Sustainable Lifestyle
Sierra Club Food Policy
By Greg Gorman, Chapter Conservation Chair (ggorman07419@embarqmail.com)

At the Animal Rights National Conference, held in Washington DC last July, we heard keynote speakers like Environmentalists Don’t Eat Meat! Worldwide overgrazing, deforestation to expand rangelands, is adversely impacts biodiversity. Compared to growing vegetables, it takes three times more water to produce chicken, 14 times more produce, 48 times more produce, human health, and vegetables for beef, chicken, turkey, and fish! Dr. William Tuttle’s book, “The World’s Deadliest Store: How Industrialized Health and Social Harmony” suggests that infant Indoctrination, social and market- ing pressures, and the reinforcement of good feelings of acquired taste are the factors that influence our food choices. Behaviors and influences we can change! The Sierra Club’s food policy, drafted by a national level task force, recognizes the benefits of a vegetable-based diet. The policy states, “Personal dietary choices, which pertain to dairy, meat, eggs, and vegetables for beef, chicken, turkey, and fish!” Dr. William Tuttle’s book, “The World’s Deadliest Store: How Industrialized Health and Social Harmony” suggests that infant Indoctrination, social and market- ing pressures, and the reinforcement of good feelings of acquired taste are the factors that influence our food choices. Behaviors and influences we can change! The Sierra Club’s food policy, drafted by a national level task force, recognizes the benefits of a vegetable-based diet. The policy states, “Personal dietary choices, which pertain to dairy, meat, eggs, and vegetables for beef, chicken, turkey, and fish!”

Governor Christie Bad for the Environment
By Chapter Director Jeff Titell (jeff.titell@sierraclub.org)

With Governor Christie’s campaign for President, he has become an absentee Governor. But his record on the environment shows that he has been running for President. According to the American Dietetic Association, people who eat more vegetables have lower blood cholesterol and lower risk of heart disease. Vegetarian diets are healthier, nutritionally adequate, and provide as health benefits the preven- tion and treatment of certain diseases. Among humans, they have the smallest ecological footprints on the planet. So why don’t more people substitute meats, potatoes, and vegetables for beef, chicken, turkey, and fish? Dr. William Tuttle’s book, “The World’s Deadliest Store: How Industrialized Health and Social Harmony” suggests that infant Indoctrination, social and market- ing pressures, and the reinforcement of good feelings of acquired taste are the factors that influence our food choices. Behaviors and influences we can change! The Sierra Club’s food policy, drafted by a national level task force, recognizes the benefits of a vegetable-based diet. The policy states, “Personal dietary choices, which pertain to dairy, meat, eggs, and vegetables for beef, chicken, turkey, and fish!”

Sierra Club Celebrates Environmental Heroes
By Jeff Titell (jeff.titell@sierraclub.org)

On Nov 8 our Chapter hosted its Annual Appreciation Day event to recog- nize the great work being done by Sierra Club volunteers, lawmakers and other activists to protect New Jersey’s environ- ment. About 40 of us gathered at an his- toric farmhouse on the Princeton Day School Campus.

Honorising Senator Ray Lesniak: State Senator Raymond J. Lesniak has led the legislature on environmental protection for over three decades. His achievements include laws providing for toxic clean-ups, clean water, and the protec- tion of animals. He helped pass our Safe Drinking Water Act, the Pesticide Control Act, and New Jersey’s Environmental Cleanup Responsibility Act. This year his resolu- tion SCR180 overturned clean water roll- backs; other legislation includes the heat education bill, opposition to leg- hold traps, and challenge to the DEP’s paltry Endangered Species settlement.

Honorising Margo Pellegrino: We extolled Margo Pellegrino’s canoe- ing activism that has revolutionized how we raise awareness in New Jersey and across the United States. Her tireless efforts to protect water quality, especially in the Delaware River, included a canoe paddle from Newark to Chicago.

Honorising Todd Bates: We applauded Todd Bates for 30 years of environmental journalism; reporting on Barnegat Bay, toxic site activity (and inactivity), and the lack of enforcement at DEP. His work has helped to change New Jersey’s environmental policy for the better.

Voluntary Access to Family Planning
By Columnist Liz Newman (liz@9liznewman.com)

...continued on page 3...

Quarterly newsletter of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club
Vol. 45, no. 1     17,300 Members in New Jersey January–March 2016
DATED MATERIAL DO NOT DELAY
Conservation Chair’s Report

People’s Climate Movement

By Greg Gorman (ggorman07419@embarqmail.com)

People’s Climate Movement

By Gina Carola (ginaceee@verizon.net)

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**DEP RULES**

There seems to be a phobia, especially among Republicans in Gov Christie, about raising taxes. It extends even to funding the maintenance of our roads and bridges. New Jersey has a history of pretty low tax on gasoline - a tax that many environmentalists would like to see raised. Indeed, we have a pretty high tax on cigarettes, only to subsidize a casino in my own business, which is teaching at a New Jersey state college, in the reduced funding of higher education, such that state support during my 40-year career has been reduced from about 70% of the cost of operating the state colleges to less than 20%. (The difference is now made up, of course, by tuition that is approaching that charged by private colleges.) The environment has also suffered, with drastic cuts to the budgets of the Division of Parks and Forestry, wildlife agencies, and other branches of the state’s Department of Environmental Protection.

In defending the phobia, one hears of the need to reduce the “size of government,” or at least to prevent it from growing. I suggest such an attitude is misguided for a fundamental economic reason: as manufacturing jobs in New Jersey have been lost to Asia, the service sector has filled the gap. In many wage countries, and as many service jobs are now outsourced for the same reason, government jobs may be the only way to pay the bills. I think it’s a mistake to prevent such a thing from happening.

Many public servants are paid a fraction of their market value, so a given amount of money can employ more people in government jobs than in private businesses.

Most middle-class Americans seem to me to be wealthy enough to be able to afford higher taxes. As I observe the proliferation of new and expensive (and less gussying) cars on the roads, and the amount of money “wasted” on gambling, nightclubs, shopping sprees, weekends in Florida, expensive homes and apartments, elaborate recreational equipment, etc., I am reminded of how much less expensive my own lifestyle is, whereby I live quite well on $10,000 a year. I feel so fortunate to be able to enjoy the benefits of our semi-democratic and tolerant society, not to mention my enjoyment of local wilderness, that I would gladly pay (and could easily afford) double my current rates.

I have long puzzled over Adam Smith’s “invisible hand”: the notion that a free-market economic system will automatically provide jobs for everyone. It was more true before 1900, when 80% of the jobs were on farms. But today only 5% of the work force is sufficient to provide food for all. What are the rest of us to do? There’s a limit to the number of people who are needed to serve fast food. Two of my Stockton University colleagues have just published a book decrying the amount of money spent in New Jersey on the gambling casino (“Just One More Hand: Life in the Casino Economy”). Surely the vast surplus wealth brought by modern technology could be harnessed wisely to provide better government services staffed by more government employees.

The need to reduce global warming presents a problem: some people want to live less environmentally extrava-gantly: in small, energy-efficient, walkable row-houses, without cars, with less technology. But many want to live less environmentally extravagantly: in small, energy-efficient, walkable row-houses, without cars, with less technology. But many want to live quite well on $10,000 a year. I feel so fortunate to be able to enjoy the benefits of our semi-democratic and tolerant society, not to mention my enjoyment of local wilderness, that I would gladly pay (and could easily afford) double my current rates.

It was ten years ago this past January that I took over as Chair of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club. I knew it was going to be a major commitment on my part, but I really didn’t know how much of a commitment. Well, I learned.

One of the reasons I was attracted to the Sierra Club upon my retirement from teaching was the practice of law was the emphasis of my career. After all, if you are going to be dealing with parvenu, it is much more rewarding, and less taxing, to deal with a relatively stable environmental group.

In addition to my experience in the legal profession, I also have a background in government service, having served in the United States Attorney’s Office in Manhattan.

**GOV. CHRISTIE**

Rules, Stormwater Management Rules, and proposed to roll back the Flood Hazard Management Rules. These changes have been to increase development in areas that are at high risk for flooding, putting more people and property at risk. The Governor then, the new Governor of the state of New Jersey.

The Christie Administration has weakened protections for water in New Jersey. The New Jersey Water Supply Master Plan sets the standard for water quality. It requires that the water supply system must be capable of providing water that is free from contaminants. This standard is designed to ensure that the public health and safety of the people of New Jersey is protected.

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Interview Welcoming Anna Whitney, our High School Coordinator

Anna is a Senior at Glen Ridge High School in Glen Ridge, New Jersey. She has grown up there most of her life. She was recruited to be our High School Coordinator by Rich Hill, contact her at annawhitney44@gmail.com. We wish her a lifetime of environmental activism!

1. What is your background? (How did you get interested in the environment? What projects have you been involved with and what were the outcomes?)

I became involved with my school’s environmental club for a couple of years. With them, I’ve gone to several local cleanups and a rally in NYC. Generally, the club has been pretty sleepy but I really hope to give it lots of new projects to reinvigorate it this year. I went to my school board and asked them to adopt a few sustainability measures. They were really receptive, especially the superintendent. I’m working with him now to see more projects implemented this year. Hopefully we can see some real progress in my district. I also got involved with my local community group. It’s exciting because they’ve been dormant for a while but seem to be on the upswing now. I can’t wait to see how this all turns out.

2. What might you hope to accomplish this year? What are your current projects?

I’m really hoping to get more high schoolers involved with environmentalism! My goal is to create a space on the Sierra Club’s website where environmental clubs or groups can generate ideas for local projects and individuals can get project ideas and support from ways to help. Then I will be able to connect high school students and getting them involved. Some projects I would like to implement include: calling legislators about specific laws, documentary screenings, and energy efficiency in buildings. I’m open to more ideas and better ways to reach out to people, so please don’t hesitate to contact me with suggestions.

3. What are your career goals (if they are relevant to the environment)?

I could see myself becoming an environmental lobbyist, or trying to make renewable energy more affordable, or developing new technologies for energy efficiency.

The good news is, that, on Nov 12, New York’s Governor Andrew M. Cuomo vetoed a proposal to construct a floating import/export terminal for liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the middle of Lower New York Bay, between Sandy Hook and Brooklyn. The facility would have compressed or decompressed natural gas, converting it between liquid and gaseous states so that it could be transferred between ships and the regional pipeline transmission system. Many environmental groups including the Sierra Club, as well as many concerned citizens, have been fighting this project for years. Most recently, back in Trenton (or rough, or New Hampshire), Governor Christie has yet to offer an opinion, either way. Here’s a statement from Jeff Tittel, our Chapter Director: “For a governor who emails and tweets on everything, his silence on Port Ambrose has been deafening. Five years ago he opposed it, but he has said nothing about it since an Environmental Assessment was released. He had the opportunity to veto it this year but didn’t. Now he congratulated Governor Cuomo’s action. Christie’s inconsistency is also demonstrated by his positions on offshore wind, supporting it five years ago but failing to follow through since that time. Perhaps he is holding our coast hostage to his national political ambition.”

The Sierra Club has recently revised its national “Beyond Coal” policy position to a “Beyond Fossil Fuel” position, realizing that natural gas is almost as greenhouse-gas-generating as coal and petroleum. We think human societies, worldwide, can, should and must withdraw from their dependency on natural gas and all other fossil fuels. In New Jersey, we should be starting full-scale with offshore wind. (See Greg Gorman’s perspective on p.1.)

Notes on Energy

Carpooling to Reduce Energy Use: Last Summer the U.S. Census Bureau released consumer data for New Jersey, and it didn’t look good. Only 8% of our commuters carpooled, and 72% drive alone to work. The Sierra Club’s “Beyond Oil” campaign has adopted a goal of “50% reduction in oil consumption by 2030.” This goal is achievable with emphasis on “short commutes, like walking and cycling.” Complete Streets,” electric vehicles including local trucks and buses, shifting freight and passengers to electric rail, and encouraging “buy local” programs. With the opportuni- ty to construct new tunnels into New York City, and an anticipated increase in freight traffic resulting from the larger cargo ships entering our ports, a focus on reducing commuter vehicles is imperative.

Why is New Jersey Burning Coal to Make Electricity? On August 9th of this past year, Pat Hilliard, a member of the Bayonne Nature Club, joined Tittel, NJ Sierra Club Chapter Director, Mayor Steve Fulop, and others, in Jersey City’s Leonard Gordon Park, to support President Barack Obama’s Clean Power Plan. He reminded us that PSE&G’s Hudson Generating Station is the most toxic coal-fired power plant in the country. “Elizabethtown” this year, Pat Hilliard, a member of the Bayonne Nature Club, joined Tittel, NJ Sierra Club Chapter Director, Mayor Steve Fulop, and others, in Jersey City’s Leonard Gordon Park, to support President Barack Obama’s Clean Power Plan. He reminded us that PSE&G’s Hudson Generating Station is the most toxic coal-fired power plant in the country.

The Sierra Club’s website where environmen-

carried reusable bags. We’ll hope that it reduces litter. 

Our January 9th ExCom Meeting will include our annual reorganization, with election of a new Chapter Chair. All members welcome!

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Report from Trenton: Christie Fiddles on Port Ambrose LNG While Cuomo Saves the Day

Adapted from a press release issued by our Trenton Staff

The DEP should Reject Proposed Flood Hazard Rules as a Hazard to NJ

On July 31, we submitted official comments to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding their proposed changes to flood hazard rules. The DEP has proposed changes to the Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules, Coastal Zone Management Rules, and Stormwater Management Rules - by failing to take into account the frequency of storms, storm surges, or climate impacts. The proposed rule-changes would also loosen water and habitat protections. They would especially affect New Jersey’s Pinelands.

New Jersey has suffered at least 22 major storm events since Governor Christie was sworn in. Instead of strengthening regulations and rules to protect us from flooding, he is doing the opposite, siding with polluters and developers. The proposed changes include removing headwater protections, allowing property owners to build in vulnerable areas and then use mitigation measures elsewhere, and making it easier for individuals to get permits to build in flood-prone areas. The proposed rules also eliminate Special Water Protection Areas.

Most importantly, the proposed rules would weaken stream buffer requirements. Stream buffers are natural vegetative areas that protect streams from flooding, thermal pollution, and are important habitat corridors. The proposed rule changes would cut back the 300-foot buffers along highest-quality CI streams, affecting their drinking water quality and suitability for trout.

Buffering also protects agriculture, households, and industrial chemicals, and animal wastes, and prevent sitiation. Christie even proposes to permit septic fields within 50 feet of a stream. These proposed rules will have major impacts on water quality.

While the (federal) EPA is trying to strengthen water protections under the Clean Water Act, the Christie administration is weakening them, violating the New Jersey Clean Water Act, New Jersey Surface Water Quality Standards, New Jersey Pollution Control Act, and Water Quality Planning Act, and the Federal Clean-Water Act.

The proposed rules would also remove protections for forest buffers, which are important to conserve NJ’s tree cover and eliminate 1 million tons of carbon emissions – equal to taking 200,000 cars off the road. He’s suggested, “The regulatory framework will need to be one that provides the right incentives for companies like PSE&G to commit their capital, so that we have the tools to help us meet our needs of the effort.” This approach would allow equitable application for all rate payers. Sounds like a good idea!

Offshore Wind in France: France currently has no offshore wind installed – but that is about to change. On August 5, 2015, France’s environmental agency announced that the first offshore wind farms containing three to six turbines each, manufacturing at least five megawatts per turbine.
In November, 2015, the Democrats picked up four seats in the Assembly, where their advantage is now 52:28 (65%) – in an election with very low voter turnout (about 22%), a situation in which Republican candidates usually do better.

To explain this result, many took note of the large campaign contributions to Democratic candidates from the NJEA, the state’s largest teachers’ union, but few noticed what contributions were NOT made.

The Democrats benefited not only from that money, but also from the failure of Republicans to raise competitive funding. We think that was largely because Gov. Christie is still at the helm, but some of his fellow Republicans in the Legislature may be willing to challenge some of his anti-environmental vetoes.

Christie is still at the helm, but some of his fellow Republicans in the Legislature may be willing to challenge some of his anti-environmental vetoes. We think that was largely because Gov. Christie’s Presidential campaign was already doing poorly by Labor Day, few (if any) nationwide Republican donors thought it advantageous to contribute to Republican candidates in New Jersey: to curry favor with him.

In addition, the Governor’s low favorability ratings (30-35%) discouraged big donations to Republican legislative candidates.

The questions now are (1) whether the millions of dollars spent by the NJEA will pay off as overrides to the Governor’s vetoes of legislation funding their pensions (that was clearly the teachers’ expectation) and (2) whether the Democrats will now be able to override Christie’s vetoes of good environmental, women’s health, (and other) legislation.

Alternatively, the Democrats may now be more able to force vetoed measures onto the ballot as public referenda. That would really change the political landscape.

The New Jersey Governorship is perhaps the most powerful in the nation, and Gov. Christie is still at the helm, but some of his fellow Republicans in the Legislature may now be willing to challenge some of his anti-environmental vetoes.

Jeff Tittel reminds us that strongly Republican legislative districts in New Jersey come in two flavors: some are dominated by moderate Republicans, and are therefore capable of electing moderate Democrats (as in Districts 01, 11 and 16 in 2015), and some are dominated by conservative Republicans.

Congratulations to our 28 successful endorsed candidates: all of the incumbents, plus Troy Singleton (D, 07). The four new Democrats in the Legislature are in Districts 01, two in 11, and in 16.

The Christie Administration has cut the number of conservation officers who handle bear complaints and education.

$2 million in funding was cut from non-lethal bear management programs, including Bear Aversion Therapy. It has also eliminated virtually all education programs on how to live in bear country, bear-proof one’s property, and deal safely with garbage.

We advocate Bear Aversion Therapy: methods make bears afraid of people so they are less likely to create incidents. When we tag bears we should make them afraid of people by using air horns, rubber bullets and bean bags.

The primary mission of the Sierra Club is to protect wilderness. The black bear is a symbol that New Jersey still has wild places.

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GROUP NEWS
(Continued from page 1)

South Highlands Group
(Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties)

WEBSITE: http://www.sierrclub.org/new-jersey/south-highlands/
MYPAGE: http://www.meetup.com/sierrachub/
FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/groups/58817156187/

OFFICERS:
Chair: Jonathan Wall* psychologist@jonwall.com
Vice Chair: Celeste Martin* onecentral@mac.com
Conservation Chair: Cindy MacGonagle* cindy.macgonagle@yahoo.com
Secretary: Amy Weeder* awood@comcast.net
Treasurer: Celeste Martin* onecentral@mac.com
Political Chair: Dr. Jennifer Thompson
Publicity Chair: Susan Schirmer* soupsy87@att.net
Membership Chair: Jim Fleming* jfleming8@comcast.net
Outings Coordinator: Jonathan Wall* psychologist@jonwall.com
Webmaster: Jonathan Wall* psychologist@jonwall.com

Unless otherwise noted, meetings and outings are free and open to general public, but donations are accepted. Please check our web site, Mypage, 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 Great at 7pm followed by program at 7:15. Meetings are free but donations are gladly accepted.

Jan. 6 (Wed): New Jersey Park Commission's Great Swamp Study. In the spring of 2015, an overabundance of coyotes stalked Lord Sterling Park in Basking Ridge NJ. On one side of the park, herds of white tailed deer sauntered around while few ventured to the other side of the park. What was the reason? The Environmental Education Center of Somerset County Park Commission purchased four trail cameras to monitor the wildlife and tonight, we’ll hear the answer to this mystery.

Feb 3 (Wed): New Jersey's Top Ten Environmental Challenges. Jeff Titel, Executive Director of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club, will describe the ten envi-
ronmental challenges for the next decade, and steps each of us can take.

Mar 2 (Wed): Assessing Forest Health in Central New Jersey. Dr. Jay F. Kelly (Rutgers University College of Environmental and Biological Science) will present the results of a study he and other scientists conducted over the past several years to observe forest health in various sites in central New Jersey as well as the factors that influence these results.

Mar 26 (Sat): Sunfish Pond Hike, 10am. Meet at Dunham Creek parking lot right off Route 202. We will explore the diverse forest and wetland habitats of Sunfish Pond. Bring water and snacks and wear stable hiking shoes.

North Jersey Group
(Bergen and Passaic Counties)

WEBSITE: http://www.sierrclub.org/new-jersey/north-jersey/
MYPAGE: http://www.meetup.com/njsierraclub/
FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/northjerseysierran

Officers:
Chair: John Kashwikh jkashwikh@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Mary Ellen Shaw meshan01@gmail.com
Treasurer: Eileen Zobrist etrann4@comcast.net
Secretary: Jennifer Rothschild jenniferoth2@gmail.com
Conservation Co-Chair: Mary Ellen Shaw meshan01@gmail.com
Conservation Co-Chair: Laura Tracey Colf * lautracycolf@hotmail.com

Political Chair: Jermaine Spence speckermaine@hotmail.com
Air Quality Issues: Mary Lacey Tracy tracyc70@hotmail.com
Climate Issues: jeffrapp2000@hotmail.com
Fundraising Chair: Francie Goldstein franciegoldstein@gmail.com
Membership Chair: Buddy Jenson buddy.jenson@gmail.com
Outings Co-Chair: Ellen Blumenkranz eblumenkranz@hotmail.com
Outings Co-Chair: Mary Walsh marylwalsh2006@gmail.com
Programs Chair: Tim Ed Ed, Buddy, and this reporter clipped and hacked the bushes for two hours, making a standard 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 govern-
ment to pass stricter legislation to regulate use of these cars. For more information, please contact Mary Ellen Shaw at meshan01@gmail.com.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE: We had beautiful weather for our trail maintenance outing on October 10; four of us attacking the Darth Vader of the trails (blueberry bushes). Lily, Ed, Buddy, and this reporter clipped and hacked the bushes for two hours, making a sharp, Registration required. Rain, snow, ice, or extreme cold cancels—email leader on the morning of the outing if in doubt.

Mary Ellen Shaw at meshaw.001@gmail.com.

Treasurer: Mary C. * mcc040@verizon.net
Social Media Coor.: Ariana Schanzer aarianschanz@gmail.com
Trail Maintenance: Mary C. * mcc040@verizon.net
Webmaster/Listmaster: John Kashwikh jkashwikh@gmail.com
Wildlife Issues: Mary Ellen Shaw * meshan01@gmail.com
Ex-Com at-Large: Nancy Wyskiel
Ex-Com at-Large: Beth Ravit * bavrit@gmail.com

MEETINGS:
Jan 1 (Fri): New Year's Day Hike. 1pm, Haworth. We’ll walk along the Oradell Reservoir in Haworth for approximately 2.5 miles to ease into 2016 with this gentle social hike. Meet at 200 Lake Shore Drive, Haworth. Bring snack and water and sturdy footwear. Rain, snow, or extreme cold cancels. Please register on Meetup or contact leader Mary Walsh at blwheil@hotmail.com.

Jan 18 (Mon): Executive and Conservation Committee Meeting. 7pm, location TBA (email to martincohen@verizon.net or Mary Ellen Shaw at meshaw.001@gmail.com). This is the quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the North Jersey Group. The meeting is casual and informative. All members are wel-
comed 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 jkashwikh@gmail.com.

February: Film: The Sacred Place Where Life Begins–Gwich’in Women Speak. Film and location TBD. Please check our online calendar of Meetup page. Please watch the film (Gwich’in nation speak out to protect what they call 'The Sacred Place Where Life Begins’ from oil development. Also known as the Arctic National Wildfi

RESOURCES:
Our website: http://www.meetup.com/njsierraclub
On Facebook: Gateway Group, NJ Sierra or https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gateway-Group-NJ-Sierra-Club-1280989565842782

The Jersey Sierran: January–March 2016

South Highlands Group
(Continued from page 1)

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Jan 6 (Wed): New Jersey Park Commission’s Great Swamp Study. In the spring of
2015, an overabundance of coyotes stalked Lord Sterling Park in Basking Ridge NJ.
On one side of the park, herds of white tailed deer sauntered around while few ventured
to the other side of the park. What was the reason? The Environmental Education
Center of Somerset County Park Commission purchased four trail cameras to monitor
the wildlife and tonight, we’ll hear the answer to this mystery.

Feb 3 (Wed): New Jersey’s Top Ten Environmental Challenges. Jeff Titel, Executive
Director of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club, will describe the ten envi-
ronmental challenges for the next decade, and steps each of us can take.

Mar 2 (Wed): Assessing Forest Health in Central New Jersey. Dr. Jay F. Kelly (Rutgers
University College of Environmental and Biological Science) will present the results of
a study he and other scientists conducted over the past several years to observe forest
health in various sites in central New Jersey as well as the factors that influence these
results.

Mar 26 (Sat): Sunfish Pond Hike, 10am. Meet at Dunham Creek parking lot right
off of Route 202. We will explore the diverse forest and wetland habitats of Sunfish
Pond. Bring water and snacks and wear stable hiking shoes.

North Jersey Group
(Continued from page 1)

Officers:
Chair: John Kashwikh jkashwikh@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Mary Ellen Shaw meshan01@gmail.com
Treasurer: Eileen Zobrist etrann4@comcast.net
Secretary: Jennifer Rothschild jenniferoth2@gmail.com
Conservation Co-Chair: Mary Ellen Shaw meshan01@gmail.com
Conservation Co-Chair: Laura Tracey Colf * lautracycolf@hotmail.com

Political Chair: Jermaine Spence speckermaine@hotmail.com
Air Quality Issues: Mary Lacey Tracy tracyc70@hotmail.com
Climate Issues: jeffrapp2000@hotmail.com
Fundraising Chair: Francie Goldstein franciegoldstein@gmail.com
Membership Chair: Buddy Jenson buddy.jenson@gmail.com
Outings Co-Chair: Ellen Blumenkranz eblumenkranz@hotmail.com
Outings Co-Chair: Mary Walsh marylwalsh2006@gmail.com
Programs Chair: Tim Ed Ed, Buddy, and this reporter clipped and hacked the bushes for two hours, making a standard 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 govern-
ment to pass stricter legislation to regulate use of these cars. For more information, please contact Mary Ellen Shaw at meshan01@gmail.com.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE: We had beautiful weather for our trail maintenance outing on
October 10; four of us attacking the Darth Vader of the trails (blueberry bushes). Lily, Ed, Buddy, and this reporter clipped and hacked the bushes for two hours, making a sharp, Registration required. Rain, snow, ice, or extreme cold cancels—email leader on the morning of the outing if in doubt.

Mary Ellen Shaw at meshaw.001@gmail.com.

Treasurer: Mary C. * mcc040@verizon.net
Social Media Coor.: Ariana Schanzer aarianschanz@gmail.com
Trail Maintenance: Mary C. * mcc040@verizon.net
Webmaster/Listmaster: John Kashwikh jkashwikh@gmail.com
Wildlife Issues: Mary Ellen Shaw * meshan01@gmail.com
Ex-Com at-Large: Nancy Wyskiel
Ex-Com at-Large: Beth Ravit * bavrit@gmail.com

MEETINGS:
Jan 1 (Fri): New Year’s Day Hike. 1pm, Haworth. We’ll walk along the Oradell Reservoir in Haworth for approximately 2.5 miles to ease into 2016 with this gentle social hike. Meet at 200 Lake Shore Drive, Haworth. Bring snack and water and sturdy footwear. Rain, snow, or extreme cold cancels. Please register on Meetup or contact leader Mary Walsh at blwheil@hotmail.com.

Jan 18 (Mon): Executive and Conservation Committee Meeting. 7pm, location
TBA (email to martincohen@verizon.net or Mary Ellen Shaw at meshaw.001@gmail.com). This is the quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the North Jersey Group. The meeting is casual and informative. All members are wel-
ed 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 jkashwikh@gmail.com.

February: Film: The Sacred Place Where Life Begins–Gwich’in Women Speak. Film
and location TBD. Please check our online calendar of Meetup page. Please watch the film (Gwich’in nation speak out to protect what they call ‘The Sacred Place Where Life Begins’ from oil development. Also known as the Arctic National Wildfi

RESOURCES:
Our website: http://www.meetup.com/njsierraclub
On Facebook: Gateway Group, NJ Sierra or https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gateway-Group-NJ-Sierra-Club-1280989565842782

The Jersey Sierran: January–March 2016
OFFICERS:

Chair: David Yennior 973-844-1384 dyennior@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Zaah Khademi 201-618-8857 zaah@aal.com
Treasurer: Anne Hirs 973-844-1121 annchirs@msn.com
Publicity Chair: Open Position!
Co-Chairs: Steven Dorfkrage and Anna Whitney
Political Chair: Open Position!
Fundraising Chair: Open Position!
Membership Chair: Bill Chappel
Chair: Open Position!
Water, Newark
Issues Chair: Bill Chappel 973-623-6490 chappel.bill@gmail.com
Recycling Issues Chair: Lyle Landon 210-247-0288 lylelandon@aol.com
Passaic River Co-Chair: Brenda Tolyoy 973-856-7056 brenadatolyoy@yahoo.com
and, Jeff Weiss 973-650-1030 bonefish5000@gmail.com
Elizabeth Issues Chair: Paula Borenstein 908-289-5584 bdandmkt@aol.com
Outings Chair: Open Position!
Group Executive Committee: David Yennior, Zaah 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, Zaah Khademi, Bill Chappel, Steven Yafet, Anne Hirs, Paula Borenstein, and Brenda Tolyoy.

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 Driscoll Pipeline, Franklin, Fracking, Newark’s Covanta Incinerator, Passaic River Restoration Community Advisory Group, Maplewood Green Day, formerly the West Orange Setton 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:

For up to date information about programs please check the website.

The Jersey Sierran: January–March 2016

Jan 5: Gabriela Derkien, PJM 3. Prevention of diversion of conserved land for commercial or other development.

Jan 9: Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com

Jan 12: Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442 johansons@comcast.net

Jan 27: Brenda Tolyoy 973-856-7056 brendatolyoy@yahoo.com

Feb 1: Wanda Knapik 908-432-2198 AdventuresWithWanda@gmail.com

Feb 18: Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com

Mar 9: Mar 9 - No meeting - the library is holding their annual book sale.

Mar 23: Brenda Tolyoy 973-856-7056 brendandmkt@aol.com

Max 17: Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442 johansons@comcast.net

Apr 14: Brenda Tolyoy 973-856-7056 brendatolyoy@yahoo.com

May 12: Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com

May 19: Open position!

WEB-SITE: http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/ For Central Outings, sign up for the Central distribution list and visit the NJ Sierra Outings webpage, or examine pp. 11-12 of this Newsletter.

Hudson Area Network

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)

WEB-SITE: http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/ Loantaka news has a Facebook page. Please check it out and like it! https://facebook.com/LoantakaGroupNJSC

OFFICERS:

Group Co-Chairs: Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 erichioamass@gmail.com
and Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com
Treasurer: Scott McCarthy 813-767-5593 li_trescott@earthlink.net
Conservation Chair: Len Fafretello len@wildlifepreserves.org
Morris County: Open Position!

Union County: Open Position!

Political Chair: Olivia Geiux 908-892-7229 info@CleaCarchia.com
Programs: Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 erichioamass@gmail.com
Fundraising Chair: Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 erichioamass@gmail.com
Outings Chair: Wanda Knapik 908-432-2198 AdventuresWithWanda@gmail.com
Publicity Chair: Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442 johansons@comcast.net
Membership Chair: Bruce Ostrow 973-625-0792 ostrowb@gmail.com
Webmaster: Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442 johansons@comcast.net

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

To find out more information, 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: Jan 13: Dr. Daniela Shetts 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.

Feb 10: To be announced. Please check our website for the most current information regarding General Meetings.

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.

ACTIVITIES: The group will work with other grassroots organizations to support efforts to protect the pristine environment and natural beauty of this area. We will work on local environmental issues to preserve open space, promote effective planning, manage locally controlled invasive species, protect wetlands and build trails. Along with the rest of the Sierra Club, we will actively oppose the Transco pipeline in Princeton/ Montgomery, natural gas pipelines in New Jersey, fracking and fracking waste disposal in New Jersey, and other environmental issues.

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

For Central Outings, sign up for the Central distribution list and visit the NJ Sierra Outings webpage, or examine pp. 11-12 of this Newsletter.

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

WEB-SITE: http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/RaritanValley/

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

Meetings Location and Updates: Because meeting dates and locations change, please subscribe to our Email list: NARITANVALLEYNEWS 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:


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.

(Continued on page 9)
We encourage you to attend your town's planning/zoning board or land use board meetings. It is aware of development proposals in your town that may have a neg-ative environmental impact. Please communicate concerns by attending meetings and by contacting us via sierra_nj_rarian@att.net.

Jersey Shore Group Happenings:
The Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association, which includes our Jersey Shore Group, has received a grant from the Stony Brook Watershed Institute for five seminars to edu-cate local students and residents about the Whale Pond Brook Watershed. We will also build a rain garden on the grounds of a local public swim club in Ocean Township. Our Group is looking for volunteers to help implement this grant.

Five municipalities surrounding the Whale Pond Brook watershed (Tinton Falls, Ocean Township, Eatontown, West Long Branch and Long Branch) have signed the Watershed Association’s formal resolution to help restore the banks of the brook and its water quality. Since many neighbors in this watershed are not aware of the opportunities to be stewards of their watershed land, the Watershed Association will hold informational workshops to explain:

- how impervious cover (roofs, lawns, parking lots, streets) cause flooding
- how rain gardens help improve water quality and reduce flooding; and
- the need to create and maintain rain gardens on both private and public lands.

Our goals include:
- Restoring the eroded banks and water quality in the Whale Pond Brook Watershed and to create a greenway from Eatontown, the brook’s source, to the ocean at Long Branch.
- Educating our neighbors so that we incorporate responsible environmental practices into everyday actions we take on our properties.
- Creating rain gardens throughout the watershed, including the rain garden that will be funded by Ocean Township. This garden will serve as a model to increase community awareness of practices that positively affect both the health and the beauty of our watershed environment, and, in turn, promote public participation in future watershed projects.

To the right, Faith Teitelbaum (center), co-chair of the Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association, and four volunteers work on the brookside path that will soon extend from Eatontown to Long Branch. They will need help in the spring to plant the rain garden. If you can help, please contact Faith Teitelbaum, Jersey Shore Group Conservation Chair, at 732-515-5449.

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 lbug well@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 meetings of Sierra students, BCC students and the public through 2016. Our meetings, billed by BCC as ‘Science Monday,’ average 75 attendees a month, with some talks peaking at 120 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, biology professor in the college’s Science Department.

We meet at BCC to share our speakers with environmentally-conscious BCC college students, the general public, and other environmental organizations. A buffet is available for the students and adults at 6pm. The programs start at 6:30 pm.

To get to Brookdale, take GSP Exit 109 to Rte 520 West (Newman Springs Rd. which becomes Main St. in 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 1 and 2. Use parking lot F. As you walk toward the building complex, Warner’s clock will be in the trees to your left. If lot F is full, use parking lots 5 or 6. A campus map is at http://www.brookdaledcc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP_04_08.pdf.

Jan 25 Climate Challenges to Polar Bears and, Yes, Sharks -- Dave Grant, former direc-tor of the Brookdale Community College’s Ocean Institute marine field programs and science instructor at BCC, will explore how some marine creatures - from sharks to polar bears - will be affected by global warming. Problems include rising ocean temper-atures and drops in ocean salinity that could alter both warmer surface currents and colder deep sea currents. His observations are based on NOAA research expeditions for science teachers that he has participated in for the past few years.

Feb 22: Fracking Problems in NJ - Rita Yeld of Food & Water Watch will talk about the impacts fracking will have on NJ. While no actual fracking is occurring in NJ, since we do have natural gas, any discussions in the state, the emergence of environmental threats from oil trains, waste water treatment, and pipeline construction through pro-ected open lands make such a discussion very timely. NJ is contributing to the frack-ing problem because natural gas consumption in the state has dramatically increased in the last few years as consumers shift from oil.

Mar 28: Teaching the Teachers - Claire Antonacci, Executive Director and Director of Education at the NJ Sea Grant Consortium, Sandy Hook, will discuss one aspect of the Consortium’s wide-ranging educational programs, developing classroom curricula to help grammar and high school teachers to explain their science courses - such as biology, botany, and earth sciences - how the growing threats of global warming and drought tempered by consequences of greenhouse gases would affect not only the marine and terrestrial environments, but even the food chain/matrix that supports today’s homo sapiens (that is, us). The Consortium’s mission is to “promote the wise use of New Jersey’s marine and coastal resources through research, education and outreach.”

Ocean County Group

Our general membership meetings take place at 6pm on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month at the Ocean County Library. (Continued from page 7)

Aida Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com

Trish Clements patri3210@gmail.com

Joyce M. Isaza 732-920-9270 realtymstr@aol.com

Conserv Chair:
Margit Meissner-Jackson 609-296-4367 sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com

Treasurer:
Pat Fuschetto 732-908-4588 fusche40@yahoo.com

Vice-Chair &
Conserv Chair:
Margo Meister Jackson 609-209-706-1487 sybil@nj1910@yahoo.com

WEB SITE:
www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/ocean-county/

MONTHLY MEETINGS:
• Greenway: Every first Sunday of the month at the Barnegat Wildlife Refuge. Call Gina to volunteer. 856-848-8831
• Food Waste: 3rd Sunday of the month at the Ocean County Administration Building, 129 Hooper Avenue (2nd Floor), Toms River. Call Gina to volunteer. 856-848-8831

MEANINGS AND EVENTS:
• General Meetings are held bimonthly (i.e., in alternate months) usually on the FOURTH MONDAY at “7 pm at the Skywalk Cafe” in the Ocean County Administration Building, 129 Hooper Avenue (2nd Floor), Toms River. Information on meet-ings in July/September will be posted on the website.

West Jersey Group

 sede at: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey-westjersey/

Fundraising Chair:
Jorge Montoya 732-473-7920 rmontoya@sierraclub.org

Delegate at Large:
Alida Ayala

WEBSITE:
http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey-westjersey/

Vice-Chair:
Emily Mooney

Vice-Chair:
Frank Zini

Treasurer:
Trish Clemens

Publicity Chair:
Anne Caridi

Political Chair:
Linda Ribaudo

Plainside Rep:
Frank Snyder

Greenways Coord:
Frank and Ellen Zinni

Conservation Chair:
Stacey Ayala

Municipal Liaison:
Steve York

Member:
Sue York

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

General Chair
Open Position!
856-848-8831

Meetings:
• General Meetings are held bimonthly (i.e., in alternate months) usually on the FOURTH MONDAY at “7 pm at the Skywalk Cafe” in the Ocean County Administration Building, 129 Hooper Avenue (2nd Floor), Toms River. Information on meet-ings in July/September will be posted on the website.

• General Meetings are held bimonthly (i.e., in alternate months) usually on the FOURTH MONDAY at “7 pm at the Skywalk Cafe” in the Ocean County Administration Building, 129 Hooper Avenue (2nd Floor), Toms River. Information on meet-ings in July/September will be posted on the website.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:
• General Meetings are held bimonthly (i.e., in alternate months) usually on the FOURTH MONDAY at “7 pm at the Skywalk Cafe” in the Ocean County Administration Building, 129 Hooper Avenue (2nd Floor), Toms River. Information on meet-ings in July/September will be posted on the website.

WEBSITE:
http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey-westjersey/

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseyGroupNJSC

Log on and Like Us
Follow us on Twitter @Wjsierraclub and Instagram @wjsierraclub

Please share this newsletter with a non-member friend, inviting use of the coupon on p. 12.
South Jersey Group
(Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:
Group, Outings Chair: Tom Boghiosian 609-625-0878 boghiosian@verizon.net
Vice Chair: Open Position!
Conservation Chair: Open Position!
Pol. Chair, Calendar: Dick Colby 609-965-4453 dick.colby@stockton.edu
Membership Chair: Open Position!
Secretary/Treasurer: Julie Akers 609-432-5290 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 (monthly, until 2009). 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, national, 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 landuse controversy in Millville - over what is known as the Durand Tract, seems to be back in controversy, with a court requiring reconsideration. Jeff Tittel is probably the most knowledgeable person in the Chapter. (2) Controversy continues over the 24" natural gas pipeline to feed the BL England electric power plant in Marmora (Cape May Co), with a likely lawsuit continues over the construction of a large-diameter (24") natural gas pipeline to feed the BL England electric power plant in Marmora (Cape May Co), with a likely lawsuit


Feb 10: Movie Night. “Tapped.” Is it possible to clean water a basic human right? Or is this commodity that should be bought and sold like any other article of commerce? A behind-the-scenes look at the unregulated bottled water industry and the communities impacted along with the environmental degradation caused by discarded water bottles.

Mar 9: Growing Communities Through Growing Food - Dean Battocaillo of the Center for Environmental Transformation will speak about an urban farm located in Camden, NJ that engages and educates people of all backgrounds to practice a more environmentally responsible way of living on the planet.

HAPPENINGS:
At the November General Meeting of the West Jersey Group, members brought non-food perishable food to donate to the Food Bank of South Jersey to help with their Thanksgiving Food Drive. Photograph below.

Singles Section
(A chapter-wide, special interest section offering hikes/cleanup, social gatherings, etc.)

Volunteer Opportunities: We need volunteers in all of the areas 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 also volunteer any position with a friend, if desired. We’re happy to help you learn the ropes.

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

SOCIAL DINNERS: THIRD TUESDAY of each month at 7 pm. 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 the Chapter’s online calendar (see above).

HIKES AND OTHER OUTINGS:
The singles Section sponsors many outings, ranging from beginners level to advanced trails. 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 for this Newsletter for singles outings led by Jimi Oleksiak and Jeff Sovelove. Please join the listserv to get 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 following by an optional meal at a location determined by the leader. Please see the Outings section for this Newsletter for singles outings led by Jimi Oleksiak and Jeff Sovelove. Please join the listserv to get 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 following by an optional meal at a location determined by the leader. Please see the Outings section for this Newsletter for singles outings led by Jimi Oleksiak and Jeff Sovelove. Please join the listserv to get notification of all of our outings (see above for instructions on how to subscribe).
GROUP NEWS

WEB SITE: http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/
MEETUP: http://www.meetup.com/njsierrclub
FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/sierrajersey

OFFICERS:
Co-Chair: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com
Co-Chair: Robert Zitzman * robertmz@att.net
Secretary: Jonathan Wall* jonathanwall@nycap.rr.com
Treasurer: Corbett Klein* corbettklein@outlook.com
Outings Co-Chair: Corbett Klein* corbettklein@outlook.com
Outings Co-Chair: Robert Zitzman* robertmz@att.net
Webmaster/ Listmaster: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com
Ex-Com Member: OPEN POSITION-contact John or Robert if interested

(* Section Executive Committee Member)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:
Dates and times subject to change. Participants should register for outings at http://www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp or www.meetup.com/njsierrclub.
Please contact leader for more information. You can also receive updated information by joining our email list. Please contact John at jkashwick@gmail.com to be included in the list.

Jan 23 (Sat): Thomas Edison National Historic Site. West Orange. We’ll visit the laboratory and home of inventor Thomas Edison on a ranger guided tour. We’ll meet at the visitor center to purchase tickets by 10:30 planning to attend the 11am tour. Severe weather may cancel—call or text leader if in doubt. Please register on Meetup.com.

Mar 3 (Sat): Washington Crossing State Park. Hopewell. We’ll hike downriver with a ranger and discuss administrative issues. Contact John for dial-in number or more information at jkashwick@gmail.com.

Feb 3 (Wed): Weather May Cancel—Call or Text Leader If In Doubt. Please Register on Meetup.com.

Jan 23 (Sat): Thomas Edison National Historic Site. West Orange. We’ll visit the laboratory and home of inventor Thomas Edison on a ranger guided tour. We’ll meet at the visitor center to purchase tickets by 10:30 planning to attend the 11am tour. Severe weather may cancel—call or text leader if in doubt. Please register on Meetup.com.

Leaders: Jonathan Wall: psychologist@jonwall.com and 908-295-1890, and John Kashwick: 201-294-1092 and jkashwick@gmail.com.

Feb 5 (Wed): Executive Committee Conference Call. 7:30pm. Help plan events for the spring months and discuss administrative issues. Contact John for dial-in number or more information at jkashwick@gmail.com.

Mar 19 (Sat): Group News: Contact John at jkashwick@gmail.com. More information at jkashwick@gmail.com.

RobertMZ@att.net and 908-723-3633. Rain or other severe weather cancels. Contact leader if in doubt.

Volunteers Needed! We are continuing to recruit volunteers and outings leaders. For more information, please email John at jkashwick@gmail.com or Robert at robemzet@aol.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, and invites members to check her web site at www.funtravels.com for trips, tips, and travel information regarding New Jersey and other states.

Sierra Student Coalition
(a semi-autonomous organization of college and high-school students)

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

Interesting Children in the Outdoors Section
(another Chapter-wide special interest activity with the motto: No Child Left Inside!)

OFFICERS:
Chair: Marty Cohen 2014-670-8858 marty.cohen@verizon.net

ICO is a public service program of the Sierra Club consisting of 50 groups nationwide, which holds 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 Huboken H.S. Sierra Club, and we are pursuing out opportunities with other youth service agencies. We are pleased to announce that one of our volunteers, Erin Long, has just completed her leadership certification requirements, although we still need a full-time leader to attend to the hike leaders and hike planning.

We are also working with the Globe Science Academy, a private New Jersey school, which has received a grant to conduct a research project on the effectiveness of outdoor learning, and we are planning to conduct a similar study with the public schools.

ICO requires a minimum of 50 hours per year, but we are more than happy to consider anyone who is enthusiastic about the outdoors and is committed to helping children develop a love of nature and environmental conservation.

ICO is a great way for students to get involved in the community, learn about nature, and make new friends. We encourage you to consider joining us!

WEBMASTER NEEDED URGENTLY
To maintain the Chapter’s Website. Contact Rich Isaac (risaacx@aol.com)

On the Trail
Trekking in Nepal
By Dick Colby

There are three ways to wander through the foothills of the Himalayas. You can pay for an organized package tour complete with porters and Sherpa guides. Or you can hire your own guide when you arrive at the villages where Nepal’s extensive network of mountain trails begin. Or you can do what I did in April of 1985: I started walking, alone with my backpack, northwest from Pokhara, through a Tibetan refugee camp and up onto the steep ridges that comprise the southern portion of the Annapurna Circuit – one of the planet’s most spectacular treks.

I came prepared. Five of my colleagues at Stockton College had been there. The Map Store in Washington DC had sold me the detailed trekking maps. And Hugh Swift’s ‘Trekker’s Guide to the Himalayas,’ published by the Sierra Club, explained the visa and permits needed, how to get there inexpensively, health precautions to take, where to eat and stay en route, and even enough of the local languages to get by.

The Annapurna Circuit of summits was often in spectacular sight to the north; they range from 23,000 to more than 26,000 feet above sea-level. The entire circuit takes three-to-four weeks, and includes a high pass at 17,700 feet. I had time only for the 25-mile southern portion, that featured a view down into the spectacular north-south Kalí Gandaki River Valley, which separates the Annapurna cluster from the Dhaulagiri Range to the west. I often encountered the equivalent of FedEx vans caravan of pack animals, brightly adorned and musically attuned with strings of bells. I had been advised to carry always a large black umbrella: to protect against rain and sun, to gently fend off dogs and pack animals, and to use as a third arm and leg!

I very much enjoyed the feeling of being back in the Middle Ages – beyond the reach of electricity and plumbing.
Cooking and heating were by woodstoves. In the homes where I stayed, eyewraps were devoted to family gatherings around a dim candle- or lantern-lit table, exchanging stories, singing, and playing family games. Instead of toilets there were sackets carried on people’s backs, the weight suppressed by burlap bags.

As I trekked westward I became aware of a changing weather pattern. The mornings had previously been perfectly clear and cool at my elevations (5000 to 10,000 feet) warming by midday to perfect sleeveless comfort. But clouds began to appear by afternoon, becoming thicker every day. I was intruding on the onset of the annual summer monsoon season. Finally there came a morning of heavy mist and light rain, and it was time for me to retrace my steps. My view was now limited to mist-shrouded, terraced fields:

- fully as satisfyingly as the more distant vistas of previous days. On my last day of wandering descent into Pokahra I was joined by an adventurous woman from Montana, completing a solo circuit of Annapurna. We shared mixed emotions as we approached the end of our trek.

It was comforting to take a warm shower again, and to linger in Pokahra’s Cuckoo’s Restaurant over pie and an endless pot of tea.

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**GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS**

Skylands: Vacant
South Highlands: Jonathan Wall
psychologist@earthmail.com
North Jersey: Ellen Blumenkrantz
ellenblumen@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417
West Jersey: Vacant
Raritan Valley: Vacant
Jersey Shore: Mike Grange, 908-732-5334 (H)
1487 Sh. Rd Front, Seabright 07738
Ocean County: Terrence Brown, 848-333-7331

**Chapter Chair Contacts**

- Skylands: Jonathan Wall
- South Highlands: Ellen Blumenkrantz
- North Jersey: Ellen Blumenkrantz
- Central Jersey: Vacant
- Raritan Valley: Vacant
- Jersey Shore: Vacant

**Outing Leaders**

Please be sure April-June 2016 write-ups are sent to your Group Chair Coordinator (if you do not know who this is, ask your Chapter Chair, the Chapter Chair before Feb. 15, or click here). This is the only way we have of knowing that your group outing is included in our publication. If it is not listed here, you have not contributed.

**NOTES ON OUTINGS**

- All Outings are open to Club members with no reservations required.
- Some outings may have additional fees. All participants may be required to complete waivers indicating indemnification of the Sierra Club and liability release.
- All participants must sign liability waivers at all outings sponsored by the Sierra Club.
- Please check with the leader before bringing children on an outing.

January

Jan 1 (Fri): New Year’s Day Paddle on the Oswego River (Burlington Co).
10am. In the New Year with the NJ Sierra Club. Meet at Lake Oswego and paddle 8 miles on the “Jewel of the Pinelands.” No pre-registration required. Bring lunch, water, and snacks. Meet at the Lake Oswego parking area near the bridge at 10am. Free. All participants must sign liability waivers at the event. Club members get priority seating. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. George & Leona F: 609-295-7574 or leona@pineypaddlers.com.

Jan 5 (Sun): Veterans’ Park (Mercer Co). 10am. 4.5 miles, easy. Enjoy a winter hike in one of our favorite parks. This 353 acre park was built in honor of Hamilton Township’s veterans in 1917. The park offers a great variety of trails including an accessible trail. Meet at the park entrance off Rte 93. Leashed dogs are welcome. On SAE: 609-247-0614 or tenua@comcast.net. (C) - Central Jersey (NJ) - North Jersey (N) - South Jersey (SJ) - [ADAC] - Atlantic

Jan 9 (Sat): The Great Swamp Hike, Ringwood State (Somerset Co)
10am. 4 miles in 4 hours on feet terrain. Facilities: There is a visitor’s center with restrooms. Leashed dogs are welcome if in control of their owners. Photo opportunities: You may see wintering Tundra Swans as you hike around the bogs. Optional guided tour of the Village. Meet at the Visitor Center. Leashed dogs are welcome. Proper firearm required (sub-balls,拆解 and enforced) if appropriate for the area. Mountaineering and hiking clubs are welcome. Meet at pump house. Inclement weather cancels. George & Leona F: 609-295-7574 or leona@pineypaddlers.com.

Jan 10 (Sun): D&R Canal Bike Hike (Burlington Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy. Paddle like the lock on the Old Iron Bridge as we walk along the towpath; perhaps see the resident Bald Eagles. Meet at the Brearley Park, Washington Co. 10am. Meet at the parking area behind the volunteers shirts and sign-ups at the entrance. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George and Leona F: 609-295-7574 or leona@pineypaddlers.com.

Jan 15 (Fri): Hike at the NJSS Plainsboro Preserve (Middlesex Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy. The Preserve has wildlife exhibits, a reference library and the Nature Store is a great source for field guides, nature gifts, hiking equipment, etc. Meet at 10am at the main parking lot. Directions: Take the Wharton Expressway to Wharton Exit 9. If you need more directions, please email us at info@newjersey.sierraclub.org. Leashed dogs are welcome. Proper firearm required (sub-balls,拆解 and enforced) if appropriate for the area. Meet at the parking lot. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather cancels. George & Leona F: 609-295-7574 or leona@pineypaddlers.com.

Jan 27 (Wed): Hike the Franklin Parker Preserve (Burlington Co). 10am, 6 miles, easy pace on the Yellow trail. The acquisition of the Franklin Parker Preserve in 2005 by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation was a monumental accomplishment in conserving open space in central New Jersey. This 8,000 acre tract of land, linking the expanses of Brendan Byrne, Wharton, and Pinelands State Forests and creating a more contiguous Pinelands National Reserve. Meet at the Preserve entrance off Rte. 571, Whelan Rd. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather cancels. George & Leona F: 609-295-7574 or leona@pineypaddlers.com.

Feb 6 (Sat): Patroon Path Stroll (Saratoga Co). 10am. Come take an easy stroll on Patroon Path in Mohonk. This 5.5 mile stroll will start out from the Speedwell Lake parking lot, across from the street where Mohonk Mountain House is. The hike will go up the steep hill above the lake. The path is wide, partly paved, partly crushed gravel/stabilized gravel with very little in the way of elevation gains. It will be strolling at a very moderate pace. Please bring plenty of water and a light snack. For directions: www.mohonk.com. No pets please. Inclement weather cancels. Proper firearm required (sub-balls,拆解 and enforced) if appropriate for the area. Bring lunch; leaders will have peanut butter snacks. Meet at the Speedwell entrance. Directions: www.whitesbog.org. Bring beverage and lunch. Leashed dogs are welcome! After the hike: option for lunch at La Piazza, Allentown. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-295-7574 or leona@pineypaddlers.com.

Feb 6 (Sat): Whitesbog Village Winter Hike (Burlington Co). 10am; 4.5 miles, easy pace. Meet at Whitesbog Village. This hike is for all ages and was originally designed for families with children. Perhaps we’ll see wintering Tundra Swans as we hike around the bogs. Optinal guided tour of the Village. Meet at the Whitesbog Village. Directions: www.whitesbog.org. Leashed dogs are welcome! Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-295-7574 or leona@pineypaddlers.com.

Feb 14 (Sun): Hike on the Pine Barrens (Atlantic Co). 10am. 4 miles, 3 hours on light terrain. A fun educational hike! This hike is for those who are interested in the diverse Pinelands. Meet at the Smith’s Woods access parking lot, East Railroad Av. Leashed dogs are welcome! Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-295-7574 or leona@pineypaddlers.com.

Feb 26 (Sat): Patroon Path Stroll (Saratoga Co). 10am. Come take an easy stroll on Patroon Path in Mohonk. This 5.5 mile stroll will start out from the Speedwell Lake parking lot, across from the street where Mohonk Mountain House is. The hike will go up the steep hill above the lake. The path is wide, partly paved, partly crushed gravel/stabilized gravel with very little in the way of elevation gains. It will be strolling at a very moderate pace. Please bring plenty of water and a light snack. For directions: www.mohonk.com. No pets please. Inclement weather cancels. Proper firearm required (sub-balls,拆解 and enforced) if appropriate for the area. Bring lunch; leaders will have peanut butter snacks. Meet at the Speedwell entrance. Directions: www.whitesbog.org. Bring beverage and lunch. Leashed dogs are welcome! After the hike: option for lunch at La Piazza, Allentown. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-295-7574 or leona@pineypaddlers.com.

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February
OUTINGS

(Continued from page 17)

email Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. J l a m r i z i < J r i z i @ m a c . c o m >.

Mar 13 (Sun): D N K Hike at Turkey Swamp Park (Monmouth Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. This is our 3rd annual DNK Hike. Time hike at Turkey Swamp Park. Park Information and directions: www.munomuncipparksv.com. Turn into the Main Entrance - 200 Georgia Rd, Freehold - drive to the Point Point parking area. Led by Carol Rinaldo. Led by Carol. Bring water, snacks and lunch. Inclement weather cancels. Leaders: Laura Lynch and George F: 609-295-5734 or leona@pinerapd.com. (W)


Mar 19 (Sat): Lewis Morris Park (Morris Co). 10am. 1 mile. We will start at Sunrise Lake, then hike to the parking lot and back down the lake using a combination of the Yellow and Red trails. The pace will be leisurely to slow one. See the Morris County Parks Commission website: http://www.morriscountyparks.org/parks/meaddarfc for directions. Bring lots of water, lunch and hiking shoes. Meet in parking lot. Inclement weather cancels. No longer limited to Outdoors members. 'Ill be there for anyone interested (bikers, campers, or snowshoers) if apparatus for the conditions. No pets please. Leader: Jeffre y Sevoldi: Hiker@duke.com, phone 973-266-5678, joint ALC/Sierra Club hike.

Mar 21 (Sun): Kayak/Cayak Crosswicks Creek/ Abbott Marshlands (Burlington Co). 10:30. Our round trip round trip with the tide begins on the Crosswicks Creek in Bordentown. We will be returning waterfowl. Boating, lunch and beverage. Meet at West Branch Beach, end of Park. C. cold experienced water/cold paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F: 609-295-5734 or leona@pinerapd.com. (W)

Mar 20 (Sun): World Day for Water: NJ Sierra Club Walk for Water along the D&R Canal and the Delaware River (Hudson Co). 10am. The walk will be held to raise awareness about water issues locally and globally. Meeting Bldg State Island, 2188 Daniel Ray Hwy, Stockton 08259. Led by Carol and George & Leona F: 609-295-5734 or leona@pinerapd.com. (W).

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Www.sierraclub.org
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