facility near the Delaware Memorial Bridge.

Greenhouse gases will continue to increase because of new power plants coming on line and the repowering of PSE&G's Sewaren power plant (Woodbridge, Middlesex Co) and potentially the BL England power plant (Marmora, Cape May Co). Last year there was a drop in emissions at Sewaren because it was offline.

We fault Gov. Christie for many environmental insults (see article on p. 1), but none is as serious as this dereliction of responsibility. He withdrew New Jersey from the northeastern states' Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), reduced the goals of our Energy Master Plan from 30% to 22.5% renewable sources, and diverted money from the Clean Energy Fund, which was meant to subsidize renewable energy installations. The Governor has sided with the Tea Party, the Koch Brothers, and the fossil fuel lobby in Washington.

No doubt the Governor has been lured by the recent cheapness of fracked natural gas, and the money to be made by exploiting it. His Administration approved major rate-payer subsidies for three new natural gas plants and a fourth is being constructed. The Sewaren plant is being repowered with gas and BL England is standing in line - despite our claim that less-costly transmission upgrades could obviate the need for the facility. New Jersey's largest greenhouse gas emitters are these natural gas plants, followed by refineries that are being expanded and brought back on-line to process volatile crude oil from the fracked Bakken field of North Dakota. Not only are we getting dangerous freight trains, but more greenhouse gases.

The Governor has blocked the various proposals for offshore wind, and as a result of his polices New Jersey's program for residential solar electricity almost crashed. In solar installations we have gone from second in the nation to sixth. On energy efficiency we have gone from eighth to fourteenth. Both programs were intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Aside from greenhouse gases, other gaseous pollutants give New Jersey some of the worst air quality in the nation. Governor Christie decided not to join seven other northeastern states in a lawsuit to support the EPA's Cross State Air Pollution Rule.

Last June, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued proposed regulations to curb carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants. This is the biggest step the Obama Administration has taken to combat climate change. The regulations call on New Jersey to reduce our emissions by one-third. The Christie administration has not stated how it will comply.

We Remember Jane Tousman with a Bench

The photos at right show our tribute to one of our Chapter heroes: Jane Tousman, who died last March. Our memorial bench has been installed in in Edison's Municipal Complex, memorializing her contributions to saving Edison's Dismal Swamp.

Her story was beautifully told in the Chair's Message in the July-September issue of this Newsletter. The plaque (upper picture) is on the rock in the picture below.



Yet Another Pipeline for Hunterdon and Mercer Cos.

• The Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) is spending money on sea walls and beach replenishment without dunes, and is not providing funding for the restoration of natural resources and wetlands.

There is still time to make needed changes that will help in recovery and rebuilding efforts to make our state more resilient and sustainable and help protect against future storms.

"Leadership" is more than showing up when the cameras are there - it is keeping track of displaced people, and making sure they get back into their homes, and rebuilding the Jersey Shore so that future storms will do less damage. While government actions have been deplorable, the abject response of insurance companies has made the problems worse. What is needed is both a good plan for rebuilding, taking into account the changing climate and its effect on our coastline, and a legislative and executive willingness to implement that plan.

From a press release

On Aug. 12, PennEast Pipeline announced plans to build a 100-mile, 30-inch pipeline to carry fracked natural gas from the Marcellus Shale of Pennsylvania to New Jersey. It would cross the Delaware River just south of Phillipsburg, and then cut through Hunterdon and Mercer counties. The Sierra Club is concerned about the impact this would have on the Delaware River.

The company is currently contacting property owners. It plans to submit a prefiling application with the Federal Energy

Regulatory Commission (FERC) late in 2014. The formal application with FERC is planed for 2015.

This is the eighth pipeline proposed across New Jersey in the last 5 years. The ultimate destination isn't clear: possibly New York City's power plants, possibly an ocean terminal for the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

(This issue of the Jersey Sierran already contains articles on greenhouse gas emissions that arise from the combustion of fossil fuels such as natural gas. See article above.)

Is Your Email Address Up-To-Date?

Does the Sierra Club have your current email address on file? This lets us send you online membership renewal notices and ballots in our annual elections. Don't know? You can check at https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/ConsProfileUser. To update your address, please send an email to membership.services@sierraclub.org with your name, address, and (if you know it) your membership number.

Our Jan. 10 ExCom meeting will include the setting of priority campaigns for 2015. You are invited to attend and contribute!

Reports from Trenton

Sierra Club Submits **Comments on RGGI** Withdrawal Rule

From a Press Release issued by our Trenton Staff

On Sept 5th the Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter submitted comments on the DEP's proposal to withdraw New Jersey from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a compact between the northeastern states to reduce emissions of waste gases that contribute to global warming and thus climate change.

The federal Global Warming Response Act requires New Jersey to reduce emissions. Pulling out of RGGI clearly violates duties required of DEP, established by the law. DEP does not cite any legal authority by which they can pull out of RGGI through rulemaking. DEP is violating the NJ's Administrative Procedures Act as they do not make a required attempt to quantify or describe how pulling out of RGGI would impact socioeconomics, jobs, and smart growth.

An earlier attempt to withdraw from RGGI was reversed last March by an Appellate Court decision which demanded a DEP rulemaking process. In July the DEP published rules in the State Register to formally exit the program.

Withdrawal has consequences for New Jersey power plants: the Hess plant in Newark will profit by a \$4 million tax break and CPV in Woodbridge will profit by a \$5 million tax break because we are not in RGGI. So the Christie Administration's withdrawal from RGGI is a gift to some of his friends - up to \$3 billion over the next 15 years - and a gift to the citizens: in the form of increased greenhouse gas output.

New Jersey needs to be back in RGGI to meet the requirements of the Global Warming Response Act, President Obama's Climate Action Plan, and the new EPA carbon standards.

During the years when New Jersey participated in RGGI, we achieved its greenhouse gas reduction goal of 10% in the first three years. A report by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners found that our participation created \$151 million in economic value and 1,772 jobs.

In July, Senator Steve Sweeney introduced a Senate Oversight Resolution to prevent the Christie Administration from formally pulling New Jersey out of RGGI. If passed twice by both houses, this would stop the rules from moving forward.

RGGI Facts:

- When New Jersey participated in the program, the state achieved the RGGI greenhouse gas reduction goal of 10% in the first three years.
- RGGI is achieving its goals and more. Due in part to its programs, global warming pollution is down 15%-30% since it launched.
- The economy in the region has grown by more than \$2.3 billion because of RGGI.
- Region-wide, RGGI is directly responsible for creating or saving almost 18,000 jobs
- Companies that receive RGGI funds have been able to make energy efficiency improvements or build onsite clean energy projects. These projects help companies save energy and money and also support local jobs, putting people to work retrofitting buildings or installing solar arrays and other projects
- The first 12 projects in New Jersey funded by RGGI proceeds helped New Jersey businesses generate over 167,000 megawatt hours of clean energy per year - equal to the amount of energy consumed by 19,600 households per year - and reduce annual carbon dioxide emissions by 84,000 metric tons.
- RGGI has also helped lead to hundreds of clean energy businesses both large and small - starting up, expanding or moving to New Jersey. These companies employ thousands of New Jerseyans in the growing clean energy market

incumbents were re-elected, including Sierra Club-endorsed Sen. Cory Booker, and Reps. Albio Sires (D-8), William Pascrell Jr. (D-8), and Donald M. Payne, Jr. (D-10).

We will have three new US Representatives, including one of our endorsees: Bonnie Watson Coleman (D, 12), replacing Rush Holt, and who won with 62% of the vote, almost 25 percentage points above her Republican opponent! The NJ Chapter also congratulates Donald Norcross (D-1), who will replace Rob Andrews, and Thomas MacArthur (R-3), who will replace Jon Runyan. We hope to establish good working relationships with both.

Election News

In the General Election that took place

on Nov 4th, all of New Jersey's FEDERAL

By Rich Isaac (risaacx@ aol.com)

Polítical Chair's Report

The Chapter is particularly excited by the election of Watson Coleman, who,

based upon her record, will not only support an array of environmental land-use and pollution issues (e.g. restoring finding for Superfund cleanups), but should also be extremely strong on population issues such as reproductive rights, and environmental justice issues.

At the State level, the resounding support for Open Space funding is particularly gratifying. NJ has had to rely for too many years on bonding; now we have a "stable source of funding" - the holy grail of the environmental community. The measure passed in every county: 64% to 36% overall!

More locally, we lost a ballot question in Mercer County that would have imposed a 5-cent fee on plastic shopping bags. But we won a ballot question in Elizabeth (Union Co) that imposed a ban on the processing of toxic fracking fluid waste.

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.



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.) Susan Williams 973-600-4960 skylandsgroup@gmail.com Chair: Vice Chair: Edgar Sheperd shepherd_edgar@yahoo.com Jeri Doherty bjd42@nac.net habersn@yahoo.com Norene Haberski Greg Gorman chachabacon@yahoo.com Edgar Shepherd shepherd_edgar@yahoo.com

Turnpike Widening-**Celebration or Waste?** From a Press Release issued by our staff on Oct 24, 2014

project is now complete and the new lanes are open. There are now six lanes of traffic in each direction - in Central

The \$2.5 billion Turnpike widening the State's debt, or funded the bankrupted pensions of many retired State employees. We could also have paid for much of the widening with federal funds, except that our leaders decided not to conduct a full Environmental Impact Study, which would have entitled them for funding under the National Environmental Policy Act. (Part of the reason the state did not accept NEPA is that NEPA would have required the consideration of alternatives like flex lanes and reversible lanes.) The federal government would have paid two thirds of the cost, saving us money and tolls. Widening the Turnpike required the filling in of wetlands, removal of trees, invasion of residential back yards, and paving that will increase flooding.

Jersey between exits 6 and 8A (Bordentown and Jamesburg).

We think there was a right way and a wrong way to have increased the Turnpike's capacity. The public should realize it could have been done more cheaply and faster by doing what other states do: which is to have flex and reversible lanes. Before the widening project, the Turnpike often had bumper to bumper traffic in one direction and empty lanes in the other. By being flexible the state could have saved 25% and the project would have been finished two years sooner. Virginia, New York, and California use reverse or flex lanes. Now our bottlenecking will simply migrate from Exit 8A to Exit 6, where six southbound lanes will be squeezed into three lanes.

The widening will be paid for by a 50% increase in tolls, approximately. \$2.5 billion could have paid for much of a new Hudson rail tunnel, or retired much of

The primary culprit is former Governor Jon Corzine, scheming to monetize the State's assets; he abandoned an earlier plan, thinking that a bigger and wider Turnpike would have sold to Wall Street for more money, and thus benefiting his wealthy friends who contributed to his campaign expenses - a process known as "pay to play."

Treasurer: Secretary: **Conservation Chair: Political Chair: Outings Chair: Open Position!** Acting Publicity Chair: Jeri Doherty Membership Chair: **Open** Position! Programs/ **Open** Position! **Events Chair:** Ex-Com Members-at-Large: Dave Alcock Marvin Feil Joyce White

bjd42@nac.net

dwhoob@hotmail.com mfeil@writeme.com 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 partici-

(continued on page 6)

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

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 5)

pate 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 Committ	ee 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

MEETINGS:

PLEASE JOIN US IN OUR NEW LOCATION! We now will be holding our general meetings at the North Hunterdon Library, 65 Halstead Street, Clinton, NJ 08809 on the first Wednesday of each month!

Jan 7 (Wed): Defending Wildlife. Meet and Greet at 7pm and program will begin at 7:30. Julia Millan Shaw a representative of the national outreach team for Defenders of Wildlife will present an overview program of the organization. Since 1947, Defenders of Wildlife has been a major national conservation organization focused solely on wildlife and habitat conservation and the safeguarding of biodiversity. Julia will discuss the inherent value of wildlife, the natural world and how Defenders of Wildlife work at the state and local level to develop practical, innovative programs that protect and restore imperiled species throughout North America by transforming policies and institutions and promoting innovative solutions. Refreshments will be available.

Jan 14 (Wed): Executive Committee/Planning Meeting: 7:30 pm. We will meet at the office of Dr. Jonathan Wall, 27 Center Street, Clinton, NJ. Our quarterly Executive Committee meetings are casual and informative. PThis is great time to get to learn about the Club and see what you can do to become involved. Contact Jonathan at psychologist@jonwall.com for more information.

Feb 4 (Wed): Protecting Alaska's Treasures. Meet and Greet at 7pm and program will begin at 7:30. Monica Scherer, of the Alaska Wilderness League will present on the threats to the lands and water of Alaska, — including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Lake Teshekpuk, Tongass National Forest, and the Arctic Ocean — which are under attack from extractive industries. This extraordinary treasure trove of lands and waters, 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.

Mar 4 (Wed): Film—The Highlands Rediscovered. Meet and Greet at 7pm and program will begin at 7:30. Erica van Auiken, grassroots coordinator from the NJ Highlands Coalition, will be showing the film "The Highlands Rediscovered"--an informative and beautifully shot 30-minute documentary that explores the history of the Highlands region and why it became the source of clean drinking water for more than half of the State's population. The film explains the ecological function and importance of the Highlands forests ability to cleanse rain as it percolates into aquifers and ultimately into surface reservoirs. It also presents the challenges the Highlands region is faced with in retaining its important forests under pressures to develop the land. Erica will be available following the film to host an open audience discussion and to answer any questions. Refreshments will be available.

The Jersey Sierran: January-March 2014

Conservation Co-Chair: Mary Ellen Shaw* Conservation Co-Chair: Beth Ravit* **Political Chair:** Jennifer Rothschild* **Air Quality Issues:** Laura Coll* **Events Chair:** Mary Walsh* Membership Chair: Buddy Jenssen* **Outings Chair:** Ellen Blumenkrantz **Programs Chair:** Jessica Epstein **Publicity Chair:** Marty Cohen Marty Cohen **Trail Maintenance:** Webmaster/Listmaster: John Kashwick* Wildlife Issues: Mary Ellen Shaw* Ex-Com Member-at-Large: Nancy Wysocki* (*Group Executive Committee Member)

meshaw.001@gmail.com ravit@envsci.rutgers.edu jenniroth2@gmail.com lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com blehlwalsh@hotmail.com buddy.jenssen@gmail.com eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com jepstein101@gmail.com martincohen@verizon.net martincohen@verizon.net jkashwick@gmail.com meshaw.001@gmail.com nape2@aol.com

MEETINGS AND 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 northjerseysierraclub@gmail.com.

Jan 27 (Tue): Film: "Plastic Paradise." 7pm at River Vale Public Library, 412 Rivervale Rd, River Vale. Thousands of miles away from civilization, Midway Atoll is in one of the most remote places on earth. And yet it has become ground zero for The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, syphoning plastics from three distant continents. In this independent documentary film, journalist/filmmaker Angela Sun travels on a personal journey of discovery to uncover this mysterious phenomenon. Along the way she meets scientists, researchers, influencers, and volunteers who shed light on the effects of our rabid plastic consumption and learns the problem is more insidious than we could have ever imagined. Co-sponsored by the Pascack Sustainability Group. Discussion after the film.

Jan 28 (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.

Feb 23 (Tue): Film: "Koch Brothers Exposed: 2014 Edition." 7pm at River Vale Public Library, 412 Rivervale Rd, River Vale. Koch Brothers Exposed is a hard-hitting investigation of the 1% at its very worst. This full-length documentary film on Charles and David Koch two of the world s richest and most powerful men is the latest from acclaimed director Robert Greenwald (Wal-Mart: the High Cost of Low Price, Outfoxed, Rethink Afghanistan). The billionaire brothers bankroll a vast network of organizations that work to undermine the interests of the 99% on issues ranging from Social Security to the environment to civil rights. This film uncovers the Koch's corruption and points the way to how Americans can reclaim their democracy. Discussion after the film.

Mar 24 (Tue): Native Oysters in the Urban Environment. 7pm at River Vale Public Library, 412 Rivervale Rd, River Vale. Dr. Beth Ravit of the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and the Sierra Club North Jersey Group Executive Committee will present a program on her work involving the reintroduction of native oysters in the Hudson-Raritan estuary.

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.

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OUTINGS: Please see the Outings listings on pp. 10-12: Outings most specific to our Group are those on Jan 17 (Sat): Columbia Trail Hike (Hunterdon Co) and on Feb 8 (Sun): Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Hike (Morris Co), both led by Celeste Martin and Jim Fleming.

North Jersey Group

(Bergen and Passaic Counties)

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

Officers:

Chair: Vice Chair: Treasurer: Secretary: John Kashwick* Mary Ellen Shaw* Tom Thompson* Jennifer Rothschild* jkashwick@gmail.com meshaw.001@gmail.com etrans743@aol.com jenniroth2@gmail.com **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's an electronic bi-weekly Chapter Alert Service. Sign up at www.scnj.convio.net.

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:

off folds:			
Chair:	David Yennior	973-844-1384	dyennior@gmail.com
Vice-Chair:	John Beadle	973-284-1594	jbeadle571@verizon.net
Secretary:	Open Position!		
Treasurer:	Anne Hirs	973-844-1121	annehirs@msn.com
Program Co-Chair:	John Beadle	see above	
Publicity Chair:	Open Position!		
Conservation	-		
Co-Chairs:	ZaSah Khademi	201-618-8572	zasah@aol.com
and	David Korfhage	973-932-0742	drkorfhage@gmail.com
Political Chair:	Open Position!		
Fundraising Chair:	Open Position!		
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:	Open Position!		
Group Executive			
Committee:	David Yennior, Jo	ohn Beadle, and	ZaSah Khademi

Please contact David Yennior, Gateway's Chair, if you have any ideas or suggestions for

a program in the future. The Gateway Group is very grateful for the contributions of John Beadle, Barbara Conover, ZaSah Khademi, Bill Chappel, Steven Yafet, Anne Hirs, Paula Borenstein, and Brenda Toyloy.

The Gateway Group invites YOU to join in the activism and asks your support as we strive to address the many issues facing the urban as well as suburban communities.

Gateway has been involved in the recent Massive Climate March in NYC, stopping more surface parking lots in Newark, banning Fracking Fluids in Elizabeth, cosponsoring a GMO documentary, a proposed development in Verona, a church expansion in Cedar Grove, the Pilgrim Pipeline, Keystone XL Pipeline, Fracking, Newark's Covanta Incinerator, Passaic River Restoration Community Advisory Group, Maplewood Green Day, formerly the West Orange Seton Hall project, the Newark Water Wars, advocating for NJ Sierra endorsed candidates for State and National Offices, and supporting other environmental groups.

There are several vacant positions listed, along with a full list of officers. For further information about upcoming activities, volunteer opportunities, or to discuss any concerns please contact me at dyennior@gmail.com or call 973-844-1384.

LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS: There are no events currently on the calendar For up to date information about programs please check the website.

<u>Loantaka Group</u>

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

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

OFFICERS:

Group Co-Chairs:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
and	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
Treasurer:	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
Secretary:	Open Position!		
Conservation Chair:	-		
Morris County:	Open Position!		
Union County:	Open Position!		
Political Chair:	Open Position!		
Programs:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
Fundraising Chair:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
Outreach &			
Events Chair:	Open Position!		
Dallister Chain	W/ana Talaanaan	000 464 0442	!- !

Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442 johansons@comcast ne

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

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Jan 14: Frank Budney, from the New Jersey Bluebird Society, will give a presentation of the Society's work.

Feb 11: 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.

Mar 11: To be determined. Please visit our website to view the most current program information.

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).

Our 10th online auction brought in over \$660 of which \$150 was donated to the Chapter for expenses relating to the People's Climate March. The following businesses in Chatham donated Gift Certificates:

Village Hardware Charleys Aunt Restaurant	Sally Lunns Tea Room Aida's Cozy Kitchen			
Chatham Sports Shop	Chatham Sandwich Shop			
F.Gerald New Jewelry	Crescent Jewelers			
Cafe Beethoven	Colony Cleaners	0.1.4.1		
Bliss Clothes and Accessories	Quartet Home Decor	Salon Athena		
Also: Blue Ridge Mountain Sports (Madison, tenth year helping us)J.R. Winberie's (Summit)Kennedy Jewelers (Rahway)Dreyer Organic (Cranford)Luciano's Restaurant (Rahway)				

<u>Central Jersey Group</u>

(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	lshari05@gmail.com

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

For Group Activities, please visit the Group's website, above, or 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 Group Vice Chair: Open position! Outings

609-389-6036 sierra_nj_rartian@att.net

Fublicity Chair:	w ynn jonanson	900 -101-011 2	jonansons@conicast.net
Membership:	Open Position!		
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!

Open position!	
Open position!	
Open position!	
Open position!	
Nancy Gladfelter	nnglad.nj@gmail.com
Open position!	
Daphne Speck-Barynski 7	32-390-5311 speckbartyn@comcast.net
Open position!	
	Open position! Open position! Open position! Nancy Gladfelter Open position! Daphne Speck-Barynski 73

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.

(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)

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, Matav	wan 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	gmofattgt@aol.com
Fund-raising			
Co-Chairs:	Lois Blake	732-863-5917	lqblake@optonline.net
and	Joellen Lundy	732-741-4756	jfutey@comcast.net

Shore Group Happenings:

Whale Pond 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 to 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 fer-tilizers 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.

preservation, and historic preservation, was approved Nov. 4. Open space advocates have been concerned, because while past referenda have always passed, the margin of approval has gradually decreased because of economic uncertainties. The MCF has been preserving land and protecting the natural resources of Monmouth County for over 36 years.

Mar 23: Yes, You Can! Three Monmouth environmentalists will explain what they personally are doing to save the planet, beginning with Monmouth County. Lisa Bagwell of our group will speak on the growing popularity of community vegetable gardens and the work she is doing in Long Branch. Faith Teitelbaum of the Whale Pond Watershed Association and a group board member has agreed to speak on the association's plan to build a "fish ladder" to allow spawning fish to enter the creek. They are working with an advisor from the National Marine Fisheries Service. Then Patrice McCoy, a Monmouth County Parks naturalist, will explain how homeowners can plant flowers and shrubs that will attract and help preserve the dwindling population of Monarch butterflies.

Ocean County Group

WEBSITE: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ocean

OFFICERS :			
Chair &			
Treasurer: A	. Gregory Auriemm	a, Esq. 732-451-9	9220 sierraclubOC@aol.com
Vice-Chair &			
Conserv Chair:	Margit Meissner-Ja	ckson 609-296-4	367 sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com
Outings Chair &			
Env'l Ed'n Coord:	Terrance Brown	848-333-7331	
Outings Co-Chair:	Monica Zabroski	609-384-2693 r	nonicazabrowski@yahoo.com
Fund-Raising:	Joyce M. Isaza	732-920-9270	realtymstr@aol.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://newjersey.sierraclub.org/West **Facebook:** https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseyGroupNJSC Log on and Like Us

<u>OFFICERS:</u>			
Group Chair:	Gina Carola	856-848-8831	ginaceee@verizon.net
Vice-Chair:	Frank Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Secretary:	Ellen Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Treasurer:	Trish Clements		patri3210@gmail.com
Publicity Chair:	Anne Caridi		bears4cats@msn.com
Political Chair:	Open position! C	all Gina to volu	nteer 856-848-8831
Pinelands Rep:	Lee Snyder		pinelands1@hotmail.com
Greenways Coord's:	Frank and Ellen	Zinni	efzin4@aol.com

Jan 26: Health of the Oceans. Tim Dillingham of the American Literal Society will discuss the uneasy relationship between inhabited coastlines and uninhibited seas. Specifically, he will focus on the need to restore and protect coastal habitat after Hurricane Sandy and will explore several defensive strategies for predicted sea levels in the future. Since 1961, the ALS has urged citizens to care for the coast through advocacy, conservation, and education. Not only does the ALS "represent the fish," a favorite slogan of Tim's predecessor, Derry Bennett, its mission also is to give concerned citizens the knowledge and tools they need to raise their voices as well. "When we restore habitat, our objective is not only to restore a dune or rebuild an oyster reef, but also to motivate people to invest 'sweat equity' into a piece of the coast, take ownership and become committed stewards."

Feb 23: Future of Monmouth County's Open Space. William D. Kastning, executive director of the Monmouth Conservation Foundation, will discuss his organization's plans for continued open space acquisitions. The public referendum on funding the NJ Preservation Program, which includes Green Acres open space purchases, farmland

Conservation Chair: Stacey AyalaConservation Chair: Stacey AyalaDelegate at Large:Aida Ayalathunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.comMembership Chair:Mike Brown856-547-9221eyebrown@verizon.netFundraising Chair:Open position! Call Gina to volunteer.856-848-8831Smart Growth Chair:Open position! Call Gina to volunteer.856-848-8831Programs Chair:Open position! Call Gina to volunteer.856-848-8831Outings 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.

Jan 14: Camden Greenways Update – Jack Sworaski will update us on the trail building efforts of the Greenways in Camden and the surrounding area.

Feb 11: Recycling Houses in Camden – Come and learn how the St. Joseph's Carpenter Society is rehabbing houses in Camden using sustainable and environmentally friendly practices.

Mar 11: Movie Night – Chasing Ice. Follow National Geographic photographer James Balog across the Arctic as he deploys time-lapse cameras designed for one purpose: to capture a multi-year record of the world's changing glaciers. 'Chasing Ice' depicts a heroic photojournalist on a mission to gather evidence and deliver hope to our carbon-powered planet.

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

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:

Jan 7, Feb 4 and Mar 4 (first Wednesdays), 6:30pm: 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, 3¹/₂ miles south of Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

Jan 27 and Mar 24 (alternate fourth Tuesdays) 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: Membership meeting, open to the public, WFNC*, Contact Lynn Maun, 856-453-0416 or email lynnkmaun@comcast.net.

Jan 28, Feb 25 and Mar 25 (fourth Wednesdays), 7pm: Atlantic Audubon Society s a lively member-organization with strong environm ntal 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.

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	testa-j@live.com	
Outings Chair:	Joyce Haddad	jkhaddad@juno.com	
Conservation Chair:	Joe Testa	testa-j@live.com	
Treasurer:	Joyce White	joyce.white.exec@gmail.com	
Social Chair:	Joe Prebish	Joe.Prebish@kraft.com	
Vice Social Chair:	Jeff Sovelove	Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com	
Programs:	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).

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 (Jan 10, Feb 14, Mar 14) and Jeff Sovelove (Jan 17, Feb 7, Mar14). 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 Jan 18 and Mar 15. Check the Singles listserv for announcements of more Silver Singles outings.

Feb 11 (alternate second Wednesdays), 7pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries: Meeting place: George Luciano Center, Cumberland County College. Cumberland County development issues are commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Lillian Armstrong (CU) at 609-774-5853 or lillian.armstrong@cumauriceriver. org. Website: www.cumauriceriver.org.

Feb 18 (alternate third Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss river management strategies. Open to the public. WFNC*. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

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

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender 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* Acting Co-Chair: John Kashwick* Acting Outings Chair: Robert Zitzman * Acting Programs Chair: Corbett Klein (* Acting Section Executive Committee Member)

psychologist@jonwall.com jkashwick@gmail.com robertmz@att.net corbettklein@outlook.com

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Jan 3 (Sat): Longwood Gardens Holiday Display. 3pm. 1001 Longwood Rd, Kennett Square PA 19348. A Longwood Christmas soars this season with our bird-inspired display. From trees adorned with nests and feathered friends, to topiary swans in our Exhibition Hall, to birdhouses, owls, and bald eagles decorating our tree houses, this holiday season flies high. Our Music Room depicts a festive Peacock Masquerade Ball, featuring elegant table settings and an 18-foot rotating tree. Stroll outside where color-

(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)

ful fountains dance, glimmering snowflakes hang overhead, and a half- million lights illuminate more of our outdoor gardens than ever before. Pre-purchase tickets (\$20) on line at tickets.longwoodgardens.org. Meet at the Group Entrance to the Right of the Visitors Center at 3pm. Contact Robert Zitzman (robertmz@att.net) or Corbett Klein (corbettklein@outlook.com) for more information and carpooling. Please register through our on line calendar at http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp, at meetup.com/njsierraclub, or by emailing the leader. This is a rain or shine event because tickets must be pre-purchased. This outing is run in conjunction with Sundance Outdoor Adventure Society. This outing is open to everyone.

Jan 28 (Wed): Executive Committee Conference Call. 7:30pm. Help plan events for the spring and discuss administrative issues. Contact John for dial in number or more information at jkashwick@gmail.com.

Feb 3 (Sat): The Newark Museum. 1 pm. 49 Washington St, Newark 07102-3176 (0.8 Miles from NJ Transit Newark Penn Station). We're heading indoors for Feburary! The Museum's African art collection ranks among the nation's oldest and most comprehensive, representing the breadth, diversity and vitality of artistic creativity throughout the continent. Its holdings comprise nearly 4,000 objects of ritual, ceremonial and daily use, as well as popular urban and fine arts. The holdings of the Decorative Arts department comprise a vast array of household objects from the United States and Europe. The thousands of objects of applied art range from the sixteenth century to the present day and include superb examples of furniture, silver, ceramics, glass, jewelry and textiles. The centerpiece of this collection is the Ballantine House, a wing of the Museum that is open during regular museum hours. February Special Exhibit: Royals and Regalia: Inside the Palaces of Nigeria's Monarchs. Contact Robert Zitzman (robertmz@att.net or Corbett Klein (corbettklein@outlook.com) for more information. Please register through our on line calendar at newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp, at meetup.com/njsierraclub, or by emailing the leader. This is a rain or shine event, but a blizzard would cancel. Contact a leader if in doubt. This outing is run in conjunction with Sundance Outdoor Adventure Society. Meet at the museum ticket office at 1pm. Tickets are \$12 and may be purchased at the door. This outing is open to everyone.

Mar 28 (Sat): Harriman State Park Hike (NY). 10am. Join us for an early spring hike in Harriman State Park in New York. Weather and trail conditions will determine which hike we do but we will likely meet at the Tuxedo train station and carpool to the trailhead and hike 5-6 miles. Bring lunch, 2 liters of water, sturdy hiking boots, snack, sun protection, and weather-appropriate clothing. Well behaved dogs are welcome. Leaders: John Kashwick (jkashwick@gmail.com) or Jonathan Wall (docjdwall@gmail. com). 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 a leader. Rain, snow, or ice cancels—contact leader the morning of outing if in doubt. This outing is run in conjunction with Sundance Outdoor Adventure Society. Group limit: 12.

Please confirm all outings before attending. Please check our listings on our online calendar at http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp or www.meetup.com/njsierraclub. You can also join or emailing list by emailing John.

We are currently recruiting volunteers to lead outings, do fundraising and membership activities 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 weekly to monthly calendar of activities and events, including hikes, clean ups, social gatherings, dinner get-togethers and other functions intended for those members over fifty)

More New Jersey events are posted on our web site: http://www.funtravels.com. 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, tips and travel information.

Outings Chair: (South Jersey)

Open Position!

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 Dviak	732-560-0953	annedviak@verizon.net	

This past season we accomplished three hikes, taking a total of 28 children into the woods. The main reason for these not very robust statistics is that the current Chair has not had much success in garnering consistently active volunteers. That is not to say that the Chair doesn't appreciate the several volunteers who have assisted on hikes, they have been a great help; but in addition, it would be nice to have some regular hikers step up. The Chair should not be the only one in the organization who is able and willing to safely lead a group into and out of the woods. It is also the Chair's belief that an active steering committee would go a long way towards improving matters. Accordingly, if you are an experienced hiker willing to commit to leading two hikes per year, or if you are willing to commit to attending three steering committee meetings per year, and performing some additional assignments totaling 20 hours per year, please contact the Chair. The operative word here is "commit".

On the Trail - Book Review "Walking Distance: Extraordinary Hikes for Ordinary People"

ROBERT AND MARTHA MANNING

WALKING DISTANCE

Extraordinary Hikesy for Ordinary People

By Robert and Martha Manning, Oregon State Univ. Press, 2013

Reviewed by Dick Colby

This lovely book is a celebration of purposeful walking. It describes 30 of the world's most interesting days-to-weeks treks, most of which can be accomplished in daily installments separated by comfortable nightly accommodation.

Its photographs are a delight even (especially!) for

those familiar with the routes pictured. Its two sections cover firstly the basics of preparing for long walks, and secondly 6- or 7-page descriptions of each of the 30 walks. each with an overall route map. There's a handy table of trail-distances,

ing John Muir's "My First Summer in the Sierras"!).

Twelve of the walks are in the USA; the nearest to New Jersey are Vermont's Long Trail and the C&O Canal Towpath that heads west from Washington DC into the Alleghenies. (The Appalachian

Trail was judged too much of a time-commitment for ordinary walkers.) Four walks are in the UK, eight are elsewhere in Europe, and others are in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa, and Turkey. The authors are an academic-

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

William Sevchuk	wsevchuk@yahoo.com	
Open Position	Please Contact Us!	
Diana Christine Eichholz	MistyAngel22@aol.com	
Steve Timmerman	skiingsteve@aol.com	
Julie Garber	journey7@optonline.net	
Jackie Enfield	jackie@jackieenfield.com	
Jim DeSantis green@no	orthjerseygreendrinks.com	
Open Position!	Please Contact Us!	
-		
Leon Yerenburg	lyerenburg@gmail.com	
	<i>Open Position</i> Diana Christine Eichholz Steve Timmerman Julie Garber Jackie Enfield Jim DeSantis green@no <i>Open Position!</i>	

degree of difficulty, style of accommodations and capacity for intermediate access (segmentability).

For each walk there's a reading list that includes a best web-site, access to detailed maps and descriptions, trail-side amenities, historical significance, and getting there. A more general reading list includes many other books that promote walking through wilderness (sadly lackartist couple living in Vermont. I was delighted to note how many of the routes are familiar to me (seven), and a bit chagrined to note that two of my favorites are not included: Offa's Dike Path (the Welsh border) and the Southwest Coastal Path, both in Britain.

The book has fired up my desire to try some of the routes. I hope it does the same to you!

Care for more Club involvement? You can sample (and subscribe to) several specialist Club national electronic newsletters by logging on to: insider@sierraclub.org, currents@sierraclub.org, www.sierraclub.org/population, and www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

(Continued from page 1)

tising base. Work and network with a wide range of existing and potential advertisers.

Inner City Outings Volunteers -Conduct and/or support wilderness day trip outings for children (usually hiking on Saturday or Sunday). Free training provided.

These are just a few of the volunteer opportunities available at the State level. If you have an interest or expertise in an area that is not listed, please contact Richard Isaac at the telephone number or email address provided above.

Local Opportunities

Skylands Group (Sussex and northern Warren Counties): Membership Chair, Programs/Events Chair, Outings Chair

South Highlands Group (Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties and surrounding areas): Energy Issues Coordinator

Gateway Group (Essex and Hudson Counties and nearby municipalities): Secretary, Political Chair, Outings Chair, Publicity Chair, Fundraising Chair

Loantaka Group (Morris and Union

Counties, approximately): Membership Chair, Conservation Chair, Political Chair, Events Coordinator

Central Jersey Group (Mercer County, parts of Burlington, Middlesex and Somerset): Secretary, Co-Chair, Publicity Chair, Outreach Coordinator, Webmaster

Raritan Valley Group (Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas):

Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chair, Outings Coordinator, Webmaster, **Recycling Coordinator**

Jersey Shore Group (Monmouth County, approximately): Vice Chair, Publicity Chair, Webmaster, Coordinators for various conservation issues (marine, wetlands, sprawl, toxics, recycling, etc.)

Ocean County Group (Ocean County): Membership Chair, Political

Chair West Jersey Group (Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately): Political Chair, Fundraising Chair, Smart Growth Chair, Programs Chair, Outings Chair

Jan 10 (Sat): Sourlands Mountain Preserve Hike, Hillsborough (Somerset Co). 10am. http://www. omersetcountyparks.org/parksFacilities/sourland/SourlandMtPreserve.html This hike will be 6 miles in 4 hours in hilly terrain. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch required. Winter Traction devices are required if there is ice or show on the ground. 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 e-mail to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak The_Hikist@Mac.com

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Jan 11 (Sun): D&R Canal Hike (Burlington Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. We'll hike over the Lock 1 "swinging bridge" as we walk along the towpath; perhaps see the resident Bald Eagles. Meet at the RiverLINE parking lot in Bordentown City. Option for lunch at Heart of Bordentown (HOB) Tavern. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: Leona and George F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jan 15 (Thurs): Hike at the NJAS Plainsboro Preserve (Middlesex Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. The Preserve has wildlife exhibits, a reference library and the Nature Store is a great source for field guides, optics, etc. Bring water and snacks. Meet at the Nature Center, 80 Scotts Corner RD, Cranbury, NI. Directions: www.njaudubon.org/Centers/Plainsboro/ Option for late lunch at Romeo's Restaurant. Inclement weather cancels. Dogs are not permitted. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@ pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jan 17 (Sat): Jockey Hollow Leader's Choice (Morris Co). Moderate paced hike with some ups and downs, 6 miles. Leader's choice of trails depending on conditions at Jockey Hollow National Park in Morristown. See http://www.nps.gov/morr/planyourvisit/directions.htm for directions and information. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Meet at the visitors' center at 10am. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footgear required (sabilicers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com . Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Jan 18 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Trip on the D&R Canal (Mercer Co). 9am. Let's get some winter exercise - paddle 12 miles from Cherry Tree Lane to Kingston. Bring lunch and beverage. Experienced winter paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jan 28 (Wed): Hike the Franklin Parker Preserve (Burlington Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace on the Yellow Trail. The acquisition of the Franklin Parker Preserve in 2003 by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation was a momentous occasion in conservation. This 9400-acre preserve is a keystone piece of land, linking the expanses of Brendan Byrne, Wharton, and Penn State Forests and creating a more contiguous Pinelands National Reserve. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather cancels. Contact leaders to confirm hike and meeting location. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jan 31 (Sat): Hike Tallman Mountain State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 11:15 am. 7 miles. We will hike through the Park and view the berms and salt marsh. We will then walk the mile-long Piermont pier halfway across the Hudson! Trails include the Long Path. Bring lunch and water. Adverse conditions will alter the route. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Av. (building with mural, on the corner of Tate & Piermont Aves.) in Piermont NY. Park down Gair street in parking lot D. Leader: John P. Jurasek: 845-519-4247 (no calls after 10pm) orJurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

Jan 31 (Sat): Hike at Jakes Branch County Park (Ocean Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. Jakes Branch has a nature center with interesting hands-on exhibits and an observation deck that offers a 360' view of the Pinelands. Meet at Jakes Branch Park, 1100 Double Trouble Rd, Beechwood. Bring lunch and water. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

FEBRUARY

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

Feb 7 (Sat): Patriots Path Stroll (Morris Co). Moderate paced walk, almost flat, 5 miles. Come take an easy stroll on Patriots Path in Morristown. This 3-5-mile stroll will start out from the Speedwell Lake parking lot at 10am across the street from Historic Speedwell. See the Morris County Parks website (http:// www.morrisparks.org/) for directions. The path is wide, partly paved, partly crushed stabilized gravel with very little in the way of elevation gains. We will be strolling at a very moderate pace. Please bring plenty of water and a light snack. Great for beginners. No pets please. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footgear required (sabilicers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. Optional lunch afterwards. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Feb 7 (Sat): Whitesbog Village Winter Hike (Burlington Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. Whitesbog is a NJ historic site: a village built to house workers in the local cranberry bogs. Perhaps we'll see wintering Tundra Swans as we hike around the bogs. Optional guided tour of the Village at 1pm (small fee). Directions www.whitesbog.org Bring beverage and lunch. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

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

Feb 14 (Sat): Cross Country Ski: High Point State Park (Sussex Co). 10am. http://www.state.nj.us/ dep/parksandforests/parks/highpoint.html. We expect to take 4-5 hours for fun in the snow. E-mail the leader for the up-to-the-minute details. Facilities: There is a ski lodge with rentals and restrooms. http:// www.xcskihighpoint.com/. No pets. XC skis and boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. Registration required via web: http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp. Include a brief description of your XC Ski experience with your registration. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via e-mail to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak The_Hikist@Mac.com.

Feb 15 (Sun): President's Day Weekend Hike at Allaire State Park (Monmouth Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. George Washington's birthday will be celebrated by volunteers in grand style at this Historic Village. After the hike, option to tour the village buildings and shop at the Allaire General Store. Bring or buy lunch. Meet in the Village parking lot. Leased dogs are welcome. Inclement weather cancels the hike. Leaders: George & Leona F: Leona@pineypaddlers.com or 609-259-3734 (W)

Feb 21 (Sat): Ramapo Reservation Hike (Bergen Co). 10am. Moderately paced 7-8 mile loop past lakes/viewpoints. Exact route will depend on trail conditions but if not icy will include some ups/downs. If icy, traction devices will be required. Group limited to 12. Hikers must preregister with leader. Precipitation or temperatures below 20 deg. F. will cancel the hike. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

Feb 22 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am. Meet at Lake Oswego and

Learn more about your environment... NANGS 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) 4794 Andorea Drive, Mays Landing, 08330 boghosian1@verizon.net

Singles: Joyce Haddad, jkhaddad@juno.com Young Sierrans (Central Region): Leon Yerenburg,

lyerenburg@gmail.com Inner City Outings: Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H)

NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd, Warren, 07059 River Touring: Fred Tocce, 908-453-2205 (H)

RD-1, Box 277, Washington, 07882 Chapter Outings Chair: Ellen Blumenkrantz

eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417

Outing Leaders: Please send April-June 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 Feb. 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 April-June 2015 trip write-ups by Feb. 8.

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.

ou 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:

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

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

(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)

JANUARY

(SNG

Jan 1 (Thurs): 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 8 miles on the "Jewel of the Pinelands". Enjoy a tailgate get together after the trip at Harrisville Lake. Bring something to share. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Jan 4 (Sun): Veterans Park Hike (Mercer Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. Enjoy a winter hike in one of our favorite parks. This 333 acre park was built in honor of Hamilton Township's veterans in 1977. The park is now the home for an F-4 Phantom Jet which honors Veterans who have served in the US Air Force and other Armed Forces. Meet at the Kuser Rd entrance. Leashed dogs are welcome. Option for late lunch at Mastoris Diner. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Feb 25 (Wed): Clayton Park Hike (Monmouth Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace on woods trails with some elevation. This rustic 421-acre site in Central New Jersey is located amidst the rolling farmland of western Monmouth County. For directions: www.monmouthcountyparks.com/page.aspx?Id=2517 Leashed dogs are welcome! After the hike; option for lunch at La Piazza, Allentown. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Feb 28 (Sat): Clausland Mountain Hike (Rockland Co, NY). 11:15 am. 6 miles. We will climb 700 ft through historic Rockland Cemetery to an old Nike missile base. Bring hiking boots, lunch, 2 quarts of water. Adverse conditions will alter the route. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Av. (building with mural, on the corner of Tate & Piermont Aves.) in Piermont NY. Park down Gair street in parking lot D. Leader: John P. Jurasek: 845-519-4247 (no calls after 10pm), or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

MARCH

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

Mar 7 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 10am. We're paddling from Penny Pot to Weymouth Furnace. Meet at Harley Dawn Diner, Black Horse Pike/Rte 322. Arrive early for breakfast!! Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Mar 8 (Sun): Hike at Turkey Swamp Park (Monmouth Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. This is our 6th annual Daylight Savings Time hike at Turkey Swamp Park. Park information and directions: www.mon-(continued on page 12)

There's an interactive CALENDAR for outimgs and Group events - on our website (www.newjersey.sierraclub.org). Click "Events and Outings"



Chair Ken Johanson (908) 464-0442 kjohan@comcast.net 72 Laurel Drive, New Providence NJ 07974-2421

Vice-Chair and Political Chair * Rich Isaac (973) 716-0297 risaacx@aol.com 47 Fellswood Dr., Livingston NJ 07039-2235

Conservation Chair Greg Gorman (ggorman07419@embarwqmail.com)

Conservation Vice-Chair Gina Carola (856) 848-8831 ginaceee@verizon.net 534 Elberne Av, Westville NJ 08093-1715

Conservation Alternate Vice-Chair * Bob Moss 973-743-5203 bobmossnj@verizon.net

Secretary ' Joe Testa Testa-j@live.com

Treasurer * George Denzer (609) 799-5839 gdenzer73@yahoo.com 127 Dey Road, Cranbury NJ 08512-5418

Vice-Treasurer Sunil Somalwar sunil.somalwar@gmail.com 1015 S Park Av, Highland Park NJ 08904-2954

Outings Chair Ellen Blumenkrantz (201) 784-8417 EllenBlu@specialistsms.com 43 Carlson Court, Closter NJ 07624

Newsletter Editor Dick Colby (609) 965-4453 dick.colby@stockton.edu 217 Liverpool Av, Egg Harbor City NJ 08215-1319

Webmaster George Newsome (732) 308-1518 newsome1@pobox.com

Membership Chair **Open Position!**

Council Delegate Rich Isaac ((see above)

High School Coordinator Ciara Fagan ciaraann3@gmail.com

Speakers' Bureau Organizer * Don McBride (732) 560-0369 dtmcbride@alumni.haas.org

Inner Cities Outings Coordinator Marty Cohen 201-670-8383 martincohen@verizon.net

Legal Chair Bill Singer, Esq. (908) 359-7873 wsinger@singerfedun.com

Other ExCom members at large * Laura Lynch (609) 882-4642 njsierraclub@gmail.com 11 Lumar Rd., Trenton, NJ 08648-3127

* Lee Snyder (609) 969-7909 pinelands1@hotmail.com

Group Effectiveness Committee Rich Isaac**, Greg Auriemma

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

Fundraising Committee Ken Johanson**, Joan and George Denzer

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Issue Coordinators Alaska Issues

Jonathan Wall (908) 295-1890 psychologist@jonwall.com

Clean Air Issues Bob Campbell (973) 761-4461 bobc2023_sc@verizon.net

Community Solar Dick Colby (see left column)

Climate Change Faith Teitelbaum (732) 513-5445 faithtei@aol.com

Delaware River Issues Gina Carola (see left column)

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Rob Benjamin (robbenjamin@outlook.com)

Genetically Modified Organisms Barbara Conover 201-452-9389 Bconifer022@gmail.com

Green Acres Issues Bob Moss (973) 743-5203 bobmossnj@verizon.net

Land Use Issues Laura Lynch (see left column)

Marine Issues Greg Auriemma (732) 451-9220 sierraclubOC@aol.com

Natural Gas and Fracking Issues Terry Stimpfel (609) 731-7016 tervstimb@hotmail.com and Greg Gorman Chachabacon@yahoo.com

Passaic River David Yennior (973) 844-1384 dyennior@gmail.com

Pinelands Issues Lee Snyder (see left column)

Liaison to Pinelands Preservation Alliance: Mike Gallaway (M.Gallaway@comcast.net)

Population Issues Bonnie Tillery (609) 259-6438 Blt44blt@msn.com 389 Sawmill Rd, Hamilton NJ 08620.

Recycling Issues David Yennior (see above)

Solar Home Issues Edgar Shepherd (shepherd_edgar@yahoo.com)

Tiger Conservation Issues Sunil Somalwar (see left column)

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

Trail Issues Dave Mattek (609) 737-1342 MattekDC@aol.com 4 1/2 Park Av, Pennington NJ 08534-2313

Utah, Wildland Issues John Kashwick (201) 660-8820 jkashwick@gmail.com

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

mouthcountyparks.com/ Turn into the Main Entrance - 200 Georgia Rd, Freehold - drive to the Oak Point picnic area parking lot. Bring lunch and beverage. Leashed dogs are welcome! Rain cancels. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Mar 14 (Sat): Hike in Lewis Morris Park (Morris Co). Moderate paced, 7-mile hike with some ups and downs. We will start at Sunrise Lake, then hike to the upper parking lot and back down to the lake using a combination of the Yellow and Red trails. The pace will be a moderate to slow one. See the Morris County Parks Commission website http://www.morrisparks.org/aspparks/Imdir.asp for directions. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Meet in parking lot at 10am. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footgear required (sabilicers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com . Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. TC Map Jersey Highlands Trails.

Mar 14 (Sat): Apshawa Preserve Hike (West Milford, Passaic Co). 10am. http://www.njconserva-tion.org/apshawapreserve.htm. The hike will cover 5 miles in 4 hours in moderately hilly terrain around the former Butler Reservoir. Facilities: There are no facilities in this preserve. Winter traction devices are required if there is ice or snow on the ground. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch required. Register via the 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 e-mail to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: The_Hikist@ Mac.com.

Mar 15 (Sun): Hike: Harriman State Park (Rockland Co. NY). 10am. 7-8 mile moderately paced hike with several ups/downs past beautiful lakes and streams. Exact loop will depend on trail conditions. Group limited to 12. Participants must preregister with leader. Precipitation will cancel hike. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

Mar 22 (Sun): World Day for Water: NJ Sierra Club Walk for Water along the D&R Canal and the Delaware River (Hunterdon Co). 10am. Join Nicole, Leona and George and other Sierrans as we walk 3 miles on the Canal towpath from Bulls Island State Park to Prallsville Mills. On World Water Day join the New Jersey Sierra Club as we Walk for Water raising awareness about water issues locally and globally. We will be highlighting issues we are facing in our state and the issues facing the over 780 million people around the world who lack access to clean water. Bring water, snacks and lunch. Leashed pets are wel-come. Meeting: Bulls Island State Park, 2185 Daniel Bray Hwy, Stockton 08559. Questions or information e-mail nicole.dallara@sierraclub.org or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Mar 27 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am. Spring is here! Meet at Lake Oswego and paddle 8 miles on the "Jewel of the Pinelands". Experienced cold weather/water Pines pad-dlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@ pineypaddlers.com (W)

Mar 28 (Sat): Hook Mountain Hike (Rockland Co, NY). 10:30 am. 7 miles, with excellent views of the Hudson River and Croton Point. Meet in the Rockland Lake South Parking Lot number 4 near the entrance booth. Rockland Lake is in Congers, NY, off Rte 9W. Bring lunch, hiking boots, and water. Adverse conditions will alter the route. Leader: John P. Jurasek, 845-519-4247 (no calls after 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

Mar 29 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 10:30 am. The section we paddle will depend on weather conditions. Experienced cold weather/water paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

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

January 10, February 14 and March 14 at the Hamilton (Mercer Co.) Public Library, 1 Justice Samuel Alito Jr. Way.



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

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

The Jersey Sierran appears in January, April, July and October The deadline for copy is on the 10th of the month, two months before appearance. Members are cordially invited to propose articles, essays, letters, poetry and artwork.

(Group/Section News columns are prepared by Group/Section Chairs; Outings are vetted by the Chapter Outings Chair, Ellen Blumenkrantz.) Opinions, unless otherwise attributed, are of the writer only.

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Water Quality and Habitat Issues Rich Isaac (see left column)

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The Chapter website, www.newjersey.sierraclub.org, has been upgraded to provide much useful information.