WELCOMING OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER:

Toni Granato

...with an interview:

1. What’s your environmental background?

Growing up in Toms River (Ocean Co), I had learned about its water quality issues and the childhood cancer cluster associated with Ciba-Geigy’s nearby factory site. The superfund designations didn’t scare me, but I was motivated to prevent future such disasters. In college (Coastal Carolina Univ) I helped organize a sustainability program. On Earth Day 2010, we convinced the college president to commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. That was a high light for me and I started writing on environmental issues in local papers. As an environmental justice supporter, I hope toleet to encourage community groups and black communities to address sustainability and climate change. So I signed up for a two-year Master’s program in global sustainability at the Univ. of South Florida, which I hope to be one of the best decisions of my life.

2. What environmental issues concern you most?

Any issue that involves public health concerns me. I think the biggest injustice that we as a society can commit on one another is air, land and water pollution. Deforestation and land use are also important issues to me because I spent time during my graduate work investigating water quality in Costa Rica and oil development in the Amazon Rainforest. I am also passionate about keeping our “oil in the soil” because of the impacts extraction can have on communities and ecosystems, at home and abroad. Closer to home, severe storms and sea-level rise show our urgent need to divest completely from fossil fuels and find a new model of development.

3. Why the New Jersey Sierra Club?

Describe your job with us.

In graduate school I studied the Club’s Beyond Coal campaign and was invited to improve its online engagement. Last Summer Christine Guld Sadowsky, a Club organizing representative, found me online and recruited me to help with the People’s Climate March last Sept 21 in New York City. I recruited participants and organized their transportation from Pt. Pleasant Beach. So now I’m the Club’s new “Administrative Assistant.” My work consists of supporting our regional Groups, and media and legislator outreach: to protect our precious land, waterways, and air.

4. Might you have a personal success story to tell?

This might sound cliché, but I think every project I work on is a success story. Everything we do makes an impact. For example, I recently attended an EPA Superfund meeting updating the residents of Toms River on a chemical study. After the three hour presentation, I asked the EPA representative about future site remediation plans, and about whether the contamination has been spreading, which proved to be one of the best decisions of my life.

Legislative Attack on Environmental Regulations

A bill is advancing through the State Assembly that would “require State agencies to periodically review administrative rules and regulations to ensure continued efficacy.” AS304 (Cassagnate, Laguna, Gusciora, Weber, Singleton) would require state agencies to “test” every rule before it is re-adapted to see if its benefits outweigh its costs and whether there is an alternative.

Sounds reasonable and innocuous! But this bill is an attack on the environment; and public health and safety. That’s because it defines costs and benefits only in the dollars that apply to corporations that enter into contracts with the State. For example: a rule that requires removal of toxic chemicals from drinking water can be evaluated in terms of the costs to the company or ratepayers for additional treatment. But it cannot consider the cost savings for all the kids that do not get sick or adults who do not get cancer from long-term exposure.

This bill fails to consider environmental benefits like endangered species, contiguous forest, or stream buffers that prevent flooding. Regulations on clean air may not be considered in terms of health saving from reduced treatments of childhood asthma attacks. The costs and benefits of airbags in cars would not include the savings in medical expenses, much less the economic and anguish costs to a person who has been injured by the airbags and benefits to the auto-manufacturers. The purpose of this bill is to roll back environmental protections. It comes from the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) which is funded by the Koch Brothers and big polluters. It would benefit polluters at a cost to the public.

ATTORNEYS WANTED!

Our New Jersey Chapter row has volunteer opportunities available for attorneys with experience in environmental or land use law. If you are interested in one of both of the following opportunities, please contact our Board member at 973-230-0297 or via email: risaacx@aol.com.

* Work pro bono as lead counsel or as part of a team on one or more environmental or land use cases, including cases opposing divisions of previously protected lands;

* Serve with others on the Chapter Legislative Committee helping to review and take positions on state-level environmental and land use legislation.

In November voters approved a ballot referendum which amended New Jersey’s Constitution to dedicate 6% of the Corporate Business Tax to “preserve and steward open space, farmland, historic sites, and flood-prone areas,” and “also to improve water quality, remove and clean up underground tanks, and clean up polluted sites”. Since then, the environmental community has eagerly awaited the details of how this new money would be allocated and applied for. The most important issue is how much of the money will purchase additional open space, versus how much will be used for “stewardship” (i.e. management of open space that had previously been acquired). Another important issue is how priorities will be distributed to urban vs. rural purchases; preserving farmland; historic preservation; and “Blue Acres.” These programs are for keeping flood-prone properties; preserving wilderness; and adding ball fields for active recreation. A Senate bill has been introduced, which sets these priorities as follows:

- State acquisition
  - (Green Acres) $10 million
- Capital repair/improvement
- Farmland
- (acquisition?) 17.25
- Local (acquisition?) 3.25
- Non-profit (acquisition?) 20.5
- Blue Acres 25
- Farmland acquisition/development 2.25
- Historic Preservation 571

Total (with rounding) $71 million

The Sierra Club’s primary concern is with preserving wilderness, in urban as well as rural parcels. We oppose this bill because of its emphasis on so-called “stewardship”, which is often a code word used to justify the logging of public lands.

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This bill includes money for stewardship carried out by nonprofit organizations. This would, for the first time, give salaries to nonprofit organizations that provide “stewardship” without adequate oversight or accountability.

There are also funds for the state Fish and Wildlife and Parks agencies themselves to do stewardship, but the nature of these stewardship activities is not defined. What would be very concerning if open space money were to be used for clear cutting forests in the Pinelands to create deer and grous habitat!

The Senate bill would cut money for park capital repair and improvement, take money away from urban areas, and give less money than ever before for acquisition. It would open up environmentally sensitive lands to logging and cut DEP staffing. This bill does not include a specific amount for urban areas. Much of the money going into open space funding would come from legacy (canceled) programs such as brownfield clean ups, site remediation, and parks, all which benefited urban areas. We believe we should shift more money to benefit those communities. There is a bigger need now for urban parks and playgrounds because these are the fastest growing areas in New Jersey today. As we rebuild and develop our cities we have to ensure there is an adequate amount of recreation and open space for the people moving in.

This bill would also cut the percentage of money going to the Green Acres local match program, which encourages counties to preserve more open space. There should be an emphasis on distressed communities. There is a $500 million backlog of applications for local acquisitions.

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Ifranzen njtf1@juno.com. Visit their website at jfranzini.njtf@gmail.com or NJTF State Office: 530 Atlantic St, Piscataway, NJ 08854. For more information, contact Jessica at (856) 287-4488. View their website at http://njtfreforestation.org/ to see all the wonderful things they are doing.

On the Island of Santa Cruz, in the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador, a small restaurant is separated from the Galapagos National Park by a long white fence. The restaurant relies on the pristine park to attract trail hikers and bicyclists searching for the giant tortoises that roam the forest. Tourists at a circular counter under a thatched roof structure, eating seasonal fruit products gathered or raised nearby. Across the way is a stucco building housing the gift shop, where the merchandise features locally handcrafted carvings, paintings. Corner shelves are stacked with field guides, histories, and pictures. Both the few elevations are “eared” by a body of water, the Galapagos Islands. A small room with a projector screen shows short videos on the geology of the islands and on their natural and cultural wonders. Strict rules protect the tortoises and their habitat, such as a requirement for people to stay at least six feet away from the tortoises all the time. It is made of renewable resources, to create opportunities for educational, artistic, and scientific growth. To accomplish this, the income rather than its capital has produced a “Sustainable Community.”

On days of inclement weather, tourists seeking the elusive Tortuga do not come, and the community suffers. The residents could choose to break the law by selling baby turtles, a small black market, like the poachers of tigers, rhinos, and elephants on other continents. But they don’t. Instead, the lower slat of the white fence was removed to allow the tortoises access to a water garden with shallow ponds surrounded by native edible plants. Tourists now come even when hiking and biking is not the greatest—knowing the tortoises will always be there. Working to integrate with the natural habitat, is, improving the economy without diminishing the ecosystem of the region, is Sustainable Economic Development.

In New Jersey, economic development solutions typically rely on “consumption” which causes the extract more to satisfy insatiable demands. This is not intrinsically bad, but the combination of population growth and resource depletion make this approach increasingly problematic. Mankind consumed the giant land tortoises (like the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or, just relax at sea. All cruises depart from Santa Barbara, California. The cost, $165, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, and beverages plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and give evening programs.}

“Since the launch of USAID’s family planning program in 1965, families are better able to feed, clothe, educate and provide health care for their children. “* Specifically, USAID has seen modern contraceptive use grow in the areas where they work from 10 percent in 1965 to 46 percent today. Given cultural barriers that often deter the use of family planning or family spacing methods in many countries, this is an impressive increase. However, funding limitations and political interference in this country play a role in denying more than 225 million women around the world access to pregnancy services.

To reserve space, send a $100 check, written to Sierra Club, to lead organizer Joseph Johns Holeogle, 216 W. St., Montville, NJ 07112. For more information, contact lead organizer, 973-443-0706. joh@sierraclub.org

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Editorial New Jersey’s Gerrymandered Legislative Districts

By Dick Coby (dick.coby@stockton.edu)

Our Chapter’s Political Committee is currently evaluating the voting records of the members of our State Assembly, and preparing to craft resolutions for them for reelection in November. I took on the job of preparing an environmental voting chart. But in examining roll call votes and tabulations of votes in each District, it became obvious that the vast majority of them have been drawn to be either Democratic or strongly Republican. I.e. there is little chance that an endorsement could make a difference in the outcome of the election.

At the core of this is the fact that our State legislature redistricts itself to equalize the number of voters in each of our 40 Districts, and does not pay any attention to voter boundaries that are intended to benefit incumbents, a process known as gerrymandering. Currently, in order to qualify to get on the ballot, candidates have to go to Democrats, 15 will go to Republicans, and only 3 can be said to be competitive: the 1st (Cape May and Cumberland Co), the 2nd (most of Atlantic Co) and the 38th (month part of Bergen Co).

It’s easy to understand why a politician would want to stay in office; political power can’t be matched for ego enhancement. But our Founding Fathers were against gerrymandering – any national constitution or state constitutions before they could learn from Lord Acton’s (1845-1902) dictum: “power corrupts — if only they had been forewarned!

By googling ‘redistricting,’ I learned that gerrymandering is perfectly legal, based on a Pennsylvania challenge that led to a US Supreme Court ruling in 2014. Although there is a currently pending Alabama case testing the use of racial criteria.

New Jersey is one of seven states that assign legislative redistricting to an ‘independent’ commission, but is not really independent because it is made of three Republican legislators and five Democrats, and in recent decades has been unable to decide between two competing redistricting maps, one favoring each party. The deadlock was broken last week by an 11th appointment agreed to by the Chief Justice of the NJ Supreme Court, a distinguished Rutgers professor of public policy named Alan Rosenthal, who picked one of the two maps. That map is called the following ‘Gerrymander Index’.

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<th>New Jersey Legislative Districts</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2007</th>
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<tr>
<td># of Assembly Seats</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>%D</td>
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<td>%R in Assembly</td>
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It seems the Republican and Democratic Party votes in all 40 Districts, and compares that distribution with the resulting Party distribution of legislators, after each of the most recent four redistricting maps: those of 1981, 1991, 2002 and 2011. Alan Rosenthal’s most recent choice was of the Democratic Party’s map, which resulted in the election of 11 Democrats to the Assembly than would have been expected based on the statewide distribution of Party votes. (There were actually more votes for Republicans than Assembly members last round than for Democrats, yet the Assembly has a considerable Democratic majority of members)! You can see that gerrymandering has gotten worse in the last 40 years.

Can anything be done? New Jersey’s Constitution specifies only population as requisite criteria for redistricting, and other considerations might include spatial continuity, municipal cohesion, critical mass for minorities, and faithfulness to party voting (statewide). Only a Constitutional Amendment could change the criteria! A European perspective (that I get from my friends there) is that the important choice in an election should not be the personality of the candidate, but rather the ideology of the policy party (E.g. if in Britain one votes Labour or Tory or LibDem or UKIP.) In some countries, the elected candidates are then taken from the top down on a list, in proportion to a party’s vote.

Winston Churchill once reminded us that we have the worst political system imaginable – except for all the other systems. But how little of a democracy we have!

In recent months President Obama has taken some bold steps to address climate change and other environmental issues, despite counter-pressure from Big Oil and Republicans. But just when I thought he had seen the light and realized that he can’t count on help from the Republican Party in pursuing the goals of the Paris agreement, he has apparently decided that nothing that leaves me scratching my head.

This past fall was one of those head-scratching moments. One year earlier the Republican leadership, yielding to pressure from its tea party crazies, threatened to shut down the government if the President did not agree to emasculate the Affordable Care Act. The administration refused and the government was shut down. The entire episode was a disaster for the Republican Party, yet they did Republican fail to achieve any of their objectives, they also incurred the gerrymandered US Congress throughout the country who overwhelmingly blamed the Republicans for the shutdown.

Fast forward to 2014. It’s no secret that House Speaker Boehner opposed a shutdown or that Republicans would be blamed as the party that caused a government shut down. Not if there was one. A spending agreement, on the other hand, would have redefined the role of the US President as the premier party identifier and, according to The New York Times, “would put the Speaker’s House on a potential path to enabling the kinds of big legislation—on budget politics, tax reform and energy—that he envisions.”

The Obama administration and Democratic members of Congress appeared to be in the driver’s seat. It was in their interests, as well as the best interests of the country as a whole, to take a strong stand and not give into Republican extortion attempts. Why did they do it? They threw in the towel and gave the Republicans pretty much everything they asked for

Let’s start with the two provisions in the budget bill that have received the most attention from the environmental community: one that further rolls back campaign finance reform (as if the Supreme Court could help; it might help the Democrats, not the executive branch) and a second provision that weakens hard-fought financial regulatory reforms. Let’s start with the second provision: that the EPA to withdraw a new rule defining mountaintop removal, a process whereby forested areas in Appalachia are clear-cut and destroyed – forested areas, streams and habitats. The entire ecosystem is destroyed – forested areas, streams. The entire ecosystem is destroyed – forested areas, streams and habitats for countless species.

The Sierra Club, including many of our states, has been fighting mountain top removal and the devastation it has caused, including efforts to challenge the Bush-era rule that permits the dumping of toxic coal waste into Appalachian streams.

We approved by-laws for our LGBT (Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender) Section

By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)

We approved new by-laws for our LGBT (Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender) Section. The New Jersey Chapter recommends a vote for Spencer Black in the upcoming election for the Sierra Club’s Board of Directors, a procedure that was permitted by rulemaking is now authorized by statute. This will make it so much harder to take on corporate polluters because it will end this environmentally destructive practice.

And then there’s the sage grouse. The budget bill prohibits the Fish and Wildlife Service from using their authority over the sage grouse to the endangered species list. If the two species were to be designated endangered species, they should be under the Endangered Species Act, habitat upon which they depend for their very survival would be off limits to the oil and gas industry. It doesn’t matter that the industry already has ready access to vast areas of public lands. They want more. And they are not about to let the sage grouse, or any other species for that matter, stand in their way.

The list of anti-environmental provisions contained in law by the budget bill goes on and on. Here are a few highlights (or should I call them lowlights?): A reduction of $60 million in the EPA budget, the lowest budget the EPA has had to work with since 2006; the Bush-era rule that permits the dumping of vast amounts of polluted mine waste in national forests; the Green Climate Fund, an internation al fund to help developing countries mitigate and adapt to climate change; a relaxation of restrictions on power plants; prohibiting funds for regulating lead for hunting and fishing purposes; a reduction in research to improve fuel efficiency; and prohibiting the EPA from requiring farmers to report greenhouse gas emissions from manure management systems and from requiring ranchers to obtain permits for methane emissions produced by bovine flatulence and belching. The EPA has identified the agriculture sector as the primary contributor of methane emissions worldwide. And clearly we’re a large part of that.

Had enough? If not, here are a few more examples of anti-environmental provisions contained in the budget bill:

- provisions enshrined into law via the Budget Act, habitat upon which they depend for the mountaintop mining industry and oil and gas industry. This will make it so much harder to take on corporate polluters because it will end this environmentally destructive practice.

In our annual reorganization, Ken Johanson was re-elected Chapter Chair having served in this position since 2005. Other officers including Issue Coordinators were approved; they are listed on p. 12 of this Newsletter. Changes included new service by Laura Tracey-Coll as Chapter Membership Chair. (Jan)

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A variety of Club books, notecards, badges and clothing is available from www.sierraclub.org/store
A Terminal for Liquefied Natural Gas

On Jan 8th a public hearing was held in Eatontown (Monmouth Co) on a proposed terminal for the oceanic shipment of liquefied natural gas (LNG) – to be located off the coast at Port Ambridge, near Sandy Hook. The facility, to be owned by Liberty Natural Gas, LLC, would receive imported LNG, convert it back into a gas, and then pump it into regional pipelines on both the New Jersey and the New York sides of the harbor.

This despite a current glut of fracked natural gas in the United States. A previous proposal by the company was vetoed by Gov. Christie in 2010. The hearing was an opportunity to come to a decision. The public has an opportunity to make known their environmental, health, and public safety concerns regarding this proposal.

The Sierra Club thinks this facility is unnecessary and would be dangerous. Natural gas is a fossil fuel; its burning generates carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that warms the planet and acidifies the oceans, impacting our fisheries. Promoting its use undermines clean energy efforts.

The ships that transport LNG are almost the size of the Empire State Building, so an accident or a terrorist attack would produce a major disaster.

It would be easy to convert an import terminal into an export facility. Last year Congress passed a law amending port licenses to allow both imports and exports. The export of American natural gas would result in higher energy costs and more environmental impacts across the region.

The site would be an ideal location for offshore wind turbines. The terminal would displace, not eliminate, chemical waste and emissions. This terminal for shipping liquefied natural gas (LNG) – to be located in Monmouth County, which would presumably new oil and gas leases into the state's waters.

On Jan 27th the Obama Administration announced its 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program. The proposal would continue prohibitions of dirty fuel development along the Pacific and Northern Atlantic coasts, as well as in some parts of the Arctic Sea north of Alaska, but open up new areas off the Atlantic and Alaskan coasts to drilling. The Continental Shelf from Georgia to Virginia would be offered to the oil companies.

We think this would put New Jersey's coast at risk. Drilling south of the Maryland border would put oil rigs 100 miles from Cape May, home to a substantial commercial fishing fleet. Prevailing currents would carry any spill there to our beaches, threatening our tourism and fisheries industries. New Jersey's coastal economy is just beginning to come back from Hurricane Sandy. We need offshore drilling like we need another hurricane.

The Sierra Club's Don't Rig Our Coastal Economy report found that New Jersey's coastal tourism industry and New York's travel industry would suffer as a result of oil rig development, as would local fishing fleets.

Instead of drilling off our coast we should end the billions in subsidies for big oil and use that money for clean energy. We should explore new technologies for solar, wind and wave power and remove obstacles that stand in their way.

Don't Blow Up Federal Hill

Sierra Club members are troubled by an application to the Tison Company to expand its operations in Bloomfielding (Passaic Co). Tison would like to expand quarry operations on the 185-acre Meer Tract on Federal Hill. This area is zoned for affordable housing.

Tison announced its intention to attend Bloomfielding Council meetings on February 3rd and February 17th to explain its proposal. The Sierra Club has worked for decades to preserve Federal Hill and this part of the New Jersey Highlands. Federal Hill is environmentally sensitive, containing many endangered species, exceptional resource features, and important streams for trout production and water supply. Federal Hill is also an important historic site: it is where the Pompton Mutiny took place in 1781. It also constitutes part of an existing ecological corridor between the highlands and the lowlands.

Expanding the quarry would be an environmental disaster. By their nature, quarries are heavy industrial mining operations that destroy everything in their surroundings: streams, aquifers, wildlife, vegetation, and people. People are not allowed to put debris in streams or wetlands, yet quarries can dig out streams and wetlands. They generate large volumes of water, air pollution, and toxic emissions. The runoff will contain oil and other pollutants. There will be air pollution from heavy equipment, quarry processing equipment and trucks. The pollution will impact both road and waterways.

There is no legal basis for the Land Use Law to zone an area that is environmentally sensitive for heavy, industrial, extractive use. The existing zone violated Bloomfielding's zoning and Master Plan as well as the Highlands Plan, so the Sierra Club and others have opposed it. This is an affordable housing site it could lead to changes in Bloomfielding's COAH (Council on Affordable Housing) plan, resulting in the development of other environmentally sensitive areas. You don't save the Highlands by trucking its mountains all over New Jersey.
In 2011 a state law sought to protect New Jersey's electricity supply by mandating the BPU to approve 2000 MW of new, natural gas-powered, electricity generating plants. It has approved three new plants, one in the Ironbound section of Newark, to be built by the Hess Corporation. The Newark Energy Center, as it is called, is now owned by “Energy Investor Funds” consortium, and is scheduled to open in 2017. The DEP has approved for two new air permits from the DEP. The Sierra Club opposed this power plant from the beginning. – on grounds of envi- ronmental justice. The Ironbound is a poor, minority community that has long suf- fered from toxic pollution from factories, incinerators, truck traffic from the Port of Newark and New Jersey Turnpike. The state has a variety of firearm hunting seasons for a variety of species: deer, bear, turkey, pheasant, bobwhite, quail, snipe, woodcock, grouse, ducks, and geese. New Jersey Sierra Club members participate in more than 200 hikes per year. The Conservation Foundation alone has acquired and maintains 130,000 acres; New Jersey Highlands Coalition, New Jersey Sierra Club, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, and the Land Conservancy of New Jersey have sent a letter to the Senate and Assembly Leadership to ask them to not allow the bill to move forward. This law deregulates our water supply, limiting oversight by the Board of Public Utilities and the public. After buying the water utilities, the private companies would not be required even to fix the infrastructure of the water systems that they take over. It tells us who the Governor goes to bed with. This bill, if successful, will produce long term problems. Some of the private water companies are multinationals, with management headquarters in Germany or France. They will be able to go out of business without paying costs for the systems they closed. The Sierra Club opposed this power plant from the beginning: on grounds of envi- ronmental justice. The Ironbound is a poor, minority community that has long suf- fered from toxic pollution from factories, incinerators, truck traffic from the Port of Newark and New Jersey Turnpike. The state has a variety of firearm hunting seasons for a variety of species: deer, bear, turkey, pheasant, bobwhite, quail, snipe, woodcock, grouse, ducks, and geese. New Jersey Sierra Club members participate in more than 200 hikes per year. The Conservation Foundation alone has acquired and maintains 130,000 acres; New Jersey Highlands Coalition, New Jersey Sierra Club, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, and the Land Conservancy of New Jersey have sent a letter to the Senate and Assembly Leadership to ask them to not allow the bill to move forward.

PennEast Pipeline: Another Atrocity

The PennEast Pipeline Company is a consortium of seven partners, including PSEG Power LLC and South Jersey Industries, which (according to its website) proposes to bring “affordable natural gas” from the Marcellus Shale of Pennsylvania to customers in New Jersey. At a cost of approximately $1 billion, this new 108-mile, 36-inch diameter pipeline will deliver approximately 1 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day.

The pipeline will originate in Delaware, Luzerne County, in northeastern Pennsylvania, and terminate at the Transco pipeline interconnection near Pennington, in Mercer County. The route will pass close to Lambertville, cutting through Swamp Creek Reservoir. Though much of it is along an existing right of way, most of the right of way is pret- tated government owned land. The EPA, NJDEP, and state and local authorities have been contacted. The pipeline will travel through four counties: Hunterdon, Warren, Morris and Sussex. It will cross the Delaware and Raritan Canal, the D & R Canal, and Bullhead Mountain. And much of the right of way is narrow and bordered by old- growth trees. We think the impacts will be devastating. It will cross 39 parks, 88 waterways, 42 wetlands, and 35 farms and other open space areas will suffer degradation. NJ Sierra spoke against the pipeline at each of the public meetings. Our statement can be found here: https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/doc/new-jersey/chapter/Documents/022515_Scoping_Comments.pdf

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

Gov. Christie Signs Water Infrastructure Protection Act - which will do the Opposite!

On Feb 5th Governor Christie sold off New Jersey’s water supply by signing S2412/A3628, which would authorize municipal, county, and regional governments to sell or lease their water utilities to private companies, in a process that would avoid any pub- lic notice, comments, or approval. This law was opposed by the League of Municipalities, the NJ Business & Industry Assn, our largest municipal workers’ union (CWA), and the Association of New Jersey Authorities. It tells us who the Governor goes to bed with. This law will raise rates for both homeowners and businesses. Citizens who object to a lease or sale would have to get a petition signed by 15% of the affected voters. This law deregulates our water supply, limiting oversight by the Board of Public Utilities and the public. After buying the water utilities, the private companies would not be required even to fix the infrastructure of the water systems that they take over. (Bayonne recently privatized its water supplier; its first move was to charge the tax- payers for fixing the leaks.) Privatization would result in a short term financial gain for municipalities, but will produce long term problems. Some of the private water companies are multinationals, with management headquarters in Germany or France. They will be able to go out of business without paying costs for the systems they closed. The Sierra Club opposed this power plant from the beginning: on grounds of envi- ronmental justice. The Ironbound is a poor, minority community that has long suf- fered from toxic pollution from factories, incinerators, truck traffic from the Port of Newark and New Jersey Turnpike. The state has a variety of firearm hunting seasons for a variety of species: deer, bear, turkey, pheasant, bobwhite, quail, snipe, woodcock, grouse, ducks, and geese. New Jersey Sierra Club members participate in more than 200 hikes per year. The Conservation Foundation alone has acquired and maintains 130,000 acres; New Jersey Highlands Coalition, New Jersey Sierra Club, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, and the Land Conservancy of New Jersey have sent a letter to the Senate and Assembly Leadership to ask them to not allow the bill to move forward.

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

Say Goodbye to the Meadowlands

On Feb 5th the Governor signed S2647/A3969 (Sarlo/Prieto), which consolidates the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and the Sports & Exposition Authority into a single Meadowlands Regional Commission. The New Jersey Sierra Club finds this an environmental insult and tragedy. The Governor has disposed of the Meadowlands’ regional planning and environment protections. Among other consequences, he condemns Liberty State Park to become an amusement park, and he subsidizes the American Dream Megamall. For 45 years the Meadowlands Commission has helped protect thousands of acres of wetlands, steering development to less-environmentally sensitive areas. This legislation was rushed through, with changes made through an emergency action, never getting the public scrutiny it deserves. As officially written, it would have eliminated the New Jersey Sport & Exposition Authority; the changed version eliminates the Meadowlands Commission. This bill dismantles the Meadowlands Regional Plan, returning most of the review process and zoning back to the towns. It gives towns broad powers to grant exemp- tions from ordinances and building regulations. It privatizes the Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute. It will weaken protections for critical wetlands in the Meadowlands. This legislation will promote the low cost control projects such as dikes, channels and walls that will promote more intensive development. As one might expect from Christie, it does not consider climate change, sea level rise, or projected storm surges and their impacts on the Meadowlands. The new Commission will receive the bond- ing authority formerly held by the Sports & Exposition Authority, which means it can borrow money to build massive flood control projects that will not work. It will also be able to fund and build major transportation improvements not tied to any real plan- ning. The new Commission would also be able to bond for the American Dream Megamall and subsidize other development. It could even site a casino. Forget about affordable housing in the Meadowlands. The tax sharing formula has also been elimi- nated, creating a newerable clause promoting inappropriate development. (On 2011 The Sierra Club and Jeff Tittel received Toobi & Pete Seeger Wetlands Award for Protecting the Meadowlands.)

NY Bans Fracking! Where’s Christie?

On Dec 17th, New York State officials announced that an environmental review of hydraulic fracturing would be released early this year and would prohibit the use of fracking statewide.

The decision is based on science – including the potential for damage to the envi- ronment from the drilling. It’s York’s Gov. Cuomo, Delaware’s Gov. Markell, and incoming Pennsylvania Gov. Wolf all oppose drilling in the Delaware River Basin, which includes the Marcellus Shale Formation. We believe this will keep the existing moratorium in place so that we can protect wetlands and permanent back. So where’s Christie? New Jersey’s Governor continues to block attempts to ban fracking in New Jersey. He vetoed a bill that would have banned fracking and has now twice vetoed a bill that would have banned the disposal of fracking waste in New Jersey. Gov. Christie continues to allow radioactive and otherwise toxic chemical fracking waste to be treated and dumped in New Jersey. Might it be because the fracking industry has contributed heavily to his campaign expenses?

Where’s Christie?

Meadowlands

This bill would impact all outdoor recreation clubs, environmental educators, hik- ers, bikers, trail builders, birders, nature photographers, homeowners, and taxpayers who have funded the purchase of open space in New Jersey. The New Jersey Conservation Foundation alone has acquired and maintains $30,000 acres. New Jersey Sierra Club members participate in more than 200 hikes per year.

As of 2013, hunters make up less than one percent of the State’s population. The state has a warm hunting season and a variety of species: bear, deer, turkey, various geese and duck species, pheasant, bobwhite, quail, snipe, woodcock, grouse, various rail species, crows, coyote, fox, possum, raccoon, squirrel, rabbit, and wood- check. At least 3 species is “in season” every weekend.

Ten other states in our region ban hunting on Sundays, so this bill, if successful, might attract hunters from other states. New Jersey currently allows bow hunting on private lands on Sundays, but not in parks and towns. This bill would also allow bow hunting on public lands, where most people do their hunting.

Our coalition includes: New Jersey Conservation Foundation, New Jersey Highlands Coalition, New Jersey Sierra Club, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, and the Land Conservancy of New Jersey. We have sent a letter to the Senate and Assembly Leadership to ask them to not allow the bill to move forward.

Coalition to Oppose Sunday Hunting

From a Press Release

A coalition of groups who enjoy, maintain, and support New Jersey’s public lands is in opposition to S699 (Kyrillos), a bill that was voted favorably out of the State Senate’s Environment and Energy Committee on Jan 12th. Our coalition includes organi- zations that enjoy, maintain, and support public lands: New Jersey Highlands Coalition, New Jersey Sierra Club, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, and the Land Conservancy of New Jersey. We have sent a letter to the Senate and Assembly Leadership to ask them to not allow the bill to move forward.

NY Bans Fracking! Where’s Christie?

From a Press Release

The Jersey Sierran: April–June 2015

Gov. Christie Signs Water Infrastructure Protection Act - which will do the Opposite!

From a Press Release issued by Jeff Tittel, Chapter Director (jeff.titel@sierraclub.org)

PennEast Pipeline: Another Atrocity

From a Press Release issued on Feb 3rd

Say Goodbye to the Meadowlands

From a Press Release

More Dirty Air for Newark's Ironbound Community

From a Press Release issued on Feb 3rd

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From a Press Release issued by Jeff Titel, Chapter Director (jeff.titel@sierraclub.org)
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 Hadley Street, Clinton, NJ 08809 on the first Wednesday of each month!

May 15 (Wed): Executive and Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:40pm at 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 more about the Club, discuss issues, plan future events, and become more active. Please check the online calendar of events to confirm date and time, or contact John at jkashwick@gmail.com.

May 12 (Tue): Film: "Koch Brothers Exposed: 2014 Edition." 7pm at River Vale Public Library, 412 Rivervale Rd, River Vale, N.J. The 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 the Jersey Sierran: April–June 2015.

May 18 (Sat): “Springsummer at Greenbrook” Guided Walk. 1pm at Greenbrook Sanctuary, Greenbrook Road, Tenafly. Join us for a guided walk through the 16-acre sanctuary led by naturalist Sandra Bonardi. Participants must pre-register for this event on Meetup or our web site. You can also email John at jkashwick@gmail.com to discuss issues, plan future events, and become more active. Please check the online calendar of events to confirm date and time, or contact John at jkashwick@gmail.com.

Meetings and Events:

Unless otherwise noted, general meetings are free and open to general public. Please confirm topics, dates, times, and venues of our meetings by visiting our web site, Meetup, or Facebook pages (see above for URL). You can also email us at northjersey.sierraclub@gmail.com.

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June 3 (Tue): Living with New Jersey Black Bears. 7pm at Oradell Public Library, 375 Kinderkamack Road, Oradell. The mission of the Bear Education and Research.
Resource Group is to teach people how to live responsibly with black bears and to advocate for their protection. Elaine Dunn, Education Coordinator will speak about recent legislation affecting the bears and what people can do to avoid conflicts.

Earth Day Events, We plan to table at the Northern Valley Earth Fair in Old Tappan on Apr 25 and the Paramus Green Fair on Apr 26. Please stop by and say hello. We’d like to participate in other events as well but need more volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact John at jashkovich@gmail.com.

CONSERVATION ISSUES:
- Protecting the Palisades: LG Electronics, a multinational corporation, is planning to build an oil tower in Englewood Cliffs that will rise high above the tree-line of the Palisades, and for the first time, violate the unspiled ridgeline—a view enjoyed by Americans for centuries. Before the founding of our nation, LG’s proposed office tower will rise 145 feet above grade—far higher than the 55-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 Palisades Preservation coalition working to stop this overdevelopment. To get involved, please contact Jennifer Rothschild at jenjroth2@gmail.com.
- Pilgrim Pipeline: The proposed Pilgrim Pipeline is a dual 178 miles pipeline between Albany, NY and Linden, NJ. It will likely contain Bakken shale oil that will be sent south to New Jersey and refined products (including kerosene) will be sent north back to Albany. The pipelines will cross five New Jersey counties (including Bergen and Passaic) through some of the most fragile areas vital to maintaining water quality in all communities. There would be major impact on environment, public health and property values. You would hear the banging of having this risk and disruption without any benefit. A spill or explosion could be catastrophic, endangering our water supply, risking the lives of thousands, and overwhelming our emergency response resources. We are working to get communities in both counties to pass resolutions opposing this pipeline project. For more information, please contact Jeff Rapaport at jeffrap@optonline.net.

Sign up for North Jersey Group email notices by emailing John at jashkovich@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 open space projects in the long run where we do clean-up in our nearby state parks and forests. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Marty at martincorh@verizon.net.

OUTINGS: If you would like to learn how to become an outings leader, please contact John at elbenekenrants@hotmail.com or Mary Walsh at blchewalt@hotmail.com to get more information.

Loantaka Group

(Morris and Union Counties (except for Elizabeth and Hillside), plus Livingston, Millburn, Roseland, and a small part of Morris County.)

WEBSITE: http://new.jersey.sierrabc.org/loantaka/

OFFICERS:
- Group Co-Chairs: Eric Hauser 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com and Paul Sanderson 908-235-2414 paulsanderson@aol.com
- Treasurer: Paul Sanderson 908-235-2414 paulsanderson@aol.com
- Secretary: Scott McCarthy 813-767-5593 hi_risescott@earthlink.net

Conservation Chair:
- Morris County: Open Position!
- Union County: Open Position!
- Political Chair: Ceci Carcich 908-892-7229 info@CeciCarcich.com
- Programs: Eric Hauser 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com
- Fundraising Chair: Eric Hauser 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com

MEMBER EVENTS:
- Events Chair: Open Position!
- Publicity Chair: Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442 wynnjo@comcast.net

Memberships:
- Air Quality Coordinator: Bob Campbell 975-761-4466 bcole2023_ac@verizon.net
- Outings Chair: Wanda Knapi 908-452-2198 ldrmark40@BbandGmail.com
- Webmaster: Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442 wynnjo@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://new.jersey.sierrabc.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 Chatham's, 214 Main St, Chatham. All members are welcome to 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 introduce ourselves. Please see the schedule, below, and join us!

DIRECTIONS: posted on our website: http://new.jersey.sierrabc.org/loantaka/

MEETING SCHEDULE:
- Apr 8: The latest addition to our ExCom, Wanda Knapi, our Outings Chair, will give a presentation on Permaculture, of which she has vast experience. Permaculture is defined as: the development of agricultural ecosystems intended to be sustainable and self-sufficient. Many eco-villages operate on the basis of the principles of Permaculture.
- May 13: Laura Szewal of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation (the organization that evolved from a Permaculture group that supported the ground-breaking airport from built in the Great Swamp) will talk to us about the current state of efforts to prevent inappropriate development in our state. She has been the outreach and education director for many years. Her group is another vigorous opponent of all gas pipelines.
- Jun 10: Christina Sadovy who has been involved in the Beyond Coal campaign of the National Sierra Club will offer a presentation on the topic of Energy Efficiency.

ACTIVITIES: (Consult our website (http://new.jersey.sierrabc.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 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 (908-235-2414) or Eric (732-669-0719).

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

Find the latest at https://www.facebook.com/CentralJuNCSC.
GROUP NEWS
(Continued from page 7)
Join our distribution list to receive timely information in infrequent emails. Please vol-
unteer to help us. Openings for Outings, Outreach, Publicity, Webmaster and more.
Contact Nicole Dallara at nicole.dallara@sierraclub.org.

OFFICERS:
Chair, and
Energy Issues: Bob Benjamin 609 587-9069 robbenjamin@outlook.com
Conservation: Kip Cherry 609/242-4327 kip@sierraclub.org
Environment Chair: Ray Benesty 609 587-9069 robbenjamin@outlook.com
Membership: Bill Wosk 609-610-6439 bwosk1@outlook.com
Political: Terry Stimpfel 609-731-7016 terystimp@hotmail.com
Recycle: Bob Sokol 732-308-4588 fusche40@yahoo.com
Ex-Jo: Anne Pannone 609-443-6992 pteamwoodbrook@gmail.com
Ex-Jo: Lynne Weiss 732-821-9688 bhz05@gmail.com

Group Chair: Roomi Nousat 609-390-6036 sierra_nr_raritan@att.net
Group Vice Chair: Open position!
Outings Coordinator: Open position!
Webmaster: Open position!
Treasure: Open position!
Recycle Chair: Open position!
Political Chair: Open position!
Conservation Chair: Nancy Gladfeldter nnglad.nj@gmail.com
Membership: Open position!

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

Our monthly meetings are usually on a weekday evening of the third week. We have
a program with convenient telephone conferences to update the membership on activi-
ties. Please write to us on email sierra_nr_raritan@att.net to participate.

Meetings Location and Updates: Because meeting dates and locations change; please subscribe to our Email list: NJ-RARITAN-VALLEY/NEWS after creating a password on http://lists.sierraclub.org/

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

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

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2. Passage of and responsible implementation of environmentally friendly zoning and development ordinances.
3. Prevention of destruction of conserved land or commercial or other develop-

shore region. We discuss the center’s work for the past six years at
serving stranded whales, dolphins, seals and sea turtles. Located in Brigantine, he
and his wife, Sheila Dean, and a small paid staff and volunteers, have responded since 1978 to about 4,500 mammal strandings that have washed ashore along the New Jersey coast-
line. The center operates under permits and authorizations from New Jersey and US
government agencies. Even though these permits sanction the rescue of strandings
only in New Jersey, the Center occasionally assists agencies in other states. All funding
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 II and II. Use parking lot 7. As you walk towards the building
crossing the Warner bridge, the SLC is on your right. Do not go full, use parking lots 5
or 6. A campus map is at http://www.brookdale.edu/pdf/Maps/MAP_04_08.pdf.

Apr 27: Dinos ‘Soar’ in New Jersey – Still – The only remaining major ‘dinosaur’

2. Passage of and responsible implementation of environmentally friendly zoning and development ordinances.
3. Prevention of destruction of conserved land or commercial or other develop-

6.1. Protection of the Raritan River basin area.
6.2. Passage of and responsible implementation of environmentally friendly zoning and development ordinances.
6.3. Prevention of destruction of conserved land or commercial or other develop-

May 18: In NJ Running Out of Water? – Robert Keckes, retired planner in the NJ
Department of Environmental Protection, will discuss the increased demands on the state’s water supply and what it means for residents and local governments. Free admission. The program 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.

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or 6. A campus map is at http://www.brookdale.edu/pdf/Maps/MAP_04_08.pdf.

Apr 27: Dinos ‘Soar’ in New Jersey – Still – The only remaining major ‘dinosaur’

2. Passage of and responsible implementation of environmentally friendly zoning and development ordinances.
3. Prevention of destruction of conserved land or commercial or other develop-

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6.2. Passage of and responsible implementation of environmentally friendly zoning and development ordinances.
6.3. Prevention of destruction of conserved land or commercial or other develop-

May 18: In NJ Running Out of Water? – Robert Keckes, retired planner in the NJ
Department of Environmental Protection, will discuss the increased demands on the state’s water supply and what it means for residents and local governments. Free admission. The program 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 II and II. Use parking lot 7. As you walk towards the building
crossing the Warner bridge, the SLC is on your right. Do not go full, use parking lots 5
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Apr 27: Dinos ‘Soar’ in New Jersey – Still – The only remaining major ‘dinosaur’

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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 meetings, workshops and presentations on issues ranging from housing affordability, performance standards for child care facilities, to sewage treatment plants in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. We’re also involved in the campaigns to create a new park at “Anchor Rock” on the Delaware Bay and a campaign to protect a 1000-acre piece of land in May (Preserving 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, funding and a computer-based voter education program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about our activities and events, please visit our 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/WestJerseyGroupNJC

Log on and Like Us!

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Gina Carola 856-848-8831 ginacee@verizon.net
Vice-Chair: Frank Zinni efrini@aol.com
Secretary: Ellen Zinni efrini@aol.com
Treasurer: Trish Clements patri3210@gmail.com
Publicity Chair: Anne Caridi bearclaws@msn.com
Conservation Chair: Call Gina to volunteer. 856-848-8831
Pineland Rep: Lee Snyder pineland1@hotmail.com
Greenways Coord: Frank and Ellen Zinni efrini@aol.com
Conservation Expect: Aida Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Membership Chair: Mike Brown 856-574-9221 eyeBrown@verizon.net
Fundraising Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer. 856-848-8831
Smart Growth Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer. 856-848-8831
Programs Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer. 856-848-8831
Outings Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer. 856-848-8831

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

Apr 8: Camden County Citizen Science Opportunities – Maggie McCann will present opportunities for volunteering in Camden County at the Environmental Center’s demonstration gardens, the Master Gardener program, Bike Share, Citizen Science and the Environment. 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 positions as we have volunteers to fill them. If you have the slightest urge to get involved, please contact one of our officers!

May 13: Sustainability in Camden County - Chris Waldron, LEED AP and Director in the Office of Sustainability and Shared Services for Camden County will discuss ongoing efforts to make Camden County a model of sustainability.

The West Jersey Group does not meet in June, July or August. Please join us on a hike or paddling out. See you on September 9.

Directions: From I-295, take exit 54B onto Rt 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 Kings Hwy). Go over Rt 70 and you will be briefly on Rt 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 one block right on to Friends Ave. Go one block north on Friends Ave 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 Chair: Tom Boghosian 609-625-0878 boghosian1@verizon.net
Vice-Chair: Open Position! Conservation Chair: Open Position!
Pol, Chair: Open Position! Secretary/Treasurer: Joyce Haddad 609-965-4455 dick.colby@stockton.edu
Membership Chair: Open Position! 609-432-3880 julieakers65@aol.com

The central conservation issue, for which the South Jersey Group was founded in the 1970’s, continues to be protection of the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and the ever continuing efforts to make Camden County a model of sustainability.

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 a local social group who have a wide additional “interest” of Club involvement. Everyone is welcome to attend our events. Meet fellow Club members and others who care about the environment. We can only offer as many positions as we have volunteers to fill 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/nt_calend.ar.html.

You can now also “like” us on Facebook: “Singles Group New Jersey Sierra Club”.

OFFICERS:

Chair: To be announced
Outings Chair: Joyce Haddad jhaddad@juno.com
Conservation Chair: Position Open! Contact us! We need you!
Programs Chair: Joyce White joyce_white@exec.com
Social Chair: Joe Prebish Joe.Prebish@kraft.com
Vice Social Chair: Jeff Sovelove HikerDood@yahoo.com
Programs Chair: 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 nancy.sullivan@comcast.net

2015 Executive Committee members: Joyce Haddad, Ron Pate, Joe Prebish, Jeff Sovelove, Daphne Speck Bartynski, 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 us at “skyfall.cafe” in the Ocean County, NJ. We’re looking for 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.

(Note continued on page 10)
GROUP NEWS

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. Upcoming outings 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 (Apr 11, May 9, June 13) and Jess Sobolow (Apr 11, May 23, June 20). 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 Apr 19, Apr 25, May 7 and June 14. Check the Singles listserv for announcements of more Silver Singles outings.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Section

The mission of this Section is to support Sierra Club goals, and to promote activism within the LGBT community through letter writing, phone calls, and other active support for environmental issues. All members and nonmembers are welcome to join our outings regardless of sexual orientation.

WEB SITE: http://www.sierraclub.org/newjersey/LGBT/
MEETUP: http://www.meetup.com/njsierrclub
FACEBOOK: Pending

OFFICERS:
Co-Chair: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com
Secretary: Jonathan Wall* psychologistjaw@gmail.com
Treasurer: Corbett Klein * corbettklein@outlook.com
Outings Co-Chair: Corbett Klein * corbettklein@outlook.com
Webmaster: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com
Ex-Com Member: OPEN POSITION—contact John or Robert if interested
(* Section Executive Committee Member)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:
Apr 11 (Sat): Black River Trail Hike. 10am. Black River County Park/Copper Mill, Chester. We’ll hike about 7 miles plus along the Black River through pine forest and view the Kay’s Cottage ruins and stop to have our bagged lunch around half way through. Tim and I are transporting and leading this hike. Location: Chester. Leader: Robert Zitzman (robertmz@att.net).

Apr 22 (Wed): Executive Committee Conference Call. 7-10pm. Help plan for the summer months and discuss administrative issues. Contact John for dial in number and more information at jkashwick@gmail.com.

May 2 (Sat): Wharton State Forest Hike. 10am. Wharton State Forest, Hampton. We’ll hike about 10 miles on the Anson to Quaker Bridge loop. We’ll stop for a bagged lunch at the halfway point. Leader: Robert Zitzman (robertmz@att.net).

June 15 (Sat): Washington Crossing Bike Ride, 10am. Washington Crossing State Park, Titusville. Celebrate Pride Month with us and we take a leisurely 15 mile bike ride along the D&R Canal to New Hope/Lambertville and back. Leader: Corbett Klein (corbettklein@outlook.com).

Dates and times subject to change. Participants should register for outings at http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp or www.meetup.com/njsierrclub. Please contact leader for more information. 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.

Singles Outings Coordinators: Please submit your write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator (or, if you don’t have one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it for consideration for our next meeting). 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 Sierra with the appropriate deadline. Also, please send out posters or sign-ups sheets to the Chapter office as soon as possible after each outing.

Note: Group Outings Coordinators must submit your July-September 2015 trip write-ups by May 8.

Sierra Sierrans

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. Regular 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.

This past weekend 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 regular regular hikes 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”.

GROUP NEWS COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Head Chair: William Severchuk wsevchuk@yahoo.com
Vice Chair: Open Position Please Contact Us!
Moderator: Diana Christine Eichold DustyAngel222@aol.com
Conservation Chair: Steve Timmerman skiingsteve@aol.com
Webmaster: Julie Garber journey7@optonline.net
Ex-Com/Member: OPEN POSITION Please Contact Us!

SINGULAR YIERNED RAPN, (CA)
Northern Jersey YS Rep.
Outings Chair: (Northern Jersey) Open Position Please Contact Us!
Outings Chair: (Central Jersey) Leon Yerenburg lyerenburg@gmail.com
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. Regular insurance and guidance are provided under the Sierra Club’s membership. If interested contact Chair or Young Sierran Coordinator at YoungSierrans@yahoo.com.

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GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

Skylarks: Vacant
South Highlands: Jonathan Wall psychologistjaw@gmail.com
North Jersey: Ellen Blumenkrantz eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-4147
Gutter: David Osgood, 873-2036 (H) 64 Elm Rd, Caldwell 07006
Loantaka: Vacant
Connectics: Vacant
Raritan Valley: Vacant
Jenney Shores: Mike, Mike, 908-732-404 (H) 1497 W 3rd St, Long Branch 07740
Loves on: Vacant
Ocean County: Revon Barnes, 848-333-7331
West Jersey: Vacant
South Jersey: Tom Boghosian, 609-625-0878 (H) 4794 Antzora Drive, Mans Landing 08330
tbohach@verizon.net

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

Note: Group Outings Coordinators must submit your July-September 2015 trip write-ups by May 8.

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 section with the motto: no Child Left Inside!)

OFFICERS:
Chair: Marty Cohen 201-676-8883 mcoben@verizon.net
Treasurer: Annie Dyjak 752-560-0955 amdyjak@verizon.net

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OFFICERS:
Communications: Open Position—contact Ex-Com/Member

Inner City Outings Section: Please submit your write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator (or, if you don’t have one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it for consideration for our next meeting). 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 Sierra with the appropriate deadline. Also, please send out posters or sign-ups sheets to the Chapter office as soon as possible after each outing.

Outing Leaders: Please send your September-2015 write-up to your Group Outings Coordinator if you don’t associate yourself with a single Group, directly to Ellen Blumenkrantz, the Chapter Outings Chair before May 5. If you are planning an event out to the closest of the beginning of one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it for the previous Sierra due to the occasional lag in mailing. Also, please send out posters or sign-ups sheets to the Chapter office as soon as possible after each outing.

TRACE ION: Open Position–contact Ex-Com/Member

Note: Group Outings Coordinators must submit your July-September 2015 trip write-ups by May 8.
NOTES ON OUTINGS: All Outings are open to Club members and non-members alike, unless otherwise specified. The outings are free and open to the public. Remember to bring water, a snack, a change of clothes, and rubber-soled shoes. For most trips, you are expected to have your own equipment, but if you do not own the necessary equipment, boats, or related equipment, you may borrow them. If you have any allergies, please remember to bring your EpiPen! Board the bus or launch the kayak at the discretion of the leader. If the weather is questionable on the date of the outing, please call the leader to see that the outing will take place, unless the schedule indicates otherwise.

Unless registration is required, such as for overnight trips or trips requiring permits, you do not need to contact the leader before the trip. Note: As these outings are planned many months in advance, we do advise that you contact the trip leader 2-3 days before the outing to make sure it is still on. Do not call to join a trip after the posted deadline date.

A WOOD CHAIR IN YOUR KAYAK?? NO WAY! A CAMPING CHAIR IS A MUCH BETTER CHOICE!

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OUTINGS

(Continued from page 17)

termin. Great views of the Puckenock Watershed and Terrence Pond. Streamers: Facilities: None. No beginners. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch required. Transportation: A phone number you leave is for daytime or evening. SPELL YOUR LAST NAME, and state whether the phone number you leave is for daytime or evening. Please leave a message on the answering machine. Please access. The Chapter website, http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey, has been upgraded to provide much useful information.

For information about making a bequest to the New Jersey Chapter call George Denzer at 609-799-5839.

TO ADDRESS.CHANGES@SIERRACLUB.ORG, OR CONTACT GEORGE DEZNER, DEZNER73@YAHOO.COM.

The Jerseyan: April–June 2015

The Jersey Sierran

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You have more to give than you know.

Maybe you can’t produce the $75,000 we need to produce this magazine during its theme, 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 609-799-5303.

Memorial donations are tax deductible.