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# The Jersey SIERRAN

Vol. 44, No. 4

Roughly 16,000 Members in New Jersey

October-December 2015

## Report from Trenton

# NJ Highlands Still at Risk: Sierra Club's Annual Report Card

From a Press Release issued on August 10th

August 10th marked the 11th anniversary of landmark legislation to protect the Highlands — called the Highlands Water Protection Act. Each year on this anniversary we evaluate the effectiveness of the Governor, Highlands Council, Regional Master Plan, Highlands Plan Implementation, the NJ 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, 64% of the state's population. Sadly, we report that the DEP has initiated significant rollbacks for many Highlands protections.

The Christie Administration is secretly trying to re-write the DEP's Highlands Rules at the DEP, so as to weaken the Highlands Council and the Regional Master Plan (RMP). "Stakeholder meetings" 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 environmentally sensitive 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 Pilgrim Pipelines are both threats to the Highlands, 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 hundreds 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 development on High Mountain at Oakland after the previous Administration denied those permits.

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## 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 spirited revelers, including an 88-year-old woman who brought her 90-year-old friend, enjoyed a leisurely, 2 1/2-hour, 500-foot climb to Wyanokie High Point, near Ringwood. There 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 Tittel remind us of the importance of grass roots activism, and of how new threats are born every day. (text supplied by Clea Carchia, of our Loantaka Group; photo credit: Anne Mandal)



# Sierra Club Endorses State Legislative Candidates for November Elections

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

On November 3rd, all of New Jersey's legislators in its 40-district State Assembly - 80 offices in all - will be up for election. 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-party candidates, then examined the responses - plus the voting and sponsorship records (of incumbents), conducted interviews, huddled for discussions, 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**, including more funding for urban parks. Protecting forests from environmentally harmful logging.

2. Protection against the damage done by **hydrofracking**: opposition to the treatment, discharge, disposal, etc, of wastes resulting from natural gas exploration and production.

3. Promoting the environmentally responsible generation of **electricity**:

from solar photovoltaic, wind, geothermal, and other such sources.

4. Support for a **Coastal Commission** similar to the Highlands, Pinelands, and Meadowlands Commissions: to prevent future disasters from storm events like Hurricane Sandy.

5. Support for **family planning services** - to reduce pressure on the environment.

6. Resuming NJ's participation in the **Northeastern States' Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative** (RGGI).

7. 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 their 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 district, 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 Mazzeo	D*
02	Colin Bell	D
06	Louis Greenwald	D*
06	Pamela Lampitt	D*
07	Herb Conaway	D*
07	Troy Singleton	D
10	David Wolfe	R*
12	Robert Clifton	R*
14	Daniel Benson	D*
15	Reed Gusciora	D*
15	Elizabeth Maher Muoio	D*
18	Patrick Diegnan	D*
18	Nancy Pinkin	D*
19	Craig Coughlin	D*
19	John Wisniewski	D*
20	Jamel Holley	D*
20	Annette Quijano	D*
24	Ken Collins	Green
27	John McKeon	D*
27	Mila Jasey	D*
30	Jim Keady	D
32	Angelica Jimenez	D*
33	Raj Mukherji	D*
34	Sheila Oliver	D*
34	Thomas Giblin	D*
36	Gary Schaar	D*
36	Marlene Caride	D*
37	Valerie Huttler	D*
37	Gordon Johnson	D*
38	Timothy Eustace	D*
38	Joseph Lagana	D*

\* Incumbent; Competitive Race

## SIERRA CLUB BALLOT

### 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 this 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, three 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 members 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 specialty Sections are for Singles, Seniors and for providers of Inner City Outings.)

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

If the Sierra Club has your e-mail address in its records, you will receive in October a ballot by e-mail, and you may vote EITHER online, as described below, OR by this paper ballot. If you cast an online ballot, any paper ballot you mail in will not be counted. Online votes must be cast by December 1, 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 e-mail you receive. If you have a joint membership, pairs of boxes are provided to enable each member to cast a separate vote. The ballot page will have links to the same candidate statements as are printed in this newsletter.

**To vote by paper ballot:** Please vote

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## BALLOT

(Continued from page 1)

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

**Chapter ExCom Ballot:** Candidates for three-year terms. Their portraits and 100-word statements are on p. 2. Name-order has been randomized. Please vote for UP TO THREE:

- George Denzer     Laura Lynch  
 Lee Snyder  
 Write-in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

### Group and Section Ballots

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

**Skylands Group:** Candidates for six positions on the Group ExCom, who will serve for two years. please vote for UP TO SIX.

- Edgar Shepherd     Greg Gorman  
 Norene Haberski     Marvin Feil  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Celeste Martin     Jonathan Wall  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**North Jersey Group:** Candidates for five positions on the Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO FIVE:

- Buddy Jenssen     Jennifer Rothschild  
 Mary Ellen Shaw     Laura Tracey-Coll  
 Mary Walsh  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gateway Group:** Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO THREE:

- David Yennior     Bill Chappel  
 ZaSah Khademi  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Loantaka Group:** Candidates for five positions on the Group ExCom, who will serve for 2-year terms. Please vote for UP TO FIVE:

- Paul Sanderson     Eric Hausker  
 Len Fariello     Bruce Ostrow  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Kim Rowe     Bob Sandberg  
 Faith Teitelbaum     Joe DeLuca  
 George Moffatt  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ocean County Section:** Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO FOUR:

- A. Gregory Auriemma     Joyce M. Isaza  
 Margit Meissner-Jackson  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Gina Carola     Trish Clements  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Julie Akers  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**LGBT (Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender) Section:** Candidates for five positions on the Section ExCom who will serve for one-year terms. Please vote for UP TO FIVE:

- John Kashwick     Jonathan Wall  
 Robert Zitzman     Corbett Klein  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

## Ballot Statements

(Name-order has been randomized)

**George Denzer (Central Jersey Group):**

As a member of the Club since 1983, I've concentrated on two issues: transportation and money. I'm proud of our work for efficient mass transit to help lower emissions into our air, but also to minimize road expansions that bring misplaced developments ruining our open spaces. I will continue to support these critical efforts to keep New Jersey a livable state. As Chapter Treasurer I will continue to ensure that we get the most out of our limited dollars, and work with the Fundraising Committee to increase those funds. I would appreciate your vote.



**Laura Lynch (Central Jersey Group):**

Active in the Sierra Club since 1996, I have been Conservation Chair for the West Jersey and Central Jersey Groups. I was the Chapter Conservation Chair from 2002 through 2013. I helped



stop the Millstone Bypass in Mercer County, Route 92 in Middlesex County, and Wal-Mart in an environmentally sensitive area of Lawrence Township, Mercer County. I work with neighborhoods to ensure open space protection in central NJ, and I represent the Club at public hearings. I was the lead author of our Chapter's Beginner's Guide to Land Use and Open Space Preservation in New Jersey. I participate actively in decision-making at the Chapter level.

**Lee Snyder (West Jersey Group):**

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



## Conservation Report

# Preserve the Fish

By Greg Gorman, Chapter Conservation Chair

The New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Service plans to release 1500 Atlantic landlocked salmon this November. 2000 eight-inch fish were delivered by the Roger Reed Salmon Hatchery, in Massachusetts, to our Hackettstown Hatchery. There they are being nurtured until they grow to about 14 inches for float stocking in Wawayanda Lake and Lake Aeroflex (Sussex County) and in Tilcon Lake (Allamuchy State Park, Warren Co). The remaining 500 will be released when they grow to 18-20 inches. Landlocked (freshwater) salmon are native to eastern Canada and Maine, and have been successfully introduced to suitable fresh waters outside their native range in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, and since 2006, in New Jersey!

Its saltwater cousin hasn't been so fortunate. Once-upon-a-time, migratory Atlantic salmon returned by the hundreds of thousands to most major rivers in the northeastern United States. Similarly, short-nose and Atlantic sturgeon from the Delaware Bay once supported a lucrative business for caviar and smoked fillets. Eel and river herring, which provide food for larger game fish, were also plentiful in our rivers and estuaries. Now these fish are considered threatened or endangered.

The decline is due to two factors: over-harvesting and polluted habitat. We seem willing to put limits on harvesting (by designating species as endangered), and to solve the problem of dams (by building fish-ladders around them), but not to "fix" the pollution problems. In the early twentieth century industrial pollution, untreated sewage, and soil erosion due to poor forestry practices were common, until solved by regulations. Today's NJ water pollution problems are primarily attributed to urban and suburban stormwater runoff (31%), atmospheric deposition (23%), and agricultural pollutants (23%).

Fertilizers, pesticides, motor oil, animal waste, detergents and other household chemicals all contribute to stormwater pollution. Taking steps to properly dispose of these domestic materials is just as important as controlling industrial wastes. Strategies include "low impact development": riparian buffers, rain gardens,

other drainage swales, vegetated rooftops, rain barrels under downspouts, and permeable pavements: all ways of diverting runoff into the ground rather than into storm sewers.

Atmospheric deposits include mercury, arsenic, lead, nickel, chromium, nitrous oxides, sulfur compounds, and other gases released from electric power plants, automobiles, home-heating furnaces, and industrial processes that burn fossil fuels: coal, oil and natural gas. These also end up in stormwater, flowing into lakes and streams, then rivers and estuaries. To reduce their deposition, alternate energy sources including solar, wind, and geothermal energy must replace fossil fuels. Our carbon footprints can also be reduced by increasing the energy efficiency of our appliances, and by forsaking our gas guzzlers for mass transit, bicycles and walking.

Agricultural pollutants include the nutrients in fertilizers (primarily nitrogen and phosphorous), pesticides applied to crops, pathogens and nutrients in animal feces, antibiotics, hormones, and heavy metals. (Methane in animal flatus is another story!) Sustainable farms apply waste and fertilizer to fields responsibly. What we can do is eat organic, use portion control, eat less meat and more vegetables, and support our local farmers. Do it for the fish!

We have the understanding and the technology to reduce the pollution that makes our waters unfishable, but there remains the politics! For instance, money-hungry developers, presumably, are behind NJ DEP's recent proposal to eliminate the 300-foot setback requirement for Class I (trout-bearing) streams. The Mercer Power Station kills short-nosed sturgeon with heat: cooling its furnaces with Delaware River water, instead of installing an evaporative cooling tower. Climate deniers and "Big Ag" persistently fight in the courts and legislatures to preserve their "rights" to pollute. These are some reasons why the Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter aggressively lobbies to protect our fish and our planet.



## Welcoming Jamie Zaccaria our new Chapter Administrative Assistant -by means of this interview

**1. What's your environmental background?**

I come from a home where I was raised to value the environment and all living creatures. As a child I started a recycling club at my elementary school and in High School began fostering cats and campaigning for spaying/neutering programs with my family. I attended the University of Delaware as an undergraduate where I received a B.S. in Wildlife Conservation. While there I did field work in Costa Rica, Hawaii, and right here on the East Coast, working at the Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy. I received my M.S. in Biodiversity, Conservation, and Policy from SUNY Albany last summer. My background has taught me the importance of mixing strong science with policy and community involvement for making true change. I have learned how everything is connected and how each person can make a difference when it comes to making our world a better place.

**2. What environmental issues concern you most?**

It's hard to pick just one issue when so many environmental issues are equally important and intertwined. My personal

passions would lean toward wildlife and marine conservation. I wrote my Master's thesis on conservation solutions for shark finning. Protecting our oceans and their inhabitants is extremely important.

**3. Why the New Jersey Sierra Club? Describe your job with us.**

I have always admired The Sierra Club and I am truly honored to be able to work for such a well-respected and deeply-rooted organization. The Sierra Club is proof that when you get people together and teach them about these issues, we can all come together to make real environmental change. As an Administrative Assistant I work alongside my co-workers to create outreach materials, organize events, and lobby the state government to make environmentally sound choices.

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

I haven't had a super big stand-out moment of my career yet but I consider every small victory a success story.



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

## Editorial

# Roadside Trash in New Jersey

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

I've been traveling in the past few months, enjoying my usual ten miles of weekend walks in distant places, in small part to compare roadside litter in as many states and countries as I could (and 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.

To make my walks more environmentally useful, I usually collect 5-10 pounds of discarded aluminum cans on each of them, worth an equivalent number of dollars from the local scrap merchant. (The money goes to the local historical society. Scrap glass and plastic have far less value, and are harder to collect.) When in South Jersey, I rarely come home with empty space in my bag.

Two possible explanations suggest themselves: economic and cultural. As you'll see on any beverage can or bottle bought in the New England states, as well as Michigan, Iowa and Hawaii, a 5¢ (or greater) deposit was part of the purchase price, and is refunded when the container is returned. Roadside containers, even if crushed, are thus worth 5¢ to any kid or poor person who picks them up. The streets of Omaha are clean, I'm told, because kids collect the containers to redeem the deposits just across the Missouri River in Iowa. So it's clear that Bottle Bills "work" to keep streets clean.

But how about California, Canada and England, which don't have Bottle Bills? California seems to have a culture that imparts environmental responsibility. Perhaps it's a spin-off of the tight regulations that apply to water use and air pollution. (Even gasoline-powered lawnmowers are tightly regulated in parts of California.) I noticed that even the rough-sleepers in Santa Monica's parks are careful to dispose of their trash properly. The Canadians I spoke with also reported with pride a culture of recycling.

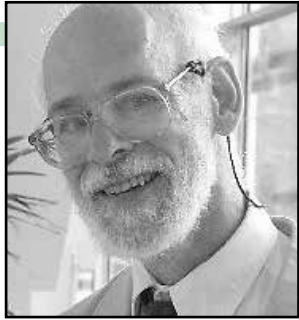


photo: James Mendelsohn

Oxford offers an interesting comparison that I think reveals socioeconomic class differences in Britain. For the last hundred years Oxford has housed two contrasting industries: one of the world's most prestigious universities, and a factory that makes cars: originally Morris Minors, MGs and Minis, now Mini-Coopers, owned by BMW. The residential neighborhoods are equally segregated. I spend my summers living with an academic colleague in an "educated class" neighborhood, with streets that rarely see an empty bottle or can. But only a few blocks away is a "less-educated class" neighborhood where I can always fill my bag with empty containers. (But it's not as bad as in South Jersey!)

The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club has lobbied for a state Bottle Bill ever since it was founded in 1971. In the early years the campaign was led by Al Kent, whose primary affiliation was with the NJ Environmental Lobby, a sister organization. His/our opponent was the glass bottle industry of South Jersey, which had financial clout. But that industry has gone.

A New Jersey "Smart Container" bill is currently in both houses of the Legislature, prime sponsored by Senator Whelan and Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttle and Stender, but the environmental committees that have "bottled it up" are responsive to Gov. Christie's opposition to any new taxes/fees, and presumably to the opposition of both the beverage retailers and the bottling industry.

Another problem is a law in NJ that provides money to support roadside cleanups. The Clean Communities Act of 1986 established a Clean Communities Council that awards about \$21M each year to counties and municipalities that contract with non-profit organizations for clean-ups of designated roadways four times a year for at least two years. Such operations might also object to any change in their status quo, such as a more effective way to reduce roadside trash.

David Yennior is the Chapter's Issue Coordinator for Recycling; he, and the rest of us, eagerly await a more environmentally responsible governor. Meanwhile, the trash accumulates.

## Sustainable Lifestyle

# Healthful Holiday Gifts and Tips

By Suzanne Yacowitz Dragan, a semi-regular contributor (animaltalk@optonline.net)

(1) Here's an idea for a table bouquet that descended while I was picking out greens at an organic food stand at the Red Bank Farmers Market. My choices of kale, two types of Swiss chard, mustard greens and a Japanese-sounding green made a vibrant and absolutely beautiful array of deep green, pale green, purple, gold and red. Instead of a bottle of wine, poinsettia or fruitcake (yuck!) why not give a healthful bouquet of organic greens? They keep fresh in cold water and are so pretty displayed before consuming.

(2) Instead of buying spiced coffee, grind up your regular coffee beans and add a bag of your favorite spiced tea to the brew. "Bengal Spice" makes delicious Chai-like coffee.

(3) No need to toss that slightly yellow broccoli with the pungent smell. You can make a quick soup:

### "Cream" of Broccoli Soup

4 cups broccoli, chopped—stalk & all  
1 T. olive oil  
1 small yellow onion, chopped  
A few cloves garlic, chopped  
4 cups vegetable stock (I use a reduced sodium vegetarian bouillon)  
1 potato, peeled and cut into 1" pieces

Kosher salt, black pepper. Other spices you might add: fresh rosemary or curry.

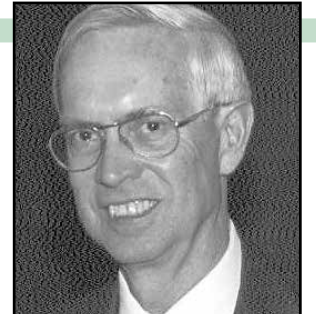
Heat oil in skillet, add onion & garlic, cook till soft (a few minutes). Add stock, potato and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, simmer till potato is soft. Add broccoli, simmer till all is soft. Stir in salt, black pepper and other spices if desired. Remove and puree in a blender till smooth.

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

## Chair's Message

# Respect for Nature

By Ken Johanson (kjohan@comcast.net)



Paul W. Taylor is a consistent and generous supporter of the New Jersey Chapter and its agenda. Until recently, this is all I knew about him. But then I received a hand-written note from Mr. Taylor (actually Professor Taylor, as I subsequently learned) expressing his regrets that he would not be able to attend a Sierra Club event that I had invited him to.

Professor Taylor's note was interesting in several respects. He said that he was unable to attend the event because, at age 90, he had physical limitations. He also said that he did not have a computer or email address, phone (other than for emergencies) or any other electronic communication device, that he had served in World War II in the Marines and that additional information about him was available on Wikipedia.

His final comment piqued my interest so I checked out Wikipedia, as well as other online resources. I found that Paul Taylor is professor emeritus in philosophy at Brooklyn College, City University of New York, and a leading authority on environmental ethics. His book, *Respect for Nature: A Theory of Environmental Ethics*, first published in 1986 and republished on its 25th anniversary in 2011, sets forth a comprehensive and analytical approach to environmental ethics.

Professor Taylor's book does not make for easy reading. When I mentioned in a note to him that I had purchased his book but apologized for taking so long to finish reading it, he responded that there was no need to apologize, that "When you are reading high level philosophy in the analytic tradition, it requires anyone serious about following the argument to read it with care."

Eventually I did finish reading the book. And while I do not believe I have the academic background necessary to provide an in-depth analysis of the book (to say nothing of the space that would be required - one review that I did take a look at went on for 22 pages), I do believe that a brief overview of Professor Taylor's thesis would be in order.

Professor Taylor states that a theory of environmental ethics "is an attempt to establish the rational grounds for a system of moral principles by which human treatment of natural ecosystems and their wild communities of life ought to be guided." Taylor points to two types of environmental ethics, anthropocentric, where the natural environment and its wildlife are valued only as objects for human use or enjoyment, and biocentric, where all forms of life possess inherent worth without regard to their usefulness to mankind.

As you might imagine, Professor Taylor advocates the adoption of the biocentric approach. His general thesis, as set forth at the beginning of his book, is as follows:

"In addition to and independent of whatever moral obligations we might have toward our fellow humans, we also have duties that are owed to wild living things in their own right.... Our duties toward the Earth's non-human forms of life are grounded on their status as entities possessing inherent worth. They have a kind of value that belongs to them by their very nature, and it is this value that makes it wrong to treat them as if they existed as mere means to human ends."

Those of us who are involved in the environmental movement have long believed that there is inherent value in preserving open space and in protecting the plants and animals that depend upon these undeveloped areas for their very existence. *Respect for Nature* provides us with a logical foundation for our beliefs.

Nor has Professor Taylor failed to make the connection between his thesis and the work we do. He concludes a letter I received from him with the following observation: "One matter I hope you will find enlightening is how my theory can actually provide a logical foundation for all the good things you, your colleagues, and all the active members of the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club are working to accomplish." Thank you Professor Taylor for your kind words, as well as your continued support of our work.

## Resolutions Passed by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in June, July and August, 2015

Conservation Chair Greg Gorman has appointed **Francie Goldstein as Asbestos Issue Coordinator**. Francie is a physician who has done research on asbestos and is interested in strengthening laws protecting workers and the public from asbestos. (June) Another new Issue Coordinator: **Debbie Young for Utah Wilderness Issues**. (John Kashwick will remain as Wildlands Issues Coordinator.) (August)

**Joe Testa was appointed Alternate CCL Delegate**. (The national Council of Club Leaders meets annually with the Club Board of Directors (BoD) to provide "coherence" between volunteer Club members and Club staff.) (June)

Another proposed CCL resolution would request that the BoD give feedback to the CCL on all resolutions that are adopted. (July)

Opposition (by legal action) to **AvalonBay's Proposed Development** in Wayne (Bergen Co.). (July)

Opposing (by legal action) the **Tilcon Quarry Expansion in Bloomingdale** (Passaic Co.). (July)

Beginning litigation to **oppose Leg Hold Trap Rule 7:25-5.12**. (July)

We joined the **New Parks for America Coalition** that is working to encourage the expansion of existing National Parks and the creation of new ones. We have explicit permission from National to join this coalition. (July)

**31 candidates were ENDORSED** for election to the New Jersey Assembly, as reported on p.1 of this Newsletter. (August)

We voted to support other regional Chapters in wanting to restore what was once the Club's **Northeast Regional Conservation Committee (NERCC)**, which used to meet twice a year to work on issues of interest to the New England states plus NY, NJ, PA and Canada's Maritime Provinces. (August)

The Chapter's **Central Jersey Group was placed into Reorganization**, meaning that staff and Chapter volunteers will attempt to find new volunteer leadership. (August)

## Member's Report

## Recycling Homes in Camden

By Gina Carola, Chair of our West Jersey Group (Ginaceee@verizon.net)

There is a renaissance quietly taking place in the rundown neighborhoods of Camden. While large-scale redevelopment for industry, Rutgers Univ, and Cooper Hospital takes place along the Delaware Riverfront and the highways, a small organization called the Saint Joseph's Carpenter Society (SJCS) is going about the business 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 homeownership leads to a higher quality of life by encouraging stability, fostering personal pride, promoting the development of community ties, allowing families to build wealth, and attracting private capital to under-invested areas. The Society performs three interrelated functions: community organizing, housing development, and homeowner education. It targets abandoned homes (of which there are plenty in Camden) for acquisition, rehabilitation and sale to neighborhood families.

After several years of operation, the Society realized that rehabilitated homes needed to house financially responsible and informed community members. So, in 1994, it created the Campbell Soup Homeowner Academy. The 6-week Money Basics and Homebuyer Education courses, mandatory for all its homebuyers, teach families the basics of financial management and of the mortgage process, as well as the responsibilities of being home-owning community members. Attending these group education sessions, as well as private one-on-one counseling sessions, empowers clients to qualify for mortgages to purchase a completely renovated or newly built house.

Another element of the Society's neighborhood redevelopment model is community organizing to form networks capable of addressing local concerns. Thus, all



AFTER



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. To date, more than 950 residential properties have been returned to families in targeted neighborhoods. More than 630 of these are owned by their occupants. In 2014, nearly 100 individuals graduated from the Homeowner Academy with nearly 200 people attending the classes. Typical homebuyers are African American, Hispanic, and Asian. Typical household annual incomes are \$20,000 to \$35,000. The value of SJCS homes has risen dramatically: in 1990 rehabilitated homes sold for \$20,000; today these homes sell for between \$72,000 and \$150,000. 90% of all SJCS homes sold are still owned by their original buyers or their families, and the mortgage foreclosure rate is only 3%. The fact that the Society's homes are appreciating and that families are successful homeowners are strong endorsements of the Carpenter Society's community development approach.

The West Jersey Group has hosted SJCS and supported them in their efforts and encourages other Sierra Club Groups to learn about this forward-thinking organization. If you would like more information about SJCS or would like to volunteer, please contact Pilar Hogan Closkey, Executive Director, at 856-966-8117. Check out their wonderful accomplishments at [www.sjcscamden.org](http://www.sjcscamden.org).

## Reports from Trenton

## "Super Bowl" For Exxon Settlement: Enviro Groups Prove Violations in Court

From a Press Release issued on July 30th

The Sierra Club and allied environmental groups continue to oppose a "pennies-on-the-dollar" settlement between the Christie Administration's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Exxon-Mobil - for years of pollution at two NJ refineries (Bayway and Linden), 16 other industrial sites, and more than 800 gas stations in NJ. The original award of \$8.9Billion was reduced to a settlement of \$225Million, of which \$50M would cover legal fees and the remainder would be paid into NJ's General Fund - i.e. NOT used to clean up the pollution!

We asked for a "stay" on the settlement, which was denied by a judge on July 30<sup>th</sup>, even though we argued that the settlement violates NJ's Spill Act, Natural Resource Damages, and the Public Trust Doctrine. So we will proceed to Appellate Court.

Our objections to the settlement are that the Spill Act clearly requires clean-ups to include restoration: in this deal the DEP is not requiring restoration. The set-

tlement also violates the Spill Act because it would not require Morses Creek to have a clean-up in a timely fashion. The Spill Act requires quick clean-ups. Under the proposed settlement discharges would continue into Morses Creek, which violates surface water standards. The settlement denies the right of the public to comment on the 15 additional sites added to the case, which also violates the Spill Act. The settlement breaks Public Trust Doctrine because the damaged natural resources belong to all of us.

The appeal is expected to be decided by the end of August. We will continue to try to get status to intervene, because there is information that still needs to be put on the record, not only regarding the refineries, but also regarding the 16 other sites and 800 gas stations. We need to restore 1,500 acres of wetlands; not just cap them and pave them over.

This proposed settlement is the biggest corporate giveaway in state history.

## Member's Report

## Tracking the Passaic River Cleanup

David Yennior, our Passaic River Issues Coordinator, has kindly solicited this commentary from a colleague, Harvey Morginstin, who is a retired Professional Engineer:

*Mankind has always looked to the sea with trepidation and awe. The sight of open water is mesmerizing and activity on the water be it waves or sailing ships, heightens our interest. We leave this view with sadness hoping to return again and again.*

In addition to the removal and safe disposal of the River's contaminated sediments under a Federal project, a NJ State lawsuit settlement includes \$67M to provide public recreational access to the riverbanks in the roughly twelve river-miles fronting on Newark, Harrison, Kearny, North Arlington, Lyndhurst, Belleville, Nutley and Rutherford.

Riverfront designers mostly design the water edge with interesting pathways and plants, lighting and often guard rails. The purpose is to allow the general public to visit the waterway with a safe path for walking or bicycles. What is often overlooked is convenient access for transient boaters, to access nearby restaurants, movies, and shops. Floating docks and gangways from the dock to the shore are rarely installed as part of the new walkway, yet could be accomplished at minimal cost while the walkway and landscaping are under construction. (Along both sides of the Hudson River there are also many locations where floating docks and boat slips could be established.) The slips could be equipped with parking meters and generate revenue similar to car parking meters.

The new docks on the Raritan River in New Brunswick are free to the public and have a bridge over Route 28 to allow easy access for boaters to visit the local restaurants, as well as offering residents and visitors easy access to the river park. In the summer dock attendants are present.

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 very detailed letter grouped similar tasks such as dredging amounts, number of piles, and docks, so that a single contract for each task could be issued to minimize cost and time for completion.

As the Passaic River is a Superfund site in the lower 17-mile tidal section, dredging and disposal of contaminated soil is a tedious and complicated task. The water of the Passaic is as clean as 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 reenter the water when stirred up by a dredging bucket. USEPA removed about 40k cubic yards of con-

taminants from mile 3 by first enclosing the area with sheet steel. Removed material was then dewatered and the removed water processed while the remaining solids were shipped out of state by train. At mile 10.9 20k cubic yards were removed without containment, but processing was done in a similar fashion.

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 methodology at mile 10.9. There is a way to substantially reduce this cost using containment 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 improvements 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 completion of Minish Park phase 3 (a Federal project), leaving substantial funds for other projects.

Work on the Passaic River boat ramps, especially the long-overdue improvement to the NJ Ramp at Nutley, and floating docks on both sides of the river, should start immediately as they impact the amount of available funds by less than 5% not counting Minish Park.



Old boat ramp at Nutley, low tide



New Meadowlands barge facility on the Hackensack River, north of the Route 3 bridge

## NJ Transit Delays Add Insult

From a Press Release issued on July 24th

New Jersey, more than any other state, needs to promote moderate-to-high residential density by providing an efficient and affordable public transit system.

Our most heavily used transit corridor is that by train and bus tunnels into Manhattan.

A single week in mid-July saw four major delays of trains into Penn Station, affecting many thousands of commuters. Adding insult to injury, fares will increase by 9% on October 8th.

The increase will help close a \$60 million budget gap even after NJTransit managed to cut \$40 million internally.

We think an increase in NJ's gas tax should have been a better solution to the problem.

The fare increase will only pressure people to use cheaper transportation by car: increasing congestion, air pollution, and the need for road improvements. This at a time when the Transportation Trust Fund is out of money. New Jersey's gas tax is the second lowest in the nation, unraised since 1988, although the fares for NJTransit have been raised 8 times.

The Legislature and the Christie Administration have failed to prevent this disaster for our commuters.

## NJ HIGHLANDS

(Continued from page 1)

The Governor has stacked the Highlands Council, and proposed weakened rules for flood hazard and stormwater that would reduce stream buffers, especially for Category-1 (trout-quality) streams.

The Highlands Act is the environmental legacy of Gov. McGreevy (2002-2006), who constructed it in an open and transparent way, achieving bipartisan consensus for environmental limitations on development after many public hearings throughout the million-acre region.

In the last 11 years progress has been made. Fifty nine municipalities and counties have adopted local protections, both 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 payments in lieu of taxes for open space. He is the first recent Governor not to champion funding for open space preservation. There is also a lack of leadership 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 select participants, many of whom are developers and special interest stakeholders who opposed the Highlands Act in the first place.

The Highlands Council's 2014 Annual Report highlights its Transfer of Development Rights program and reports little progress on the redevelopment of community centers as a way to prevent sprawl.

### Now here's our Report Card:

**Governor (F):** 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 would block any such move. 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 rubberstamp for developers. He is weakening DEP rules.

**Appointments to the Highlands Council (F):** Christie has appointed individuals who are members of organizations that have sued to challenge the constitutionality of the Act, and have delayed the adoption of the RMP in their own communities. Luckily, some of the good hold-over appointees have not been replaced.

**Budget (D):** In 2011 Christie slashed the operating budget from \$12M to \$4.4M and cut \$18M in grants to municipalities. Direct aid for municipalities in the Highlands was cut as well.

**Stable Source of Open Space Funding (F):** Last fall, voters approved a Constitutional dedication of funding for open space purchases, but that would supply far less money than in previous years. More money is needed, we think via a water-user fee.

**Highlands Plan Implementation (Incomplete):** Under pre-Christie Executive Director Eileen Swan's leadership, the Council received 60 municipal conformance petitions to adopt a Highlands Plan and 42 were approved.

Since Christie's team took over, under Gene Feyl and Margaret Nordstrom, only seven were approved and money for implementation has been cut.

**Highlands Council (D):** Under the new (Christie) leadership of Jim Rilee, the Council installed the Governor's political buddies in the three top staff positions. Conformance petitions have slowed and the Council is moving away from the Highland Land Use Ordinance to a Checklist Ordinance approach. (There are some excellent members on the Council who really care about the environment and work very hard.)

The 2014 Report indicates that only one community adopted a Planning Area Petition Ordinance, four communities did a Master Plan Reexamination Report, two communities adopted a Checklist Ordinance, five did Environmental Resource Inventories, six completed a Highlands Master Plan Element, and four established Land Use Ordinances. The only area of progress was in ten towns that established the ability to grant exemptions to land-use regulations, which is not exactly the purpose of Highlands protection.

**Opposition to the Pilgrim Pipeline (A-):** Every Highlands town along the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline (for carrying Bakken crude oil from Albany NY to Linden NJ) 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.

**EPA (F):** The EPA's proposed mitigation plan for the Ringwood Mines Superfund site would not require a full cleanup of the site. Instead, capping and institutional controls will be used to limit the spread of pollutants. By allowing the Ford Motor Company to leave toxic paint sludge, groundwater and Highlands' streams would be impacted.

The long-delayed cleanup of Acid Brook Delta and Pompton Lakes is not being done properly. EPA is no-longer requiring clean-up of the toxic plume that is now under 450 homes, and up-gradation from a water supply intake, so that mercury could not only get back into the environment and fisheries but could impact a major water supply.

The EPA has failed in its responsibility for the Fenimore Landfill in Roxbury, allowing the DEP to take control of the clean-up. This site will be spewing noxious odors for the next 20 years unless the plan is changed.

**Highlands Council Staff Leadership (C):** Gov. Christie first got the Highlands Council to hire his crony Gene Feyl as Executive Director. (Feyl retired earlier this year after padding his pension.) Things have gotten better since Margaret Nordstrom replaced him. We have worked with her on open space preservation. The Council blocked funding for Sussex County to do an agri-tourism study. The Council's Chief Counsel has spoken out against the Highlands Act.

**Highlands Regional Master Plan (D):** The Council appointed a select four-member committee to propose changes to the RMP. Councilmember Tracy Carluccio, an environmentalist, asked to serve but was denied by Chairman Rilee. They are rewriting the plan in secret. Technical advisory meetings are supposed to take place this Fall but they

haven't been set up yet. We are very concerned.

**Stakeholder Process (D):** The Highlands Council started a stakeholder process last year, inviting many people interested in protecting the Highlands, and some who are not. There have been too many closed-door meetings with landowners and developers which we think will be used to weaken the RMP.

**Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program and Bank (C-):** The TDR program is in place and working but we need to expand it by providing more funding for TDR purchases and establishing receiving areas. The Pinelands received \$25 million in the 1980's to purchase development rights; the Highlands should be receiving funding at similar levels. It takes time to develop a successful program and the Bank is off to a good start.

Since the bank is not being funded by the State, it is considering trying to divert mitigation funding from the Susquehanna-Roseland power-line project into TDR, undermining mitigation efforts and setting a dangerous precedent.

**DEP (F):** There has been major backsliding in protecting the water quality in the Highlands. By weakening the Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules, DEP has

allowed more filling of flood-hazard areas in the Highlands. DEP has also weakened protections of headwaters in Category-1 streams, which is terrible.

DEP has also been holding secret meetings to weaken the nitrate pollution model standard which will allow more development in the Highlands. DEP issued wetlands permits for a development in Oakland that would result in the destruction of important wetlands. DEP is allowing the Pinnacle project in Oakland: more than 200 homes next to a C-1 stream. DEP's Division of Water Monitoring and Standards recommended that seven streams in the Highlands be upgraded to C-1, but the Christie Administration has blocked approval.

In spite of all these problems, the Highlands Act is still a success. We're still protecting the forests and watersheds of the Highlands region from overdevelopment. All the people of New Jersey are still benefiting from getting clean, fresh drinking water from the Highlands region. But until this Administration leaves, the Highlands will be at risk. We hope this Report Card will remind the public that the Highlands is under attack and that the Sierra Club will keep fighting to protect it for future generations.



# Group News

FROM  
AROUND  
THE  
STATE

## HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

**Skylands Group:** Sussex & northern Warren  
**South Highlands Group:** Hunterdon & southern Warren  
**North Jersey Group:** Bergen & Passaic  
**Gateway Group:** Essex  
**Hudson County Group:** Hudson  
**Loantaka Group:** Morris & Union  
**Central Jersey Group:** Mercer  
**Raritan Valley Group:** Somerset & Middlesex  
**Jersey Shore Group:** Monmouth  
**Ocean County Group:** Ocean  
**West Jersey Group:** Burlington, Camden & Gloucester  
**South Jersey Group:** Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland & Salem

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

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

### Skylands Group

(Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

**WEB-SITE:** <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/skylands/> Or click from the NJ Chapter's web-site.

**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/SkylandsNJSC>

**E-MAIL:** [skylandsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:skylandsgroup@gmail.com)

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

**Chair:** Susan Williams 973-222-0274 [skylandsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:skylandsgroup@gmail.com)

**Vice &**

**Political Chair:** Edgar Sheperd [shepherd\\_edgar@yahoo.com](mailto:shepherd_edgar@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer:** Jeri Doherty [bjd42@nac.net](mailto:bjd42@nac.net)

**Secretary:** Norene Haberski [habersn@yahoo.com](mailto:habersn@yahoo.com)

**Conservation Chair:** Greg Gorman [ggorman07419@embarqmail.com](mailto:ggorman07419@embarqmail.com)

**Outings Chair:** Dave Alcock [dwhoob@hotmail.com](mailto:dwhoob@hotmail.com)

**Acting Publicity Chair:** Jeri Doherty [bjd42@nac.net](mailto:bjd42@nac.net)

**Membership Chair:** *Open Position!*

**Programs/**

**Events Chair:** *Open Position!*

**Ex-Com**

**Members-at-Large:** Dave Alcock [dwhoob@hotmail.com](mailto:dwhoob@hotmail.com)

Marvin Feil [mfeil@writeme.com](mailto:mfeil@writeme.com)

**ACTIVITIES:** We provide education about a variety of environmental issues by hosting movies or speakers at our general meetings. We also provide information to residents by tabling at town days and other events throughout the spring/summer/fall seasons.

We join with other grassroots organizations to protect the natural resources and beauty of our environmentally sensitive area in Northwest NJ. Some of our activism

(continued on page 6)

## YOU HAVE MORE TO GIVE THAN YOU KNOW

Maybe you can't make a gift to protect the environment during your lifetime, but you can become a financial hero by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. You can even direct your gift to a special Club program or to the New Jersey Chapter.

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

## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 5)

includes protecting open space, maintaining water quality, promoting clean energy, and addressing local, national and global environmental issues as they arise. We participate in activities to protect the Delaware River Basin and oppose hydro-fracking and all the subsequent infrastructure needed for it. The Skylands Group also sponsors hikes and other outings throughout the region to encourage people to reconnect with the outdoors.

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** Meets the 4th Monday of the month at 7pm at the Andover Diner, Route 206 S, 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 Geary. 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 10th (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 3.5 miles.

All Events are posted on our FaceBook website and the online events calendar on the Chapter website. We also advertise on various media sites throughout the Skylands region.

## South Highlands Group

(Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties)

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/south-highlands/>

**MEETUP:** <http://www.meetup.com/njsierraclub>

**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/53817136187/>

### OFFICERS:

<b>Chair:</b>	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Celeste Martin*	oncentral@mac.com
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	Cinny MacGonagle*	cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Celeste Martin*	oncentral@mac.com
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com
<b>Publicity Chair:</b>	Susan Schirmer*	soupys@att.net
<b>Membership Chair:</b>	Jim Fleming	jffleming18@comcast.net
<b>Outings Coordinator:</b>	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com

(\*Group Executive Committee Member)

Unless otherwise noted, meetings and outings are free and open to general public, but donations are accepted. Please check our web site, Meetup page, or Facebook page (see above for URLs) as these as topics, 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 quiet 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 Gardner Program, will present a program on native plants vs. invasive plants: which are good and which are not so good? 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, and Jonathan Wall will present a program on their recent trip to Yellowstone and the environmental impacts to this natural treasure. 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 and discuss issues, plan future events, and become more active. Please check the on-line calendar of events to confirm. For more information please contact Jonathan at [psychologist@jonwall.com](mailto:psychologist@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 for views. Bring lunch and water. We will walk at an enjoyable relaxed 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 leash are welcome. Plan on hike taking 2 1/2 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, moderate hike, but lots of warm holiday cheer at the Office of Dr. Jonathan Wall, PsyD, 27 Center St, Clinton. We'll hike for 4-5 miles on relatively flat terrain. Party is a potluck so please bring your favorite appetizer, dessert or beverage. Registration required. Let Jonathan know what you plan to bring at [psychologist@jonwall.com](mailto:psychologist@jonwall.com). Rain or snow may cancel the hike.

## North Jersey Group

(Bergen and Passaic Counties)

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/north-jersey>

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

**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/northjerseysierraclub>

### Officers:

<b>Chair:</b>	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@gmail.com
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Mary Ellen Shaw *	meshaw.001@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Tom Thompson *	ctrans743@aol.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jennifer Rothschild *	jenniroth2@gmail.com
<b>Conservation Co-Chair:</b>	Mary Ellen Shaw *	meshaw.001@gmail.com
<b>Conservation Co-Chair:</b>	Laura Tracey Coll *	lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com
<b>Political Co-Chair:</b>	Jennifer Rothschild *	jenniroth2@gmail.com
<b>Political Co-Chair:</b>	Tom Bores	actjb@msn.com
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<b>Social Media Coor.:</b>	Ariana Schanzer	arianaschanzer@gmail.com
<b>Trail Maintenance:</b>	Marty Cohen	martincohen@verizon.net
<b>Webmaster/Listmaster:</b>	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@gmail.com
<b>Wildlife Issues:</b>	Mary Ellen Shaw *	meshaw.001@gmail.com
<b>Ex-Com at-Large:</b>	Nancy Wysocki *	nape2@aol.com
<b>Ex-Com at-Large:</b>	Beth Ravit *	ravit@envsci.rutgers.edu

(\*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](mailto:northjerseysierraclub@gmail.com).

**Sept 30 (Wed): Sailing the Northwest Passage.** 7pm at Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) Metro Campus, Dickinson Hall, Wilson Auditorium, 140 University Drive, Hackensack. David Thorenson is a world renowned photographer, sailor and climate observer. 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 (Tue): 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, plan future events, and become more active. Please check the on-line calendar of events to confirm. For more information please contact John at [jkashwick@gmail.com](mailto: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 have several speakers lined up for this important and timely event, including Jeff Tittel, Executive Director of the NJ Sierra Club, Rosemary Dreger Carey from 350NJ.org, Paula Rogovin, founder of the Coalition Against Unsafe Oil Trains, and Matt Smith from Food and Water Watch.

**Nov 18 (Wed): Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.** 7pm at Paramus Public Library, 116 East Century Rd, Paramus. Rescheduled from September. Join us for an interactive workshop coordinated by Mary Walsh, our Executive Committee member. Bring your own ideas. If you would like to help plan or participate in this program, please contact Mary at [blehlwalsh@hotmail.com](mailto:blehlwalsh@hotmail.com).

**Dec 6 (Sun): Annual Holiday Potluck.** 3pm at Closter Nature Center, 154 Ruckman Rd, Closter. Join us for our annual celebration. Show off your cooking skills or bring a pre-made dish, but help us share the holiday spirit. Please register online or contact Jennifer Rothschild at [jenniroth2@gmail.com](mailto:jenniroth2@gmail.com) and let her know what you plan to bring. Optional walk in the Nature Center before 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 Pipeline:** 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 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 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 [jeffrap@optonline.net](mailto:jeffrap@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-

ard rail cars to safeguard our families and 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 meshaw.001@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 martincohen@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 blehlwalsh@hotmail.com to get more information.

## Gateway Group

*Serving Hillside, Elizabeth, and Essex County (except for Livingston, Millburn and Roseland)*

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

**Our website:** <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/Gateway/>. (also accessible from the NJ Chapter website) On Facebook: Gateway Group, NJ Sierra or <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gateway-Group-NJ-Sierra-Club/128998363842782>

### OFFICERS:

<b>Chair:</b>	David Yennior	973-844-1384	dyennior@gmail.com
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	ZaSah Khademi	201-618-8572	zasah@aol.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Anne Hirs	973-844-1121	annehirs@msn.com
<b>Program Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Publicity Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Conservation</b>			
<b>Co-Chairs:</b>	ZaSah Khademi	201-618-8572	zasah@aol.com
and	David Korfhage	973-932-0742	drkorfhage@gmail.com
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Anna Whitney		annawhitney44@gmail.com
<b>Fundraising Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Membership Chair:</b>	Steven Yafet	908-354-2537	syafet@gmail.com
<b>Water, Newark Issues Chr:</b>	Bill Chappel	973-623-6490	chappel.bill@gmail.com
<b>Recycling Issues Chair:</b>	Lyle Landon	201-247-0288	lylelandon@aol.com
<b>Passaic River</b>			
<b>Co-Chairs:</b>	Brenda Toyloy	973-856-7056	brendatoyloy@yahoo.com
and	Jeff Weiss	973-650-1030	bonefish5000@gmail.com
<b>Elizabeth</b>			
<b>Issues Chair:</b>	Paula Borenstein	908-289-3584	brdandmkt@aol.com
<b>Outings Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Group Executive Committee:</b>	David Yennior, ZaSah 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, ZaSah Khademi, Bill Chappel, Steven Yafet, Anne Hirs, Paula Borenstein, and Brenda Toyloy.

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

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

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

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

## Hudson Area Network

*(Hudson County)*

The NJ Chapter understands the importance of urban issues such as protecting the public's drinking water and air quality, maintaining good mass transit, issues of flooding, providing access to the waterfront, the creation and preservation of sustainable green open space, and addressing environmental justice issues, and is currently establishing a local network of local grassroots volunteers in the Hudson County area. **Anyone interested in being involved** is encouraged to contact Hudson Area Coordinator Christine Wiltanger: cwiltanger@gmail.com.

(Note: a "Network" is a new Sierra Club entity analogous to a Group, but more informal.)

## Loantaka Group

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

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>  
Loantaka now has a Facebook page. Please check it out and like it: <https://www.facebook.com/LoantakaGroupNJSC/>

### OFFICERS:

<b>Group Co-Chairs:</b>	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
and	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Scott McCarthy	813-767-5593	hi_risescott@earthlink.net
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>			
<b>Morris County:</b>	Len Fariello		len@wildlifepreserves.org
<b>Union County:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Clea Carchia	908-892-7229	info@CleaCarchia.com
<b>Programs:</b>	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
<b>Fundraising Chair:</b>	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
<b>Outings Chair:</b>	Wanda Knapik	908-432-2198	AdventuresWithWanda@gmail.com
<b>Publicity Chair:</b>	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
<b>Membership:</b>	Bruce Ostrow	973-625-0792	ostrowb@gmail.com
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net

If you might be interested in getting involved, come to one of our Executive Committee Meetings on the first Tuesday of the month and get to know us. Or come to one of our General Meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. There are no obligations and there will be no pressure.

To find out our activities, go to: <http://www.sierraclub.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 at Executive Committee meetings. Right now, we have open positions on it! If you would like to find out more, please contact Paul Sanderson.

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** are held on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at the Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St, Chatham. Come learn something new and make some new friends. We'd welcome the chance to meet you and to introduce ourselves. Please see the schedule, below, and join us!

**DIRECTIONS:** posted on our website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>

### MEETING SCHEDULE:

**Oct 14:** Dr. Daniela Shebitz 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 and try to find out what issues are important with our members. We ramp up the refreshments and hone our listening skills, so come out and enjoy some time with us.

**ACTIVITIES:** (Consult our website (<http://www.sierraclub.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 (908-233-2414) or Eric (732-669-0719).

## Central Jersey Group

*(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)*

**Web-site:** <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/central-jersey>. Or click from the NJ Chapter's web-site.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:jamie.zaccaria@sierraclub.org), 609-656-7612.

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

## Raritan Valley Group

*(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)*

### OFFICERS:

<b>Group Chair:</b>	Roomi Nusrat	609-389-6036	sierra_nj_raritan@att.net
<b>Group Vice Chair:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		
<b>Outings</b>			
<b>Coordinator:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		
<b>Webmaster:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		

(Continued on page 8)

**Members in commuting distance of Trenton are invited to volunteer time to help run our state office: Call Toni Granato.**

## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

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

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/Raritan-Valley/>

Our monthly meetings are usually on a weekday evening of the third week. We have a program with convenient telephone conferences to update the membership on activities. Please write to us on e-mail [sierra\\_nj\\_rartian@att.net](mailto:sierra_nj_rartian@att.net) to participate.

**Meetings Location and Updates:** Because meeting dates and locations change, please subscribe to our E-mail list: NJ-RARITAN-VALLEY-NEWS after creating a password on <http://lists.sierraclub.org/>

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

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

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

**1. Conservation and Protection of the Raritan River basin area.**

Key issues: preservation of our water supply, wildlife and prevention of water pollution.

**2. Passage of and responsible enforcement of environmentally friendly zoning and development ordinances.**

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

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

### Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/Jersey-Shore/>

**OFFICERS:**

**Group Chair:** Dennis Anderson 732-970-4327 dennisaza@aol.com  
 6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747  
**Vice-Chair:** *Open Position!*  
**Secretary:** Joe DeLuca 732-389-1835 joe-deluca@att.net  
**Conservation Chair:** Faith Teitelbaum 732-513-5445 faithtei@aol.com  
**Webmaster:** *Open Position!*  
**Treasurer:** Pat Fuschetto 732-308-4588 fusche40@yahoo.com  
**Political Chair:** Bob Sandberg 732-747-3224 sandberg00@gmail.com  
**Outings Chair:** Mike Verange 908-902-0718 mjverange@aol.com  
**Membership Chair:** Bob Grize 732-892-0684 nyucwnyppb@aol.com  
**Program Chair:** George Moffatt 732-544-1726 gmoffattgt@aol.com  
**Fund-raising Co-Chairs:** Lois Blake 732-863-5917 lqblake@optonline.net  
 and Joellen Lundy 732-741-4756 jfutey@comcast.net

**Shore Group Happenings:**

**Whale Pond Cleanups:** We continue our cleanups with a coalition with Monmouth University, all the towns in the Whale Pond Brook watershed, and the NJ Friends of Clearwater. Hurricane Sandy dumped tons to trash back into the watershed, which we are still removing a year later, so more cleanups are being scheduled. Our long-range goal is to clean up the watershed and educate local residents about the detrimental effects of lawn 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](mailto:faithtei@aol.com).

**Help Needed for Other Cleanups:** If you would like to participate in cleanups of our other local waterways, please contact another dynamo, Laura Bagwell at [l.bagwell3@verizon.net](mailto:l.bagwell3@verizon.net). Laura focuses on the Red Bank area watersheds. In this effort, we work with the Navesink Swimming River Group which, since 2002, has removed more than 20 tons of debris from our local banks and streams. Alas, pollution never ends; we are in constant need of volunteers.

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** Our general membership meetings take place at 6pm on the fourth Monday of the month at Brookdale Community College's Lincroft Campus. We are delighted that the college has invited us to continue the joint membership meetings through 2015. Our meetings, billed by BCC as "Science Monday," average 65 attendees a month, with some events peaking at 95 to 150 people. The cooperative effort between Sierra and BCC extends the "reach" of both organizations into the Monmouth community. Our BCC liaison is Dr. Patricia Dillon, a biology professor in the college's Science Department.

We meet at BCC to share our speakers with environmentally-concerned BCC college students, the NJ Friends of Clearwater, and other environmental organizations. A buffet is available for the students and adults at 6 pm. Contributions from non-students are encouraged to defray the costs. The programs start at 6:30 pm.

To get to Brookdale, take GSP Exit 109 to Rte 520 West (Newman Springs Rd, which becomes E. Main St at the Lincroft campus). Exit the traffic circle into the campus and follow the signs to the Warner Student Life Center (SLC), where the meeting usually is in the Twin Lights Rooms I and II. Use parking lot 7. As you walk towards the building complex, Warner will be down the slope on

your left. If lot 7 is full, use parking lots 5 or 6. A campus map is at [http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP\\_04\\_08.pdf](http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP_04_08.pdf).

**Oct 26:** 350.org's Views on the Climate. 350.org'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 - 350.org - comes from "350 ppm" (parts per million) of carbon dioxide molecules in the atmosphere, which many scientists and climate experts agree is the "safe" level of carbon dioxide. Today, we're at 400 ppm, and adding 2 ppm of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere every year. 350.org was founded in 2008 by a group of university friends in the U.S. along with author Bill McKibben, who wrote one of the first "popular" books on global warming. Today, 350.org 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 uneasy relationship between inhabited coastlines and uninhabited seas. Specifically, he will focus on the need to restore and protect coastal habitat after Hurricane Sandy and he will explore several defensive strategies for predicted sea rise in the future. Since 1961, the ALS has urged citizens to care for the coast through advocacy, conservation, and education. Not only does the ALS "represent the fish," a favorite slogan of Tim's predecessor, Derry Bennett, its mission also is to give concerned citizens the knowledge and tools they need to raise their voices as well. "When we restore habitat, our objective is not only to restore a dune or rebuild an oyster reef, but also to motivate people to invest 'sweat equity' into a piece of the coast, take ownership and become committed stewards." 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 in Matawan. If you get lost, call him at 732-970-4327. Everyone is asked to bring hors d'oeuvres, cakes or other hot and cold dishes, as well as soda, wine and beer. Please let Dennis know in advance at [dennisaza@aol.com](mailto:dennisaza@aol.com) so we don't wind up with five tofu dishes. If members of other Sierra Groups are in the neighborhood, please stop by and say hello.

### Ocean County Group

**WEBSITE:** [www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/ocean-county/](http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/ocean-county/)

**OFFICERS:**

**Chair & Treasurer:** A. Gregory Auriemma, Esq. 732-451-9220 sierraclubOC@aol.com  
**Vice-Chair & Conserv Chair:** Margit Meissner-Jackson 609-296-4367 sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com  
**Outings Chair & Env'l Ed'n Coord:** Terrance Brown 848-333-7331  
**Outings Co-Chair:** Monica Zabroski 609-384-2693 monicazabrowski@yahoo.com  
**Fund-Raising:** Joyce M. Isaza 732-920-9270 realtymstr@aol.com  
**Group ExCom Member:** Nancy Brown 732-892-6089 nancybrown624@comcast.net  
**Group ExCom Member:** Sierra 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.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/ocean-county/>.

**MEETINGS AND EVENTS:** General Meetings are held bi-monthly (i.e., in alternate months) usually on the FOURTH MONDAY at 7pm at the "Skywalk Cafe" in the Ocean County Administration Building, 129 Hooper Avenue (2nd Floor), Toms River. Information on meetings in July-September will be posted on the website.

### West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

**WEBSITE:** <http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/West-Jersey/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseyGroupNJSC> Log on and Like Us

**OFFICERS:**

**Group Chair:** Gina Carola 856-848-8831 ginacee@verizon.net  
**Vice-Chair:** Frank Zinni efzin4@aol.com  
**Secretary:** Ellen Zinni efzin4@aol.com  
**Treasurer:** Trish Clements patri3210@gmail.com  
**Publicity Chair:** Anne Caridi bears4cats@msn.com  
**Political Chair:** *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831  
**Pinelands Rep:** Lee Snyder pinelands1@hotmail.com  
**Greenways Coord's:** Frank and Ellen Zinni efzin4@aol.com  
**Conservation Chair:** Stacey Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com  
**Delegate at Large:** Aida Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com  
**Membership Chair:** Mike Brown 856-547-9221 eyebrown@verizon.net  
**Fundraising Chair:** *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831  
**Smart Growth Chair:** *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831



**Programs Chair:** *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831  
**Outings Chair:** *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831  
**Social Media Coordinator:** **Looking for someone who is savvy with Twitter, Facebook Instagram etc. willing to keep putting the word out there about what the West Group is doing.**

**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 34B onto Rte 70 West. Follow the signs for Rte 41 South, which is Kings Hwy (you will have to exit to the right into a jug handle and then turn left onto Rte 41 (Kings Hwy). Cross over Rte 70 and you will be briefly on Rte 154 (Brace Rd). Make the next right and then the next left onto Kings Hwy. After about 1 mile, you will cross Grove Rd (Indian King Tavern is on the right corner). After crossing Grove Rd, go two more blocks and turn right on to Friends Ave. Go one block to the Meeting House. Park in the lot next to the Meeting House and enter the auditorium through the doors on the right side of the building. Do not go into the Meeting House.

**Oct 14:** Movie Night. **“The Rise of Ecology”.** The film documents how environmental disasters have 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 Franzinni, 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 munchie 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:** *Open Position!*  
**Conservation Chair:** *Open Position!*  
**Pol. Chair, Calendars:** Dick Colby 609-965-4453 dick.colby@stockton.edu  
**Membership Chair:** *Open Position!*  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Julie Akers 609-432-3280 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 “spun off” from the South Jersey Group. Very few of our local members seem interested in the meetings we once scheduled. For now, we’ll continue to be listed in this Newsletter, and offer a point of contact for Club members in South Jersey who want help with local issues. We strongly recommend GEHWA’s website for keeping up with local issues, and for links to many other local, regional, state and national environmental organizations: www.gehwa.org. If you have topics (and places) for meetings, please let the officers know about them. We welcome general comments from Club members in South Jersey. To be placed on a carefully guarded distribution list for local issues and meetings, please e-mail dick.colby@stockton.edu. 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 land-use 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 a large-diameter (24”) natural gas pipeline to feed the BL England electric power plant in Marmora (Cape May Co), led by Georgina Shanley (shanleyg2001@yahoo.com) and the organization **350.org South Jersey** (Glenn Klotz: glennk1949@gmail.com). The Pinelands Commission has sanctioned a direct route through its Forest Zone. (3 etc.) Campaigns to prevent the use of tropical rainforest wood for rebuilding oceanfront boardwalks, in Ocean City and Wildwood, are also being led by Georgina. Club officers and staff have been following several studies seeking to determine sustainable water supply levels for southeastern New Jersey, with the hope that findings will be used by planners (such as those employed by the Pinelands Commission) who 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 support 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 Parks:** Monthly meetings of Friends of the Parks, a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Park System. All are welcome. Warren Fox Nature Center (WFNC\*), Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor, Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 3½ miles south of Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

**Oct 28, Nov 25 and Dec 23 (fourth Wednesdays), 7pm: Atlantic Audubon Society** is a lively member-organization with strong environmental programs and an excellent monthly on-line newsletter. Membership is free. Meetings are in the Galloway Twp Library, 306 E Jimmie Leeds Rd. www.AtlanticAudubon.org.

**Nov 24 (alternate fourth Tuesdays) 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association:** Membership meeting, open to the public. WFNC\*, Contact Lynn Maun, 856-453-0416 or email lynnkmaun@comcast.net. Also, Sept 26-27: Annual Camping/Canoe/Kayak Trip on the River, overnighing at Camp Acagisca (near Mays Landing). Contact Lynn Maun.

**Oct 12 and Dec 14 (alternate second Wednesdays), 7pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries** (another “Partnership River” under federal protection): Meeting place: George Luciano Center, Cumberland County College. Cumberland County development issues are commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Karla Rossini (CU) at 609-774-5853 or karla.rossini@cumaucriver.org. Website: www.cumaucriver.org.

**Oct 21 and Dec 16 (alternate third Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council:** Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss river management strategies. Open to the public. WFNC\*. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

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

## Singles Section

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

Please join us! The NJ Singles Section was specifically created to offer a variety of singles-oriented activities to NJ Sierra Club members and those who would like to know more about us. We are not a local group; we are a statewide additional “layer” of Club involvement. Everyone is welcome to attend our events. Come out and meet fellow Club members and others who care about the environment. We can only offer as many activities as we have volunteers to run them – if you have the slightest urge to get involved, please contact one of our officers!

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.sierraclub.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.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: [www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/](http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/).

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

### OFFICERS:

<b>Interim Chair:</b>	Ron Pate	ronpate31@verizon.net
<b>Outings Chair:</b>	Joyce Haddad	jkhaddad@juno.com
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	<i>Position Open.</i> Contact us!	We need you!
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Joyce White	joyce.white.exec@gmail.com
<b>Social Chair:</b>	Joe Prebish	Joe.Prebish@kraft.com
<b>Vice Social Chair:</b>	Jeff Sovelove	Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com
<b>Programs:</b>	<i>Position Open.</i> Contact us!	We need you!
<b>Publicity:</b>	<i>Position Open.</i> Contact us!	We need you!
<b>Membership:</b>	<i>Position Open.</i> Contact us!	We need you!
<b>Nominations:</b>	Nancy Sullivan	nancysullivan@comcast.net

2015 Executive Committee members: Rozanna Fonelli, 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 any of the officers if you are interested. You may co-chair any position with a friend, if desired. We’re happy to help you learn the ropes.

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** Casual pizza gathering, introduction to club issues and activities, speakers, and letter-writing at the Chatham Library. Dates and topics will be announced on our listserv; see above for subscription information.

**ExCom MEETINGS** take place once a month at various locations. All welcome. Contact any officer for location.

**SOCIAL DINNER: THIRD TUESDAY** of each month at 7pm. Join us for dinner at a variety of Montclair restaurants. Location will be announced 2 weeks before each social. RSVP is required as described in the announcement.

**SOCIAL DINNERS with MOVIE SHOWINGS** are scheduled approximately monthly in 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 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 non-members are welcome to join our outings regardless of sexual orientation.

**WEB SITE:** <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/>  
**MEETUP:** <http://www.meetup.com/njsierraclub>  
**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/njsierralgbt>

(continued on page 10)

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

## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

### OFFICERS:

<b>Co-Chair:</b>	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@gmail.com
<b>Co-Chair:</b>	Robert Zitzman *	robertmz@att.net
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Corbett Klein *	corbettklein@outlook.com
<b>Outings Co-Chair:</b>	Corbett Klein *	corbettklein@outlook.com
<b>Outings Co-Chair:</b>	Robert Zitzman *	robertmz@att.net
<b>Webmaster/</b>		
<b>Listmaster:</b>	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@gmail.com
<b>Ex-Com Member:</b>	OPEN POSITION—contact John or Robert if interested	

(\* Section Executive Committee Member)

### MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

**Dates and times subject to change.** Participants should register for outings at [http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj\\_calendar.asp](http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp) or [www.meetup.com/njsierraclub](http://www.meetup.com/njsierraclub). Please contact leader for more information. You can also receive updated information by joining our email list. Please contact John at [jkashwick@gmail.com](mailto:jkashwick@gmail.com) to be included in the list.

**Oct 17 (Sat): Cruise and Tour of Bannerman 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, including a guided tour around the ruins of Bannerman Castle, an early 20th century architectural folly. Upon our return to Beacon we'll congregate for an optional snack or lunch. NOTE: Participants are required to make their own reservations for the tour: <http://www.bannermancastle.org/index.html>. Leader: Robert Zitzman, [RobertMZ@att.net](mailto:RobertMZ@att.net), 908-723-3633.

**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](mailto:jkashwick@gmail.com).

**Nov 22 (Sun): Allamuchy Mountain State Park Hike.** 10am. Join us for an autumn hike through the forests and marshlands of Allamuchy Mountain and Stephens State Parks near Byram. We'll hike for about 8-9 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](mailto:psychologist@jonwall.com) and 908-295-1890, and John Kashwick: 201-294-1092 and [jkashwick@gmail.com](mailto: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 as well and possibly nearby Ringwood 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](mailto:RobertMZ@att.net) and 908-723-3633.

**Volunteers Needed!** We are continuing to recruit volunteers and outings leaders. For more information, please email John at [jkashwick@gmail.com](mailto:jkashwick@gmail.com) or Robert at [robertmz@att.net](mailto:robertmz@att.net).

## Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

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

More New Jersey events are posted on our web site: <http://www.funtravels.com>. In addition, a monthly Buy & Sell newsletter is sent out to members free of charge, in which they can list items they are searching for or want to buy.

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

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

Arline Zatz is the editor of the Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section. She can be reached at [azatz@funtravels.com](mailto:azatz@funtravels.com), and invites members to check her web site at [www.funtravels.com](http://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:

<b>Chair:</b>	Marty Cohen	201-670-8383	<a href="mailto:martincohen@verizon.net">martincohen@verizon.net</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Anne Dyjak	732-560-0953	<a href="mailto:annedyjak@verizon.net">annedyjak@verizon.net</a>

ICO 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. NJICO currently schedules about 5 such outings per year.

We continue to lead hikes for the Hoboken H.S. Sierra Club, and we have renewed our partnership with the St. Paul's Community Development program in Paterson, for which we expect to schedule some hikes this Fall. We continue to have a need for steering committee members and for hike leaders. Accordingly, if you are an experienced hiker willing to commit to leading two hikes per year, or if you have no experience but 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".

## Alaska Issues Presentations: Sailing the Northwest Passage

David Thorenson, photographer, sailor and climate observer, will be in New Jersey for three speaking events. Having navigated the Northwest Passage in both directions, he will report on the impacts of climate change on the Arctic, including his own photos. All talks are at 7pm, free and open to the public. For more information including how to register, please contact Amelia Weeder: [aweeder@comcast.net](mailto:aweeder@comcast.net).

### Dates and Locations:

**Monday, Sept 28** - Princeton U, Forbes MultiPurpose space

**Tues, Sept 29** - Monmouth U, Wilson Hall, Wilson Aud.

**Wed, Sept 30** - Fairleigh Dickinson (FDU), Hackensack (Metro) campus, Dickinson Hall, Wilson Aud.

## 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 ([paulmsanderson@aol.com](mailto:paulmsanderson@aol.com))

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 12-day "counterclockwise" walk in Courmayeur, 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 valley village. I cannot adequately express the beauty, majesty and sheer size of the Alps mountain range, as we saw it on our journey.

I viewed this as the hiking trip of my lifetime, due to the beauty and the physical nature of this entire trek/journey. I had never before hiked in any mountain range (Rockies, Alps, Pyrenees, etc.), although I had been in the Rockies from time to time over the years. The Rockies did not prepare me for the Alps. I fell in love with the Alps, because they are so sheer, dense and high, and surrounded by villages and towns that have been there forever. Just spectacular, with pine forests and alpine meadows above the tree line, covered with flowers!

You haven't seen anything until you have met some of the "crazy" people who passed us on the trails: bikers carrying their bikes up to the high ridges, then to ride with abandon down the other side, in many cases over large rocks and around sharp switch-backs; runners, competing in 60 and 100 km races; or simply families racing down the slopes.

One day I was passed by a running boy about 10 years old, followed half a minute later by another aged about 14, followed by a third of about 8, followed by a young woman, obviously their mother. I laughed and asked, as she passed, "trying to keep up with your three boys, eh?" "Non," she replied, holding up four fingers: there quickly followed another boy of about 12. The youngest son stumbled and fell, getting up crying. She stopped, dusted him off and was encouraging him to stop crying as I walked past. A few minutes later I caught up with the other boys who were waiting, and a few minutes after that all five passed me, again running down the mountain. Oh, their poor knees when they get to be my age! But what a family affair! (Later, I also saw the father, bringing up the rear.)

This was the most strenuous and difficult hike I have ever done. The folks in my group, who had completed many other hikes in Europe without me, also agreed that this was more than they had ever previously encountered. Our 12 days were almost all clear and sunny, with temperatures in the upper 80's to mid-90's, slightly lower at the higher altitudes. This was the experience of a life-

time, and I have the pictures to prove it!

The effects of Global Warming are obvious in this area of the world. Everywhere we saw glaciers and snow in retreat. We visited La Mer de Glace (the Sea of Ice), the longest glacier in France, on our day of rest in Chamonix, France. There's a series of stairs to the face of the glacier, and on the way down were signs that read "level of glacier in 1985, 2000, 2003, 2005 and 2010. (See my photos.) The glacier is now at least 50 feet lower than in 1985, having receded at least a hundred yards, maybe more. The face of the glacier was very distant from the 2005 sign. These figures are my estimates, because it is hard to judge distances and I didn't see any actual statistics, but I do believe that the problem is real. I kept thinking, "This is where all the people in this area of the world get their water. What are they going to do when all of the glaciers have melted, probably in another 40 to 50 years?"



Chamonix glacier, 1908



Chamonix glacier today



Mount Blanc itself, behind Chamonix, viewed from the northwest.



# Outings

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

## GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS (roughly north to south)

- Skylands:** Vacant  
**South Highlands:** Jonathan Wall  
 psychologist@jonwall.com  
**North Jersey:** Ellen Blumenkrantz  
 eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417  
**Gateway:** David Ogens, 973-226-0748 (H)  
 64 Elm Rd, Caldwell 07003  
**Loantaka:** Vacant  
**Central Jersey:** Vacant  
**Raritan Valley:** Vacant  
**Jersey Shore:** Mike Verange, 908-732-8364 (H)  
 1497 W Front St, Lincroft 07738  
**Ocean County:** Terrance Brown, 848-333-7331  
**West Jersey:** Vacant  
**South Jersey:** Tom Boghosian, 609-625-0878 (H)  
 4794 Andorea Drive, Mays Landing, 08330  
 boghosian1@verizon.net  
**Singles:** Joyce Haddad, jkhaddad@juno.com  
**Young Sierrans (Central Region):** Leon Yerenburg,  
 lyerenburg@gmail.com  
**Inner City Outings:** Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H)  
 NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd, Warren, 07059  
**River Touring:** Fred Tocce, 908-453-2205 (H)  
 RD-1, Box 277, Washington, 07882  
**Chapter Outings Chair:** Ellen Blumenkrantz  
 eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Outing Leaders:** Please send January-March 2016 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator (or, if you don't associate yourself with a single Group, directly to Ellen Blumenkrantz, the Chapter Outings Chair) before Nov. 5. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it for the previous Sierran, due to the occasional lag in mailing. Also, please send outing rosters or sign-up sheets to the Chapter Office as soon as possible after each outing.

**Note:** Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your January-March 2016 trip write-ups by Nov. 8.

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

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

## OCTOBER

**Oct 1 (Thurs): Pinelands Month – Guided Hike at Double Trouble State Park/Village (Ocean Co). 10am.** 4-5 miles, easy pace. Originally a cranberry farm and packing plant, the former company town called Double Trouble is a window into past and current industries in the Pinelands. Andrew Anderson, Resource Interpretive Specialist, will be our guide. Meet at Double Trouble Park, Pinewald-Keswick and Double Trouble Rds. Leashed dogs are welcome! Bring lunch and beverage. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Oct 3 (Sat): Pinelands Month - Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am.** Our annual "Cranberry Cruise" is 10 miles from Dover Forge to Dudley Park - we'll pick cranberries along the way. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. Rental boats are not available. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Oct 4 (Sun): Hike Cattus Island County Park and Enjoy the Nature Festival (Ocean Co). 10am.** 5 miles, easy pace. The Cattus Island Nature Festival is an annual celebration of Natural Science Education at Cattus Island County Park from 8am to 4pm. The entire day will be full of exciting educational activities such as van and boat tours, nature walks, scining, kayak trips, lectures and children's programs. A variety of exhibitors including a food vendor will be on hand and there will be live music throughout the day. Buy or bring lunch and beverage. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Oct 8 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak the Abbott Marshlands (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 10:30am.** Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St. We'll see migrating Red-winged Blackbirds on our 8-mile tidal trip in the Abbott Marshlands from Bordentown Beach to Watson Woods and back to Bordentown. Rental boats are not available. Bring lunch and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm trip. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Oct. 10 (Sat): Palisades Interstate Park, Fort Lee (Bergen Co). 10am.** The hike will cover 7 miles in 4 hours in hilly terrain. Difficulty: Moderately Strenuous. <http://www.njpalisades.org>. Great views of the Hudson River and the cliffs of the palisades and upper Manhattan. No beginners. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. Facilities: Restrooms with running water near the parking lot and at the half way point. Registration required via web: [http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/nj\\_calendar.asp](http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/nj_calendar.asp) Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: the\_hikist@mac.com.

**Oct 10 (Sat): Pinelands Month - Wells Mills Hike and 21st Annual Pine Barrens Jamboree (Ocean Co). 10am.** 3-4 miles, easy pace. After the hike we'll enjoy the Jamboree! This day-long festival celebrates the history and culture of the Pinelands with music, crafts, "piney vittles" and local produce. Leashed dogs are welcome. Bring a lawn chair. Meet in the Wells Mills parking lot, 905 Wells Mills Rd (Rte 532), Waretown. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Oct 12 (Mon): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River on Columbus Day (Hunterdon Co): 10am.** The trip is 8 miles from Kingwood Access to Bulls Island. Spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Paddling helmets required for all participants. Bring lunch and beverage. Rentals are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Oct 14 (Wed): Hike at Perrineville Lake Park (Monmouth Co). 10am.** 5 miles, easy pace. Leashed dogs are welcome! Beautiful woodlands, natural fields and a picturesque lake meet here in the heart of quiet Millstone. Bring snack and beverage. Meet at 23 Agress Rd, Millstone, parking lot. Check website [www.monmouthcountyparks.com/page.aspx?id=2550](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com/page.aspx?id=2550) Optional late lunch at Albivi Restaurant. Rain cancels. Leaders: Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Oct 17 (Sat): Bicycle Ride on the Columbia Trail (Hunterdon Co). 10am.** 12+ miles, 5-8mph pace. Fall foliage will be spectacular as we bike the Ken Lockwood Gorge from High Bridge to Califon. Meet at High Bridge Municipal Lot, Main St, High Bridge. Bicycle helmets are required. Bring water and snacks. Rain cancels. Option, late lunch at Casa Maya restaurant in High Bridge. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Oct 18 (Sun) Aphawa Preserve (Passaic Co.) Sierra Silver Singles Hike. 10am.** We'll hike 5 miles at a moderate pace over hilly, rocky terrain. Hiking boots strongly recommended. Meet and be ready to hike by 10 a.m. Optional lunch follows at a nearby diner. Steady rain cancels. Leader: Jay Dibble. Directions: I-287 to exit 52B (Rte 23N). Go 5.6 miles to the Germantown Rd exit. Turn Right and travel 2.5 miles to the road's end. Turn Right on Macopin Rd; go 1.6 miles to Northwood Rd. Bear right to the parking lot.

**Oct 18 (Sun): Pinelands Month - Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 10am.** The section we paddle will depend on river conditions. Rental boats are not available. Contact leaders for information. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Oct 21 (Wed): Bicycle Ride on the Lawrence Hopewell Trail (Mercer Co). 10am.** 12 miles, easy pace through Mercer Meadows County Park. The LHT is flat; the surface is stone dust/ crushed gravel and blacktop. Bring lunch and water. HELMETS MUST BE WORN. Meet at Mercer County Equestrian Center, 431 Federal City Rd, Pennington. For more information check [www.htrail.org/](http://www.htrail.org/) Rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Oct 24 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak On-Water Cleanup in the Delaware River Watershed (Burlington Co). 9am.** Support the Sierra Club Water Sentinels Program on our annual fall cleanup of the Crosswicks and Thornton Creeks with the Bordentown Yacht Club. Wear boots and gloves. Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St. Contact leaders to confirm the cleanup. Leona & George F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Oct 25 (Sun): Pinelands Month - Hike the Franklin Parker Preserve (Burlington Co). 10am.** 5-6 miles, easy pace on the Yellow Trail. The acquisition of the Franklin Parker Preserve in 2003 by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation was a momentous occasion in conservation. This 9400 acre preserve is a keystone piece of land, linking the expanses of Brendan Byrne, Wharton, and Penn State Forests and creating a more contiguous Pinelands National Reserve. Meeting at Speedwell entrance off Rte 563, Woodland Township. Leashed dogs are welcome. Bring lunch and water. Rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Oct 29 (Thurs): Pinelands Month - Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am.** Celebrate Pinelands Month with an 8-mile trip on the "Jewel of the Pinelands". Meet at Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego Rd. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Oct 31 (Sat): Sterling Forest Bare Rock Vista Hike (Rockland Co, NY). 10am.** Meet at the Visitors' Center. We'll climb to the Sterling Forest Fire Tower then to the Bare Rock Vista for lunch. After lunch, we'll return to the Visitors' Center back down the Bare Rock Trail. See the Sterling Forest web site for information and directions: <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/74/details.aspx>. Inclement weather cancels. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. TC map 100 Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker\_Dood@yahoo.com

**Oct 31 (Sat): Halloween Canoe/Kayak Trip on the D&R Canal (Mercer Co). 9am.** Wear your "finest" Halloween outfit and join us in your canoe or kayak. We'll paddle 10 miles from Firemen's Eddy to Lower Ferry Rd. - a great section for fall foliage! There are 2 portages - bring portage wheels if you have them. Rental boats are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

## NOVEMBER

**Nov 1 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am.** "Fall Back" and set your clocks to be on time! The section we paddle will depend on weather and river conditions. Rentals are not available. Experienced cold weather paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Nov 3 (Tues): Clayton Park Hike on Election Day (Monmouth Co). 10am.** 4-5 miles, easy/moderate pace; mix of hilly and flat trails. This rustic 421-acre site in rural Upper Freehold is located amidst the rolling farmland of western Monmouth County. Bring lunch, water and snacks. Leashed dogs are welcome. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Nov 7 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Abbott Marshlands (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 9:30am.** Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St. Our 8-mile tidal trip in the Abbott Marshlands is from Bordentown Beach to Watson Woods and back to Bordentown. Rental boats are not available. Bring lunch and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm trip. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Nov 8 (Sun): Bicycle Ride at Duke Farms (Somerset Co). 10am.** Approx. 10 miles; leisurely day with stops along the way. Duke Farms serves as a model of environmental stewardship in the 21st century. Meet at the Farm Barn Orientation Center. Bring lunch and beverage on the ride. Bicycle helmets are required and must be worn. Directions: [www.dukefarms.org/](http://www.dukefarms.org/) Rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Nov 11 (Sun): Veterans Day - Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am.** Veterans Day is a public holiday and began as a day to remember the end of World War I and was declared a holiday by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919. Originally known as Armistice Day, the holiday became Veterans Day in 1954. The section we paddle will depend on weather and river conditions. Rentals are not available. Experienced cold weather paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Nov 14 (Sat): Turtleback Rock, South Mountain Reservation (Essex Co). 10am.** We will start at Turtleback Rock trailhead for 6-mile hike. See the Essex County Parks Commission web site [www.essex-countynj.org/p/index.php?section=parks/sites/so](http://www.essex-countynj.org/p/index.php?section=parks/sites/so) for directions. Bring lots of water, and wear hiking boots. We will take the orange trail down to Hemlock Falls and also see the famous Turtleback Rock. Heavy/steady rain cancels. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker\_Dood@yahoo.com

**Nov 14 (Sat): Hike at Maurice River Bluffs Preserve (Cumberland Co). 10am.** 5 miles, easy pace. The Maurice River Bluffs Preserve is along the "Wild and Scenic" Maurice River. Bring binoculars. Directions: Take Rte 55 south to Rte 49 exit, turn right onto Rte 49 west. Cross the Maurice River in Millville, turn left at Rte 555/Cedar St - 0.2 mile. Bear left on to Rte 627/Silver Run Rd. Continue on Rte 627/Silver Run Rd - 1.7 miles. Look for Silver Run Farm Market sign on right side of road - entrance to preserve is directly across the street on left side. Leashed dogs are welcome. Bring water and snacks. Option for late lunch at the Maurice River Diner. Rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Nov 14 (Sat): Franklin Lakes Preserve to High Mountain Hike (Bergen Co). 10am.** [http://www.franklinlakes.org/index.asp?Type=B\\_BASIC&SEC={8C6AC690-3B5C-44B0-97B5-7EF00C2A0997}](http://www.franklinlakes.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={8C6AC690-3B5C-44B0-97B5-7EF00C2A0997}). The hike will cover 7 miles in 4 hours in hilly terrain: views of Passaic Valley and Manhattan. Difficulty: moderately strenuous. No beginners. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. Facilities: A Port-A-John at the parking lot. Registration required via web: [http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/nj\\_calendar.asp](http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/nj_calendar.asp). Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: the\_hikist@mac.com

**Nov 15 (Sun): Watchung Reservation (Union Co). Sierra Silver Singles Hike. 10am.** Approx. 4 miles at a moderate pace with some ascents and descents. Wear hiking boots and bring water. Optional lunch to follow at a local diner. Meet at the Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave where it intersects New Providence Rd. Contact the leader: Ron Pate: ronpate31@verizon.net for more information.

**Nov 15 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the D&R Canal (Middlesex Co). 9am.** This trip is 11 miles from Kingston to Amwell Rd. There is one canal lock portage, bring portage wheels if you have them. Meet in Kingston at the D&R Canal State Park, Rte 27. Bring lunch and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm trip: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Nov 20 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am.** Enjoy a fall trip on Cedar Creek from Ore Pond to Dudley Park. Experienced cold weather paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm meeting details: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Nov 29 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the D&R Canal from Lawrenceville to Kingston (Mercer Co). 9am.** Work off those Thanksgiving calories with this 11-mile paddle from Cherry Tree Lane to Kingston - no portages either! Bring lunch and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and logistics: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Dec 2 (Wed): Hike at Jakes Branch County Park (Ocean Co). 10am.** 4 miles, easy pace. Jakes Branch has a nature center with hands-on exhibits and an observation deck that offers a 360° view of the Pinelands. Leashed dogs are welcome. Meet at Jakes Branch Park, 1100 Double Trouble Rd, Beechwood. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

## DECEMBER

**Dec 6 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am.** Meet at Lake Oswego for an 8-mile paddle on the "Jewel of the Pinelands". Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**Dec 12 (Sat): Hike Splitrock Reservoir in Farny State Park (Rockaway Twp, Passaic Co). 10am.** <http://www.state.nj.us/dcp/parksandforests/parks/farny.html> 7 miles in 4 hours in hilly/rocky terrain, with views of Splitrock Reservoir. Difficulty: moderately strenuous. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water

(continued on page 12)

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**Litigation Oversight Committee**

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**Finance Committee**

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George Denzer\*\*, Joan Denzer, Paul Sanderson, Sunil Somalwar, Laura Lynch, and Bonnie Tillery

\* Indicates Chapter-wide elected ExCom members.

\*\* Indicates committee chair or co-chair

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If no one is in the office to take your call, please leave a message on the answering machine. Please SPELL YOUR LAST NAME, and state whether the phone number you leave is for daytime or evening.

## OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

required. Bring a lunch. Facilities: A Port-A-John at the parking lot. Registration required via web: [http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/nj\\_calendar.asp](http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/nj_calendar.asp) Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: the\_hikist@mac.com

**Dec 12 (Sat): Whitesbog Village Fall Hike (Burlington Co). 10am.** 5 miles, easy pace on sandy trails. Directions: [www.whitesbog.org](http://www.whitesbog.org). Bring lunch and beverage. Meet in the parking lot across from the General Store. Leashed dogs are welcome. Optional, guided village tour after lunch for small fee. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

**Dec 13 (Sun): Whippany Railway Santa Claus Express (Morris Co). Sierra Silver Singles. 12:30pm.** Come celebrate the holidays with a 45-minute train ride on the restored Whippany Railway Santa Claus Express. Meet in front of the Museum, which opens at 12 noon; feel free to come early to see the exhibits. Make your reservation ASAP to ride with the group in the coach car. Reserve online for the 1pm train: [www.whippanyrailwaymuseum.net](http://www.whippanyrailwaymuseum.net). Any unsold tickets go on sale, cash only, each operating day at 12 noon at the ticket office on the Museum Grounds (typically the Santa Claus Express sells out months in advance). Optional lunch to follow. Directions: 1 Railroad Plaza at intersection of Rte 10 West and Whippany Rd, Whippany. Optional lunch to follow. Leader: Jay Dibble: 908-289-8813.

**Dec 18 (Fri): Hike Historic Smithville and Tour Smithville Mansion (Burlington Co). 10am.** 4 miles, easy pace. After the hike we'll tour the Mansion decorated for a Victorian Holiday. (small fee). Optional late lunch at Vincentown Diner. Meet at Smith's Woods at Historic Smithville Park, East Railroad Ave, Easthampton. Leashed dogs are welcome. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

**Dec 20 (Sun): Celebrate the Winter Solstice Early – Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am.** The trip section depends on weather conditions. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

**Dec 22 (Tues): D&R Canal Hike (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 10am.** 5 miles, easy pace. It's the first day of winter - let's take a walk on the towpath from Bordentown to Trenton. Leashed dogs are welcome! Meet at the RiverLine parking lot in Bordentown City. Option for late lunch at Heart of Bordentown (HOB) Tavern. Inclement weather cancels. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

**Dec 26 – Dec 31: Patriots Week - History of the American Revolution in NJ (Mercer Co).** Learn about the American Revolution during Patriots Week. This week offers fun and history for the entire family. See the First and Second Battles of Trenton Reenactments and participate in Walking Tours of the Trenton Battlefields. Check website for events [www.patriotsweek.com](http://www.patriotsweek.com). Contact leaders to meet at some of the events. George & Leona F: leona@pincepaddlers.com (W)

## JANUARY

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

### Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

All members are welcome to attend these monthly statewide policy deliberations, held on SECOND SATURDAYS. Details, including agendas and travel instructions, are available from Ken Johanson, the Chapter Chair. (Best confirm!)

Conservation and/or Political Committee meetings usually start at 10am. Lunch is shared at noon. The main meeting starts at 1pm.

**Oct 10 and Nov 14, both at the New Brunswick Public Library (60 Livingston Ave.), a ten-minute walk from the New Brunswick Train Station**



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

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Members are cordially invited to propose articles, essays, letters, poetry and artwork. (Group/Section News columns are prepared by Group/Section Chairs; Outings are vetted by the Chapter Outings Chair, Ellen Blumenkrantz.)

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

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

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