August 10th marked the 11th anniversary of landmark legislation to protect the Highlands — called the Highlands Water Protection Act. Each year the Chapter celebrates the effectiveness of the Governor, Highlands Council, Regional Master Plan, Highlands Plan, and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the federal EPA. The Highlands Act protects one of the most environmentally sensitive and ecologically important areas in our state, home to many threatened and endangered species and some of our most beloved parks — including Round Valley, Waterloo Village, Lake Hopatcong, Wawayanda, and Pyramid Mountain. The region provides drinking water to 5.4 million people, 40% of the state’s population. Sadly, we report that the DEP has initiated significant rollbacks for many region-wide protections.

The Christie Administration is secretly trying to rewrite the DEP’s Highlands Rules so as to weaken the Highlands Council and the Regional Master Plan (RMP). “Stakeholder meet-ings” continue to take place with those opposed to the Act, and the Highlands Council looks at the RMP as another way to sell out the Highlands.

Here are some examples: DEP has given wetlands permits for development in sensitive environmental areas in Oakland, which we have taken to court. The State has bought the Campground of America site in West Milford, that has full camping facilities, but leases the property for use by off-road vehicles (ORVs). The proposed PennEast and Pipelime Pipelines are both threats to the streams that would contaminate our drinking water supply if a spill were to occur. A proposed JCP&L power line through Sussex and Morris Counties would cause irreparable harm to hun-dreds of acres of Highlands forest. The Ramapo Mountain project in Wanaque that was supposed to be cancelled is now back. The DEP gave permits for develop-ment on High Mountain at Oakland after the previous Administration denied those permits.

Large Turnout for August 9th Highlands Hike and Picnic

This year’s anniversary was celebrated by a Highlands Hike and Picnic, sponsored by our Highlands Groups. 60 spire-ly motivated revelers, including an 88-year-old woman who brought her 90-year-old friend, enjoyed a leisurely 2.5-hour, 5.6-mile climb to Wynnokie High Point, near Ringwood. We were treated to a spectacular view of the Wanaque Reservoir and surrounding valleys and hills, most of which have been preserved as a result of the passage of the Highlands Act.

The picnic took place near the Highlands Natural Pool on Snake Den Rd. More than 120 members and supporters came to enjoy the beautiful surroundings and friendly company, and to hear our Executive Director Jeff Titl remind us of the importance of grass roots activism, and of how new threats are born every day. (test supplied by Celia Gardia, of our Lounska Group. Photo credit: Anne Mandat)

Sierra Club Endorses State Legislative Candidates for November Elections

On November 3rd, all of New Jersey’s legislators in its 40-district State Assembly — 80 offices in all — will be up for elec-tion. Turnout is likely to be low, which enhances the voting “clout” of specialty interests (such as us!) — that can motivate their members to vote.

Over the summer we sent questionnaires to all major legislative candidates, and then examined the responses — plus the voting and sponsorship records (of incumbents), con-densed, and voted both in the Chapter Political Committee and the Chapter Executive Committee to determine which candidates best meet our standards. The following issues were most important to us:

1. Increasing funds for acquisition, development, and maintenance of open space
2. Building or financing funding for urban parks. Protecting forests from environmental-harmfullogging.
3. Promoting against the damage done by hydrofracking — opposition to the treatment, discharge, disposal, etc. of wastewater from the petroleum industry
4. Promoting the environmentally responsible generation of electricity from solar photovoltaic, wind, geother-mal, and other such sources.
5. Support for a Coastal Commission similar to the Highlands, Pinelands, and Meadowlands Commissions to prevent future disasters from storm events like Hurricane Sandy.
6. Support for family planning ser- vices — to reduce pressure on the envi-ronment.
8. Supporting passage of a beverage container-recycling bill.

It would be impossible in this space to provide particulars for each endorsed candidate. Club members (and other readers) are invited to query our Group Political Chairs, identified in the Group News section of this Newsletter. Note that we expect the races in Districts 2, 7, 12, 14, 18, 27, 36, and 38 to be close.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT! If you are unsure of your election district, or want to know more about the races in your dis-trict, or would like to help us campaign for a candidate, please call me (Richard Isaac) at my home number: 973-716-0297.

2015 ENDORSEMENTS FOR NJ STATE ASSEMBLY

Dist. Candidate Party
02 Vincent Mazzero D* 
02 Colin Bell D* 
19 Louis Greenwald D* 
19 Patricia Caputo D* 
19 Herb Conaway D* 
19 Troy Singleton D* 
19 David Wolfe R* 
19 Robert Clifford R* 
19 Daniel Benson D* 
17 Reed Gusciora D* 
17 Elizabeth Maher Muoio D* 
17 Patrick Diegnan D* 
17 Nancy Pinkin D* 
17 Craig Coughlin D* 
17 John Wisniewski D* 
17 John Holody D* 
17 Annette Quijano D* 
27 Ken Collins Green 
27 John McKeon D* 
27 Milla Jasey D* 
34 Mila Jasey D* 
34 John Kashwick and Paul Sanderson.
37 Gordon Johnson D* 
37 Valerie Huttle D* 
37 Joseph Lagana D* 
34 Thomas Giblin D* 
34 Joseph Lagana D* 
36 Gary Schaer D* 
36 Amy MizGLISH D* 
38 Joseph Lagana D* 
38 John Kashwick D* 
38 Timothy Eustace D* 
38 Joseph Lagana D*

* Incumbent: Competitive Race.

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

2015 Election of Officers of the New Jersey Chapter, and its Groups and Sections

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

The Chapter’s Executive Committee (ExCom) meets monthly for discussion of State, regional and other issues, to take policy positions (including initiation of legal actions), make political endorsements, hear reports from staff and volunteer officers, elect the Chapter Chair, and consider matters arising.

The Chapter ExCom consists of nine at-large members serving three-year terms; two of whom are elected each year, and one representative sent by each of our ten regional Groups. Please vote for the three at-large ExCom menbers and for the leadership of your regional Group. If you participate in our LGBT Section, you may also cast a vote for its leadership. (Other optional spe-cials sections are for Singles, Seniors and for providers of Inner City Outings.)

This year’s three Chapter ExCom can didates in its reeords, you will receive in October a ballot by e-mail, and you may vote EITHER online, as described below, OR by this paper ballot. If you cast an online ballot, any paper ballot you mail in will not be counted. Online votes must be cast by December 1, 2015.

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

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

To vote by paper ballot: Please vote

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Conservation Ch’s Report: Fish: .......2
Welcomeing Jamie Zaccaria ............2
Sierra Club ballot .........................................2
Chair’s Message: Respect for Nature ..3
Editorial: Roadside Trash in NJ ...........3
Healthy Tips: .........3
ExCom’s Summer Resolutions ..........3
Member Reports: Camden, Passaic R ..........4
Regional from Trenton: Environmental, NJ Transit’s Fare Increase ...4
Group and Section News ..............5-10
On Trial: TMDB ..........................10
Fall Outings ..............9-11-12
Leader List, Meetings, Membership Form ....12

Vol. 44, No. 4    Roughly 16,000 Members in New Jersey October–December 2015

Quarterly Newsletter of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club
the ballot below, then clip the ENTIRE ballot on the heavy-dashed line, and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Dec. 1, to Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618. Paid ads are to enable two members to campaign for two seats to cast separate votes. Note that a properly-clipped ballot will include the mailing label above. This is to verify your membership; it will be removed before ballots are counted.

2. What environmental issues concern you most?

3. Why the New Jersey Sierra Club?

Agricultural pollutants include the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and manure from livestock facilities, which provide food for larger game fish, and become a food source for fish migrating in our streams. To protect trout and other species, we have been successful in introducing the Atlantic salmon to the Delaware River. In 2005, some 1560 salmon were released when they grew to 18-20 inches, and these Atlantic salmon continue to provide food for larger game fish. Similarly, short-nose sturgeon, a threatened species, have been successfully introduced to the Passaic River. Once upon a time, migratory Atlantic salmon ran the entire length of the Delaware River, but have yet to be reintroduced to the upper reaches. The New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Service plans to release 1500 Atlantic salmon this November, 2000, into Class I (trout-bearing) streams. The Mercer Power Station kills short-nosed sturgeons with heat; cooling its furnaces would save them.

Atmospheric deposits include mercury, lead, nickel, chromium, and other pollutants. These are carried in the air by wind, then deposited on the ground, along with other contaminants like coal ash and diesel soot. Similarly, particulate matter from automobile and industrial processes that burn fossil fuels: automobiles, home-heating furnaces, and power plants, are released into the air and are brought to earth by precipitation.

The Sierra Club's program of “riparian buffers, rain gardens, and other drainage practices” will help minimize runoff from rooftops, rain bar-rels under down-spouts, and driveways. These practices will keep soil and permeable pavements all the ways of diverting runoff into the ground rather than into storm sewers. Water entering storm sewers is treated in a variety of ways, from treatment plants to filters, to reduce the amount of pollutants found in our rivers and estuaries.

We should support Sierra Club efforts to educate our gas guzzlers for mass transit, bicycles and walking, and to reduce the amount of runoff from golf courses, cockpits, and parking lots. Similarly, pollutants include the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and manure from livestock facilities, which provide food for larger game fish. Similarly, short-nose sturgeon, a threatened species, have been successfully introduced to the Passaic River. Once upon a time, migratory Atlantic salmon ran the entire length of the Delaware River, but have yet to be reintroduced to the upper reaches. The New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Service plans to release 1500 Atlantic salmon this November, 2000, into Class I (trout-bearing) streams. The Mercer Power Station kills short-nosed sturgeons with heat; cooling its furnaces would save them.

It's hard to pick just one issue when so many environmental issues are equally important and interwinned. My personal passions would lean toward wildlife and marine conservation. I wrote my Master's thesis on the “effect of habitat fragmentation on the foraging efficiency of shore birds” and have worked closely with biologists who work alongside our co-workers to create outreach materials, organize events, and lobby for policies that will help us make environmental sound choices.

4. Might you have a personal success story?

I haven't had a super big stand-out moment of my career yet but I consider every small victory a success story.
I've been traveling in the past few months, particularly in and around South Jersey. The weekend walks in distant places, in small towns and in the countryside (and I must say in some places only vicariously by asking fellow travelers). The result is not pretty: the rural and village streets of South Jersey, where I live, have more plastic, glass and metal containers, not to mention other waste, than the public streets of ANY of the following: eastern Connecticut, western Cape Cod, Santa Barbara and Santa Monica CA, Omaha NE, southeastern Maine, Kingston RI, Vancouver BC, Calgary Alberta, Oxford UK, rural Oxfordshire generally, and Portsmouth UK. The streets walk more environmentally useful, I usually collect 5-10 pounds of discarded aluminum cans each on of the two resolutions that are adopted. (July)

31 candidates were ENDORSED for election to the New Jersey Assembly, as reported on p. 1 of this Report.

We voted to support other regional Chapters in wanting to restore what was once part of our heritage. We have explicit support of our work.

Eventually I did finish reading the book. And while I do not believe I have the academic background necessary to actually provide a logical foundation for our work. He concludes a letter I received from Mr. Stender, but the environmental committee that have "bottled it up" are responsive to Gov. Christie's opposition to any new tax fees, and presumably to the opposition of both the beer distributors and bottling industry.

Another problem is a law in NJ that provides money to support roadside trash. (July)

Professor Taylor's thesis would be in order. To say nothing of the space that would provide an in-depth analysis of the book. And while I do not believe I have the background necessary for easy reading. When I mentioned in a letter to Mr. Stender, but the environmental committee that have "bottled it up" are responsive to Gov. Christie's opposition to any new tax fees, and presumably to the opposition of both the beer distributors and bottling industry.

Another problem is a law in NJ that provides money to support roadside trash. (July)
There is a quaintness quietly taking place in the rundown neighborhoods of Camden. It is a small-scale redevelopment for industry, Rutgers Univ, and Cooper Hospital takes place along the Delaware Riverfront. The journey, small, a organization called the Saint Joseph’s Carpenter Society (SJCS) is going to change the path of making housing affordable for families. SJCS’s mission is to improve the quality of life for the people of the City of Camden and its surrounding communities – by promoting affordable housing and neighborhood development. Through their initiatives, they encourage people to take charge of their lives and become active community members.

The Society was founded in 1985 to create safe neighborhoods through homeownership. It believes that home- ownership leads to a higher quality of life by significantly improving personal pride, promoting the development of community ties, allowing families to build equity, and helping to promote a goal of stabilizing real estate in the central business districts. The City of Camden is an area with declining population. The governing body approved the amendment for the Plan to construct a 6-week Money Basics and Homebuyer Education course, mandatory for all its homebuyers. The 6-week course is conducted for six weeks at a time. It starts with a presentation on the financial aspects of home ownership and counseling sessions, empowers clients to qualify for mortgages to purchase a completely renovated or newly built house.

Another element of the Society’s neighborhood development program is to help home-owners to form networks capable of addressing local concerns. Thus, all new homeowners are encouraged to play an active role in the upkeep and development of their neighborhoods.

The Carpenter Society’s three-phased approach to community development is stabilizing the local housing market. The society is one of the most recognized local organizations in the area. The Carpenter Society also provides financial assistance to families who wish to purchase a home and to homeowners who wish to increase their home’s value.

The Sierra Club and allied environmental groups continue to oppose a “pennies-on-the-dollar” settlement for the state’s refineries (Bayway and Linden). Under the proposed settlement, discharge of pollutants is not counted by the USEPA in the bed of the river. The settlement denies the right of the public to comment on the 15 additional sites added to the case, which violates the Clean Water Act. The settlement breaks Public Trust Doctrine because it damaged natural resources belong to all of us. Public Trust Doctrine because the dam - We think an increase in NJ's gas tax for all the possible locations on the Passaic River. They should be able to continue to walk the path. The dreary and complicated task. The water of the Passaic is clean and the combined sewer overflows allow, but the toxic contaminants clinging to the small sand particles in the bed of the river should not be allowed to restrict the water that is used for drinking. Using a high estimate of $200/cubic yard, the five existing and one new ramp on the Passaic River would require under $200k to remove and dispose of the dredged material using the USEPA meth- odology at mile 10.9. There is a way to substantially reduce this cost using contain- ment bags that filter and release the water. The bags may then be delivered directly to the train. The court settlement took place more than a year ago. NJDEP has advised that they want to expedite these improve- ments and requested the public input (contact John Sacco, Chief, NJDEP) for possible projects. The Passaic River Boat Club (PRBC) submitted a list to NJDEP of almost all the possible locations on the Passaic River that could be improved by the addition or renovation of boat ramps, floating docks and access gangways. This was to allow more people to use the river for walking or bicycles. The fact that the new docks can fit the needs of the community. The Passaic River is a Superfund site in the lower 17-mile tidal section, dredg- ing and disposal of contaminated water and plants, lighting and often guard rails. The purpose is to allow the general public to utilize the water for recreational activity on the water if it were left to sail- or bike. Heightened vigilance would allow us to leave this view with sadness hoping to return again and again.

In addition to the removal and safe dis- position of the River’s contaminated sedi- ments and are presently seeking public input (contact John Sacco, Chief, NJDEP) for possible projects. The PRBC estimates a cost of less than $24M for improvements to ten locations on the Passaic - which includes $20M for the Raritan River. Leave this view with sadness hoping to return again and again.

The Sierra Club and allied environmental groups continue to oppose a “pennies-on-the-dollar” settlement for the state’s refineries (Bayway and Linden). Under the proposed settlement, discharge of pollutants is not counted by the USEPA in the bed of the river. The settlement denies the right of the public to comment on the 15 additional sites added to the case, which violates the Clean Water Act. The settlement breaks Public Trust Doctrine because it damaged natural resources belong to all of us. Public Trust Doctrine because the dam - We think an increase in NJ's gas tax for all the possible locations on the Passaic River. They should be able to continue to walk the path. The dreary and complicated task. The water of the Passaic is clean and the combined sewer overflows allow, but the toxic contaminants clinging to the small sand particles in the bed of the river should not be allowed to restrict the water that is used for drinking. Using a high estimate of $200/cubic yard, the five existing and one new ramp on the Passaic River would require under $200k to remove and dispose of the dredged material using the USEPA meth- odology at mile 10.9. There is a way to substantially reduce this cost using contain- ment bags that filter and release the water. The bags may then be delivered directly to the train. The court settlement took place more than a year ago. NJDEP has advised that they want to expedite these improve- ments and requested the public input (contact John Sacco, Chief, NJDEP) for possible projects.

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The Governor has stacked the Highlands Council, and proposed weakened provisions in the law that would reduce stream buffers, especially for Category-1 (trout-quality) streams.

The Highlands is the environmental legacy of Gov. McGreevey (2002-2006), who created it in an open and transparent way, with bipartisanship consensus for environmental limitations on development. The law applies throughout the million-acre region. It was never meant to be torn apart. Fifty-nine municipalities and counties have adopted local protections, in areas where it is required and where it is voluntary. The DEP’s Highlands Rules protect contiguous forest and water supply in the Preservation Area while allowing growth in the Planning Area.

When Governor Christie took office, in 2010, he tried to politicize the Highlands Council by replacing many of its members with his political cronies. As a fiscal hawk, he took the Council’s money for town conformance and eliminated the Council’s dwindling space. He is the first recent Governor not to champion funding for open space preservation and smart growth. He has significantly cut funding for Highlands programs. His political appointments to the Highlands Council have replaced professional staff with the Governor’s political buddies, creating a rubber-stamp for developers. He is weakening DEP rules.

Appointments to the Highlands Council (C) Governor Christie has failed to come up with any funding mechanism to preserve land in the Highlands. He has publicly attacked the Highlands Act and said he’d like to repeal it, but the Legislature ignored him. He has significantly cut funding for Highlands programs. His political appointments to the Highlands Council have replaced professional staff with the Governor’s political buddies, creating a rubber-stamp for developers. He is weakening DEP rules.

Highlands Programs The Highlands programs are critical to protect drinking water in the Highlands. The Highlands Act provides for periodic review of the RMP. This process is taking place behind closed doors with little public participation. The Governor has passed resolutions against this dangerous and destructive project. However, of the seven Highlands counties, only two have opposed the project with resolutions. Bergen, Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon, and Somerset have yet to act. The Pipeline would cross the Oradell Reservoir, which contains 5.7 billion gallons of water.

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GROUP NEWS
(Continued from page 8)
includes protecting open space, maintaining water quality, promoting clean energy, and protecting local, national, and global ecosystems and environmental values. Please join us 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 to the LD outbreak and uses outings throughout the region to encourage people to reconnect with the outdoors.

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Meets the 4th Monday of the month at 7pm at the Andover Diner, Route 206 N, Andover.

Sept 8 (Tues): Bees - details will be available on our facebook page.

Oct 13 (Tues): Sustainable Home Construction Practices presented by our own Dave Alcock. Dave will show us how small repairs/upgrades can help lower our carbon footprint.

Nov 10 (Tues): Population Activism will be presented by Mindy Garey. Mindy recently went to a weekend long seminar which was offered by the National Sierra Club in Washington DC. She will discuss how over-population is an important component of the sustainability conversation.

Dec 8 (Tues): Annual Holiday Gathering and Silent Auction

OTHER EVENTS:
Sept 19th and 20th: Highlands Festival at Waterloo Village
Oct 10 (Sun): 10am-1pm. Hike with Dave Alcock. Meet at Monument Trail Parking Lot for a hike from parking lot to monument and back. Total distance is roughly 5.5 miles. All are posted on our Facebook website and the online event calendar on the Chapter website. We also advertise on various media sites throughout the Skylands region.

South Highlands Group
(Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties)

MEETUPS:
http://www.meetup.com/sspierreuther

FACEBOOK:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/53817156187/

OFFICERS:
Chair: Jonathan Wall* jonathanwall@jonwall.com
Vice Chair: Celeste Martin* celeste@celestemartin.com
Conservation Chair: Cinny MacGonagle* cinnymac@comcast.net
Secretary: Jonathan Wall* jonathanwall@jonwall.com
Treasurer: Celeste Martin* celeste@celestemartin.com
Political Chair: Jonathan Wall* jonathanwall@jonwall.com
Publicity Chair: Susan Schirmer* soupsy@att.net
Membership Chair: Jim Fleming jfleming88@comcast.net
Outings Coordinator: Jonathan Wall* jonathanwall@jonwall.com
Webmaster: Jonathan Wall* jonathanwall@jonwall.com

(*Group Executive Committee Member)

Unlesss otherwise noted, meetings and outings are free and open to general public. Please note that any events, both on and off our web site, Meetup page, or Facebook page (see above for URLs) as these topics as dates, times, and venues are subject to change.

GENERAL MEETINGS: All our general meetings are held at the North Hunterdon Library, 65 Halstead St, Clinton 08809 on the first Wednesday of each month. Meet and greet at 7pm followed by program at 7:15. Meetings are free but donations are gladly accepted.

Oct 7 (Wed): For the Birds! John DeMarras, an accomplished birder and Master Gardener, will advise on how to advance your home landscape to welcome a greater diversity of birds. Some birds naturally visiting our area thrive at feeders and others do not. Learn about the birds and bushes that attract each other so you can turn your quarter yard into a riot of bird song.

Nov 4 (Wed): To Yank or Not to Yank? Cinny MacGonagle, Conservation Chair of our South Highlands Group and a graduate of the Master Gardener Program, will present a program on native plants vs. invasive plants which are good and which are not. So find out what you can do to help.

Dec 2 (Wed): Yellowstone: Our First National Park, John Kashwick, Chair of the Club’s North Jersey Group, will talk on the National Park’s history, on his recent visit to Yellowstone and the environmental impact this natural treasure has. Also, Susan Williams, Chair of our Skylands Group, will talk on water privatization.

OTHER EVENTS:
Oct 13 (Tue): Executive Committee/Planning Meeting, 7pm at the office of Dr. Jonathan Wall, 27 Center St, Clinton. This quarterly meeting is casual and informative. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about the Club, hear about upcoming events, and become more active. Please check the on-line calendar of events to confirm. For more information please contact Jonathan at jonathan@jonwall.com.

Nov 1 (Sun): Point Mountain Reservation Hike. 11am. Meet in parking lot off Point Mountain Rd, Hampton. Be prepared for a steep and rocky climb up views. Bring lunch and water. We will walk at an enjoyable pace but be prepared for a steep and rocky climb. We will stop for an early lunch at one of the scenic overlooks of farmland, plus river walk along the Musconetcong River. Wear sturdy footwear. Rain cancels. Well behaved dogs on leach are welcome. Plan on hike taking 2½ to 3 hours.

Limited to 12 participants. Registration required on web site or Meetup page (see above). Suggested Donation: $5. Leader: Celeste Martin.

Dec 19 (Sat): Winter Solstice Hike and Holiday Party. 2pm. Meet at the trailhead for the Landsdown Trail in Clinton, (next to Fox Lumber). Be prepared for a cold, windy hike, but the view as you ascent and particpate 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 to the LD outbreak and uses outings throughout the region to encourage people to reconnect with the outdoors.

North Jersey Group
(Bergen and Passaic Counties)

OFFICERS:
Chair: John Kashwick* jkashwick@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Mary Ellen Shaw* meshan001@gmail.com
Secretary: Jennifer Rothschild* jenniroth2@gmail.com
Conservation Chair: Laura Tracy Cull* LauraTracyCull@gmail.com
Political Chair: Jennifer Rothschild* jenniroth2@gmail.com
Political Co-Chair: Tom Bres 
Air Quality Issues: Laura Tracy Cull * LauraTracyCull@gmail.com
Climate Issues: Jeff Rapaport jrrap@optonline.net
Fundraising Chair: Francie Goldstein franciegoldstein@mindspring.com
Membership Chair: Buddy Jensen* buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Outings Chair: Ellen Blumenkrantz* blumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Outings Co-Chair: Mary Walsh marywalsh @joannasptland.net
Publicity Chair: Jessica Blevins jlevins@gmail.com
Publicity Chair: Marty Cohen mccohen@earthlink.net
Social Media Coordinator: Artie D’Arco artie.darco@gmail.com
Trail Maintenance: Marty Cohen mccohen@earthlink.net
Webmaster/Listmaster: John Kashwick* jkashwick@gmail.com
Wildlife Issues: Mary Ellen Shaw * meshan001@gmail.com
Ex-Co-Chair at Large: Nancy Wysocki nwysocki@verizon.net
Ex-Co-Chair at Large: Beth Rave* btrave2@aol.com

(*Group Executive Committee Member)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS: Unless otherwise noted, meetings and outings are free and open to general public. Please confirm topics, dates, times, and venues of our meetings by visiting our web site, Meetup page, or Facebook page (see above for URLs) as these are subject to change. You can also email us at northjerseysierraclub@gmail.com.

Sept 30 (Wed): Sailing the Northwest Passage: 7pm at Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) Metro Campus, Dickinson Hall, Wilton Auditorium, 140 University Drive, Hackensack. David Thorenson is a world renowned photographer, sailor and climatologist. Having navigated the Northwest Passage in both directions and sailed around the America’s he is a first hand observer to the impacts that climate change has had on our oceans and the Arctic. David’s talk will include anecdotes from his travels as well as his own photos. This event is co-sponsored by the Alaska Wilderness League and other organizations. Registration recommended for this event. See web site or Meetup page.

Oct 13 (Tues): Executive and Conservation Committee Meeting, 7pm, location TBD. This is the quarterly meeting of the Executive and Conservation Committees of the North Jersey Group. The meeting is casual and informative. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about the Club, hear about and discuss issues, and become more active. Please check the online calendar of events to confirm. For more information please contact John at jkashwick@gmail.com.

Oct 28 (Wed): Bakken Boom–New Jersey at Risk? 7:15pm at Wayne Public Library, 475 Valley Rd, Wayne. Learn how new pipelines and oil-train “bombs” threaten public health, safety and drinking water. We will have several speakers lined up for this important and timely event. Even if you can’t attend the event, check web site calendar for further details closer to the event. Rain or snow may cancel the walk portion of the event.

CONSERVATION ISSUES:
Pilgrim Pipelines: The proposed Pilgrim Pipeline is a dual 178-mile pipeline between Albany, NY and Linden NJ. It will likely contain Bakken shale oil that will be sent south of 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 Counties) 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 bear the burden of having this risk and disruption without any benefit. A spill or explosion could be catastrophic, endangering our water supply, risking lives, and overwhelming our emergency response resources. For more information, please contact Jeff Rapaport at jrrap@optonline.net.

Oil Trains: Thousands of substandard rail cars are used by CSX to move Bakken crude oil on the West Shore line through Bergen County each year. The threat or danger it poses to our communities demand a moratorium on the use of these substan-
dard rail cars to safeguards our communities. The North Jersey Group is joining with other groups to raise awareness of this issue and get the federal government to pass stricter legislation to regulate use of these cars. For more information, please contact Mary Ellen Shaw at mshaw001@gmail.com.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE: To test our determination, on a 90-degree day in July, three of us clipped blueberry bushes in Harriman for about two hours and then, to prove they’re still makin’ em like they used to, we topped off with a two-hour hike. The trail we clipped was very badly overgrown almost throughout its length and tick city. Our fearsome threesome managed to revive about 20% of this picturesque trail on a cooler day to come we will try to assemble a larger group to finish the task. If you would like to be notified of our trail maintenance outings, just send an email to martinchen@verizon.net.

OUTINGS: If you would like to learn how to become an outings leader, lead, please contact Ellen at eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com or Mary Walsh at blbewalsh@hotmail.com. The Gateway Group was organized in January 2011. Please contact any of the leaders below if you are interested in joining our campaigns to protect the environment. There are several Gateway Group positions open.


OFFICERS: Chair: David Yennior 973-844-1384 dyennior@gmail.com Vice-Chair: ZaShah Khademi 201-618-8572 zasah@aol.com Secretary: Open Position! Treasurer: Anne Hirs 973-844-1121 annehirs@msn.com Program Chair:  Open Position! Conservation Chair: Open Position! Co-Chairs: ZaShah Khademi 201-618-8572 zasah@aol.com and David Korthage 973-932-0742 ddkorthage@gmail.com

Policy Chair: Open Position! Fundraising Chair: Open Position! Membership Chair: Steven Yafet 908-354-2557 syafet@gmail.com Water, Newark Issues Chair: Bill Chappel 973-623-6490 billchappel@gmail.com Recycling Issues Chair: Lyle Landon 201-247-0288 lyle.landon@aol.com Passaic River Chair: Brenda Toyloy 973-846-7006 brendatoyloy@yahoo.com and Jeff Weiss 973-650-1030 bonefish500@gmail.com Elizabeth Issues Chair: Paula Borenstein 908-289-3584 pbs@briandirk@aol.com Outings Chair: Open Position!

Group Executive Committee: David Yennior, ZaShah Khademi and Bill Chappel

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, ZaShah 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, co-sponsoring 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 Waters, advocating for 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 Waters, 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, please contact any of the officers or here 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.

Loantaka Group (Morris and Union Counties (except for Elizabeth and Hillside), plus Livingston, Millburn and Roseland, approximately)

WEBSITE: http://www.sierracclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/ Loantaka now has a Facebook page. Please check it out and like it: https://www.facebook.com/LoantakagroupNJSC?

OFFICERS: Group Chair: Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com and Paul Sanderson 908-353-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com Treasurer: Paul Sanderson 908-253-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com Program Chair: Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com Fundraising Chair: ZaShah Khademi 201-618-8572 zasah@aol.com Outings Chair: Wanda Knapik 908-432-2198 AdventureWt/Wanda@gmail.com Publicity Chair: Wynn Johnson 908-464-0442 johansons@comcast.net Membership: Bruce Ostrow 973-652-9759 ostrowb@gmail.com Webmaster: Wynn Johnson 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://www.sierracclub.org/new-jersey/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 to come 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 to introduce ourselves. Please see the schedule, below and join us!

DIRECTIONS posted on our website: http://www.sierracclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/

MEETING SCHEDULE: Oct 14: Dr. Janie Suebthiz will talk to us about the disruptions to the Central American ecosystem which will be caused by the construction of a Pacific- Caribbean canal thru Nicaragua.

Nov 11: To be announced. Please check our website for the most current information regarding General Meetings.

Dec 9: Come to our annual Holiday Party. We have a gathering where we mingle and listen to find out what issues are important with our members. We ramp up the refreshments and hone our listening skills, so come out and enjoy some time with us.

ACTIVITIES: (Consult our website (http://www.sierracclub.org/new-jersey/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 (908-253-2414) or Eric (732-669-0719).

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


OFFICERS: The Chapter is rebuilding the Central Jersey Group looking for dedicated individuals to address a number of important environmental issues in the area.

EVENT: Jamie Zaccaria will host a meet and greet in Hamilton on Thursday, October 8th at 7pm. Please RSVP to Jamie.zaccaria@sierraclub.org for more details.

ACTIVITIES: The group will work with other grassroots organizations to support efforts to protect the pristine environment and natural beauty of this area.

For questions about this Group, including upcoming meetings and how to get involved, please contact Jamie Zaccaria at our Trenton office, at jamie.zaccaria@sierraclub.org. 609-656-7612.

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

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

OFFICERS: Chair Group: Roomi Nusrat 609-389-6036 sierra_nj_raritan@att.net Group Vice Chair: Open position! Outdoors Chair: Open position! Coordinator: Open position! Webmaster: Open position!

The Raritan Valley Group is working with concerned citizens and local environmental organizations to protect open space and wildlife habitat in the Raritan Valley region. The Group is actively involved in State-wide initiatives involving air quality, transportation, and environmental legislation. Volunteers are always welcome. Call Paul (908-253-2414) or Eric (732-669-0719).

(Continued on page 8)
GROUP NEWS

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 email sierra_nj_raritan@att.net to participate.

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

Please contribute to our Quarterly News Letter sent via the Email list. On our 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:

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 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 your concerns by attending our meetings and by contacting us via sierra_nj_raritan@att.net.

Shore Group Happenings:

If you would like to participate in cleanups of our local banks and streams. Alas, pollution never ends; we are still removing a year later, so more cleanups are being scheduled. Our long-range goal is to clean up the watershed and educate local residents about the detrimental effects of lawn fertilizers and storm water run-off, and the importance of integrated pest management.

Help explore, enjoy and protect this beautiful watershed. Our Sierra dynamo heading the clean up of Whale Pond is Conservation Chair Faith Teitelbaum at faithtei@aol.com.

Help Needed for Other Cleanups: If you would like to participate in cleanups of our other local waterways, please contact another dynamic, Laura Bagwell at lbagwell@verizon.net.

Shore Group Happenings:

Thole Pond Cleanups: We continue our cleanups with a Shore Group with Mohmonth University. Contact Joe deLaqua at joe.deLaqua@att.net for more information.

Helping Habitats:

Sandra Dams: The 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 longrange goal is to clean up the watershed and educate local residents about the detrimental effects of lawn fertilizers and storm water run-off, and the importance of integrated pest management.

HELP EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PROTECT THIS BEAUTIFUL WATERSHED. OUR SIERRA DYNAMO HEADING THE CLEAN UP OF WHALE POND IS CONSERVATION CHAIR FAITH TIEBAUM AT FAITHTEI@AOL.COM.

Jersey Shore Group (Monmouth County, approximately)

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Dennis Anderson 732-970-4327 dennisaz@aol.com
6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747

Vice-Chair: Open Position!

Secretary: Joe deLaqua 732-389-1835 jose.deLaqua@att.net

Webmaster: Open Position!

Treasurer: Pat Fuscher 732-508-4558 fusche4@yahoo.com

Political Chair: Bob Sandberg 732-77-3224 sandbergb09@gmail.com

Outings Chair: Mike Veroghe 908-902-0178 mveroghe@aol.com

Membership Chair: Bob Grete 732-892-0555 nywcwmpjpb@aol.com

Fund-raising Chair: Open Position!

Program Chair: George Moffatt 732-544-1726 gmoffatt@aol.com

To get to Brookdale, take GSP Exit 109 to Rte 520 West (Newman Springs Rd, which becomes E. Mountain Rd) to 1st light (Woodbridge). Turn right and follow Woodbridge Ave, which becomes Middlesex Rd. We are on your left. If lot 7 is full, use parking lots 5 or 6. A campus map is at http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFile/Maps/MAP_04_19.pdf.

OCT 26: 5:30.00’s Views on the Climate. 5:30.00’s spokeswoman Rosemary Carey will discuss the organization’s plans to develop a “presence” in NJ to combat climate change and other environmental disasters. The name - 5:30.00’s - comes from “5:30 ppm” (parts per million) of carbon dioxide molecules in the atmosphere, which many scientists and climatologists agree is the “safe” level of carbon dioxide. Today, we are at 400 ppm, and adding 2 ppm of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere every year. 5:30.00’s was founded in 2008 by a group of university friends in the U.S. along with author Bill McKibben, who is leading one of the first climate “sixties” movements. 5:30.00’s works in almost every country in the world on campaigns such as fighting coal power plants in India, stopping the Keystone XL pipeline in the U.S. and divesting public institutions everywhere from fossil fuels.

Nov 23: The Precarious Health of Our Oceans. Tim Dillingham of the American Littoral Society will discuss the close relationship between inhabited coastlines and uninhibited seas. Specifically, he will focus on the need to restore and protect coastal habitats after Hurricane Sandy and he will explore several defensive strategies for predicted sea level rise in the future. 2011, the ALS has urged citizens to care for the coast through advocacy, conservation, and education. Not only does the ALS “represent the fish,” a term the Group adopted of our predecessors, but also 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." Many people will remember Tim from when he was Jeff Tittel’s predecessor in the NJ Sierra Club. (Rescheduled from January)

Dec 6, 2-5pm: Sierra’s traditional holiday party will be held at Dennis Anderson’s house at 6 Maple Ave – off of Middlesex Rd, Matawan. Use MapQuest for directions, but beware: there are two Middlesex Roads. If you get lost, call him at 732-970-4127.Everyone is asked to bring hors d’oeuvres, cakes or other hot and cold dishes as wellness and beer. Please let Dennis know in advance at dennysaz@aol.com so we don’t wind up with five to do dishes. If members of other Sierra Groups are in the neighborhood, please stop by and say hello.

OCEAN COUNTY GROUP

OFFICERS:

Chair & Treasurer: A. Gregory Auriemma, Esq. 732-451-9220 sierrabchOC@aol.com

Vice-Chair & Fund-raising Chair: Margit Meisnner-Jackson 609-209-4367 spytv1910@yahoo.com

Outings Chair: Monica Zabroski 609-384-2093 monicazabroski@yahoo.com

Group Co-Chair: Joyce M. Isaza 732-920-9270 realtymstr@aol.com

Group ExCom:

Member: Nancy Brown 732-892-6089 nancybrown624@comcast.net

Member: Sierra Palmer

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: http://www.sierrclub.org/new-jersey/ocean-county/

WEST JERSEY GROUP

Cabinet, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Gina Caridi 856-848-8851 gcineee@verizon.net

Vice-Chair: Frank Zinni ezfiniz@aol.com

Secretary: Ellen Zinni ezfiniz@aol.com

Treasurer: Tom Clemen, 732-201-9027 bearcats@msn.com

Publicity Chair: Anne Cardi bearcats@msn.com

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

Hilltopper Rm. Lee Snyder

Greenways Co-Chairs: Frank and Ellen Zinni ezfinitz@aol.com

Conservation Chair: Stacey Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com

Group Chair at Large: Aida Cardi bearcats@msn.com

Membership Chair: Mike Brown 856-547-9221 eyebrown@zwervals.net

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

Smart Chair: Love without border! Call Gina to volunteer. 856-848-8851

WEB SITE: http://sierrabch.org/new-jersey/West-Jersey/
The Jersey Sierra: October–December 2015

Programs Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8851
Outings Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8851
Social Chair: Open position!

Coordinator: Looking for someone who is savvy with Twitter, Facebook Instagram etc. willing to keep the word out there about what the Group is doing. Contact us!

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

Directions: From I-295, take exit 39B onto Rte 70 West. Follow the signs for Rte 41 South, which is Kings Hwy (you will have to take the next exit, a jug handle and then turn left onto Rte 41 (Kings Hwy). Go over the Brde overpass and continue on Kings Hwy for about 1 mile to the roundabout at the peaceful Maurice River. Take the 2nd exit and then turn left onto Kings Hwy. After about 1 mile, you will cross Grove Rd (Indian Tongue Road). About 1 mile further, take the 2nd exit again and drive about 500 feet 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.

Oct 14: Movie Night: “The Rise of Eco”. The film documents how environmental disaster has played a major role in shaping ecological awareness worldwide, by showing ten significant disasters, whose impact is still strong to this day.

Nov 11: Jessica Franchinzi, Senior Program Director at the New Jersey Tree Foundation will give us an update on the ongoing efforts to beautify the neighborhoods of Camden.

Dec 9: Join us for our Year-End Wrap up and holiday party. Bring a favorite dish to share as we discuss our successes and ongoing efforts for 2015 and plan for 2016.

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: Tony Prebish 215-603-7746.
Conservation Chair: Open Position!
Pol. Chair: Calendar: Dick Colby 609-965-4455 dick.colby@stockton.edu
Membership Chair: Open Position!
Secretary/Treasurer: Julie Akers 609-432-3290 julieakers56@gmail.com

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 “spans off” from the South Jersey Group. Very few of our local members seem interested in the meetings we once sponsored. For now, we will continue to be listed in the 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 environmental organizations. See 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. Dick is also an Atlantic County Parks Commissioner; contact him if you might be interested in attending monthly meetings of the Commission, which are open to the public (although we don’t meet in July and August).

Current Issues:
(1) A landuse controversy in Millville—over what is known as the Durand Tract—seems to have been settled in “our” favor. Contact Dick Colby if you'd like a copy of the court settlement. (2) There is much regional opposition to the construction of the Bell Energy (CBP) natural gas pipeline and electric power plant in Marmora (Cape May Co), led by Geogna Shaheny (shane@yahoo.com) and the organization 350.org South Jersey (Glenz Klotz: glenz1949@ hotmail.com). This pipeline will be run directly through its Forest Zone. (3-5) Campaigns to prevent the use of tropical rainforest wood for rebuilding oceanfront boardwalks, in Ocean City and Wildwood, are also being led by Geogna Shaheny and stranded in the Redwood Forest. We have been following several studies seeking to determine sustainable 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 permit development. Other hot issues include damage done to sand trails by ORVs, 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 for a New Jersey Bottle Bill, known as the Smart Container Act.

Some Possibly Relevant Meetings of Allied Organizations:
Oct 7, Nov 4 and Dec 2 (first Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Atlantic County Friends of the Jersey sierrans. Monthly meetings of Philadelphia Group will be open to the public. When: Contact us! We need you!
Nov 24 (alternate fourth Thursdays) 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association has meetings open to the public. When: Contact us! We need you!
Oct 12 and Dec 14 (alternate second Wednesdays), 6pm: Monthly meeting of Citizens to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries (also "Partnership River" under federal protection). Meeting place: George Luciano Center, Cumberland County College, 2 College Dr., Millville. These meetings are open to the public; topics are commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Karla Rossini (CD) at 609-774-5855 or karla.rossini@cumari.rr.com. Website: www.cumari.rr.com.

Singles Section
(A chapter-wide, special interest section offering hikes/cleanup, 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 like to know about them. We will try to be a local, eclectic, step by step, but also a statewide additional “layer” of Club involvement. Everyone is welcome to attend our events. Come out and meet fellow Club members and other 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://www.sierrachurch.org/new-jersey/Sierra/Singles

The BEST way to be notified of upcoming events is to join our free listserv: Anyone may subscribe by going to: http://lists.sierrachurch.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: www.sierrachurch.org/new-jersey/.

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

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 cochair 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 website and see above for subscription information.

ExCom MEETINGS: Take place once a month at various locations. All welcome. Contact any officer for location of meeting.

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 event. RSVP is required as described in the announcement.

SOCIAL DINNERS WITH MOVIE SHOWINGS are scheduled approximately monthly in 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 and Jeff Sovelove. 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 July 19, Aug 6, and Sept 20. Check The singles listserve 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 non-members are welcome to join our outings regardless of sexual orientation.

WEBSITE: http://www.sierrachurch.org/new-jersey/LGBT/
MEETUP: http://www.meetup.com/njsierralgbt
FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/njsierralgbt

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!

(continued on page 10)
GROUP NEWS

Continued from page 9

Officers:
Co-Chair: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com
Co-Chair: Robert Zitzman * roberttmz@att.net
Treasurer: Corbett Klein * corbett.klein@outlook.com
Outings Co-Chair: Corbett Klein * corbett.klein@outlook.com
Outings Chair: Robert Zitzman * roberttmz@att.net
Webmaster/Listmaster: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com
Ex-Com Member: OPEN POSITION—contact John or Robert if interested
(* Section Executive Committee Member)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Oct 17 (Sat): Cruise and Tour of Banneker Castle: Leaving sharply at 10:45am from Beacon, NY, join us for a 2 ½ hour cruise and walking tour of Pollepel Island in the Hudson. We'll hike through the forests and marshlands of Banneker Castle and Stephens State Parks near Ringwood. We'll hike about 5 miles on trails in the park. This is a moderate hike where there will be some rocky sections and elevation changes. We'll stop for lunch on the trail. Participants should bring water, snack, lunch, and wear sturdy footwear. Meeting location provided after registration. Leaders: Jonathan Wall: psychologist@jonwall.com and 908.295.1890, and John Kashwick: 201-294-1092 and jkashwick@gmail.com.

Oct. 19 (Mon): Executive Committee Conference Call: 7:30pm. Help plan events for the winter months and discuss administrative issues. Contact John for dial-in number or more information at jkashwick@gmail.com.

Gov 22 (Sun): Allamuchy Mountain State Park Hike: 10am. Join us for an autumn hike through the forests and marlans of Allamuchy Mountain and Stephens State Parks near Ledgewood, NJ. We’ll hike about 6 miles on moderate trails in the park. This is a moderate hike where there will be some rocky sections and elevation changes. We'll stop for lunch on the trail. Participants should bring water, snack, lunch, and wear sturdy footwear. Meeting location provided after registration. Leaders: Jonathan Wall: psychologist@jonwall.com and 908.295.1890, and John Kashwick: 201-294-1092 and jkashwick@gmail.com.

Dec. 5 (Sat): Holiday Manor House Tour and Hike: New Jersey Botanical Gardens, Ringwood. We’ll tour the Botanical Gardens Manor House; decorated for the holiday season in a 1920s theme, and hike the gardens and well as possibly nearby Stephens State Park if time permits. Cost for the house tour is not yet published but is usually in the range of $5-10. Leader: Robert Zitzman: RobertMZ@att.net and 908.725.9633.

Volunteers Needed! We are continuing to recruit volunteers and outings leaders. For more information, please email John at jkashwick@gmail.com or Robert at roberttmz@att.net.

Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

(A chapter-wide special interest section which offers a weekly to monthly calendar of activities, events, including hikes, open air and 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 you can list items you 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.

Edline Fatz is the editor of the Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section. She can be reached at azat@funtravels.com, and invites members to check her web site at www.funtravels.com for trips, tips, and travel information regarding New Jersey and other states.

Sierra Student Coalition

(A semi-autonomous organization of college and high school students)

National Website: http://www.ssc.org/

Interesting Children in the Outdoor Section

(Another chapter-wide special interest activity with the motto: No Child Left Inside)

Officers:
Chair: Marty Cohen 201-670-8883 martincohen@verizon.net
Treasurer: Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 annedyjak@verizon.net

ICCO is a public service program of the Sierra Club consisting of 50 groups nationwide, who hold over 1,000 nature outings per year, oriented towards children. NJCCO currently schedules about 5 such outings per year.

In July I traveled to Italy with nine friends, where we began and ended a "trek" around the Mount Blanc massif, circling the highest peak in the European Alps. We began our "trek" in Courmayeur, "clockwise" walk in Courmayer, crossing from Italy to Switzerland to France and back into Italy, each day hiking at least 4000 feet up and down one of the ridges of Mount Blanc, and spending each night in trekkers' accommodations, usually at a hotel in a village. I cannot ade-

A special interest trip of my lifetime, due to the beauty and the phys-

ically, not just the hiking, but the places we stayed, and the food we ate. Mount Blanc itself, behind Chamonix, viewed from the northwest.

Chamonix glacier, 1998

On the Trail

Tour du Mont Blanc – the trip of a lifetime!

Exciting, exhilarating, exhausting – all three, and more, at the same time

By Paul Sanderson, Co-Chair of our Loantaka Group (paul@paulsanderson@aol.com)

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mount Blanc itself, behind Chamonix, viewed from the northwest.
Sierra Club outings are arranged by volunteer leaders who are members of the public. ALL participants must sign liability waivers on ALL outings otherwise specified, the events are free and open to the public.

Contact leaders to confirm trip. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W), Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H). Young Sierrans (Central Region): Tom Boghosian, 609-625-0878 (H). Vacant

Skylands: Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: the_hikist@mac.com. and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. Facilities: Restrooms with running water near the trailhead. Contact leaders to confirm trip. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Note: Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator (or, if you don’t have a Coordinator, to the person listed above or to scnj@sierraclub.org). Ensure that coordination and participation for the previous Sierra, due to the occasional lay in reading, to the Group Outings Coordinators at the end of the write-up.

Group OUTINGS COORDINATORS (roughly north to south)

South Highlands: Jonathon Wall jonathon@sierraclub.org
North Jersey: Ellen Burmertnik ellenb@sierraclub.org 201-784-8417
Gateway: David Ogens. 973-226-0748 (H) 64 Elm Rd Caledon 07073
Ocean County: Robert J. Smith 732-833-3331
West Jersey: Vacant
Sandy Hook: Tom Grossman. 609-625-0787 (H) 4794 Andraea Drive, Mays Landing, 08330
Borough: Joie Hadid, joiehadid@juno.com
Young Sierrans (Central Region): Leon Yerenburg, leonyer@sierraclub.org
Inner City Outings: Anna Dyjak 732-750-0955 (H) 112 11th St. Hoboken, 07030
Riverside: Frank Souza. 609-732-0006 (H). 59 W_rd-1, Box 277, Washington, 07882
Chagrin/Outlook: Vacuum
ellemarkertnik@hotmai, 201-784-8417

Outing Leaders: Please save January-March 2016 walk-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator (or, if you don’t have a Coordinator, to the person listed above or to scnj@sierraclub.org). Ensure that coordination and participation for the previous Sierra, due to the occasional lay in reading, to the Group Outings Coordinators at the end of the write-up.

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NOTES ON OUTINGS: All outings are open to club members, guests and anyone interested in outings. Unless otherwise noted, participation is free and open to the PUBLIC. All participants must sign liability waivers on ALL outings otherwise specified, the events are free and open to the PUBLIC. All activity must be appropriate to each outing is given at the end of the write-up.

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If you didn’t receive an electronic Sierra Club ballot last Fall, and would like to receive future ballots electronically, please email your membership address to 
membership.services@sierraclub.org. If your email address is up-to-date, please respond to this email and we will send you your electronic ballot. 

The Chapter website, http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/, has been upgraded to provide much useful information. 

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