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The Jersey SIERRAN

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Conflict over Sparta Mountain

By Chapter Conservation Chair Greg Gorman (ggorman07419@embarqmail.com)

"Our slogan twenty years ago was: 'Save Sparta Mountain - Keep a Wild Place Wild'. It Was NOT: 'Save Sparta Mountain - and Log It Later'." - Brock Evans, Former Director of Sierra Club's Washington D.C. Office (1973-1981).



The Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area, in Sussex Co, is a core component of the "Sparta Mountain in Greenway"; it provides habitat for more than 80 threat-

ened or endangered species. Its Lubber Creek is one of eleven locations in the NY/NJ Highlands designated by the U.S. Forest Service as a "priority conservation focal area." Threatened by development in the 1990's, residents and environmentalists worked together to protect its 3,461 acres for future generations. Purchased in part with Green Acres (public) 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 275 to 715 acres over a 10-year period, equivalent to 210-540 football fields. (A football field including the end zone is 1.32 acres). The logging would segment the forest and remove canopy, threatening the ecology and the forest's capacity to supply clean water to nearby reservoirs. Tree harvesting requires the cutting of access roads and risks the introduction of invasive species. Logging triggers siltation and run-off, impacting pristine C1 trout streams assigned the highest water quality standards in the State. The heavy equipment would cause irreparable damage: ruts and gullies, long after the logging ceases. The DEP's "Forest Stewardship Plan" also includes controlled burns and chemical applications. All these activities would interfere with

public access and recreation opportunities.

A budget for the project has not been provided, but implementation will be expensive. The steep slopes and stony outcrops on the mountain will make logging difficult. As more access roads are cut, annual costs for maintenance, monitoring and policing will increase. Delivery of logs, wood chips, and firewood to market will require improvement of roads in the Route 15 and Route 23 corridors. Susan Williams, Skylands Group Chair, commented, "It makes no sense. We spent millions of Green Acres money to preserve the forest sanctuary. Now, DEP wants to spend millions of dollars to destroy it." Chapter Director Jeff Tittel notes that, "the Sierra Club supports grassland habitats, but not in the middle of forests." As the State struggles to pay for infrastructure and pensions, imposition of more long-term expenditures is deplorable.

The Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter has joined with the Highlands Coalition and local communities to vigorously 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, when most experts say that more habitat will not help. More suitable locations for GWWs are available. The Highlands are currently home to 75 species of neo-tropical songbirds that require contiguous forest cover. Sparta Mountain is also home to federally-threatened species like the Northern Long-eared Bat, and the state-endangered Northern Harrier, Pied-billed Grebe, Black Rail, and Upland Sandpiper.

The Forest Stewardship Plan must be revised to eliminate logging of Sparta Mountain, and to minimize human intervention so as to protect and preserve the forest wilderness. Let nature take its course: Pitch Pine is already naturally replacing Hemlock, and a resident of Beaver Lake saw a pair of super-rare Fishers. Nature does well on its own!

We wish there was something we could ask Club members to do, but, by the time you read this, decisions will have been made. Stay tuned!

Governor's Budget Address: Unreal

From a Press Release issued by Chapter Director Jeff Tittel (Jeff.Tittel@Sierraclub.org)

In his annual budget message to the Legislature, on Feb 16th, 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 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 seen "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)."

Before Christie took office, there were 10,000 solar jobs in the state; now there are only 5,500. We once added forty solar megawatts a month; now we're doing eight. New Jersey has dropped from 7th to 22nd place nationally in energy efficiency and from 2nd to 8th 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 participation in the northeastern states' RGGI, from which he has withdrawn us. On the contrary, our greenhouse gas emissions increased last year. The Governor is subsidizing five new natural gas powerplants and rubberstamping oil and gas pipelines across the state. Almost every county in New Jersey is still out of compliance for ground-level ozone and most are out of compliance for particulates.

Clean Energy Fund

Christie's proposed budget transfers \$250 million from the Clean Energy Fund to the General Fund. That is in addition to the \$1.1 billion stolen previously. This is the money that is supposed to help people buy energy-efficient products and weatherize their homes. It could also be used for Sandy recovery, and to fund off-

shore wind and other renewable energy programs. We have been waiting more than five years for the Administration to act on offshore wind.

Transportation and the Gas Tax

Christie said that everything is fine with the State's nearly-empty Transportation Trust Fund (TTF). Perhaps he confuses New Jersey with New Hampshire, but ours are the roads that are in bad shape. Instead of the closed Pulaski Skyway or other rickety bridges, he must be imagining New Hampshire's well-maintained, quaint wooden covered bridges.

Trains are derailing and wheels are falling off busses. Without more funding our transit system will be in ruin. There was no mention of raising the gas tax, despite it being a possible way to fund the TTF. New Jerseyans will see higher fares on trains and buses, with decaying equipment and no expansion of service.

Funding the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

The Governor's proposed FY 2017 budget will cut another \$7 million, increasing the number of unfilled staff positions. There are many gaps in programs. Most of the current staff are working on Sandy-related issues, leaving many under-staffed core programs such as enforcement, water protection, and environmental health (managing pollution). Gov. Christie's strategy promotes "stewardship" over actual environmental programs: e.g. private companies logging environmentally sensitive public lands.

The proposed budget continues to raid money from important environmental programs such as the Spill Act, Hazardous Site Clean-up Fund, Hazardous Discharge Fund, and Clean Communities: about \$100 million. Christie has already stolen clean-up money from the Passaic River and Exxon-Mobil settlements, as well as money for lead abatement.

Storm Resiliency

New Jersey lost out on HUD (federal) grants for adaptation to climate change and mitigation planning because our application didn't satisfy proposal requirements. Christie closed the DEP's Office of Climate Change and terminated work started by previous administrations. Sad and shameful.

Conservation Chair's Report

All-Electric Vehicles for New Jersey

By Greg Gorman (ggorman07419@embarqmail.com)

All-Electric Vehicles (AEVs) provide faster acceleration, lower maintenance cost, zero tail-pipe emissions, and produce fewer carbon emissions than almost all comparable gasoline and gasoline hybrid cars. If you are considering an electric car, you should consider installing sufficient solar panels to both power your home and charge your car. The 30% TAX REBATE (30% off of your federal income tax) ends at the end of 2016.

Dennis Anderson, Chair of our Jersey Shore Group, purchased 43 solar panels in 2012. They generate sufficient electric-

ity to supply his 1400 sq ft home (\$1,500/year savings) and charge two electric cars (\$4,000 savings) and provide 13 Solar Credits (worth \$255 x 13 = \$3,300) for a total annual energy savings of \$8,800. Not bad for an out-of-pocket investment of \$30,000. The Union of Concerned Scientists' "Cleaner Cars from Cradle to Grave" reports that AEVs produce fewer climate-changing emissions everywhere in the US. The study ranks Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States best: due to displacement of coal and increased reliance on renewables. To

attain three million Zero-Emission Vehicles in the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic region by 2025, the Sierra Club plans to launch a "Drive Electric Shopper" initiative in the Spring to mobilize people to check out EVs at local dealerships.

The timing is perfect for the auto industry's roll out of "next generation" AEVs over the next three years. Currently, the Tesla S drives 240-270 miles per charge; the remaining top 10 EV models achieve 64-120 miles. The Chevy Bolt 2017, which will be available

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Thank You for Your Support!

Supplied by Ken Johanson, Past Chapter Chair, and George Denzer, Treasurer

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 who contributed \$100 or more during the calendar year. But please be assured that all contributions are very much appreciated, regardless of the amount.

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Population Issues Coordinator's Report

Education and Gender-Based Violence

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@msn.com)

"Treating women as second-class citizens is a bad tradition...There's no excuse for sexual assault or domestic violence. There's no reason that young girls should suffer genital mutilation. There's no place in civilized society for the early or forced marriage of children. These traditions may date back centuries; they have no place in the 21st century. 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 employ 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, which generally leads to smaller families and fewer demands for environmental resources.

One of the barriers to education is gender-based violence. According to the U.S. Agency for International Development, "An estimated one in three women worldwide has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime." This gender-based violence is exacerbated by ever increasing climate disasters, such as flooding, that are a result of climate change. Displaced people are forced to live in close quarters in temporary camps or relief centers where, for example, men might congregate where women have to collect water, making the women and girls vulnerable to abuse.

A strategy put together by President Obama and Secretary Clinton culminated in an Executive Order in August 2012 which put gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence in the forefront of diplomatic, security and development efforts.

At all levels of the Obama Administration the President's representatives are working to advance the status of women and girls, and the LGBT community, and to reduce gender-based violence. They are doing this through work with various UN agencies such as the UN Children's Fund, the UN Population Fund, the UN Security Council and the UN Human Rights Council. When the President meets with world leaders he directly and specifically brings 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.

Besides the UN, other partners in the fight against gender-based violence include Hewlett Foundation, Clinton Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and various other non-governmental organizations. This comprehensive strategy also includes the fight against trafficking.

Specific actions have included funding roughly half of Afghanistan's women's shelters which help approximately 2,000 women and children annually; advancing human rights for the LGBT community in Mali; and in Papua New Guinea providing business skills to survivors of gender-based violence.

A country cannot advance if it holds down half of its citizens, too often through violence. People who are empowered to decide their own futures can do great things.

By letting our representatives in Washington know that you support funding for the U.S. Agency for International Development and the UN Population Fund, we can help educate and empower women, and eventually turn the tide on gender-based violence.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

(Continued from page 1)

in late 2016, will go 200 miles. Next generation AEV models will strive to go 90 miles: sufficient to handle the typical daily commute.

AEV prices are dropping. The worldwide market is predicted to grow from just over 700,000 vehicles in 2014 to more than 12 million vehicles in 2021. The cost of lithium batteries declined by approximately 14% annually between 2007 and 2014: from above \$1,000 per kWh to around \$410 per kWh. Market-leading AEV manufacturers use batteries costing \$300 per kWh. As production rates increase and technology advances, prices will continue to fall.

As battery and charging station technology improve, charging times will decrease. Full Standard Level 1 charging using a 120-volt residential system generally takes 8 to 12 hours. Level 2 charging (using 240V) generally takes 4 to 6 hours. Newer Level 3 charging stations (DC fast charging), providing an 80% charge in 30 minutes, are being deployed across the United States in public settings. The US Department of Energy continues to develop lower-cost and faster-charging batteries.

The AEV market in New Jersey is expected to grow exponentially. The State participates with the Northeast Electric Vehicle Network to develop guidance for locating charging stations, training programs for installation inspectors, and incentives for electric vehicle adoption. The NJ DEP administers the "Clean Vehicles" Program and maintains a "Clean Vehicle List". Their website includes locations of charging stations,

information on NJ's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Sales Tax Exemption, and other useful information. NJ municipalities are streamlining the permitting process for siting and installing charging stations.

What's needed now is for everyone to test drive an All Electric Car!

ELECTRIC VEHICLE RESOURCES

For EV Purchases:

Sierra Club Electric Vehicle Guide- <http://content.sierraclub.org/evguide/>

NJ Clean Vehicles Program- <http://www.nj.gov/dep/cleanvehicles/>

US DOE Energy 101: Electric Vehicles- <http://energy.gov/public-services/vehicles>

For Residential EV Charging Stations:

Buying Your First Home EV Charger- <http://www.plugincars.com/quick-guide-buying-your-first-home-ev-charger-126875.html>

Installation Guide For Electric Vehicle Supply:

www.mass.gov/eea/docs/doer/alternative-fuels/ev-manual-mass-32011.pdf

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations - What you need to know- www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/codes/publications/pdf_other/

Added note: NJ Sierra Club is looking for volunteers to help plan events for National Drive Electric Week, September 10-18, 2016, to spread awareness of the benefits of electric vehicles. (See <https://driveelectricweek.org/index.php>). Even if you are not prepared to purchase an all-electric or plug-in hybrid, your involvement in this nationwide celebration will help others reduce pollution by switching to AEVs. Volunteers will be asked to contact sponsors, dealers, and the media to organize driving demonstrations and events.

Time commitment is approximately 2-3 hours per week during the summer months. Contact: Greg Gorman (ggorma07419@embarqmail.com) or call 973-886-7950.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park, California - 2016



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 coastlines. Marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Or just relax at sea.



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

To make a reservation, send a \$100 check to Sierra Club - to leader:

Joan Jones Holtz
11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.

For more information, call or email leader:
626-443-0706; jholtzhn@aol.com

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

Editorial Bearing Up and Down

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

Much of the recent e-mail chat between Chapter officers has debated the propriety of New Jersey's annual bear hunt, conducted last Fall. (See Jeff Tittel's press release on p.5) Clearly, our volunteer officers include many who desire the preservation of wilderness intact from human intervention, such that hunting would be anathema. Others accept a legitimate role for we humans in the **management** of wilderness, and the **utilization** of wilderness—for our own food, for human safety, 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 by today's young Princetonians for his support of segregation in an age when it was common, should modern Sierra Club members renounce our admiration for conservationist President 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 carcasses along roadsides, 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 have been for centuries. A measure of the popularity of this way of life is the prevalence of small pick-up trucks! Many of these hunters are members of the Sierra Club. Our lobbying for wilderness protection is greatly strengthened by support from organizations of hunters.

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>):

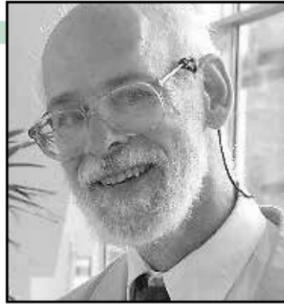


photo: James Mendelsohn

“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 interference.

Sport Hunting and Fishing – *Within both modified and natural ecosystems, the Sierra Club believes that acceptable management approaches include regulated periodic hunting (my emphasis) and fishing when based on sufficient scientifically valid biological information and when consistent with all other management purposes and when necessary total protection of particular species or populations.*

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/sce/new-jersey-chapter/Handouts/NJSC_bear_policy_final_2004.pdf.)

It uses, as a basis for opposing that hunting season, the opinion that inadequate 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 “boundary problem”: Unlike Europe, where residential boundaries are sharp, and transition zones near wilderness are regulated to permit only grazing and farming, northern 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 elsewhere) to make the determinations as to overpopulation of bears.

Chair's Message Thank you... and Welcome!

By Richard Isaac (risaacx@aol.com)



As I take on the responsibilities in my new position, I want to express our Chapter's deepest thanks to Ken Johanson who, for eleven years, did an extraordinary job as our Chapter Chair with thoughtfulness, skill, and grace. He leaves his position with the New Jersey Chapter of the Club in solid financial health and, even more importantly, a strong, effective advocate for the environment. I know I speak for all of us when 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'm 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 Chapter positions:

• **Nicole Guerrieri, our new Webmaster**

Taking over from George Newsome (who's retiring after doing a super job for many years), Nicole is currently working Full-Time as the Director of Digital Education at Barnes & Noble College. At NBCUniversal, she managed their digital strategy for Green is Universal - their environmental awareness initiative - for several years. That position involved maintaining content for their website, GreenisUniversal.com, as well as developing creative ideas and programs for engagement at key time periods. Not only is she eminently qualified to maintain our website, she has the experience and creativity to help us make it even better.

• **Denise Garner, our new**

Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Chair (new position)

Denise has professional experience in GIS and certificates in Geomatics from Rutgers Cook College. For those of you not familiar with GIS, it's a powerful tool that layers different types of maps on top of one another in a way that can help enable us, public officials and the public at large, to visualize and understand the environmental consequences of a wide array of proposals, patterns, and trends.

• **Anny Martinez, our new Environmental Education Chair (new position)**

Anny will be focusing on a number of different environmental education issues, including water quality and sex education. With the latter, she will work towards empowering our youth to better understand reproduction and its impact on the earth.

• **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 large turnouts for his Group's events. In his new (additional) position, he looks forward to helping our various local groups strengthen their existing program activities.

• **Clea Carchia, our new Water Quality/Habitat Issues Coordinator**

Already involved as our Loantaka Group Political Chair and very active and experienced with the Rahway Watershed Association, Clea looks forward to helping strengthen our Chapter's already strong efforts on protecting water quality throughout the state.

Water Quality & Habitat Issues Coordinator's Report

Flood Hazard Rules in the News

By Clia Carchia

This by way of an introduction to my new role in the New Jersey Chapter as an Issue Coordinator, in addition to serving as Political Chair of our Loantaka Group, Program Director of the Rahway River 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 gut pro-

tections 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 beat back 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.”

Resolutions:

Passed by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in January and February, 2016

Rich Isaac was elected Chapter Chair for 2016, and John Kashwick was elected Chapter Vice-Chair. Other officers were approved, including Issue Coordinators, as listed in the Leader List on p.12 of this newsletter. (Jan)

We mandated term limits for elected members of our ExCom, in obedience to a directive from National Sierra Club. (Jan)

Opposition to fossil fuel projects: the Garden State Expansion project and the New Jersey Natural Gas Southern Reliability Link. We authorized litigation against the NJ BPU, NJ Pinelands Commission, and FERC regarding these projects, and will be represented by NJ Applesseed and the Eastern Environmental Law Clinic, pro bono. (Feb)

Additional officer appointments as noted in Rich Isaac's Chair's Message in this issue. (Feb)

Political Corner: Environmental Voting Scores of New Jersey Congresspersons

Compiled by the League of Conservation Voters (www.LCV.org)

District	Member	Party	Scores (%)		
			2015	2013-4	Lifetime
1	Norcross	D	91	75	90
2	LoBiondo	R	23	32	58
3	MacArthur	R	6	NA	6
4	C. Smith	R	23	29	63
5	Garrett	R	5	6	9
6	Pallone	D	100	87	96
7	Lance	R	11	13	23
8	Sires	D	94	92	90
9	Pascrell	D	97	97	93
10	Payne	D	77	94	88
11	Freilinghuysen	R	3	10	35
12	Watson Coleman	D	100	NA	100

PAUL W. TAYLOR 1923 – 2015

Paul W. Taylor was a professor emeritus of philosophy at Brooklyn College, a leading authority on environmental ethics and the 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.

Paul was also a Sierra Club member and a generous contributor to 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 several 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 regret that I never had a chance to meet with or even talk to Paul before he died, but I am pleased that we were able to connect and thankful for all that I learned from him.

Ken Johanson

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

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

Over the past few years the fossil fuel industry appears to have set its sights on New Jersey and has proposed a plethora of natural gas and petroleum pipelines throughout the State. Some of these projects have been completed, some are under construction and some are still in the planning and permitting process. Here are some of the reasons why these projects are bad for the planet, bad for the nation 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 gasses 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 achieve goals under the 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 use (which is likely), the excess will be exported to other countries, further exacerbating the global climate crisis and making it more difficult for nations to meet their commitments under the Paris Accord.

Nor is there any merit 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 promote this position also support the expansion of traditional fossil fuel infrastructure, including the proposed Pilgrim pipeline that will transport Bakken crude oil from Albany 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. Based on a 100-year time frame, methane is 25 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Shorter term the numbers are even more dramatic. Methane emissions occur throughout the extraction and distribution process. 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 will 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 contaminated 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 other water bodies) or sent to treatment facilities. But treatment has not proven effective in removing carcinogens or other pollutants, and does nothing to address concerns regarding radioactivity of the contaminated water.

Significant quantities of natural gas and other volatile chemicals, including nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds, are released during the extraction process, especially in the early stages when pipelines may not yet have been built and storage facilities are not available. The result is a deterioration of air quality in the area surrounding the well site and a threat to public health. In the case of the uncontrolled leak from 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 various ailments, including leukemia, birth defects, anemia and other blood disorders. It is little wonder that 4500 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 include the loss of farmland and open space and a reduction in the quality of life for local residents as the construction of drilling sites, sludge pits, compressor stations, roadways and pipelines, as well as noise and air pollution from wells, compressor stations and truck traffic, transform quiet rural communities into bustling 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 areas are clear cut for the construction of the pipelines, water bodies are disrupted, water quality is impaired 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 required to keep the gas moving. But as a result of intentional smokestack emissions, venting to prevent blowouts, flaring of unwanted gas and fugitive emissions, these facilities also release a broad range of pollutants that adversely affect air quality and pose a threat to public health. The compressors operate under high risk conditions, including high pressures and reduced temperatures, and over the years there have been a number of natural gas compressor fires and explosions.

And pipelines will leak, if not now, at some time in the future. As noted previously, natural gas leaks will adversely affect air quality and may well pose a threat to public health. Petroleum pipeline leaks pose an additional danger. Unlike natural gas, which will dissipate into the atmosphere, petroleum will pollute groundwater as well as surface water bodies. Cut off valves are miles apart and the industry has not been that good about detecting leaks on a timely basis, in some cases taking several days before recognizing that a problem exists. The impact of a single leak here in New Jersey, and its effect upon our water supply, could well be calamitous.

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 extremely perilous 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-2430), 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): Senators Menendez and Booker, and Representatives Frank Pallone, Bill Pascrell and Bonnie Watson Coleman.

We greatly appreciate their support and desperately need our other representatives to sign on and show 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 co-sponsor the act. 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 Un-Wilderness Bill by wilderness activists, it has been crafted by Utah congressmen with nice language but devils in the details: it's a fossil fuels bill that rolls back wilderness 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 non-roads as highways, which cancels the wilderness status of much of Utah.

Does the 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, Rep. Rob Bishop, is pushing hard for this 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: selling 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 s/he isn't listed above! The more support the Red Rock Wilderness Act gets in Congress, the more 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!

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 speaker, to New Jersey to talk about climate change and the Arctic. In just the last ten years, David has witnessed firsthand the effects of climate change on the Arctic.

The Arctic impacts our weather patterns and is the "canary in the coal mine" when it comes to climate change. NOAA recently released a study identifying 2015 as the hottest year on record. On top of this warming, new oil and gas exploration could push this ecosystem over the brink.

To protect our planet for our children as well as for polar bears and other wildlife, 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. E-mail 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.



YOU HAVE MORE TO GIVE THAN YOU KNOW

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

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

Our Political Committee could use help making endorsement decisions for the November election! Contact a Political Chair.

Report from Trenton

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 the hunt was unwarranted, unfounded, 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 baiting of bears will only increase bear-interactions with humans, increasing the problems. Rather than hunting them, New Jersey should protect their habitats, reduce their access to our garbage, 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 more afraid of people than we are of them. Aggressive bear encounters went up 55% last year despite five years of hunts. More 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 educational program on living with bears. Bears are wild animals that need to be respected. Tempting them with food

(such as garbage left in insecure dumpsters) makes them aggressive. We also need to have signs warning people that they are in bear country, and educational leaflets for distribution at all trail-heads.

New Jersey used to spend more than \$2 million a year on bear management education. That money has been reduced by 90%. 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 & Political Chair:	Edgar Sheperd		shepherd_edgar@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Jeri Doherty		bjd8974@gmail.com
Secretary:	Norene Haberski		habersn@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair:	Greg Gorman		ggorman07419@embarqmail.com
Outings Chair:	Dave Alcock		dwhoob@hotmail.com
Acting Publicity Chair:	Jeri Doherty		bjd42@nac.net
Membership Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Programs/Events Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Ex-Com			
Members-at-Large:	Dave Alcock		dwhoob@hotmail.com
	Marvin Feil		mfeil@writeme.com
	Mindy Geary		mswillimas@yahoo.com

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

We are focusing our efforts on the Sparta Mountain WMA "Stewardship" Plan. It is really a 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 ggorman07419@embarqmail.com 973-886-7950

The Skylands Group also sponsors hikes and other outings throughout the region to encourage people to reconnect with the outdoors.

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

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

South Highlands Group

(Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties)

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

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

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

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com
Vice Chair:	Celeste Martin*	oncentral@mac.com
Conservation Chair:	Cinny MacGonagle*	cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Amy Weeder*	aweeder@comcast.net
Treasurer:	Celeste Martin*	oncentral@mac.com
Political Chair:	Debbie Young*	debyoung31@comcast.net
Publicity Chair:	Susan Schirmer*	soupys@att.net
Membership Chair:	Jim Fleming*	jffleming18@comcast.net
Outings Coordinator:	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com
Webmaster:	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com

(*Group Executive Committee Member)

Unless otherwise noted, meetings and outings are free and open to general public, but donations are accepted. Please check our web site, Meetup page, or Facebook page (see above for URLs) as these as topics, dates, times, and venues are subject to change.

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

Apr 6 (Wed): Paris Climate Conference: Did It Move Us Forward or Backward? 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.

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. They sponsor programs that include river monitoring, habitat restoration and citizen action.

Jun 1 (Wed): Celebrating the National Park: Adventures in Canyonlands and Arches National Parks. Debbie Young, Utah Issues Coordinator for the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club speaks about and shows stunning photographs from her trip to Utah's two spectacular national parks.

OTHER EVENTS:

Apr 13 (Wed): Executive Committee/Planning Meeting. 7pm at the office of Dr. Jonathan Wall, 27 Center St, Clinton. This is the quarterly meeting of the Executive Committees of the South Highlands Group. The meeting is casual and informative. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about the Club, hear about and discuss issues, plan future events, and become more active. Please check the on-line calendar of events to confirm. For more information please contact Jonathan at psychologist@jonwall.com.

May 14 (Sat): Round Valley Sunset Hike, 4:30pm. Meet inside main entrance to park and continue making right turns to meet us at the hiking/scuba parking lot. 2 hour Easy Pace walk through moderate rolling hills with one big hill for grand view. Bring a light supper and stay for sunset picnic. Well behaved dogs on leash wel-

(continued on page 6)

Online NJ Sierra Club Resource

Chapter Action Center <http://scnj.convio.net/> : sign up for our biweekly e-mail newsletter, and for Action Alerts which call on YOU to help make a difference.



Group News

FROM AROUND THE STATE

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

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

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

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

Celebrating 100 Years of National Parks in America

A message to our Groups, from Brenna Muller, of our national staff

The National Park Service (NPS) turns 100 on August 25, and the Sierra Club is celebrating its Centennial throughout 2016.

Sierra Club Chapters, Groups, and Outings programs are invited to join in the celebration:

Publicity: If a Group is planning Centennial events during 2016, say a social event, film screening, or outing, we would love to help with publicity. Please contact me: brenna.muller@sierraclub.org.

IMAX film: The Sierra Club has partnered with the IMAX film "National Parks Adventure," which will be shown in cities across the country. To arrange for a showing, contact adrienne.bramhall@sierraclub.org.

Our "Every Kid in a Park Initiative" connects 4th graders with the outdoors. If you are working with fourth graders, please let me know: brenna.muller@sierraclub.org.

Additional resources: Learn more at sierraclub.org/nps100, a central Clubhouse page.

Skylands Group

(Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

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

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

E-MAIL: skylandsgroup@gmail.com

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 5)

come. Birders get a special tweet! Leader: Celeste Martin onecentral@mac.com registration required at www.meetup.com/njsierraclub. Rain cancels.

June 4 (Sat): Tabling 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 (jfleming18@comcast.net) know.

June 5 (Sun): Pequest Fish Hatchery Hike, 10am. Meet at Pequest Fish Hatchery for a leisurely hike where we can gander at the geese and check out the fish farm before stretching our legs on 2 to 3 trails along flat fields. From I-78: 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 (jfleming18@comcast.net). Bring Lunch. Registration required at www.meetup.com/njsierraclub. 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 pre-register on meetup.com/njsierraclub or by emailing a leader. Bring lunch, snack to share, sun screen, and at least 2 liters of water. 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.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/north-jersey>

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

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

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 *	jenniroth2@gmail.com
Conservation Co-Chair:	Mary Ellen Shaw *	meshaw.001@gmail.com
Conservation Co-Chair:	Laura Tracey Coll *	lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com
Political Chair:	Jermaine Spence	spencejermaine@hotmail.com
Political Associate:	Phoebe Gistrak	p-mg@att.net
Air Quality Issues:	Laura Tracey Coll *	lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com
Climate Issues:	Jeff Rapaport	jefrap@optonline.net
Fundraising Chair:	Francie Goldstein	franciegoldstein@mindspring.com
Membership Chair:	Buddy Jenssen *	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Outings Co-Chair:	Ellen Blumenkrantz	eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Outings Co-Chair:	Mary Walsh *	blehlwalsh@hotmail.com
Programs Chair:	Buddy Jenssen *	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Publicity Chair:	Marty Cohen	martincohen@verizon.net
Social Media Coor.:	Ariana Schanzer	arianaschanzer@gmail.com
Trail Maintenance:	Marty Cohen	martincohen@verizon.net
Webmaster/Listmaster:	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@gmail.com
Wildlife Issues:	Mary Ellen Shaw *	meshaw.001@gmail.com
Ex-Com at-Large:	Nancy Wysocki *	nape2@aol.com
Ex-Com at-Large:	Beth Ravit *	ravit@envsci.rutgers.edu

(*Group Executive Committee Member)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

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

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 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.

Apr 26 (Tue): Paris Climate Conference: Did It Move Us Forward or Backward? 7:30pm, Louis Bay 2nd Library, 345 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.

May 3 (Tue): The Underwater World in Our Backyard. 7:30pm, Closter Nature Center, 154 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 or by emailing a leader. Bring lunch, snack, sun screen, and at least 2 liters of water. 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.

Check our web site or Meetup page for Earth Day activities in April.

CONSERVATION ISSUES:

Pilgrim Pipeline: The proposed Pilgrim Pipeline is a dual 178-mile pipeline between Albany NY and Linden NJ. It will likely contain Bakken shale oil that will be sent south to New Jersey and refined products (including kerosene) will be sent north back to Albany. The pipelines will cross five New Jersey counties (including Bergen and Passaic) through some of the most fragile areas vital to maintaining water quality in all

communities. There would be major impact on environment, public health and property values you would bear the burden of having this risk and disruption without any benefit. A spill or explosion could be catastrophic, endangering our water supply, risking lives, and overwhelming our emergency response resources. For more information, please contact Jeff Rapaport at jefrap@optonline.net.

Oil Trains: Thousands of substandard rail cars are used by CSX to move Bakken crude oil on the West Shore line through Bergen County each year. The threat or danger it poses to our communities demand a moratorium on the use of these substandard rail cars to safeguard our families and communities. The North Jersey Group is joining with other groups to raise awareness of this issue and get the federal government to pass stricter legislation to regulate use of these car. For more information, please contact Mary Ellen Shaw at meshaw.001@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 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 reduce the nation's healthcare expenditure 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 martincohen@verizon.net.

OUTINGS: If you would like to learn how to become an outings leader, lead, please contact Ellen at eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com or Mary Walsh at blehlwalsh@hotmail.com to get more information..

Gateway Group

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

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

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

OFFICERS:

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

Please contact David Yennior, Gateway's Chair, if you have any ideas or suggestions for a program in the future. The Gateway Group is very grateful for the contributions of John Beadle, Barbara Conover, ZaSah Khademi, Bill Chappel, Steven Yafet, Anne Hirs, Paula Borenstein, and Brenda Toyloy.

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

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

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

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

Hudson Area Network

(Hudson County)

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

July 17 (Sunday) from 11am to 4pm: POT LUCK PICNIC. All Hudson Sierra Club members are invited with a special shout out to the Bayonne Nature Club and any nature enthusiasts or groups in the Hudson County area. Bring your favorite dish with enough to share, or bring a bought item: cookies, pie, watermelon or bag of chips etc. Location: Liberty State Park at the picnic area behind the Admin. Bldg. located at 200 Morris Pesin Drive. Look for the GREEN tables and the "Pat and Mike Pot Luck Picnic" sign. So that we don't end up with 100 bags of potato chips, email us and let us know what you plan to bring. Email us at hudsonsierraclub@gmail.com.

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

South Orange River Day

By Clea Carchia

"River Day", as it is known to those living in South Orange, is a spring event started many years ago as a small river clean up. "The South Orange Environmental Commission took it over 6 years ago and turned it into a party," says South Orange EC chair James McGowan. "It has grown into a festival celebrating the Rahway River and its surrounding Watershed. The 2015 event was a record-setting leap forward in every way, with 750 people enjoying food, music and environmental education. Volunteers removed over 4 tons of trash from the East Branch of the Rahway." To find out more visit "South Orange River Day and Green Team" on Facebook or southorange.org/riverday.

This year River Day will be Sunday, May 1, 11am to 4pm. Activities are located at the base of Flood's Hill in South Orange, NJ 07079

Loantaka Group

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

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chairs:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
Secretary:	Scott McCarthy	813-767-5593	hi_risescott@earthlink.net
Conservation Chair:			
Morris County:	Len Fariello		len@wildlifepreserves.org
Union County:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Political Chair:	Clea Carchia	908-892-7229	info@CleaCarchia.com
Programs:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
Fundraising Chair:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
Outings Chair:	Wanda Knapik	908-432-2198	AdventuresWithWanda@gmail.com
Publicity Chair:	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
Membership:	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 our activities, go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>

To join our e-mailing list, go to: <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/nj-loantaka-news.html>

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: are held on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St, Chatham. All members are welcome at Executive Committee meetings. Right now, we have open positions on it! If you would like to find out more, please contact Paul Sanderson.

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

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

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Apr 13: Claire Mayer of The Garden State Earth Institute will discuss the seminars that her organization offers to show environmentally conscious citizens of New Jersey how they can make a difference in their everyday lives.

May 11: Dr. Lonnie A. Gamble, a true guru of Sustainability, is featured in a Great Courses DVD entitled "Fundamentals of Sustainable Living" Several of his lecture in the DVD set will be shown. Bring paper and pencil to take notes!

May 15: Dr. Emile DeVito of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation has offered to take Loantaka members and anyone else of the NJ Sierra Club on a six hour tour of the Pine Barrens. Watch the Loantaka website for organizational details.

June 8: Len Fariello, Loantaka Conservation Chair for Morris County will present an informational talk about his own NGO, Wildlife Preserves, which is dedicated to maintaining wildlife habitat our area.

ACTIVITIES: (Consult our website (<http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>) for more information.) The Loantaka Group is working with concerned citizens and local environmental organizations to protect open space and wildlife habitat in Morris and Union Counties, and to safeguard the water resources on which we all depend. We are also organizing volunteers to help maintain and improve trails in the Morris and Union County Park Systems. In addition, the Group is actively involved in State-wide initiatives involving air quality, transportation, and environmental legislation. Volunteers are always welcome. Call Paul (908-233-2414) or Eric (732-669-0719).

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

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

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

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, control 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 Zaccaria at our Trenton office, at jamie.zaccaria@sierraclub.org, 609-656-7612.

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

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Roomi Nusrat	609-389-6036	sierra_nj_raritan@att.net
Group Vice Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Outings			
Coordinator:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Webmaster:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Treasurer:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Recycling			
Coordinator:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Conservation Coor:	Nancy Gladfelter		nnglad.nj@gmail.com
Secretary:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Political Chair:	Daphne Speck-Barynski	732-390-5311	speckbartyn@comcast.net
Membership:	<i>Open position!</i>		

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1. Conservation and Protection of the Raritan River basin area.**
Key issues: preservation of our water supply, wildlife and prevention of water pollution.
- 2. Passage of and responsible enforcement of environmentally friendly zoning and development ordinances.**
- 3. Prevention of diversion of conserved land for commercial or other development.** We are for preservation of open space and preventing diversion of land from State's Green Acres program to commercial development are our goals.

We encourage you to attend your town's planning/zoning board or land use board meetings. If you are aware of development proposals in your town that may have a negative environmental impact, PLEASE communicate concerns by attending our meetings and by contacting us via sierra_nj_raritan@att.net.

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Dennis Anderson	732-970-4327	dennisaza@aol.com
	6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747		
Vice-Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Secretary:	Joe DeLuca	732-389-1835	joe-deluca@att.net
Conservation Chair:	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445	faithtei@aol.com
Webmaster:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Treasurer:	Pat Fuschetto	732-308-4588	fusche40@yahoo.com
Political Chair:	Bob Sandberg	732-747-3224	sandberg00@gmail.com
Outings Chair:	Mike Verange	908-902-0718	mjverange@aol.com
Membership			
Chair:	Bob Grize	732-892-0684	nyucwnyppb@aol.com
Program Chair:	George Moffatt	732-544-1726	gmoffattgt@aol.com
Climate Chair:	Kim Rowe		krowe48483@gmail.com
Fund-raising			
Co-Chairs:	Lois Blake	732-863-5917	lqblake@optonline.net
and	Joellen Lundy	732-741-4756	jfutey@comcast.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-

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GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

cate local students and residents about the Whale Pond Brook Watershed. We will also build a demonstration rain garden near 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 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. 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 members, 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-concerned 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 E Main St at the Lincroft campus). Exit the traffic circle into the campus and follow the signs to the Warner Student Life Center (SLC), where the meeting usually is in the Twin Lights Rooms I and II. Use parking lot 7. As you walk towards the building complex, Warner will be down the slope on your left. If lot 7 is full, use parking lots 5 or 6. A campus map is at http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPIs/MAPI_04_08.pdf.

April 25 -- Acidification of the Oceans - Dr. Matthew Poach, Research Chemist and Supervisor of the Ocean Acidification Laboratory, NMFS/NOAA, Sandy Hook, will speak on ocean acidification. He monitors the chemistry of the Hudson/Raritan and Barnegat Bay Estuaries, and the Mid-Atlantic Bight, with emphasis on nutrients and carbon chemistry. He also runs experiments on various analysis techniques of ocean acidification. He has been asked to explain how the increased acidification of the ocean environment can affect major portions of the marine food chain/matrix, to the detriment of marine, land and air species, and how acidification has affected the local commercial fisheries industry.

May 23 -- How We Doing? - Jeff Tittel, director of the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club, will report the pluses and minuses of NJ environmental legislation for the past year and a half, and his predictions on what the future holds. The legislature has passed a few promising bills that the governor has vetoed, while the DEP commissioner has announced several rule changes that have weakened environmental protections. Meanwhile the governor has overruled DEP experts opposing several questionable developments; has been silent on the renewed push last year for a LNG port off Long Branch, which was killed instead by Gov. Cuomo; and has been appointing pro-development advocates to several environmental commissions, including the Highland's and Pineland's Commissions.

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. Pending topics include: Update on Whale Pond, trails, cleanups, need for volunteers, fund raiser, other developments, etc. Dune grass plantings, osprey nesting, grammar school marine education

Ocean County Group

WEBSITE: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/ocean-county/

OFFICERS:

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

Group ExCom

Member: Sierra Palmer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Generally held on the SECOND MONDAY of each month at the Ocean County Library.

ACTIVITIES & ISSUES: We're hard at work: Preventing drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and off the Jersey Coast, defending the Endangered Species Act, fighting Mountain Top Removal and supporting expanded recycling legislation.

We've also targeted critical local open space, sprawl, and air and water quality issues with special emphasis on the massive "over-development" of Jackson Township and Lakewood. We're also involved in the campaigns to create a new park at "Anchor Reef" on Barnegat Bay and to stop "nitrogen pollution" of the Bay. Protecting the Ocean County Hiking Trail in Lacey. We're watching the progress of the first Wind Turbine erected in the County which resides in Ocean Gate. We're also involved in creating a greener and sustainable environment in Ocean County.

Volunteers are needed to help with these all issues, membership outreach, tabling at local events, fund-raising and a computer-based voter education program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about our activities and events, please visit our web site: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/ocean-county>.

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

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseyGroupNJSC> Log on and Like Us
Follow us on Twitter @Wjsierraclub **and Instagram** @wjsierraclub

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Gina Carola	856-848-8831	ginacee@verizon.net
Vice-Chair:	Frank Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Secretary:	Ellen Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Treasurer:	Trish Clements		patri3210@gmail.com
Publicity Chair:	Anne Caridi		bears4cats@msn.com
Political Chair:	Linda Rubiano		Linda_Maritz@yahoo.com
Pinelands Rep:	Lee Snyder		pinelands1@hotmail.com
Greenways Coord's:	Frank and Ellen Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Conservation Chair:	Stacey Ayala		thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Delegate at Large:	Aida Ayala		thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Membership Chair:	Mike Brown	856-547-9221	eyebrown@verizon.net
Fundraising Chair:	<i>Open position!</i> Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831		
Smart Growth Chair:	<i>Open position!</i> Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831		
Programs Chair:	<i>Open position!</i> Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831		
Outings Chair:	<i>Open position!</i> Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831		
Social Media Coord's:	Evan Kostka		evan.kostka@gmail.com
and	Dayna Hovern		dayna.hovern@gmail.com

GENERAL MEETINGS: are held at 7:30 pm on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month, September thru May, at the Quaker Meeting Hall on Friends Ave in Haddonfield. Inclement weather may cancel. Please call 856-848-8831 if unsure.

Directions: From I-295, take exit 34B onto Rte 70 West. Follow the signs for Rte 41 South, which is Kings Hwy (you will have to exit to the right into a jug handle and then turn left onto Rte 41 (Kings Hwy). Cross over Rte 70 and you will be briefly on Rte 154 (Brace Rd). Make the next right and then the next left onto Kings Hwy. After about 1 mile, you will cross Grove Rd (Indian King Tavern is on the right corner). After crossing Grove Rd, go two more blocks and turn right on to Friends Ave. Go one block to the Meeting House. Park in the lot next to the Meeting House and enter the auditorium through the doors on the right side of the building. Do not go into the Meeting House.

April 13: Paddling for our ocean: tales collected while paddling America's water ways - Margo Pellagrino, an avid kayaker and crusader for our waterways, will tell us about the folks she has met while paddling who live, love, & work to protect our water resources .

May 11: Yosemite: Nature & Culture - presented by Kath Ogden, author and professor of art history at Stockton University. Come and learn the cultural history of the spectacular California valley; the geology, environmental issues, art, and the discovery of the valley. Kate will have a few copies of her book available for purchase.

The West Jersey Group does not meet in June, July or August. Please join us on a hike or paddling trip. Meetings resume on Sept 14.

Gloucester County's first state park is now officially open. This is the former Maple Ridge Golf Course that has been renamed the Tall Pines State Preserve. The address is 1705 Glassboro Rd, Deptford Twp 08080. The West Jersey Group worked on it with South Jersey Land and Wildlife Trust. It took a lot of environmental cleanup because of all the chemicals used to keep the golf course nice and green. When the golf people walked away from it, there were large containers of fertilizers and pesticides left to rot in a maintenance building. If you want to hike some easy pathways in a moderately rolling terrain, come on down and visit.

South Jersey Group

(Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:

Group, Outings Chair: Tom Boghosian 609-625-0878 boghosian1@verizon.net
Vice-Chair: *Open Position!*
Conservation Chair: *Open Position!*
Pol. Chair, Calendars: Dick Colby 609-965-4453 dick.colby@stockton.edu

Membership Chair: *Open Position!*
Secretary/Treasurer: Julie Akers 609-432-3280 julieakers56@gmail.com

The central conservation issue, for which the South Jersey Group was founded in the 1970s, continues to be protection of the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continues to consume the energies of those few officers who remain active both within the Sierra Club and in the Watershed Association (GEHWA) that spun off from the South Jersey Group. Very few of our local members seem interested in the meetings we once scheduled (monthly, until 2005). For now, we'll continue to be listed in this Newsletter, and offer a point of contact for Club members in South Jersey who want help with local issues. We strongly recommend GEHWA's website for keeping up with local issues, and for links to many other local, regional, state and national environmental organizations: www.gehwa.org. If you have topics (and places) for meetings, please let the officers know about them. We welcome general comments from Club members in South Jersey. To be placed on a carefully guarded distribution list for local issues and meetings, please e-mail dick.colby@stockton.edu. Dick is also an Atlantic County Parks Commissioner; contact him if you might be interested in attending monthly meetings of the Commission, which are open to the public (although we don't meet in July and August).

Current Issues: (1) A land-use controversy in Millville – over what is known as the Durand Tract, seems to 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 power 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: director@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 Commission) who permit development. On damage being done to sand trails by ORVs in Wharton State Forest, the DEP has sided with the vehicle enthusiasts by rejecting a Motorized Access Map prepared by the Park staff. The next move will be 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 plastic bags at supermarkets (as Longport in Atlantic County has done), and support for a New Jersey Bottle Bill, known as the Smart Container Act.

Some Possibly Relevant Meetings of Allied Organizations:

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

Apr 6, May 4 and June 1 (first Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Atlantic County Friends of the Parks: Monthly meetings of Friends of the Parks, a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Park System. All are welcome. Warren Fox Nature Center (WFNC*), Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor, Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 3½ miles south of Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

Apr 13 and June 8 (alternate second Wednesdays), 7pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries (another "Partnership River" under federal protection): Meeting place: George Luciano Center, Cumberland County College. Cumberland County development issues are commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Karla Rossini (CU) at 609-774-5853 or karla.rossini@cumauricriver.org. Website: www.cumauricriver.org.

Apr 20 and June 15 (alternate third Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss river management strategies. Open to the public. WFNC*. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

Apr 27, May 25 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, 306 E Jimmie Leeds Rd. www.AtlanticAudubon.org.

May 24 (alternate fourth Tuesdays) 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: Annual Frog Walk, location TBA, open to the public. WFNC*, Contact Lynn Maun, 856-649-2792 or email lynnkmaun@comcast.net.

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

Singles Section

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

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

WEBSITE: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/Sierra-Singles/>

The BEST way to be notified of upcoming events is to join our free listserv. Anyone may subscribe by going to: <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-SINGLES-NEWS.html> and clicking on "Join or leave the list." You may subscribe and unsubscribe at will; directions on how to unsubscribe are at the bottom of each announcement. We recommend joining the listserv to receive announcements for all of our events a few

weeks before each event. Events are also listed on the online calendar on the Chapter's web site: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/.

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

OFFICERS:

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

2015 Executive Committee members: Rozanna Fonelli, Joyce Haddad, Ron Pate, Joe Prebish, Jeff Sovelove, Daphne Speck Bartynski, Joyce White.

Volunteer Opportunities: We need volunteers in all areas of the state to run events. Volunteers needed as hike leaders, Fundraising Chair/Co-Chairs, and members of all committees, including planning social events and conservation activities. Please attend an executive committee meeting or email any of the officers if you are interested. You may co-chair any position with a friend, if desired. We're happy to help you learn the ropes.

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

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

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

SOCIAL DINNERS with MOVIE SHOWINGS are scheduled approximately monthly in New Brunswick. Join us for thought-provoking films and conversation over casual dinners. Topics and locations will be announced on our listserv and on the Chapter's online calendar (see above).

HIKES AND OTHER OUTINGS:

The Singles Section sponsors many outings, ranging from beginners' level to advanced difficulty. Some of these are listed in this newsletter; others are announced only on our listserv and the Chapter's online calendar. See the Outings section of this Newsletter for singles outings led by Jimi Oleksiak and Jeff Sovelove. Please join the listserv to receive notification of all of our outings (see above for instructions on how to subscribe).

Sierra Silver Singles is a subgroup that organizes hikes and other social events to appeal to Singles over 50. Most events are scheduled followed by an optional meal at a location determined by the leader. See the Outings section of this Newsletter for Silver Singles outings. Check the Singles listserv for announcements of more Silver Singles outings.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Section

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

WEB SITE: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/>

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

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/njsierralgbt>

OFFICERS:

Co-Chair:	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@gmail.com
Co-Chair:	Robert Zitzman *	robertmz@att.net
Secretary:	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.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://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp 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 36-acre mill site listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Leader: Robert Zitzman: RobertMZ@att.net and 908-723-3633. Rain or other severe weather cancels. Contact leader if in doubt.

May 4 (Wed): Executive Committee Conference Call. 7:30pm. 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 Empress 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: psychologist@jonwall.com and 908-295-1890, and

(continued on page 10)

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

On the Trail

Travels with "Baby"

by Dennis Anderson, Chair of our Jersey Shore Group (dennisaza@aol.com)

In the early 1800s, travel by the Southwest Passage to what would become Southern California was fraught with peril. 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 occurred – to you, your horse and your pack animals.

Fast forward to 2016. Now, some travelers must 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 mosquito-filled, hot, humid swamp, but is now known as Orlando FL.

One concern was that, during our three-week journey, a hurricane 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 in the aftermath of Hurricane Joaquin (Oct, 2015, but it never made landfall!).

We bought the Red Tesla with the black panoramic sun roof on 12/13/14. It was said to have a charge range of 250+ miles. To test that, we drove to Atlantic City and back, with a stop at the Brigantine (Forsythe) Wildlife Refuge, a distance of 200 miles. The gauge listed 265 miles remaining when we started, but it was clear on the way back that we were bleeding miles! So we drove for 30 minutes with no heat,

took minor roads for 50 miles (remember, this is the hottest automobile on the planet) and got home with 30 battery-miles to spare. The consequence of running out of juice would be towing to a charging station.

Turns out that charge distance is extremely dependent on ambient temperature: In tests conducted by the American Automobile Association, an electric car that ran for 105 miles at 75 degrees F went only 43 miles at 20 deg F - a 60 percent reduction in range. (Bloomberg Businessweek, Dec 13, 2015, p. 36).

We started on September 4, 2015, typing our final destination into the GPS, which then located all the charging stations we would need to visit along the way. It took some getting used to. On the NJ Turnpike, it navigated us to near a rest stop, but did not tell us to turn in to it!

The first absolutely vital Super Charger was at a Delaware Turnpike Rest Stop. We now knew to turn in to it, but not exactly where the Charger was. I had to ask someone.

A Tesla Super Charging Station consists of eight six-foot-high white arches with a red lettered "TESLA" on top of the arch. A five-foot long black cable can be pulled from inside the arch.

Charging Stations are like clubrooms: fellow Tesla owners easily strike up conversations about routes, amenities along them, and much else. I felt as if we were two covered wagons meeting on the trail, each cluing the other in on what to expect.

The first Tesla owner I met had purchased his Tesla more than 2 years previously (that is like 50 in human years). He traded it in recently for more sensors, bells and whistles. He told me that the Super Charger in Savannah is in the

Airport parking lot. "Drive into the Economy parking, pull straight through the garage and it will be on your left. Take your parking ticket into the Terminal, there is

a booth there that will stamp your ticket and you will not be charged for parking." Now that was good covered wagon information.

Another owner told me where the towing hook was stored. "Under the carpet in the front trunk; use your credit card to pop off the black plastic that holds your front license plate and you will find a hole in which to screw in the hook." Another good covered wagon tidbit.

My most shocking discovery was that half of the Tesla owners I encountered were in their 30s or early 40s! A Tesla is a \$90,000 investment. What do they do for a living?

I found the Charging Stations to be appropriately separated. But the "GPS lady" often dumped me in shopping centers, wandering over 20 acres in search of the juice of life. At the first such panic location I clicked Google Earth and was told to look between Chili's and Men's Warehouse. Got it.

When I complained about this to the Tesla Super Charger Team, their explanation was that there are no designated streets in a shopping center; the point of their map balloon shows the exact location. Google Earth supplies a bird's eye view of the buildings in a shopping center, but sometimes no names.

We arrived in Orlando on a Sunday and drove to the designated red balloon. It turned out to be a Tesla service center, which was closed, and there were no Super Chargers there! We called the



Tesla team and they told me that the Super Chargers were on the Florida Turnpike at a rest stop. I told the team member that no such location was on my Super Charger GPS map; the red balloon was over the service center. The Team is very responsive: when I checked the map on Tuesday the service center balloon was gone and the Turnpike rest stop had a red balloon. We had much less trouble on the return trip, since we now knew all the locations.

Lessons learned: don't take a Tesla if you are in a hurry. We drove 2400 miles and spent 16 hours charging. That comes out to 150 miles per charge-hour. Most charges fit nicely around breakfast, lunch or dinner in a shopping mall. (Most of the Super Charging Stations are 1 to 5 miles off of I-95 in a shopping center where it is easy to find a restaurant.)

If you sit in the driver's seat while the car is charging you get continuous feedback as to the charging status. Each unit has its own characteristics, from 121 amps at 392 volts to 308 amps at 370 volts.

Teslas are quiet! The only sound is muted tire-to-road surface noise. There were long stretches on I-95 in South Carolina that were perfectly smooth, so it was like aiming a starship in space. The Tesla cruise control adjusts your speed to the car in front of you. If it slows down, so do you. If it stops, so do you. When it starts up, so do you. So all you are expected to do is aim.

Now you know what you want for Christmas.

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

John Kashwick: 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 robertmz@att.net.

Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

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

More New Jersey events are posted on a 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/>

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")

OFFICERS:

Chair: Marty Cohen 201-670-8383 martincohen@verizon.net

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

We continue to lead hikes for the Hoboken H.S. Sierra Club, and we are pursuing outing 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 additional hike leaders. Accordingly, if you are an experienced hiker willing to commit to leading two hikes per year, or if you have no experience but are willing to commit to attending three steering committee meetings per year, and performing some additional assignments totaling 20 hours per year, please contact the Chair. The operative word here is "commit".



Outings

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

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

(roughly north to south)

Skylands: Vacant

South Highlands: Jonathan Wall
psychologist@jonwall.com

North Jersey: Ellen Blumenkrantz
eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417

Gateway: David Ogens, 973-226-0748 (H)
64 Elm Rd, Caldwell 07003

Loantaka: Wanda Knapik, 980-432-2198

Central Jersey: Vacant

Raritan Valley: Vacant

Jersey Shore: Mike Verange, 908-732-8364 (H)
1497 W Front St, Lincroft 07738

Ocean County: Terrance Brown, 848-333-7331

West Jersey: Vacant

South Jersey: Tom Boghosian, 609-625-0878 (H)
4794 Andorea Drive, Mays Landing, 08330
boghosian1@verizon.net

Singles: Joyce Haddad, jkhaddad@juno.com

Young Sierrans (Central Region): Leon Yerenburg,
lyerenburg@gmail.com

Inner City Outings: Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H)

NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd, Warren, 07059

River Touring: Fred Tocce, 908-453-2205 (H)

RD-1, Box 277, Washington, 07882

Chapter Outings Chair: Ellen Blumenkrantz
eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417

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

Note: Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your July-September 2016 trip write-ups by May 8.

NOTES ON OUTINGS: All Outings are open to Club members, guests and anyone interested in outings. Unless otherwise specified, the events are free and open to the public. ALL participants must sign liability waivers on ALL outings sponsored by the Sierra Club. Please check with the leader before bringing small children on an outing. A parent

or other responsible adult must accompany persons under 18. At their discretion, leaders may permit pets on outings if the event description specifically includes bringing pets.

Sierra Club outings are arranged by volunteer leaders who are in charge of the trip and responsible for the safety, welfare and enjoyment of all participants. Leaders determine qualifications to participate, adequacy of equipment, routes to be followed, and special precautions to be taken. Please arrive adequately prepared and equipped. If you have any allergies, please remember to bring your medication. The leader has the final word in the conduct of the trip. Your cooperation will help assure a safe and pleasant outing.

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

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

to a leader. On popular trips, Sierra Club members will be given preference.

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

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

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

APRIL

Apr 1 (Fri): Hike at Rancocas State Park (Burlington Co.) 10am. 5-6 miles, easy pace. No Fooling - Spring is here! Let's look for early signs of spring as we hike. Bring water and snacks. Meet at Long Bridge Park, Deacon Rd. Leashed dogs are welcome. Option, late lunch at Vincentown Diner. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Apr 3 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co.) 11:30am. A later start for a Sunday trip. The river section we paddle will depend on conditions. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders for information. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Apr 9 (Sat): Silvermine Lake Hike in Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY) 10am. Description: <http://nysparks.com/parks/2/details.aspx>. 7 miles in 4 hours in moderately rugged terrain. Features: The Appalachian Trail and a visit to a lean-to shelter. Facilities: There is a restroom building near the lake. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch. Registration required via email: The_Hikist@mac.com. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak. (SNG)

Apr 10 (Sun): Hike the Franklin Parker Preserve in the Pinelands International Biosphere (Burlington Co.) 10am. 6 miles, easy pace on the Yellow Trail. The Pinelands' 1.1 million acres were established as America's first National Reserve in 1978 by Congress. Ten years later, the United Nations designated the area an International Biosphere Reserve. The acquisition of the Franklin Parker Preserve in 2003 by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation was a momentous occasion in conservation. This 9400 acre preserve is a keystone piece of land, linking the expanses of Brendan Byrne, Wharton, and Penn State Forests and creating a more contiguous Pinelands National Reserve. The Sierra Club of New Jersey and Environment New Jersey announced January 28, 2016 they had filed suit against the state Board of Public Utilities and the Pinelands Commission for authorizing construction of a natural gas pipeline through protected Pinelands forest. We'll discuss what we can do to support the lawsuit. Meeting at Speedwell entrance off Rte 563, Woodland Township. Leashed dogs are welcome. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Apr 16 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Abbott Marshlands (Burlington/Mercer Cos.) 9:30am. Our trip with the tide begins on the Crosswicks Creek in Bordertown. We paddle to Roebing Park where we'll have lunch, tour TNC and walk the trails before returning to Bordertown. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet at Bordertown Beach, end of Park St. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Apr 17 (Sun): Voorhees State Park hike (Hunterdon Co.) 10am. 5 miles at a moderate pace over both flat and hilly terrain. Directions: I-78 west to exit 17. Go north on Rte 31. At the second traffic light, turn onto Rte 513 north. Go approx. 2.5 miles to the park entrance on the left. Drive to the first parking lot on the right after passing the park office. Leader Jay Dibble: 908-289-8813. (SNG)

Apr 22 (Fri): Earth Day Cleanup at Mercer County Park (Mercer Co.) 10am-Noon. Join us at Mercer County Park and participate in Sierra Club's Water Sentinels Earth Day Cleanup to protect the Delaware River Watershed. We'll pick up litter and trash along the lake, macadam and woods trails. Meet at the upper Boat Marina parking lot; accessible from Hughes Drive or Edinburg Rd. Trash bags will be provided. Rain or shine!! Bring lunch and beverage. Leashed pets are welcome. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Apr 24 (Sun): Hike the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area's McDade Recreation Trail in PA (Pike Co.) 10am. 6-7 miles, easy to moderate terrain, easy pace. Throughout 2016 the Sierra Club is celebrating the Centennial of the National Park Service. The McDade Recreational Trail extends most of the length of the DWGNRA and provides views of the river, charming streams, open farm fields, forests, and historic landscapes. Our hike will be from the Hialeah trailhead to the Park Headquarters. Bring lunch, snacks and water for the hike. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather cancels. www.nps.gov/dewa/planyourvisit/mcdade-recreational-trail.htm Please contact leaders to confirm and for meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Apr 27 (Wed): Bicycle Ride on the Lawrence Hopewell Trail (Mercer Co.) 10am. 15 miles, easy pace through Mercer Meadows County Park. The LHT is flat; the surface is stone dust/ crushed gravel and blacktop. Bring lunch and water. HELMETS MUST BE WORN. Meet at Mercer County Equestrian Center, 431 Federal City Rd, Pennington. For more information check www.htrail.org/. Rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Apr 29 (Fri): Arbor Day Hike in Historic Smithville (Burlington Co.) 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace in Historic Smithville Park in Vincentown. NJ's state tree is the Northern Red Oak and perhaps we'll see one on our hike. The Park features a diverse collection of habitats and terrain and also offers Rancocas Creek vistas. Meet at the Smith's Woods access parking lot, East Railroad Av. Option for lunch at Vincentown Diner after the hike. Leashed dogs are welcome. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Apr 30 (Sat): Essex County Environmental Center. 11am. to 4pm. Sierra has handled the canoe outings for the general public for the last ten years. We lead short canoe trips on the Passaic River. Most of the participants have never been in a canoe or kayak before and it is a wonderful experience for these first-timers. Come out and help on the river or on shore with registration. Contact Ron Pate: ronpate31@verizon.net or 973-202-6667. (SNG)

Apr 30 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River and Tour Lambertville's 35th Annual Shad Festival (Hunterdon Co.) 9:30am. We'll paddle the Delaware River and then walk around town, check out the arts & crafts and have lunch at the Food Court. Paddling helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. Current Sierra Club membership required. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

MAY

May 5 (Thur): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co.) 9am. Celebrate Cinco de Mayo on our annual 10-mile trip from Hawkin Bridge to Beaver Branch. Boats can be rented from Mick's Canoe and Kayak Rental: 609-726-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com/. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

May 7 (Sat): Pyramid Mountain hike (Morris Co.) Meet before 10am. 6-mile strenuous hike. Rain cancels. Hiking boots a must, and bring lunch. We will see Tripod Rock, Whale Rock and beaver lodges. Leader: Ron Pate: ronpate31@verizon.net. (SNG)

May 7 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak Cleanup on the Crosswicks Creek/Abbott Marshlands (Burlington Co.) 12-3pm. Support the Sierra Club Water Sentinels Program and our spring cleanup with the Bordertown Yacht Club. The cleanup begins at low tide and takes place in the wetlands area above the RiverLINE bridge. These marsh flats have a lot of trash so we are in and out of our boats. Wear boots and bring gloves. Garbage bags are provided. Meet at Bordertown Beach, end of Park St. Rentals are not available. Bring water, snacks and lunch. Contact leaders to register for the cleanup: Leona & George F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

May 8 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Trip on Tuckerton Creek (Ocean Co.) 9am. 8 miles. Part of the trip is in open water and there may be choppy conditions. Kayaks must be 12ft or over. Bring lunch, snacks and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

May 14 (Sat): The Manors in Ringwood State Park (Passaic Co.) 10am. Description: <http://www.ringwoodmanor.org>; and <http://www.njbg.org/skylandsmenor.shtml>. 7 miles in 4 hours in moderately rugged terrain. Facilities: There are restrooms at both manors and at Shepard Lake. Features: Ringwood Manor, Skyland Manor, NJ Botanical Gardens. Requirements: No pets, hiking boots and a day-pack with water. Bring a lunch. Registration required via email: The_Hikist@mac.com. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak. (SNG)

May 14 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co.) 9am. The river section we paddle will depend on conditions. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders for information: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

May 15 (Sun): Ramapo State Forest (Bergen/Passaic Cos.) 10am. Hike 4.5 miles at a moderate pace over hilly and rocky terrain. Hiking boots strongly advised. Two steep sections. Nice lake views. Directions: I-287 north to exit 57. Turn left at the light and go approx. 3/4 of a mile to the parking lot on the left. Leader: Jay Dibble: 908-289-8813. (SNG)

May 21 (Sat): D&R Canal State Park Hike (Mercer Co.) 11am. Easy pace, 4-5 miles. We'll meet at Ellarslie, the Trenton City Museum in Cadwalader Park. For information and directions: www.ellarslie.org/. The Park was designed in 1891 by Frederick Law Olmstead and has hundreds of trees that are rare at this latitude. We'll spend some time touring the Museum's Exhibits and Collections before and after the hike. Our towpath hike will take us along the canal toward Washington Crossing Park. Along the way we'll see spring wildflowers and turtles sunning on logs. Bring lunch and water and snacks. Leashed dogs are welcome! Inclement weather cancels. 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 before 10am in front of the 9/11 Memorial. The hike will be approximately 4 miles; moderate pace; some ups and downs. Please bring water/something to drink and whatever else you need to be comfortable. No pets, please. Heavy rain cancels. We will continue to the Verona Boat House where the Sierra Singles Section will provide pizza and soda. Then we'll have the opportunity to view the documentary, which explains Muir's impact then and now, delving into how he placed our nation's most important natural assets in a cultural and social context. Muir was a Sierra Club founder. For questions about the hike contact: rfanelli39@hotmail.com; for questions about the documentary, contact speckbarty@comcast.net. (SNG)

May 22 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co.) 10am. Enjoy an 8-mile spring paddle on "The Jewel of the Pinelands". Meet at Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego Rd. Bring lunch and water. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Rental: 609-726-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com/. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

May 25 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Mercer/Hunterdon Cos.) 10am. We'll paddle 8 miles from Kingwood Access to Bulls Island. Paddling helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Rentals are not available. Bring lunch, snacks and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. Current Sierra Club membership required. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

May 28 (Sat): Turtleback Rock, South Mountain Reservation (Essex Co.) 10am. Hike 5.5 miles - moderate terrain, moderate pace. We will start at Turtleback Rock trailhead. For directions: see the Essex County Parks website: <http://www.essex-countynj.org/p/index.php?section=parks/sites/so>. Bring lots of water, and wear hiking boots. We will take the Orange Trail down to Hemlock Falls and also see the famous Turtleback Rock. Heavy/steady rain cancels. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@Yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. (SNG)

May 30 (Mon): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co.) 9am. The river section we paddle will depend on conditions. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders for information and to confirm participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

JUNE

Jun 3 (Fri): Barnegat Bay Blitz (Ocean Co.) 9am-2pm. This is the 4th year that the Sierra Club is participating in the "Blitz" on-water cleanup. We'll meet Lauren Keltos, NJ-DEP Team Captain Barnegat Township, at the Barnegat public launch area. From there we'll paddle to areas designated for cleanup in the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. Garbage bags and gloves will be provided. Bring water and snacks. After the cleanup: option for late lunch at Sweet Jenny's Restaurant. Rental kayaks are not available. Contact leaders to confirm participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 5 (Sun): Jenny Jump State Forest (Warren Co.) 10am. Hike 5 miles at a moderate pace. Easy hiking going out, moderate to strenuous coming back with several nice views. Directions: I-80 west to exit 12. At the bottom of the ramp, turn left on Rte 519. Go 1 mile to the blinking light and turn left onto Rte 521. Go 1 mile and turn right on Shiloh Rd. Go 1 mile and turn right on State Park Rd. Go approx. 1.5 miles to a large park sign and turn left towards the park office, then bear right onto the road going uphill to the parking lot. Leader: Jay Dibble: 908-289-8813. (SNG)

Jun 5 (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. The Delaware River is the longest undammed river in the East. Paddling helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Rentals are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders for further information: Leona & George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 8 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co.) 10am. Join us for a lovely spring trip on the "Jewel of the Pinelands". Meet at Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego Rd. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Rental: 609-726-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com/. Contact leaders to confirm participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 11 (Sat): Castle Point Hike, Ramapo Mountain State Park, Oakland (Bergen/Passaic Cos.) 10am. Description: <http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/castle-point-trail-loop-2>. This hike will cover 7 miles in 4 hours over moderately rugged terrain. Features: Ruins at Castle Point, great views, cooling our feet in Ramapo Lake. Facilities: No restrooms. We will set up a relief station tent near the parking lot and call for a separation break during the hike. Requirements: No pets, hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch. Registration required via email: The_Hikist@mac.com. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak.

Jun 12 (Sun): Canoeing/Kayaking Skills Refresher on Lake Oswego (Burlington Co.) 9am. ACA Certified Instructors from the Sierra Club will share information about paddling efficiencies, safety practices, rescue techniques and equipment. The refresher is held on Lake Oswego. Boats can be rented from Mick's Canoe and Kayak Rental: 609-726-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com/. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Contact leaders to confirm the event and your participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 14 (Tue): Canoe/Kayak the Tidal Delaware River (Burlington/Bucks Cos.) 10am. This is a 10-mile tidal trip from Bordertown to Bucks County. On this trip learn about the risks of a raw industrial liquid hazardous waste treatment facility (directly across the river from Bordertown) that is proposed by Elcon, an Israeli wastewater recycling company. Kayaks must be 12 ft or over; spray skirts recommended. We can expect power boat traffic and boat wakes. Bring lunch and water. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 16 (Thu): Canoe/Kayak Crosswicks Creek (Burlington/Mercer Cos.) 10:30am. Our 12+ mile trip with the tide begins on the Crosswicks Creek in Bordertown. We paddle to Anchor Thread Park where we have lunch and then return to Bordertown. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet at Bordertown Beach, end of Park St. Rental boats are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 18 (Sat): Sterling Forest Bare Rock Vista (Rockland Co, NY) 10am. Hike 8 miles at a moderate pace, with significant climbing. Meet at the Visitors Center. We'll climb to the Sterling Forest Fire Tower then to the Bare Rock Vista for lunch, then back down the Bare Rock Trail. See the Sterling Forest website for information and directions: <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/74/details.aspx>. No pets please. Inclement weather cancels. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com. (SNG)

(continued on page 12)



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

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

Jun 18 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Mercer/Hunterdon Cos). 10am. We'll paddle 8 miles from Kingwood Access to Bulls Island. Lunch break at the Famous River Hot Dog Man's Restaurant; bring or buy lunch. Paddling helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. Current Sierra Club membership required. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 19 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Tidal Maurice River (Atlantic Co). 10:30am. The Maurice is a nationally recognized Wild and Scenic River and its environment supports a great variety of plant and animal life, including Ospreys and Bald Eagles. We'll paddle 10 miles on the tidal Maurice River. Rentals are not available. Participants must be current Sierra Club members. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 19 (Sun): Summer Solstice Hike in Jockey Hollow (Morris Co). 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 or by e-mailing a leader. Bring lunch, snack, sun screen, and at least 2 liters of water. 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. (N)

Jun 22 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak with your Pooch on the Wading River (Burlington Co). 9am. Fortunato invites his "cousins" and dog lovers for a mid-week trip. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental: 609-726-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip and river section we are paddling: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 24 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Mullica River (Burlington Co). 8:30am. The aquatic flowering plants of the NJ Pinelands will still be in bloom. This is a 12-mile trip for experienced Pines paddlers; expect downfalls and portages. The Pinelands Preservation Alliance has launched Pinelands Adventures and we'll arrange with them to shuttle our group. (See http://www.pinelandsadventures.org.) Contact leaders to confirm the trip, meeting location and your participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 26 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Raritan River (Middlesex Co). 11am. The river section we paddle will depend on conditions. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders for details and to confirm the trip. Current Sierra Club membership required. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@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" from Penny Pot to Weymouth Furnace. Meet at the "new" Harley Dawn Diner - arrive early for breakfast. Rentals are available from Palace Restaurant and Outfitters: 609-625-8552 or www.thepalaceoutfitters.com. Palace will provide the shuttle. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

JULY

Jul 1 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am. Double Trouble State Park was established in 1964 to help protect the Cedar Creek watershed and now features over 8,000 acres of Pine Barrens habitats. We'll paddle 7 miles from Ore Pond to Dudley Park. Rental boats are available from Cedar Creek Campground: http://www.cedarcreeknj.com/kayak-canoe. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

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

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

Apr. 9 at the Hamilton (Mercer Co.) Public Library, 1 Justice Samuel Alito Jr. Way
May 14 at the Chatham Public Library, 124 Main St
June 11 at the New Brunswick Public Library, 60 Livingston Ave



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