Conflict over Sparta Mountain

Governor's Budget Address: Unreal

By Chapter Conservation Chair Greg Gorman

All-Electric Vehicles for New Jersey

By Greg Gorman

The Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area, in Sussex Co. is a core component of the Sparta Mountain Greenway: it provides habitat for more than 15 threatened or endangered species. Its Lubber Creek is one of eleven locations in the NY Highlands designated by the U.S. Forest Service as a “priority conservation focal area.” Threatened by development in the 1990’s and residents and local businesses working together to protect its 3,461 acres for future generations. Purchased in part with Greens Acres (pass thru funds), it is included in the Highlands Preservation Area which provides drinking water for millions of people.

Now the NJ DEP’s Division of Fish and Wildlife, the agency entrusted to protect this forest, proposes to allow logging of 27% to 71% acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields. (A forest, proposes to allow logging of this forest, proposes to allow logging of this forest, proposes to allow logging of this forest, proposes to allow logging of this forest, proposes to allow logging of this forest, proposes to allow logging of this forest, proposes to allow logging of this forest, proposes to allow logging of this forest, proposes to allow logging of this forest, proposes to allow logging of this forest. It was NOT: ‘Save Sparta Mountain - Keep a Wild Place Wild’; it was ‘Save Sparta Mountain - Keep a Wild Place Wild’. It Was NOT: ‘Save Sparta Mountain - Keep a Wild Place Wild’. It Was NOT: ‘Save Sparta Mountain - Keep a Wild Place Wild’. It Was NOT: ‘Save Sparta Mountain - Keep a Wild Place Wild’. It Was NOT: ‘Save Sparta Mountain - Keep a Wild Place Wild’.

By Greg Gorman (ggorman07419@embarqmail.com)

All-Electric Vehicles for New Jersey

In his annual budget message to the Legislature, on Feb 13th, Governor Christie neglected provision for New Jersey’s environment and public transportation.

He may no longer be running for President, but he’s still running away from New Jersey, catering to national politics rather than the needs of the people he was elected to serve. If only his hot air could be focused on New Jersey’s hot air and the Climate Change it presages.

Our most serious environmental problem is sprawl development and its consequent waste of energy and loss of open space. His budget will carry on with siding with developers, and oil and gas companies over clean energy. It will hurt our economy by undermining green jobs.

Solar Power and Clean Air

The Governor claimed that New Jersey has ‘a dramatic expansion of solar energy and the meeting of our 2020 clean air goals, without taxing our citizens through the discredited Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).’

I believe our Governor, when he speaks, there were 10,000 solar jobs in the state; now there are only 5,700. We once added forty solar megawatts a month; now we’re doing eight. New Jersey has dropped from 7th to 2nd place nationally in energy efficiency and from 8th to 2nd place in solar. Christie is suing to block President Obama’s Clean Power Plan.

The Governor said that New Jersey will meet our clean air goals in 2020 without purchasing tons of cleaner power from outside the state. New Jersey is already home to 75 species of neotropical songbirds that require contiguous forest habitats, as well as 60 species of raptors. S. Williams, Skylands Management, notes that, “the Sierra Club support grassland habitats, but not in the presence of raptors. As state energy agencies pay for infrastructure and premises, imposition of more long-term expenditures could be costly.”

The Sierra Club’s New Jersey Chapter has joined with the Highlands Coalition and local companies to also oppose the plan. It is outrageous that NJDEP has offered, as rationale, the need to destroy an entire ecosystem to create more habitat for one species, the state-endangered Golden-Winged Warbler.

I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,’ I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,’ I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,’ I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,’ I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,’ I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,’ I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,’ I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,’ I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,’ I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,’ I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,’ I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,’ I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,” I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,’ I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,” I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,” I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,” I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,” I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,” I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan,” I believe the Sierra Club and others who say that the Sierra Club ‘has opposed the plan.”

Sparta Mountain - and Log It Later’, “By Chapter Conservation Chair Greg Gorman (ggorman07419@embarqmail.com)

Conservation Chair’s Report

All-Electric Vehicles for New Jersey

All-Electric Vehicles (AEVs) provide faster acceleration, lower maintenance cost, zero tail-pipe emissions, and produce fewer carbon emissions than almost all comparable gasoline-powered vehicles. AEVs include both battery-electric and plug-in hybrid cars. If you are considering an EV, you can find out what’s available at your local dealerships.

Chevy Bolt 2017, which will be available in New Jersey over the next three years.

Cradle to Grave” reports that AEVs produce fewer greenhouse gases than almost all comparable gasoline-powered vehicles. AEVs include both battery-electric and plug-in hybrid cars. If you are considering an EV, you can find out what’s available at your local dealerships.

Critical to supplying his 1400 sq ft home ($300/year savings) and charge two electric cars ($4,000 savings) and charging 13 Solar Credits (worth $255 x 13 = $3,315, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields, 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period. (Continued on page 2)
Thank You for Your Support!

The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club wishes to thank all those who provided the Chapter with financial support during 2015. As in prior years, our members and supporters were there when we needed them. Listed below are the names of those whose giving makes the difference for 2015. But we also want you to be assured that all contributions are very much appreciated, regardless of the amount.

Benefactors ($1,000 and Above)
- John M. Brechthon
- Mrs. & Dr. David Brown
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- Glen Skat
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- Alcindio Are
- Charles Apf
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- Richard Baratta
- Kirk B. Barry
- Linda Bader
- Joseph Bell
- Lawrence Bjuro
- Thomas F. Bogosthan
- Harold Bobkin, Jr.

Endowment ($100 to $199)
- Adrienne A. Adam
- Charles Apf
- Margaret H. Babcock
- Richard Baratta
- Kirk B. Barry
- Linda Bader
- Joseph Bell
- Lawrence Bjuro
- Thomas F. Bogosthan
- Harold Bobkin, Jr.

 även in huvudsak kommer att skickas via speciella system som FRA har tillverkat. Det finns också en speciell teknik så som EV (Electric Vehicles) som kan användas för att skydda människor när de kör på gatorna. Det finns också andra tekniker som kan användas för att förbättra trafiken i städerna.

**ELECTRIC VEHICLES**

**Population Issues Coordinator’s Report**

**Education and Gender-Based Violence**

By Bonnie Tillery (btily44@msn.com)

"Treating women as second-class citi- zens is a bad tradition..." There’s no excuse for sexual assault or domestic violence. There’s no reason that young children should suffer genital mutilation, there’s no place in civil society for the early or forced marriage of children. These traditions may date back centu- ries, they have no place in the 21st cen- tury. These are issues of right and wrong - in any culture. But they’re also issues of success and failure. Any nation that fails to educate its girls or empowers its women and allowing them to maximize their potential is doomed to fall behind in a global economy." President Barack Obama, speaking in Africa, July 2015.

We know that education lifts girls, women and families out of poverty, and that the more education a girl receives the longer she waits to marry and have children. Women and girls who get educated will have better careers, higher incomes and better health. Boys will benefit, too, as they’re more likely to stay in school and out of trouble. This ends up benefiting nations and families everywhere. More training has specifically brought up the issue of gender equality and rights. More training has allowed peacekeepers and workers in refugee camps to address gender-based violence. Health assistance programs work at prevention of sexual violence and for improved child protection.

A country cannot afford to ignore this. Every year our partners in Afghanistan, the UN and other parties are fighting against gender-based violence. We work with the UN to bring equal rights and opportunities for young women and girls in the global community. We are building a just society in Afghanistan. We are working with the government and partners to build a just society for all.

**Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park, California - 2016**

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park, California - 2016

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April 3-5
May 8-10
June 12-14
July 17-19
August 21-23
September 25-27
October 23-25

Join us for a 3-island, 3-day cruise through California's Channel Islands—Galapagos, USA!

Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coves and cliffs. Marvel at pristine waters and unique environments.

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The cost, $650, includes an assigned bunk, and meals.

To make a reservation, send a $100 check to: [Contact Information]

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**Is there an environmental issue that we’re MISSING? If so, please call or write to Club officers.**
Much of the recent e-mail chat between Chapter officers has delved the propriety of New Jersey’s annual bear hunt, conducted last fall. See Jeff Titel’s piece on p.8. Clearly, our volunteer officers include many who desire the preservation of wilderness intact from human intrusion, such doing hunting would be anathema. Others accept a legitimate role for humans in the management of wilderness, and the utilization of wilderness—for our own food, and for what might be called recreation (sport hunting). I think the dispute is partly a demonstration of how cultural values change. Just as President Woodrow Wilson is attacked today’s young Princetonians for being soft, and as fit for no work when it was common, should modern Sierra Club members renounce our dedication Theodore Roosevelt for his then-fashionable hobby of trophy hunting? Roosevelt would have been the first to sign up to shoot bears in New Jersey!

I live in a rural part of southern New Jersey where hunting is essential to the culture—and where it is common to see deer, turkeys, and fawns—remnants of collisions with cars. Schools close on the first day of each year’s hunting season so that children, including girls, can join their families in pursuit of deer. The meat is eaten, and the heads are stuffed. Trapping of smaller game, and duck hunting, are also widely practiced, as they are a family tradition. One sharp decline in the popularity of this way of life is the prevalence of small pick-up trucks! Many of the members of the Sierra Club. Our lobbying for wilderness protection is greatly strengthened by support from organizations such as the SCA.

The Sierra Club has struggled with the issue for as long as it has existed. A national Club task force produced the following policy statement: (http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/wildlife/wildlife-and-native-plants):

Within natural ecosystems, the Sierra Club believes natural diversity and abundance of wildlife and native plants should be ensured by means that involve a minimum of overt human modification. Management approaches include regulated periodic hunting (and hunting based on scientific and biological information and use consistent with all other management purposes and when necessary to protect public safety) and fishing

I suggest there will always be a “bound- ary problem”: Unlike Europe, where the density of humans in wilderness is regulated to permit only grazing and farming, north- ern New Jersey’s bear-occupied wilderness will inevitably spill into residential back yards. The population-density of bears will always taper such that there is outflow towards human populations. If a maximum carrying capacity in wilderness is exceeded, there will have to be culling.

As I take on the responsibilities in my new position, I want to express our Chapter’s deepest thanks to Ken Johnson, who for eleven years, was an extraordinary job as our Chapter Chair before stepping down, and graciously leaves his position with the New Jersey Chapter of the Club in solid financial health, even more importantly, a strong, effective advocate for the environment. I know for speak of all of us, I say that we are grateful for all that he has done, and equally appreciative that he is continuing on as Chair of both our Chapter’s Legislative and Fundraising Committees.

I am also thankful that we have some new people coming on board to help strengthen our efforts. Our Chapter is glad to welcome aboard the following folks to new Chair positions:

• Nicole Guerrieri, our new Webmaster
• Denise Garner, our new

This way of an introduction to my new role in the New Jersey Chapter as an Executive Coordinator, in addition to serving as Political Chair of our Loantaka Group, Program Director of the Railway Watershed Association and member of Rahway’s Environmental Commission. It is more important to be vigilant in our efforts to protect the quality of New Jersey Water.

Recent attempts to undermine vital protections, such as the Christie Administration’s proposal to roll back Flood Hazard Rules that would protect regulations for clean water and flooding are proof that the fight never ends. Luckily both houses of the Legislature passed a bill to block this dangerous plan.

We must sleep with one eye open, for sadly the attacks on our environment will never end. We should always be ready to back beat attempts to weaken laws protecting our water, habitat, health and quality of life. We need to find our inner strength, conviction, integrity, bravery and respect, in our efforts to defeat those who wish to sell our natural resources to the highest bidder.

By Clia Carchia

Paul W. Taylor was a professor emeritus of philosophy at Brooklyn College, a leading authority on environmental ethics, and author of several books, including Respect for Nature: A Theory of Environmental Ethics. His overall thesis, as described in some detail in his book, is that all forms of life possess inherent worth, without regard to their usefulness to mankind, and that mankind has a moral responsibility to act in the best interest of other life forms.

This past was also a great year with the elevation to the Chair of the New Jersey Chapter. While I never had the opportunity to meet or talk to Paul (he did not have a telephone except for emergency purposes), we did exchange letters over the last year of his life. I found Paul to be a warm and caring person who was concerned about the future of this planet and its inhabitants (both human and nonhuman) and who supported the work the Chapter is doing to try to make a difference. I have great respect for Paul before he died, but I am pleased that we were able to connect and thankful for all that I learned from him.

By Richard Isaac (risaacx@aol.com)

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By Clia Carchia

Thank you... and Welcome!

By Richard Isaac (risaacx@aol.com)

The Jersey Sierran: April–June 2016

Editorial

Bearing Up and Down

By Dick Cody (dick.cody@stockton.edu)

by Michelle, of course.

Wildlife and Native Plant Management

Within natural ecosystems, the Sierra Club believes natural diversity and abundance of wildlife and native plants should be ensured by means that involve a minimum of overt human modification. Management approaches include regulated periodic hunting, and fishing, based on sufficient scientifically valid biological information and use consistent with all other management purposes, and when necessary to protect public safety.

Sport Hunting and Fishing

Within modified and natural ecosystems, the Sierra Club believes that accountable management approaches include regulated periodic hunting (and fishing) and hunting, based on sufficient scientifically valid biological information and use consistent with all other management purposes, and when necessary to protect public safety.

The New Jersey Chapter developed its own policy position in 2003, in response to the first planned open season for bear hunting: (http://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/new-jersey-chapteHandouts/NJSC_bear_poli-

cy_final_2004.pdf.)

It uses, as a basis for opposing that hunting season, the opinion that inade-
quate justification was supplied by the Department of Environmental Protection: unreliable numbers of bears to claim an overpopulation, and inadequate alternative control measures education of the public on how to avoid bears and how to limit their motivation to live near humans.

I suggest there will always be a “bound- ary problem”: Unlike Europe, where the density of humans in wilderness is regulated to permit only grazing and farming, north-
ern New Jersey’s bear-occupied wilderness will inevitably spill into residential back yards. The population-density of bears will always taper such that there is outflow towards human populations. If a maximum carrying capacity in wilderness is exceeded, there will have to be culling.

It is incumbent on experts in the DEP (or their website, GreenisUniversal.com, as well as developing creative ideas and strategies. In the next few years, only not only is she eminently qual-
ified to maintain our website, she has the experience and creativity to help us make it even better.

• Denise Garner, our new

• George Moffat, our new

Programs Chair (new position)

George has done an incredible job as Programs Chair for the Jersey Shore Group, bringing in a number of excellent speakers and finding ways of having larger attendance, andfovelden has In his new (additional) position, he looks forward to helping our various local groups strengthen their existing program activities.

By Clia Carchia, our new Water Quality/Habitat Issues Coordinator

Already involved as our Loantaka Group Coordinator, Clia has experience with the Railway Watershed Association. Clia looks forward to helping our various local groups strengthen their existing program activities.

By Clia Carchia

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Natural Gas and Petroleum Pipelines: Bad for the Planet, Bad for New Jersey

By Ken Johanson, past Chapter Chair (kjohan@comcast.net)

Over the past few years the fossil fuel industry has been lobbying with all its might on New Jersey and has proposed a plethora of natural gas and petroleum pipelines throughout the state. All these projects have not been completed, some are under construction and some are still in the planning stages. Here are some of the reasons why these projects are bad for the planet, bad for New Jersey and bad for New Jersey.

The Planet

Natural gas and petroleum pipelines impede progress on global warming and climate change by promoting the discharge of greenhouse gases and providing a disincentive for energy efficiency and alternative energy initiatives. Pipelines are not needed to meet current energy requirements.

Future needs should be met by energy efficiency and alternative energy initiatives, not by expanding fossil fuel infrastructure. Pipelines make it more difficult to phase out fossil fuels and the recently enacted Global Warming Response Act, the Energy Master Plan and the Paris Accord.

To the extent that pipelines provide the region with more product than it can consume, that product can be exported to other countries, further exacerbating the global climate crisis and making it less likely that commitments to meet our commitments under the Paris Accord.

Now it would be easiest to argue that any mention to the argument that natural gas infrastructure can be justified on the basis that it is a bridge fuel, an energy source that produces less carbon dioxide than other fossil fuels. Those who argue that this is the case often ignore the expansion of traditional fossil fuel infrastructure, including the proposed Pilgrim pipeline, that will transport Bakken crude oil from Alberta to the Bayway refinery and back to Albany, via another pipeline, as refined product. Nor can methane, the primary constituent of natural gas, be viewed as an innocuous substance that keeps the gas moving. Methane is 84 times more potent as a greenhouse than carbon dioxide. Shorter term the numbers are even more dramatic. Methane emissions occur throughout the gas industry’s entire operation. The recent uncontrolled discharge from a storage facility in California is a case in point.

The Nation

The pipelines pose major environmental and societal threats to areas where the natural gas and crude oil will be extracted, as well as states through which the pipelines pass.

Fracking, the preferred method for extracting natural gas, poses serious threats to the region’s water supply. The process uses vast quantities of water, most of which is contaminated in the process and cannot be recycled. The contaminant water is injected into the ground, resulting in earthquakes and a threat to aquifers, stored in vast outdoor sludge pits (a recipe for disaster and a threat to streams and rivers) and sent to treatment facilities. But treatment has not proven effective in removing carcinogens or other pollutants. A new report does with little regard to address concerns regarding radioactivity of the contaminated water.

Significant quantities of natural gas and other volatile organic chemicals, including nitro- gen oxides, carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds, are released during the extraction process. In the early stages when pipelines may not yet have been built and storage facilities are not available, the result is a high concentration of air quality in the area surrounding the well site and a threat to public health. In addition, gas leaks from the lines, the storage facility in California, there has been particular concern regarding increased levels of benzene in the air. Benzene is a known carcinogen and has been linked to many ailments, including leukemia, birth defects, anemia and other blood disorders. It is little wonder that 3400 families have been evacuated from the area, that schools have been closed and that Governor Brown has declared an emergency.

Other negative effects from natural gas and petroleum extraction operations would include the loss of farmland and open space and a reduction in the quality of life for local residents at the point of drilling sites, stude pits, compressor stations, roadways and pipelines, as well as adjacent communities. Natural gas leaks from compressor stations and truck traffic, transform quiet rural communities into busy industrial centers.

New Jersey

Natural gas and petroleum pipelines constructed, under construction or planned for New Jersey have had, and will continue to have, a significant negative impact upon the state, parks, forests and other natural areas that they traverse. Large and small, the destruction of the construction of the pipelines, water bodies are disrupted, water quality is increased and wildlife is impacted, not only as a direct result of the construction, but also as a result of the fragmentation of wildlife habitat.

Natural gas compressor stations pose an additional threat. These stations are essentially small smokestacks, with a sound scary enough? The head of the Bureau of Land Management, a top advocacy for the Republican presidential candidate, and is willing to spend $14 million of public money on a lawsuit that would move the federal lands to state control. Energy development is the big motivation behind drilling off our lands to the highest bidder.

Now some good news: we’re hoping that President Obama will designate a new National Monument called The Bears Ears. A coalition of Native American tribes has proposed a 1.9 million acre Monument in southeastern Utah, in one of America’s most significant unprotected cultural landscapes. It has scenery to match its cultural treasures and overlaps with America’s Red Rock Wilderness proposed lands. The Department of the Interior has been in contact with the Coalition of Tribes. Protecting these cultural lands is exactly what the Antiquities Act was intended to do. Please help by contacting your Congressperson if she’s not listed above! The more support the Red Rock Wilderness Act gets in Congress, the more the motivation the President will have to proclaim a National Monument. In other news, a film has just been released and is touring America: How to Let Go of the World and Love All the Things Climate Can’t Change. We will have some dates for showings in NJ. Please contact me if you have a venue, and/or if you would be interested to learn more about it.

It’s going to be a busy year! Our wilderness is going to need ALL of us!

Utah Wilderness Issues Coordinator’s Report

Utah Wilderness Imperiled

By Debbie Young (debyoung31@comcast.net), who also took the photographs!

Our Utah Wilderness Lands are in an enviable position right now. But there is hope: this will be the year of activism, and we NEED for our voices to be heard.

The drumbeat has to continue the push to get our representatives to co-sponsor the America Red Rock Wilderness Act (HR-2340), sponsored in the House by Rep. Alan Lowenthal. So far in the 114th Congress the following NJ champions have signed onto it (or its Senate equivalent): Senator Booker, Representative Frank Pallone, Bill Pascrell and Bonnie Watson Coleman.

We greatly appreciate their support and desperately need our other representatives to sign on and support the President that there is national support for the highest protection of these lands.

We are always looking for opportunities to talk to groups and have the public contact their representative to cosponsor the bill. Please contact me if you hear of any tabling or speaking opportunities.

The bad news is that a draft of the Utah Public Lands Initiative was released in January. Also dubbed the In-Berlight Wilderness bill in international positioning, it has been crafted by Utah congressmen with nice language but devil in the details—its a four page bill that has black widows and advances the Utah land grab. It removes the President’s Authority to create National Monuments without congressional review, and it designates cow paths and other natural areas as highways which cancels the wilderness status of much of Utah.

A loss of 700 million acres of national parks, national monuments, national forests, national wildlife refuges and Bureau of Land Management lands sound scary enough? The head of the House Natural Resources Committee, Bob Bishop, is putting pressure on the President and is willing to spend $14 million of public money on a lawsuit to move the federal lands to state control.

Energy development is the big motivation behind drilling off our lands to the highest bidder.

Now some good news: we’re hoping that President Obama will designate a new National Monument called The Bears Ears. A coalition of Native American tribes has proposed a 1.9 million acre Monument in southeastern Utah, in one of America’s most significant unprotected cultural landscapes. It has scenery to match its cultural treasures and overlaps with America’s Red Rock Wilderness proposed lands. The Department of the Interior has been in contact with the Coalition of Tribes. Protecting these cultural lands is exactly what the Antiquities Act was intended to do. Please help by contacting your Congressperson if she’s not listed above! The more support the Red Rock Wilderness Act gets in Congress, the more the motivation the President will have to proclaim a National Monument.

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It’s going to be a busy year! Our wilderness is going to need ALL of us!

To protect our planet for our children as well as for polar bears and other wild life, we must keep Arctic oil in the ground and under the sea. Despite all the science supporting that statement, the federal government’s newly proposed five-year Outer Continental Shelf Oil Leasing Plan continues to include areas in the fragile Arctic Ocean. Please consider helping protect the Arctic. Email me to find out how: aweeder@comcast.net

Save the Date: Hands across the Sand, our annual event to oppose offshore drilling and dirty fuels will take place on May 21st 2016.

Alaska Issues Coordinator’s Report

News from the Arctic

By Amy Weeder (aweeder@comcast.net)

This past Fall the Sierra Club’s Alaska Issues team worked with the Alaska Wilderness League and other organizations to bring David Thoreson, arctic explorer, photographer, and a wonderful story teller, to New Jersey to talk about climate change and the Arctic. In just the last ten years, David has witnessed first-hand the effects of climate change on the Arctic. As noted previously, these facilities also release a broad spectrum of pollutants to the air, water and other natural areas that they traverse.

Large and small, the destruction of the construction of the pipelines, water bodies are disrupted, water quality is increased and wildlife is impacted, not only as a direct result of the construction, but also as a result of the fragmentation of wildlife habitat.

Natural gas compressor stations pose an additional threat. These stations are essentially small smokestacks, with a sound scary enough? The head of the Bureau of Land Management, a top advocacy for the Republican presidential candidate, and is willing to spend $14 million of public money on a lawsuit that would move the federal lands to state control. Energy development is the big motivation behind drilling off our lands to the highest bidder.

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To protect our planet for our children as well as for polar bears and other wild life, we must keep Arctic oil in the ground and under the sea. Despite all the science supporting that statement, the federal government’s newly proposed five-year Outer Continental Shelf Oil Leasing Plan continues to include areas in the fragile Arctic Ocean. Please consider helping protect the Arctic. Email me to find out how: aweeder@comcast.net

Save the Date: Hands across the Sand, our annual event to oppose offshore drilling and dirty fuels will take place on May 21st 2016.
510 Bears Killed: Enough!

From a Press Release

The extended bear hunt of 2015 ended on Dec 14th. 510 bears were shot in about two weeks. This is in addition to the 1,871 bears killed in the previous five years. New Jersey's black bear population is estimated to be between 2,400 and 2,800. The Chapter has maintained, all along, that hunting bears is unwise and unwise, and would not help to manage our bears, especially our nuisance bears. Rather, the motivation for the hunts is primarily trophy-recreation for hunters, and their baying of bears will only increase bear-interactions with humans, increasing the problems. Rather than hunting them, New Jersey should protect their habitats, educate their access to our garage, and educate people in bear country to live safely with them.

A primary need is for more conservation officers to implement such measures. Most bears are docile and most afraid of people than we are of them. Aggressive bear encounters went up 59 last year despite five years of complaints have been coming from outside the area where we allow hunting: mostly Sussex, Hunterdon, Passaic, and Morris Counties. This suggests the need for an education program on living with bears. Bears are wild animals that need to be respected. Tempting them with food (such as garbage left in insecure dumpsites) will aggravate them. We also need to have signage warning people that they are in bear country, and educational flyers for distribution at all trailheads.

New Jersey used to spend more than $2 million a year on bear management education. That money has been reduced by 80%. Ten years ago we had Bear Wardens whose job was to manage bears and educate the public. That program has been eliminated. Now Conservation Officers do that work and there are 40% fewer of them. And their responsibilities also include protection of other species, prosecution of poachers, and much else. The Christie Administration decided it was cheaper and easier to have a hunt rather than an effective management plan.

Protecting habitat is another important method of managing our bear population. Each year, 8,000 to 10,000 acres of land in bear country are lost to residential construction. The more houses built in the middle of the woods where bears live, the more conflict we will see between bears and humans.

In 1970 there were only 50 bears in NJ. The black bear is a symbol that New Jersey still has wild places. Bears should be humanely regulated, not hunted for trophies.

OFFICERS: (All are members of the Group Executive Committee.)
Chair: Susan Williams 973-222-0274 skylandsgroup@gmail.com
Vice Chair:
Political Chair: Edgar Shepard shepherderdg@ymail.com
Treasurer:
Secretary: Jerome Hobern
Conservation Chair:
Outings Chair:
Action Publicity Chair: Dave Alcock
Membership Chair:
Ex-Com:
Members-at-Large:
Publicity Chair:
Webmaster:

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 are focusing our efforts on the Sputarita Mountain WMA “Stewardship” Plan. It is a legally logging plan and clear cuts have already been done in one of the most pristine watersheds in the state. Please see our Facebook page for up to date information. If you'd like to help us fight this plan or want more information about it, please contact us at SkylandsGroup@gmail.com 973-222-0274 OR gomeg745@embarqmail.com 973-486-7950

The Skylights 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 7:30-9pm at the Unitarian Fellowship, One W. Nelson St. Newton. Best check electronic sites for more current information.

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.

Skylands Group

SUSSEX AND NORTHERN WARREN COUNTIES

OFFICERS:
Chair: Jonathan Wall* jonathanwall@ionw.com
Vice Chair: Celeste Martin* celestechmarine@optonline.net
Conservation Chair: Cinny MacGonagle cmacgonagle@earthlink.net
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Publicity Chair: Susan Schmitter* souhs06@verizon.net
Membership Chair: Jim Fleming* jimfleming18@comcast.net
Outings Coordinator: Jonathan Wall* jonathanwall@ionw.com
Webmaster: Jonathan Wall* jonathanwall@ionw.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 are 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.

Apr 6 (Wed): Paris Climate Conference: Did It Move Us Forward or Backward? Climate change, not just a science debate, is a political issue. Our meeting is dedicated to the COP21 United Nations Climate Change Talks held in Paris. Jerome Wagner, who attended last year's climate conference gives an overview of his personal experience at the conference, what the world's stewardship, advocacy and litigation to keep the longest, undammed river east of the Mississippi flowing free and healthy through four states including New Jersey. This is a program that include river monitoring, habitat restoration and citizen action.

May 4 (Wed): Delaware Riverkeeper's Maya K. van Rossum will speak about their network's stewardship, advocacy and litigation to keep the longest, undammed river east of the Mississippi flowing free and healthy through four states including New Jersey. This is a program that include river monitoring, habitat restoration and citizen action.

May 14 (Sat): Round Valley Sunset Hike, 4:30pm. Meet inside main entrance to the Unitarian Fellowship, One W. Nelson St, Newton. Best check electronic sites for more current information.

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June 4 (Sat): Tableting Event—Greenfest & Washington Car Show, 9am - 2pm, 44 E. Washington Ave. Downtown Washington, NJ in Warren County. Stop by our table! If you wish to volunteer, please let Jim Fleming (j Flemming18@comcast.net) know.

June 5 (Sun): Pequest Fish Hatchery Hike. 10am. Meet at Pequest Fish Hatchery for a guided hike with a fisher and an education and check out the fish farm before stretching our legs on 2 to 3 trails along flat fields. From 178: Take Exit #17 (Rte 31) Take Rte 31 North approximately 17 miles to its end at Rte 46. Make a right onto Rte 46 East. Hatchery entrance is approximately 2.5 miles. Leader: Jim Fleming (j Flemming18@comcast.net). Bring Lunch. Registration required at www.meetup.com/njsierragroup. Rain cancels

June 19 (Sun): Summer Solstice Hike. 1pm. Morristown National Historical Park, Jockey Hollow Unit. Join us for this moderate hike on the grand loop trail. We'll hike for about 5-6 miles. Some incline. Participants must wear hiking boots or other sturdy footwear. Leaders: John Kashwick jkashwick@gmail.com and Jonathan Wall docjdwall@gmail.com. Rain or heat in excess of 90 degrees cancels.

North Jersey Group (Bergen and Passaic Counties)

WEBSITE: http://www.siercartu.org/new-jersey/north-jersey
MEETUP: http://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/

FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/northjerseysierragroup

Officers:  
Chair: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com  
Vice Chair: Mary Ellen Shaw * meshaw.001@gmail.com  
Treasurer: Tom Thompson * etrans743@aol.com  
Secretary: Jennifer Rothschild * jenniferd2@gmail.com  
Conservation Co-Chair: Laura Troullos * lauratroullos@hotmail.com  
Political Chair: Jermaine Spence * spencejermaine@hotmail.com  
Political Associate: Phoebe Gustrak * pgustromatt@gmail.com  
Alpine Trail Co-Chair: Laura Troullos * lauratroullos@hotmail.com  
Climate Issues: Jeff Rapaport * jeffrap@optonline.net  
Fundraising Chair: Francis Goldstein * francisgoldstein@mindspring.com  
Membership: buddy jenssen * buddyjenssen@gmail.com  
Outings Co-Chair: Ellen Blumenkrantz * eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com  
Outings Chair: Mary Walsh * mawalsh@hotmail.com  
Program Chair: Buddy Jenessen * buddyjenssen@gmail.com  
Publicity Chair: Mary Cohen * martinichenov@verizon.net  
Social Media Coordinator: Arianna Schaan * ariannie1998@verizon.net  
Trail Maintenance: Mary Cohen * martinichenov@verizon.net  
Webmaster/Listmaster: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com  
Wildlife Issues: Mary Ellen Shaw * meshaw.001@gmail.com  
Ex-Com at Large: Nancy Wysoci * napz2@aol.com  
Ex-Com at Large: Beth Ravit * ravit@envs.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 sites, meetup pages, or Facebook page (see above for URLs) as these are subject to change. You can also email us at northjerseysierragroup@gmail.com.

Apr 13 (Wed): 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. The Committee will hear more about and discuss issues, plan future events, and become more active. Please check the on-line calendar of events to confirm.

Apr 26 (Tue): Paris Climate Conference: Did It Move Us Forward or Backward? 7:30pm, Loius Bay 2nd Floor, 549 Lafayette Ave. Hawthorne. Citizen action, not passive blind faith, is needed to institute the COP21 United Nations Climate Change Talks held in Paris. Jerome Wagner, who attended last year’s climate conference gives an overview of his personal experience at the conference, what the agreement accomplished, and what lies ahead. You can also email us at northjerseysierragroup@gmail.com.

May 3 (Tue): The Underwater World in Our Backyard. 7:30pm, Closter Nature Center, 151 Ruckman Rd, Closter. Michael Rothschild, Michael Rothschild is a pediatric otolaryngologist in New York City and an avid scuba diver is also an award winning and published underwater photographer and videographer, who will speak and show stunning photography from his underwater adventures in the New York/New Jersey area. This program is being offered in conjunction with the Closter Nature Center

June 19 (Sun): Summer Solstice Hike, 1pm. Morristown National Historical Park, Jockey Hollow Unit. Join us for this moderate hike on the grand loop trail. We’ll hike for about 5-6 miles. Some incline. Participants must pre-register on meetup.com njsierraclub. Rain or heat in excess of 90 degrees cancels. Rain cancels

Oil Trains: Thousands of standard railroad 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 standard railroad 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.

TRADE MAINTAIN: 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, Bud, and Timmy’s rapport and experience clipped and hacked the bushes for two hours, making a quite noticeable improvement in a terribly overgrown section of a popular trail. We’re thinking of applying for a grant from the government as I’m sure our efforts will be only a small part of what the trail would require for the next two years or so-fewer Lyme disease cases to treat! To get on our fast reaction trail maintenance email list send an email to marycohen@verizon.net.

OUTINGS: If you would like to learn how to become an outings leader, lead, please contact Ellen at ebblumenkrantz@hotmail.com or Mary Walsh at bichwal@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.

OFFICERS:  
Chair: Steven Yennior * 908-534-2537 syennior@gmail.com  
Vice Chair: David Yennior * 973-844-1384 dyennior@gmail.com  
Secretary: Zazah Khdemi * 201-618-8882 zazah@aoal.com  
Treasurer: Mary Ellen Shaw * meshaw.001@gmail.com

Program Chair: Open Position!  
Publicity Chair: Open Position!

Conservation Co-Chair: Zazah Khdemi * 201-618-8882 zazah@aoal.com  
Political Chair: Anni Whitney * anniwhitney44@gmail.com  
Fundraising Chair: Open Position!  
Membership Chair: Open Position!  
Water, Newark:  
Issues Chair: Bill Chappell * 973-624-6149 billchappell@gmail.com  
Recycling Issues Chair: Lyle Landon * 214-247-0288 lylelandon@aol.com  
Passaic River Issues Chair: Brenda Toyloy * 973-856-7056 brendatoyloy@yahoo.com  
Elizabethtown Issues Chair: Jeff Weiss * 973-650-1030 jweissf500@gmail.com  
Outings Chair: Paula Boroosten * 908-289-5354 bbromdakmr@aol.com

Group Executive Co-Chairs:  
David Yennior, Zazah Khdemi and Bill Chappell

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, Zazah Khdemi, Bill Chappell, Steven Yaffet, Anne Hirs, Paula Boroosten, 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, commissioning a GMO3 documentary, a proposed development in Verona, a church expansion in Cedar Grove, The Piglet Pipeline, Keystone XL Pipeline, Fracking, Newark’s Covanta Incinerator, Passaic River Restoration Committee, among many others. Gateway Group is currently working with 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 visit our website.

Hudson Area Network

(Hudson County)

The NJ Chapter understands the importance of protecting the public’s drinking water and air quality, maintaining good mass transit, issues of flood-protection and emergency planning, the cleanliness 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 Pat Hilliard: c/o Toni Granato@Sierraclub.org.

There's an electronic bi-weekly Chapter Alert Service. Sign up at www.scnj.convio.net.
Union County Park Systems. In addition, the Group is actively involved in State-wide local environmental organizations to protect open space and wildlife habitat in Morris for more information.) The Loantaka Group is working with concerned citizens and Group Chairs:
Political Chair: Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com
Treasurer: Paul Sanderson 908-253-2414 paulsanderson@aol.com
Secretary: Scott Martin 813-767-5595 li_nescott@earthlink.net

Loantaka now has a FaceBook page. Please check it out and like it: WEBSITE: http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/

Jersey Shore Group:
(Continued on page 8)
Five municipalities surrounding the Whale Pond Brook watershed (Tinton Falls, Ocean Townships, Eatontown, West Long Branch and Long Branch) have signed the Watershed Association formal resolution to help restore the banks of the brook and its 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 can 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.

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. If you can help identify local bank areas and streams, Alon, please note 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 Club and Ocean County Group. The meetings are held in the Twin Lights Rooms I and II. Use parking lot 7. As you walk towards the building, enter the auditorium through the doors on the right side of the building. Do not go into the auditorium through the doors on the left. If lot 7 is full, use parking lot 4 or 6. A campus map is at http://www.brookdale.edu/PDFFILES/MAPS/MAP_04_06.pdf.

April 25 – Acidification of the Oceans – Dr. Matthew Poach, Research Chemist and Warner will be down the slope on your left. If lot 7 is full, use parking lot 4 or 6.

May 23 – How We Working? – Jeff Tittel, director of the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club, will discuss the Jersey Shore’s crucial role in the Mid-Atlantic Bight, with emphasis on nutrients and carbon chemistry. He will also run experiments on various analysis techniques of ocean acidification and how that can be linked to local issues. Poach will also discuss the chemistry of the ocean environment and how that affects major portions of the marine food chain/marine system, to the detriment of marine, land and air species, and how acidification has affected the local commercial fishing industry.

June 27 – Yes, You Can – To continue our program inaugurated in March 2015, we have invited several speakers to discuss their individual contributions to protecting the environment. Including: Update on Whale Pond trails, cleanups, need for volunteers, fund raiser, other developments, etc. Duncan grass plantings, osprey nesting, graze land management.

Please share this newsletter with a non-member friend, inviting use of the coupon on p. 12.
Membership Chair: Open Position!

Secretary/Treasurer: Julie Akers

906-432-3280 juliakkers56@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 involve the few officers who manage to 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 regularly at the Local office. For now, we'll keep the newsletter in print, and offer a point of contact for Club members in South Jersey who want help with local issues. Our Monthly Newsletter is uploaded to our website, with links available for local, 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! We'll do our best to arrange meetings with Club members in South Jersey. To be placed on a carefully guarded distribution list for local issues and meetings, please e-mail dicolby@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 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 construction of a large-diameter (24”) natural gas pipeline to feed the BL England electric plant in Marmora (Cape May Co), with a likely lawsuit originating from the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. (3) Veronica Van Hof has been hired as director of the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, which straddles Atlantic and Gloucester Counties on Unexpected Road. She holds a degree in wildlife biology. You can reach her through the Refuge telephone: 856.697.3541 - or by e-mail direct@unexpectedwildliferefuge.org. (4 etc) Campaigns to prevent the use of tropical rainforest wood for rebuilding oceanfront boardwalks, in Ocean City and Wildwood, seem quiescent at present. 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 Commissions) who permit development. On damage being done to sand trails by ORVs in Wharton State Forest, the DIP has sided with the vehicle enthusiasts by rejecting a Mountain Club request to keep ORVs off the trails. Jeff Tittel will be the Smart's Board member. A similar challenge is expected to come from the DEP's. Also 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 NJ Monthly to all households as well as the state's tax breaks (as approved by the NJ Senate), and support for a New Jersey Bottle Bill, known as the Smart Card Act. 

Some Possibly Relevant Meetings of Allied Organizations:

Apr 24 (Sunday): Annual Earth Day Celebration at the Atlantic County Utility Authority’s Hanlan’s Hermann Environmental Park on Delsea Rd in Egg Harbor Township. 10-4. Free. Many activities for children. The Sierra Club will share a table with GEHWA in the main exhibit tent.

Apr 6, May 4 and June 1 (first Weddays), 6:30pm: Atlantic County Friends of the Parks: Monthly Meetings of Friends of the Parks, a group which works to improve and conserve the county’s open spaces. All are welcome. Warren Fox Nature Center (WFNC), Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor. Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 23/4 miles south of Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers, 906-432-3280.

Apr 13 and June 8 (alternate second Weddays), 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 609-774-9853 or karla.rossini@cumberlandriver.org. Website: www.cumberlandriver.org.

Apr 20 and June 6 (alternate third Weddays), 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, 906-432-3280.

May 27, May 24 and June 22 (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, 300 E Jimmie Leeds Rd, www.AtlanticAudubon.org.

May 24 (alternate fourth Tuesdays) 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association: Friends of the Frog Walk, 7:30pm to the public. WFNC. Contact Lynn Mumby, 856-649-2792 or e-mail lynnkmumby@comcast.net.

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

Please join us! The NJ Singles Section was specifically created to offer a variety of singles-oriented activities to NJ Sierra Club members and those who like to know 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. We have several outings scheduled, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. We are particularly interested in including the 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.sierrclub.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.sierrclub.org/archives/NJ-SINGLES-NEWS.html and clicking on “Join or leave the list.” You may subscribe and unsubscribe at any time. To unsubscribe, simply use the subject line unsubscribe from NJSINGLES@LISTS.ORG. You may also unsubscribe by using the unsubscribe button at the bottom of each announcement. You are recommended to join the listserv to receive announcements for all of our events a few weeks before the event. Events also are listed on the online calendar on the Chapter's web site: www.sierrclub.org/new-jersey. You can now also “like” us on Facebook: “Single Groups New Jersey Sierra Club.”

OFFICERS:

Interim Chair: Ron Pate ronpate31@verizon.net
Outings Chair: Joyce Haddad jhaddad@juno.com
Programs Chair: Nancy Sullivan nancysullivan@comcast.net
Secretary/Treasurer: Joe Prebhi joyce.white.execute@gmail.com
Vice Social Chair: Jeoff Sovelove HikerDood@yahoo.com

Membership: Open Position. Contact Us! We need you!

Publicity:

Nominations: Nancy Sullivan nancysullivan@comcast.net

2015 Executive Committee members: Rozanna Fonelli, Joyce Haddad, Ron Pate, Joe Prebhi, Jeoff 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 cochair any position with a friend, if desired. We’re happy to help you learn the ropes.

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

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 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. Announced at monthly meetings. All are welcome. 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 local restaurant. For more information and current list of outings, contact any officer. See the Outings section of this Newsletter for Silver Singles outings. Check the Singles listserv for announcements of more Silver Singles outings.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Section

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


OFFICERS:

CO-CHAIRS:

John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com
Robert Zitzman * robertmz@att.net

SECRETARY:

Jonathan Wall* jonathanjwall@juno.com

Treasurer:

Corbett Klein* corbettk@outlook.com

OUTINGS CO-CHAIR:

Corbett Klein* corbettk@outlook.com

OUTINGS CO-CHAIR:

Robert Zitzman * robertmz@att.net

WEBMASTER:

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 njerry@sierranewjersey.org, Lentz@art.net, or 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 to be included in the list.

Apr 30 (Sat): Union Transportation Trail, Upper Freehold. 11am. This is a 7-mile hike and tour of historic Walnford Village, a 56-acre site listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Leader: Robert Zitzman: RobertMZ@art.net and 908-725-3635. Rain or other severe weather cancels. Contact leader if in doubt.

May 4 (Wed): Executive Committee Conference Call. 7-8:30pm: Help plan events for the summer months and discuss administrative issues. Contact John for dial-in number or more information at jkashwick@gmail.com.

Jun 25 (Sat): Asbury Park Boardwalk Walk. 3pm. Meet by the entrance to the Empire Hotel. We’ll walk along the boardwalk for about 10 miles to Spring Lake and back followed by a swim and a bite on the boardwalk in Asbury Park. Please register on meetup.com. Leaders: Jonathan Wall* jonathanjwall@juno.com and Robert Zitzman* 908-295-1800.

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!
In the early 1800s, travel by the Southwest Passage to what would become Southern California was fraught with danger. The Kearny Trail followed mountain passes and meandered from one water hole to another. Survival depended on getting to the next watering hole before complete desiccation overtook you, your horse and your pack animals.

Fast forward to 2016. Now, some travel- ers still follow certain roads and stop at periodic way-stations. What would draw these intrepid travelers to those locations? Why, a Tesla Charging Station!

My wife Carol and I were about to start on our first long trip with “Baby” (my red Tesla). We were excited but concerned. We would follow the Eisenhower Trail I-95 from Matawan NJ to what used to be a malaria- and yellow fever mosqui- tome-infested swamp, but is now known as Orlando FL.

One concern was that, during our three-week trek, Hurricane Matthew would sweep across the land, depriving the charging stations of their electrical power. I checked with Tesla Motors and found that none of their stations along I-95 lost power due to the hurricane—Hurricane Joaquin (Oct, 2015, but it never made landfall).

We thought the Red Tesla with the black panoramic sun roof on 12/13/14. Would there be Super Chargers there! We called the Tesla Super Charger Team, their explana- tion, a monthly Buy & Sell newsletter is sent out to members free of charge, in which we can list items they are searching for or want to buy.

More New Jersey events are posted on a web site: http://www.funtravels.com. In addi- tion, we work through a “List Serve,” by which members learn about current environmental educational hikes for the Hoboken 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, but we still have a need for steering committee members and for addi- tional bike leaders. Accordingly, if you are an experienced hiker willing to commit to leading 3-4 hikes per year, or if you have other interests that would lend itself 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.”

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

Airline Zatz is the editor of the Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section. She can be reached at azatz@comcast.net, and invites members to check her web site at www.funtrevels. 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/ Introducing Children to the Outdoors Section (another Chapter-wide special interest activity with the motto: No Child Left Inside! Once known as Inner City Outings, aka (nationally) “Inspiring Connections Outdoors”)

GROUP NEWS
(Continued from page 8)
John Kadwibk: 201-294-1092 and jkashwick@gmail.com. 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 robermz@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 a web site: http://www.funtreavels.com. In addi- tion, 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.

Airline Zatz is the editor of the Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section. She can be reached at azatz@comcast.net, and invites members to check her web site at www.funtreavels.com for trips, tips and travel information regarding New Jersey and other states.

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

JCO 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 cur- rently schedules about 5 such outings per year.

We continue to lead hikes for the Hoboken 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, but we still have a need for steering committee members and for addi- tional bike leaders. Accordingly, if you are an experienced hiker willing to commit to leading 3-4 hikes per year, or if you have other interests that would lend itself 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.”

Now you know what you want for Christmas.
or other responsible adult must accompany persons under 18 years old. (G) - Gateway (L) - Loantaka (C) - Central Jersey  (JS) - Jersey Shore

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**APRIL**

**Apr 1 (Fri):** Hike at Raccoon State Park (Burlington Co.). 10am. 6-7 miles, easy. No permits required. Meet on the left, across from the park office, at the back of the parking lot. Bring lunch, water and snacks. Contact leaders to confirm participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**Apr 2 (Sat):** Hike at Twin Lakes State Park (Burlington Co.). 10am. 5-6 miles, easy to moderate. Meet at the Warrington Rd. entrance near the west side of the park. Bring lunch, water and snacks. Contact leaders to confirm participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**Apr 3 (Sun):** Canoe/Kayak the Raccoon Creek (Burlington Co.). 11:30am. A last chance for a spring outing. The river we paddle will depend on the level of the lake. Bring lunch, water, snacks and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**Apr 17 (Sun):** Vendors State Park hike (Hunterdon Co.). 9am. 10 miles at a moderate pace over both flat and hilly terrain. Directions: I-78 west to exit 74 on the Rte. At the second traffic light, turn left on Rte 53-55 north. Go approx. 2.5 miles to the park. Drive to the meeting place on the right past the parking office. Leader Joy Diddle: 908-208-0481. (SNG)

**Apr 22 (Fri):** Earth Day Cleanup at Mercer County Park (Mercer Co.). 10am-Noon. Join us at Mercer County Park (at the park office) to help clean up the Mercer County portion of the Delaware River Watershed. Meet at the park office and receive a list of locations that need to be cleaned. Meet rain or shine! Bring lunch and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm participation and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**Apr 25 (Mon):** Canoe/Kayak the Raccoon Creek (Burlington Co.). 9am. The river we paddle will depend on the level of the lake. Bring lunch, water, snacks and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**May 5 (Thur):** Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co.). 9am. Celebrate Cinco de Mayo on the Wading River and then have lunch at the Food Court. Paddling helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Garbage bags are provided. Meet at Bedminster Beach, end of Park St. Rentals are not available. Bring lunch and beverage. Contact leaders to register for the clean up: Leona & George F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**May 7 (Sat):** Canoe/Kayak Cleanup on the Crosswicks Creek/Abitibi Marshlands (Burlington Co.). 10am. Join us at the Abitibi Marshland's for the 1st annual cleanup. Everything is provided. Bring a beanie with your club emblem or favorite team. Meet at the Park St. boat launch near the Dam. Bring lunch, water and snacks. Contact leaders to confirm participation and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**May 8 (Sun):** Canoe/Kayak Trip to Tuckerock Creek (Ocean Co.). 9am. 8 miles. Part of the trip is in a river channel and part on the open ocean, with a stop for lunch and drinks at a camping site on the beach. Paddling helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Garbage bags are provided. Meet at Beachwood Beach, end of Park St. Rentals are not available. Bring lunch, water and snacks. Contact leaders to register for the clean up: Leona & George F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**May 14 (Sat):** The Manors in Ringwood State Park (Passaic Co.). 10am. Description: http://www.ringwoodmansion.org and http://www.rnjh.org/skylanedonmanor.html. 7 miles in 4 hours in moderately rugged terrain. Bring a beanie with your club emblem or favorite team. Meet at the Manors. Sklanderton: NJ Botanical Gardens. Requirements: No pets, hiking boots and a daypack with a lunch, snacks and water. Directions: for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jim Oleksek. (SNG)

**May 14 (Sat):** Canoe/Kayak the Raccoon Creek (Burlington Co.). 9am. The river we paddle will depend on the level of the lake. Bring lunch, water, snacks and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**May 21 (Sat):** D&R Canal State Park Hike (Mercer Co.). 11am. Easy pace. 5-6 miles. Meet at the Canal State Park Visitor Center, 1000 Lawrenceville Highway, Princeton, NJ 08540. Bring lunch, water and snacks. Bring a beanie with your club emblem or favorite team. Contact leaders to confirm participation and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**May 22 (Sun):** Eagle Rock Reservation (Essex Co.). 10am. Hike followed by viewing a documentary John Muir in the New World. Meet at 10 am in front of the Visitor Center on the left, at the parking lot. Bring lunch and beverage. No pets, please. Bring a beanie with your club emblem or favorite team. Contact leaders to confirm participation and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**May 25 (Wed):** Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Hunterdon/ Mercer Co.). 10am. Paddle 8 miles through old woodlands and fields on the Delaware River, with adjacent fields, pastures, and woods. Bring lunch, snacks and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm participation and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**May 30 (Mon):** Canoe/Kayak the Raccoon Creek (Burlington Co.). 9am. The river we paddle will depend on the level of the lake. Bring lunch, water, snacks and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**June 3 (Fri):** Barnegat Bay Bluff (Ocean Co.). 9am-2pm. This is the 11th year that the Sierra Club is partnering with the Barnegat Bay Fund to offer a hike to the "Bluff" at Barnegat Light. The hike will go to a point near Barnegat Light and return to a parking lot on the bay side of the bay. Bring lunch, water and snacks. Contact leaders to confirm participation and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**June 11 (Sat):** Castle Point Hike, Ramapo Mountain State Park, Oakland (Bergen/Passaic Co.). 9am. Description: http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/events.cfm?eventid=12619. This is a 21ST annual hike, led by Rick Ivan (RSN), to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Ramapo Mountain State Park. We will hike 8 miles on adjacent trails traveling a total of 15 miles. The hike includes the ruins of Castle Point, the highest point in the state, and some of the finest trails in the park. Bring lunch, water and snacks. Contact leaders to confirm participation and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**June 11 (Sun):** Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River Water Gap (Sussex Co.). 10am. In 2016 the Sierra Club is celebrating the Centennial of the National Park Service. Join us for a paddling trip in our beautiful Delaware River Water Gap National Recreation Area. Meet at the Ramapo Lake. Facilities: No restrooms. We will set up a relief station tent near the parking lot and call for assistance if needed. Bring lunch, water, snacks and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm participation and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**June 16 (Thu):** Canoe/Kayak Crosswicks Creek (Payne Co.). 10am. Join us for a lovely spring paddle on the "Jewel of the Pine Barrens." Meet at Lake Oweego, Lake Oweego Rd. Boats can be rented from Mick’s Flat Bottom Rentals: 609-736-5380 or www.mickscanoerental.com. Contact leaders to confirm participation and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**June 16 (Thu):** Canoe/Kayak Crosswicks Creek (Burlington/Bucks Co.). 9am. This is a 3rd annual canoe/kayak and road trip on the Crosswicks Creek, paddling from Payne's Mill to where we have lunch and then return to Bordentown. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St. Rentals are not available. Bring lunch, water and snacks. Contact leaders to register for the clean up: Leona & George F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**June 18 (Sat):** Sterling Forest Bare Rock Vista (Rockland Co., NY). 10am. Hike 8 miles at a moderate pace over lofty old fields and rock terrain. Bring lunch and water and snacks. Bring a beanie with your club emblem or favorite team. Contact leaders to confirm participation and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)
**Outings (Continued from previous page)**

Jun 18 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Mercer/Hunterdon Cos). 10am. We’ll paddle 8 miles from Kingsbridge to Bible Island. Lunch break at the Famous Fish Inn. Bring your own lunch or buy lunch. Paddling helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for beginners. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. Current Sierra Club membership required. George & Lesa F: 609-259-5734 or lona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 19 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Tidal Maurice River (Atlantic Co). 10:30am. The Maurice is a naturalisational treasure. Join us on this great boat trip to paddle and experience the wonders of a great estuary of plants and animals, including Ospreys and Bald Eagles. We’ll paddle 10 miles on the tidal Maurice River. Rents are not available. Participants must be current Sierra Club members. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. George & Lesa F: 609-259-5734 or lona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 19 (Sun): Summer Solstice Hike in Jockey Hollow (Morris Co). 1pm. Meet at 10:30am in Jockey Hollow’s parking lot on the grand lawn. It’s a 3-4 mile trek with about 4½ miles of level to gently rolling terrain. Bring lunch and water. Suggested donation of $2 per person for the hardy few who want to celebrate the Solstice with us. Laban Roi and John Jones (908-582-5241) or kjohan@comcast.net. (R)

Jun 22 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak with your Posse on the Wading River (Burlington Co), 9am. Fortunato invites his ‘cosmos’ and dog lovers for a midweek trip. Boats can be rented from Mick’s Canoe Rental on the grass behind the swimming pool. Contact leaders to confirm trip and river section we are paddling; George & Lesa F: 609-259-5734 or lona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 24 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Mullica River (Burlington Co). 10am. The aquatic flowering plants of the NJ Pinelands will still be in bloom. This is a 12-mile trip for experienced Pines paddlers, expect downpaddles and portages. The Pineland Preservation Club will provide hot dogs, beverages, and we’ll arrange with them to shuttle our group. (See http://www.pinelandpreservation.org) Contact leaders to confirm the trip, meeting location and your participation; George & Lesa F: 609-259-5734 or lona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 29 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co), 9:30am. This is a 10-mile trip on the Egg Harbor from Piney Point to Weymouth Furnace. Meet at the new ‘Hardy Dawn Diner’—arrive early for breakfast. Rents are available from Palace Restaurant and Outfitters. 609/626-9595 or www.thepalacestructures.com. Palace will provide the shuttle. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation; George & Lesa F: 609-259-5734 or lona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**Upcoming ExCon 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, Membership Chair. (See current newsletter.)

Conservation and/or Political Committee meetings usually start at 7am. Lunch is shared at noon. The main meeting starts at 1pm.

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**Thank you to all who contributed to this issue!**

**The Jersey Sierra is produced mostly by volunteers.**