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Conservation Chair's Report

Sparta Mountain: Still in Conflict

By Greg Gorman (ggorman07419@embarqmail.com)



In the 19th century the Passenger Pigeon went extinct as a consequence both of hunting and the conversion of its woodland habitat into farmland. The following century those farmlands were converted into suburbs. Today, the US Forest Service estimates that 75% of New Jersey's forests are between 40 and 99 years old, creating a closed canopy. This "homogeneity" results in a diminished number of species that rely on a young forest habitat.

In 2013, the NJ Legislature passed the "New Jersey Healthy Forests Act" that would allow commercial timber harvesting on certain State-owned land: to open the canopy and allow new forest growth. The bill advocates cutting down older trees in order to create a mix of young and old forest that would promote more species diversity and protect the habitat of birds like the Golden Winged Warbler.

We believe the proposal is actually a disguise to permit commercial logging of an environmentally sensitive mountain. Clear cutting of trees will bring in invasive species and cause non-source pollution. This bill was vetoed by Governor Christie for constitutional reasons, but was reintroduced in the subsequent 2016 session by Senators Steven Oroho (R) and Bob Smith (D) (S768). The Chapter opposes this bill for a variety of reasons.

Firstly, a closed canopy forest is just as "healthy" as open canopy forest. A young forest is an open canopy of grasses, shrubs, and small trees typically less than 40 years old. The trees of a mature forest touch each other to form a closed canopy. When you consider that maples live 150 years, pines 250 years, and oaks 300-350 years, New Jersey's mature forests are not considered old or ancient. Bob Moss, our Chapter's Green Acres Issues Coordinator, observes that young, mature, and old forest are all steps in natural ecological "succession." Each succession stage requires different stewardship approaches. The proposed legislation should not specify a preference for young forest.

Secondly, commercial forests are managed to improve the dollar-value of the tree-harvest. Public lands should be managed to achieve ecological objectives. It is Sierra Club policy that public forests should be managed on demonstrated scientific principles that ensure their sustainability, and that preserve soils, wildlife populations, forest ecology, water quality, recreational values, and timber productivity. The State should not allow public forests to subsidize commercial timber companies. In nature, trees felled by storms, floods and fires remain on the ground to decay and nourish forest regeneration. If timber cutting is permitted on public lands, the downed trees should remain on the ground. The policy in S768 that pro-

hibit commercial harvesting in State natural areas administered by the DEP should apply to all publicly owned forests.

Furthermore, most State-owned forests, including all of the Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area, were acquired under our "Green Acres" program, which specifically prohibits their commercial logging. Green Acres property is required to serve the purposes of recreation and natural resource conservation. It must also be kept accessible to the public, and maintained in a "condition that is equal to or better than the condition of the land at the time it was acquired."

Thirdly, the proposed bill requires the development of a forest management plan to "conform to standards adopted by the Forest Stewardship Council." These standards, which focus on maximizing revenues from the sale of hardwood logs, firewood, and pulp wood, often conflict with primary public forest objectives such as protecting water, preserving flyways, and improving habitat for wildlife. The FSC standards for mitigating damages are simply inappropriate for New Jersey's publicly held forests.

The New Jersey Highlands are recognized as "nationally significant" by the federal Highlands Conservation Act. The Pinelands National Reserve, another of our forests, is a UN Biosphere Reserve. The Delaware River, Great Egg Harbor River, Maurice River, and Musconetcong River are all designated federally as "Wild and Scenic" All New Jersey's forests are ecological treasures that require nurturing, not commercial logging. The NJ Sierra Club encourages its members to tell their legislators to oppose S768 in its present form.

Editor's Note: The NJDEP developed the Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Forest "Stewardship" Plan based on an open canopy approach and commercial logging. The Highlands Coalition, Endangered Species Coalition, lake communities, and others advocate the closed canopy approach because of Sparta Mountain's ecological importance. For more information go to www.savespartamountain.org.

Call for Volunteers

Seeking the following three types of people to serve in volunteer positions:

Retirees ("life is short and I want to sink my teeth into a worthwhile task").

Mid-lifers ("I want to contribute to something meaningful besides working for the man").

College-bound youth ("I can learn and network with the best and still know more about computers and media than them").

Please attend your local Group's ExCom/planning meeting or come to a monthly meeting of the State Chapter Executive Committee, also known as our ExCom, to learn how your practical skills can benefit the environment.

Report from Trenton

Christie's DEP Earth Day Hypocrisy

From a Press Release issued by Chapter Director Jeff Tittel on April 19th

DEP Commissioner Bob Martin released an Earth Day statement celebrating his Administration's environmental record. Unfortunately, it neglects to mention that Gov. Christie is the worst governor for the environment in New Jersey's history.

On his first day in office, Governor Christie signed Executive Order 1: freezing all proposed new regulations, every one of which he then eliminated. Executive Order 2 forbids New Jersey from air and water-quality standards stricter than the federal standards - a way to roll back many environmental protections. These mandates came directly from the Koch Brothers' political action toolkit. Christie has since denied the science of climate change: all he believes in is political science. He has rolled back protections in the Pinelands and Highlands, threatening our clean air and water. He pushed the South Jersey Gas pipeline through the Pinelands, while blocking solar and wind efforts.

The Governor has given a more than \$8 billion-dollar sweetheart deal to Exxon-Mobil instead of making it clean up its contamination throughout the State. Then, instead of using the meager settlement money to help communities which were impacted by the pollution, he used it to balance his budget. He closed the Office of Climate Change, ended the DEP's Coastal Program for Adaptation and Mitigation, and pulled us out of the northeastern states' Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. His failure to acknowledge climate change not only put more people and property in harm's way, but also lost us millions of dollars from HUD. He stole \$10 million from lead abatement programs, even preventing the DEP from testing for lead in school drinking water.

Environmental budgets have been cut by a third, "balanced" by \$9 billion in corporate subsidies, and tax breaks for the rich. Christie has made it easier to develop environmentally sensitive areas, such as \$1.3 billion for subsidizing the American Dream Mall in the Hackensack Meadowlands. But try asking for money to remove lead pipes from our schools,

or to protect people from flooding. His proposed Flood Hazard Rules (see p. 4) benefit polluters and developers. These rules are so bad that they are opposed by the EPA and FEMA. The list of successful applicants for development permits from the DEP looks like a Who's Who of his campaign contributors. DEP enforcement and inspections under Bob Martin are down 40-60%, and staffing is at its lowest ever. Parks are falling apart, Liberty State Park is up for privatization, and "protected" state forests are open for logging.

Before Christie took office there were 10,000 solar jobs in the state; now there are only 5,500. He crashed the solar market, which cut solar jobs by half. He denied billions of dollars of private investment in offshore wind. By stealing \$1.2 billion from the Clean Energy Fund to balance his budget, he eliminated 4,000 jobs in energy efficiency in addition to cost savings on energy bills for businesses and homeowners.

The Earth Day press release with which Christie took credit for his environmental achievements was like the Captain of the Exxon Valdez using a press release to celebrate a job well done. Perhaps there's a reason: ambition for a position in Pres. Trump's Cabinet?



INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Honey Bees.....	2
Utah: Bears Ears National Monument.....	2
Popul'n Report: Reproductive Health.....	2
Our Political Endorsements.....	2
Chapter Chair: New Volunteers.....	3
Editorial: Polarization in Congress.....	3
ExCom's Spring Resolutions.....	3
Call for Chapter Officer-Candidates.....	3
Reports from Trenton: Flood Hazard Rules, Pipelines, Clean Power, Tailpipe Emissions, Clear Cutting at Six Flags.....	4
Invitation to Attorneys!.....	4
More from Trenton: Lead in Drinking Water, Pompton Lakes Cleanup, Smoking on Beaches and in Parks, Trail Funds.....	5
Group and Section News.....	6-10
On the Trail - with Poetry and Pictures..	10
Summer Outings.....	10-12
Leaders, Meetings, Membership Form..	12

Supplement: in the Web Edition only:
Essay: Equity in Urban Green Space.....2
From Trenton: More on Sparta Mountain..2

Issue Coordinator's Report

Be My Honey Bee?

By Joanne Pannone, Issue Coordinator for Genetically Modified Organisms
(jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com)

Bees are “canaries in the coal mine”: warning us of an imminent and frightening threat to our food and our environment.

Many celebrities have taken on the plight of the honey bee by becoming beekeepers. Morgan Freeman bought a farm for bees in Mississippi. Jon Bon Jovi lives in Monmouth County, raising grapes and bees. Scarlett Johansson and her husband Ryan Reynolds received a beehive as a wedding present from Samuel L. Jackson. And where would Martha Stewart be without her bee suit, to name just a few?

Beekeeping can be a fashionable hobby, a profitable sideline, or a full-time occupation. Bees are kept for the delicious honey they produce, for the benefits of their valuable services as pollinators, or perhaps simply for the enjoyment of learning more about one of nature's most interesting beneficial insects.

In the US and Canada there are more than 800 wild species of bees, of which two thirds are ground nesters. Our domestic honey bees were imported from Europe, in man-made beehives first introduced by Langstroth. The hive is a box filled with frames in which the bees build hexagonal cells made of beeswax, called honeycomb. The cells store food (honey and pollen) and house the colony.

A colony consists of three kinds of adult bees: workers, drones, and a queen. Several thousand worker bees cooperate in nest building, food collection and brood rearing. Bees take care of themselves, but a monthly hive inspection is recommended. Rutgers offers a great Beginners' Beekeeping Short Course, and there are many Beekeeping Clubs which offer mentoring.

We use honey, nature's perfect food, as a sweetener (sugar substitute) in food recipes, cosmetics, medicines and alcoholic beverages. For the bees, it is their food. Ordinary cane- and beet-sugar requires enzymatic digestion before it can be absorbed into the bloodstream and assimilated by our body tissues. Honey requires little digestion, so absorption and the resulting energy boost occurs quickly. I find that honey works great as an antiseptic for healing skin abrasions and other minor wounds.



Bees have natural predators and ailments. Colony Collapse Disorder appears to have resulted from chemicals including Acetamiprid, Clothianidin, Dinotefuran, Imidacloprid, and Thiamethoxam. If you see any of these ingredients listed on products in your home or in your local garden center, do not use them. They hide in such popular brands as Aloft, Flagship, Flower, Rose & Shrub Care, Triple Crown Insecticide... too many to name!

Be a part of the Bee Action Campaign and Bee safe by planting flowers using organic starts and untreated seeds - and provide a safe haven for bees. Landscape to attract beneficial insects, and use eco-friendly pest-control products. Bee Vigilant: read labels and steer clear of products containing neonicotinoids; Bee vocal and tell everyone you can about the importance of bees.

Be an activist! Send an action letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, asking her to protect our bees. If agricultural chemicals are affecting these insects, what must they be doing to us?

Check out the Rutgers Beginners Beekeeping course. Become a beekeeper!

Utah Wilderness Issues Coordinator's Report

The Bears Ears National Monument – Our big hope!

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

Please use the facts and arguments below in contacting your Representative in Congress to ask for support for protecting America's public lands in Utah!

- The Bears Ears National Monument was proposed by the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition to protect 1.9 million acres of unprotected public lands with a great Native American history and ancestral connections. There are more than 100,000 archaeological sites on the property.

- The Bears Ears proposal is the result of years of discussions among tribal elders and leaders, and is supported by all sovereign tribal governments in the region. The archeological and sacred sites include thousands of works of ancient rock art, cliff dwellings, great houses, shrines and burials. It is one of the densest areas of Native American artifacts and ancient dwellings in the entire US.

- Over 80% of Navajos and 71% of Utahns support the proposal for a National Monument, while only 20% oppose. In addition, five sovereign tribal governments—Navajo, Ute Mountain Ute, Zuni, Hopi, and Ute Indian Tribe—have passed resolutions calling on the President to protect Bears Ears as a National Monument.

- More than two dozen serious incidents of looting and vandalism have occurred in the last two years. This damage is magnified by that done by off road vehicles blazing new trails on extremely



sensitive landscapes.

- Resource extraction threats include oil and gas drilling, along with tar sands extraction, uranium and salt mining, and potash production.

- Most of the land in the proposal is wild, and provides important habitat for plants and animals. It's a landscape of high mountain peaks, deep sinuous canyons, long broken mesas, and stately red rock cliffs.

- This land will be kept wild for all Americans to experience and enjoy!

The Antiquities Act, which authorizes the President to establish national monuments, has as its primary purpose the protection of Native American cultural resources. This is the first proposal to do so from Native Americans themselves.

As Secretary of the Interior Jewell has stated, it is long past time that America's national parks and public lands reflected the diversity of the American story and experiences.

Population Issues Coordinator's Report

Reproductive Health Care for Syrian Refugee Women

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@msn.com)

We might not realize these days, as each news cycle moves from one political outrage to another, that the plight of refugees, mostly from Syria, continues. One wonders what becomes of the women in conflict areas, and how they are able to meet their basic health care needs.

The U.N. reports that a record-setting 60 million people are displaced today due to violent conflict. Developing countries are hosting more than 86% of these refugees, and children make up more than half of the global refugee population.

Most Syrian refugees have fled to Lebanon, Turkey or Jordan. From 2011, when the war began, till 2014, Lebanon's population of Syrian refugees grew to 25% of that country's total population. Up to 75 percent of those refugees are women and children, and a quarter of the women are of reproductive age. While each country seeks to provide basic needs like shelter, food and water, other services such as health care, education and employment are too often lacking.

What happens to women's reproductive health care needs in these refugee situations? According to a report written by Goleen Samari for a Humanity in Action paper, “While close to 60% of the general population of Syrian women reported using contraceptives prior to the conflict, only 34.5% report using family planning during displacement.” This has led to “one baby...born from a Syrian woman every hour” in Lebanon. For those who have access to contraceptives, the most common forms include oral contraceptive pills and intrauterine devices.

Doctors Without Borders report that many women did not have the option of access or education about contraception while fleeing Syria. These medical providers have seen instances of malnourished newborns due to lack of nutrition and maternity care. Besides addressing newborn and maternal morbidity and mortality, curbing the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and addressing sexual violence, they now offer family planning services so that refugee women have choices.

Shockingly, young girls are not given choices in the refugee camps and are sold off in marriage by their families. Some are as young as 12. The web site girlsnotbrides.org reports that “in 2011, 12% of registered marriages involved a girl under the age of 18. This figure increased to 18% in 2012, 25% in 2013, and just under 32% in the first quarter of 2014.” Reasons for these early marriages include tradition, families wanting to “protect” their daughters from rape and sexual assault, but mostly due to poverty. Many Gulf State men prey on refugee families offering money (from \$2,800 to \$14,000) to marry young girls ages 14 or 15. According to a BBC News report, one such girl was mar-

ried at 14 to a 50-year-old Kuwaiti. Her mother accepted \$14,117 for her daughter because she had seven more children she could not provide for. The family now has one more mouth to feed because the father abandoned his bride when she became pregnant. The consequences of child marriage include higher maternal mortality and complications from pregnancy and childbirth.

Prior to the Syrian civil war, Syria educated almost 100% of its population. This has fallen to 50%, and in some areas such as Aleppo only 6%. “In 2014, half of all Syrian refugee children were not receiving any form of education...Education is a key way of protecting girls from child marriage,” reports girlsnotbrides.org.

Several United Nations agencies work with host countries and non-governmental organizations in assisting refugees, including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund), and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Challenges are great enough, but the Republican Congress is trying once again to cancel all U.S. funding to the U.N. There was once a check on this foolish practice in a Democratic controlled Senate, but now our only block is President Obama's veto pen. It is imperative that we elect Democrats to the Presidency, the House and the Senate this fall, not only to assist in alleviating this humanitarian crisis but to help women and girls achieve basic rights. Areas of conflict are not areas of environmental or human protection.

As reported in al-akhbar.com, “For many Syrian women today who are enduring the hardship of life in indefinite exile, pregnancy changed from being a life-affirming process to a life-threatening one.” One aid worker noted, “We are giving Syrian refugee women a basic right which is the right to choose...the right to have a say in their future and their children's future.”

Sources for this report include: “Response to Syrian Refugee Women's Health Needs in Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan” by Goleen Samari, 2015, humanityinaction.org; “Addressing the sexual and reproductive health needs of displaced Syrian women,” by Rena Harbi, 6/20/14, al-akhbar.com; “Thy Neighbor's Keeper” by Stewart M. Patrick, 4/28/16; “Syrian Refugees in Lebanon” by Marjie Middleton, 8/6/13, Medecins Sans Frontieres; “Health Needs of Syrian Women,” by Mablet Atakilt Woldetsadik, 10/13/14, RAND; “Syrian conflict: Untold misery of child brides,” 8/20/14, BBC News; “Child Marriage and the Syrian Conflict,” Blog 2/3/16, girlsnotbrides.org; “Too Young to Wed,” 2014, Save the Children Publication.

Political Corner: Endorsed Candidates for Congress

Our Chapter has endorsed the following six incumbents and one challenger (Josh Gottheimer), all Democrats, for election to the US House of Representatives in November. Although the incumbents all seem entrenched (safe), the volatile dynamics of the Presidential election this year may result in some surprises on Nov. 8. So please consider contributing your support. Your Group's Political Chair may be able to suggest specifics. (Endorsement of a Presidential candidate will be made by the Club's national Political Committee - after this notice has gone to press.)

1st CD Donald Norcross
5th CD Josh Gottheimer
6th CD Frank Pallone Jr.
8th CD Albio Sires

9th CD William Pascrell Jr.
10th CD Donald Payne Jr.
12th CD Bonnie Watson Coleman

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

Editorial Polarization in Congress

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



New Jersey has long stood apart from most other states in the liberal cast of its politicians, both Governors and our Congressional Delegation—both Republicans and Democrats. This has worked well for environmental protection.

For example, among Governors, Hughes (R, 1970-73) produced the Dept. of Environmental Protection, Byrne (D, 1974-81) produced Pinelands Protection, Kean (R, 1982-89) produced CAFRA (coastal protection), Florio (D, 1990-93) produced the State Plan, Whitman (R, 1994-2001) tried to preserve a million acres of open space, McGreevey (D, 2002-2004) produced Highlands Protection, and Corzine (D, 2006-09) gave us RGGI: action on Global Warming (at his endorsement interview with us he actually proposed to protect the planet from Global Warming!). (But then came Gov. Christie!)

Historically, our members of Congress, in both political parties, also scored well as environmentalists: Averaging the voting scores compiled by the League of Conservation Voters for New Jersey Congresspersons in the period 1987-1991, the six Republican members averaged 68%, not very different from the average of the eight Democratic members: 76%.

But times have changed. Here is equivalent LCV data for 2008, when Tea Party extremism was beginning to burden Republicans nationally: the six NJ Republicans averaged 64% “correct”

votes, and the seven Democrats averaged 93%. Moving forward to 2013, the six Republicans averaged only 24%, whereas the six comparable Democrats averaged 87%. Four of those six Republicans figured in both tallies (Frank LoBiondo, Chris Smith, Scott Garrett and Rodney Frelinghuysen), but their averaged LCV scores decreased from 58% to 19%. I suggest that’s a Tea Party effect.

It’s not just environmental issues that are seeing this polarization. A national scoring service called Voterama in Congress supplies tallies of important Congressional votes for publication in local newspapers. I compared data for the most recent three months of this year (March-May) with the equivalent time in the year 2000. The percentage of straight “party-line” votes in Congress has increased dramatically: from 58 to 90%.

I suggest that if constituent service, or personality, was once a reason to vote for a candidate for Congress, it no longer is. Our country has become more like European countries in which political parties stand for rigid social and economic principles, with politicians locked into party positions on most issues. In other words, elections are for party platforms, not for people. If this is the case, it should make no sense for a voter to choose one Party’s candidate for President, and the other Party’s candidate for Congress. And it would make no sense for the Sierra Club to endorse some Republicans and some Democrats. Times have changed.

Chair’s Message Welcome to Our New Volunteers!

By Richard Isaac (risaacx@aol.com)



Our Chapter is glad to welcome a several new volunteers, including a whole bunch in our new Hudson County Group. On behalf of our NJ Chapter, I welcome them all and thank them for coming on board to help strengthen our efforts!

David “Ace” Case, Co-Chair, Hudson County Group

A singer, songwriter, guitarist and nursing home entertainer, David is not only Co-Chair of the newly formed Hudson County Group, but co-leader of band “The Gully Hubbards”. A Long-time hiker, birder, amateur naturalist, he now has some flexibility with his schedule, and decided he now has some time to volunteer with Sierra Club.

Janet Crowley, Co-Chair, Hudson County Group

Raised in the beautiful Finger Lakes region of New York State, Janet first became politically involved in working to gain the ordination of women. After several years in SCUBA diving in San Diego, she came back east to major in Art History, and then work at The Museum of Modern Art and sing with “Harmonytryx”. The Group’s new Co-Chair now haunts the Riverwalk, the Meadowlands, Palisades Interstate Park, the Jersey Shore, and everywhere up the Hudson, when she’s not working as a textbook copyeditor and transcriber of artist interviews, oral histories, and art conferences.

Pat Hilliard, Conservation Chair, Hudson County Group

A long-time member of the Bayonne Nature Club, Pat is keenly interested in fighting to keep and get more parks in Hudson County. The Group’s new Conservation Chair - and Secretary - is also keenly interested in recycling plastic bottles, ending plastic bag use, improving mass transit, and protecting our air and water. Over the past 20 years, Pat has supported the many battles to preserve Liberty State Park.

Yasmine Tebha, Group Delegate, Urban Composting, Hudson Co. Group

Bright and enthusiastic, Yasmine is quite intent on having more food composting in urban areas, and is absolutely right in knowing that composting is much better environmentally than just sending food waste to the incinerator or a landfill. The Group’s Delegate is also right in knowing that composting shouldn’t be for just those in suburban or rural areas, but should be expanded into urban areas as well.

John Ottomanelli, Publicity Chair,

Hudson County Group

With a newly-earned Ph.D. in Urban Development and an interest in social media, John is a welcome addition to the new Hudson County Group, and we’re glad he’s offered to be their Publicity Chair.

Nancy Booth, Ex-Com at-Large, Hudson County Group

A professor of English at Hudson County Community College, Nancy is another valued member of the new Hudson County Group who, for some reason, she likes to see things in writing! ;)

Martin Andersen, Ex-Com at-Large, Hudson County Group

Another new member with a good eye for editing, Martin has been already quite helpful with resolutions regarding Braddock County Park and Liberty State Park.

Lili Martinez, Braddock Park Coordinator, Hudson County Group

Not only a Cuban refugee who loves to dance but a friend of all things nature and animals, Lili fell in love with a sea horse at the age of five and then and there became an ocean advocate - and her idea of a perfect day is still one spent at the beach. Now a career garment industry executive, Lili has become (if somewhat unintentionally) an environmental activist focused on preserving Braddock County Park and lives in Hudson County because she loves the energy.

Anjali Ramos-Busot, New Jersey Chapter Clean Air Issues Coordinator

Environmental Chemist with focused experience in Air Pollution Science and Technology (various environmental research projects) looking for a job opportunity in Environmental Sciences. Anjali is a highly- and self-motivated professional with developed skills like experimental design, research, statistical analysis, data visualization and manipulation, technical writing, public speaking, implacable attention to detail, and ability to prioritize in a fast-paced environment.

Joanne Pannone, Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) Issues Coordinator

A long-time Sierra Club member, Joanne is a bee keeper living on seven acres of woods in Central Jersey, and is well-aware and rightfully concerned about the continuing disaster to bees throughout this nation from pesticides manufactured for use on genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and we’re glad to have her now helping our Chapter on this important issue.

Resolutions:

Passed by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in March, April and May, 2016

We authorized litigation to oppose the NJ Natural Gas Southern Reliability Link, a pipeline that would cross the Pinelands through Fort Dix (Burlington and Ocean Cos). (March)

Our Hudson County Group was reconstituted, with Dave Case and Janet Crowley as acting Co-Chairs. (March) (See Chair’s Message on this page!)

We established an Environmental Justice Committee: to “. . .strengthen the Chapter’s existing efforts in alliance with a number of Community-based organizations . . .” (March, May)

More political endorsements of candidates for election to the US Congress: incumbents William Pascrell Jr. (D, 9), Donald M. Payne Jr. (D, 10) and Albio Sires (D, 8) (March); incumbent Donald Norcross (D, 1) and challenger Josh Gottheimer (D, 5). (April)

The Chapter joined the NJ Time to Care Coalition, which works for paid family and sick leave and pay equity, as a means to lift people out of poverty. Bonnie Tillery will serve as liaison. (April)

Two new Issues Coordinators were appointed: Anjali Ramos for Clean Air, and Joanne Pannone for Genetically Modified Organisms (crops). (April)

A statement of support was granted to the Navesink Maritime Heritage Assn’s investigation of the feasibility of establishing a Sandy Hook Bay National Marine Sanctuary. (April)

We expressed dismay that North Bergen (Hudson Co) has chosen to degrade its North Hudson Park, aka Braddock Park, with overflow trailers for a municipal pre-school, in violation of DEP Green Acres regulations, and proposes to construct a permanent pre-school building adjacent to a lakeside walking path. (May)

Repeating an action taken last October, we urged that new employees in national Sierra Club offices be better apprised of the Club’s GRASSROOTS (volunteer) structure and activities. (May)

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.

Candidates Sought for Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom)

The next (Oct-Dec) issue of this Newsletter will include our annual ballot for electing three members to our Chapter governing body (ExCom), as well as the ExComs of each of our active Groups, and some Sections. (ExCom members whose three-year terms are ending are Bob Moss, Joan Denzer and Rich Isaac) To nominate yourself, or someone else, please contact Sunil Somalwar (sunil.somalwar@gmail.com) by August 10. Photo at right shows ExCom in action at a monthly meeting!



Reports from Trenton

DEP Puts Flood Hazard Rules on Hold, Playing Games

From a Press Release issued on March 8

New Jersey's Flood Hazard Rules, currently in place, comprise 224 pages of regulations written (most recently in Feb, 2015) and administered by the DEP, and that delineate flood hazard and riparian zones, including floodways. They describe the permitting process for development and redevelopment in those zones, including stream cleaning (including dredging), locating stormwater outfalls, and the rebuilding of damaged homes and other buildings.

The Sierra Club opposes the current Rules because we believe that they fail to keep development away from flood-prone properties at all stages of our watersheds: from headwaters to their mouths in rivers, estuaries and the Ocean.

On March 7, the NJ Senate Environment and Energy Committee conducted a hearing at which the DEP proposed to suspend the current Rules in order to make some changes. The DEP proposes to take input from the US-EPA and individual citizens. The proposed changes would include designations of headwaters and mitigations for development in hazard zones.

In consequence the Committee shelved a Resolution proposed by Sen. Lesniak (SCR66) – that would have declared that the current Rules are inconsistent with legislative intent. The Sierra Club still supports Lesniak's Resolution. We haven't seen any of the DEP's proposed changes, but expect that they will increase flooding, degrade water quality and violate state law. A similar Resolution was released from the Assembly Environment Committee earlier in March.

The DEP's game-playing began with an invitation-only stakeholder meeting on March 15th – with hand-picked participants that included no Sierra Club or other environmentalists.

There has been wide opposition to the current Rules. The EPA and FEMA have opposed them. We will keep our members informed of the DEP's proposed updates, said to be due in May.

PennEast Pipeline: DRBC Stands up to FERC

From a press release issued on April 30, and edited by Joe Testa

In a great victory for proponents of a careful environmental review, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) has told the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that it will be conducting its own independent review of the proposed PennEast Pipeline, separate from FERC's rubber stamping of yet another pipeline project. FERC has often acted as a cheerleader for the industry it is supposed to regulate. By delaying its hearings until 2017, DRBC is providing an opening for opponents to rebut the flawed assumptions and conclusions in FERC's process.

The DRBC controls the region within the river basin and manages water quality, withdrawals, and conservation, and manages the issuing of permits for the river and its tributaries. The 110-mile proposed pipeline would cut through the Delaware River Valley beginning in Luzerne County, PA; cross the Delaware River and 87 other major waterways; continue into to Hopewell Township; and connect to an existing pipeline in Pennington, NJ. Part of the pipeline would pass through Special Protection Waters area of the Delaware River. A surface water withdrawal and discharge permit would allow PennEast to conduct hydrostatic testing and horizontal directional drilling, a method of boring to install underground pipe beneath bodies of water, roads or other environmentally sensitive areas. The application states they plan to discharge or withdraw over 45 million gallons of water.

The Sierra Club, along with thousands of citizens and every municipality along the route, opposes this dangerous pipeline. It would cut an ugly scar through environmentally sensitive lands in the Valley, impacting 39 parks, 44 wetlands, 33 farms and other open space areas in New Jersey. It would promote fracking, add to air pollution, and create safety hazards to the communities it passes through. Siltation and runoff from the pipeline would destroy high-quality streams and impact the water supply for 7 million people. The Horizontal Drilling 'cut and cover' method PennEast has applied for is even worse for the environment. It can lead to an environmental disaster if there's a heavy storm.

PennEast has failed to gather enough data to get rapid approval from FERC. Over 70% of landowners along the route have spoken out against it. PennEast has had difficulty completing the required surveying of the route due to the determined opposition of landowners. Without this information, PennEast cannot meet state permitting requirements. An adequate survey would demonstrate that PennEast would violate the Clean Water Act and fail to meet the criteria for the needed water quality permits. The route will cut areas with steep slopes having a bigger impact on streams because of siltation and runoff.

The pipeline would be a threat to water quality and the environment in the Valley. We are calling on the DRBC to hold seven separate meetings as part of this application, so each affected part of the basin will have a chance to have input. The DRBC should ultimately reject PennEast's application for this dangerous, unnecessary pipeline.

Attorneys Still Wanted!

Our New Jersey Chapter now has volunteer opportunities available for attorneys with experience in environmental or land use law. If you are interested in one or both of the following opportunities, please contact Richard Isaac at 973-716-0297 or via email: risaacx@aol.com.

- Work *pro bono* as lead counsel or as part of a team on one or more environmental or land use cases, including cases opposing diversions of previously protected lands;
- Serve with others on the Chapter Legislative Committee helping to review and take positions on state-level environmental and land use legislation.

DEP Continues to Oppose Historic Clean Power Plan

From a Press Release issued on April 29th

The April 28 meeting of NJ's Clean Air Council meeting heard members of the Christie Administration, including the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Board of Public Utilities (BPU) continue to oppose the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan (CPP) and its impact on New Jersey. The Plan is historic in its action to cut carbon emissions and reduce the nation's impact on climate change.

The Clean Air Council advises the DEP on air issues, and was discussing recommendations for implementing the CPP. Instead, the current Administration is suing to block the Plan. Christie joined 26 other Tea Party Governors in siding with the Koch Brothers and Big Oil against the CPP.

The Clean Power Plan authorizes the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to cut carbon emissions, from power plants, by 32% from the 2005 levels. States must issue an initial implementation plan by 2016, a final plan by 2018 and begin compliance in 2022. Carbon pollution is linked to life-threatening air pollution like the smog that triggers asthma attacks, making it a serious hazard to Americans' health.

Despite suing the EPA to initiate such a rule in 2007, under a previous Governor, New Jersey is one of the states that has now filed suit against the Plan. DEP Assistant Commissioner John Giordano explained: "It's not in our DNA," and "We don't need EPA's re-engineering."

The EPA predicts that the Obama Plan will help avoid 3,600 premature deaths, 90,000 asthma attacks in children and deliver total health benefits of \$14 billion to \$34 billion in 2030 nationwide. In addition, average homeowner electric utility bills are projected to decline by more than \$80 per year.

Carbon pollution is the main contributor to climate change and the leading cause of breathing problems in our state. A third of New Jersey's air pollution blows in from Pennsylvania and further west, so the Plan will help us breathe easier. The litigation against the Plan from the 27 Tea-Party States charges that the EPA went beyond Congressional authority to regulate states' electricity generation. At the Clean Air Council meeting, Board of Public Utilities (BPU) President Richard Mroz called the CPP "an unconstitutional intrusion by the federal government on state rights." This is despite New Jersey being part of the lawsuit ten years ago, Massachusetts vs EPA, that resulted in the Supreme Court mandating a plan to manage carbon emissions.

New Jersey is home to two PSE&G Coal power plants (Hudson and Mercer Generating Stations) as well as natural gas plants in Sea Warren, West Deptford, Newark and Woodbridge. More are more proposed in Old Bridge, and Genesis is proposing to repower BL England in Marmora. The Clean Power Plan would apply to all of these, as well as those to our west.

NJ Ends Tailpipe Emission Testing

From a press release issued by Chapter Director Jeff Tittel, dated March 30

As of May, the Christie Administration's New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission ceased testing tailpipe emissions from automobiles. The effect is to make cars exempt from air quality controls, and it will be felt by all who breathe air in New Jersey. The Sierra Club opposed this decision.

New Jersey has some of the worst air pollution in the nation. Most of it comes from mobile sources such as tailpipes. Not a single county in New Jersey meets the federal standard for ground-level ozone.

People in urban areas will be affected the most: 25 percent of Newark's schoolchildren suffer from asthma, double the state and national rates. Treatment for asthma alone accounts for 12 percent of New Jersey's managed healthcare costs.

We think another effect will be that vehicles won't be maintained as well. There are at least 50,000 clunkers in NJ, our oldest and dirtiest cars – the ones that cause the most smog. They are 10 times dirtier than a new car and 30 times dirtier than a Prius.

Consider that California is tightening tailpipe emission standards while we're doing away with them. New Jersey's slide downwards began in the Whitman Administration (1994-2001); she contracted inspection work to the private sector. In 2012 the Christie Administration ended safety inspection programs and still paid the consultants \$12.6 million for work that was never done. People are still paying for that contract! A portion of the annual registration fee pays for a contract that doesn't exist anymore!

Six Flags Solar Sell-Out: Clear-Cut Approved

From a Press Release issued March 24th, edited by Maggie Yilmaz

On March 24th, The Jackson Planning Board (Ocean Co) unanimously approved a proposal from Six Flags Great Adventure to clear-cut more than 16,000 trees for a solar farm. The proposed location is on 66 acres east of the Safari Park.

The farm would include extensive wetlands, headwaters for two Category 1 streams, and steep slopes. The streams are tributaries of Toms River and headwaters for Barnegat Bay. Our concern is that clear-cutting will increase polluted stormwater runoff into Barnegat Bay and sacrifice habitat for endangered species: The site includes a nesting area for bald eagles among other endangered species.

In approving this proposal, the Board violated its own Tree Ordinance and Conservation Zone. The Sierra Club had worked for years with Jackson to implement a Tree Ordinance – even defending it in the NJ Supreme Court.

There are many alternate sites on the Six Flags property that could be used instead, including parking lots – which would receive shade in the summers. Many Jackson residents opposed the clear cut.

Reports from Trenton

Long Beach Island: Dunes or Doomed?

From a Press Release issued by our Chapter Staff on May 5, and edited by Maggie Yilmaz

On Long Beach Island (Ocean Co) the Army Corps of Engineers has resumed a \$138 million, 13-mile project to widen beaches by restoring dunes. The Sierra Club suggests that the replenishment of beaches by sand pumped from the offshore sea-bottom is bound to fail; future storms will simply return the sand to where it was pumped from. New Jersey should be planning for sea level rise and for more-frequent storm surges. Instead, the DEP has opened up the coast to more development by weakening CAFRA rules, and weakening its Flood Hazard Rules.

Studies by experts at Rutgers Univ. predict one foot of sea-level rise by 2050, and that severe “500-year” floods could hit the shore every generation. Long Beach Island’s dune system failed last October during Hurricane Joaquin, and at the Holgate end of the Island much of the newly finished beach access ramp and dune system was buried and destroyed.

The Sierra Club also believes that future development of the Jersey Shore should be moved away from flood prone areas. Restoring natural features like stream buffers, conducting regional storm-water planning, and developing new flood storage areas should replace development in flood-prone areas. We also need to buy out flood-prone properties. As the population of coastal communities keeps growing, the potential for disaster will increase.

EPA’s Pompton Lakes Clean-Up Plan Will Fail

From a Press Release used by our Chapter Staff on March 14, and edited by Maggie Yilmaz

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has begun dredging mercury-laced sediment from Pompton Lakes (straddling Bergen and Passaic Cos). The contamination originated in a former DuPont munitions facility in Pompton Lakes and Wanaque, flowing through Acid Brook from 1902 to 1994, along with many other toxic substances. The clean-up has been delayed for several years, and will not completely remove the contamination. It will cost \$43 million to remove more than 130,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment, but capped hot spots will remain in the river-bottom.

Since the river is prone to flooding, we think it likely that the caps will just wash away. There is also concern that toxic mercury in Pompton Lakes will become concentrated in local fish, or enter the water supply. Pompton Lake-water gets pumped to both the Wanaque and Oradell Reservoirs. This area has seen many floods, which move contaminated silt downstream impacting homes, property, and water supply intakes.

The EPA should revoke this weak plan and require removal of all the contaminated areas to fully protect the community and the environment.

Bill Would Ban Smoking at Beaches and Parks

From a Press Release issued on Feb 22, and edited by Joe Testa

The Assembly Tourism, Gaming and the Arts Committee released a bill (A893) that would extend the New Jersey Smoke Free Air Act by adding public parks and beaches to the list of areas where smoking is prohibited. Cigarette use in our parks adversely affects our environment, safety, and health. Banning cigarettes on our beaches and in our parks is a no-brainer. Improving our beaches and parks makes them more attractive to our residents and to tourists.

Cigarettes are an environmental problem. They can be ingested by animals and marine life or even children playing in the sand or at the park. Cigarette butts have been found in stomachs of animals such as whales, sea turtles, and birds, which could lead to death. Cigarettes contain toxins like nicotine and pesticides in their plastic fibers – further harming the environment.

It also could be dangerous when some people fail to completely put out their cigarette butts. If butts are not fully extinguished, anything from a picnic table to a boardwalk or even dry vegetation could go up in flames. Cigarettes have caused forest fires, and allowing smoking in our parks puts them at risk for destruction. They could damage picnic areas or historic buildings.

Smoking is, of course, also a health issue. Even when you set aside a smoking area on the beach it affects the people next to it and affects other people. People enjoying a day on the beach or at the park have to deal with second hand smoke. Towns have already put in place laws and ordinances dealing with smoking including Seaside Park which smoking is banned on all beaches and boardwalks. Long Branch and Sunset Beach in Cape May County are also smoke-free. Smoking is banned on the boardwalk in Belmar, and on sections of its beaches. A stateside ban will benefit our environment, tourism, and public health.

Having smoke free beaches and parks would encourage tourism, while protecting both our health and the environment. We are spending money rebuilding our beaches – we should not turn them into ashtrays. Every year at our annual beach cleanup volunteers pick up tons of cigarettes on one beach, in just two hours!

This bill would improve the health of the people of New Jersey allowing all of us to breathe easier, and it will also help to protect parks and beaches from damage and fires caused by careless smokers. This will go a long way to prevent litter in our parks and state beaches.

Governor Christie vetoed an earlier version of this bill. We hope that this time around we can get this bill passed into law to better enhance the lives of the people of New Jersey and protect our environment and tourism. We urge the Legislature to pass this legislation and protect New Jersey’s beaches and parks by banning the butt.

Club Statement on Lead in Newark’s Drinking Water

From a Press Release dated March 9th

Following the discovery of toxic lead levels in the drinking water of 30 Newark public schools, the DEP announced that it would be supplying alternate sources of water on an emergency basis. We hope Mayor Baraka was correct when he stated at a news conference that the problem was limited to those schools.

The Sierra Club recommends an independent and thorough investigation to make sure that the contamination is not more widespread. The problem might well be systemic throughout the City of Newark. The schoolchildren should be tested for lead as well.

The most likely sources of lead in drinking water are the supply pipes themselves, and lead solder used to connect copper pipes. In Flint, Michigan, lead was released from pipes that had previously been safe, by transmitting water from a new source at a different pH (acid-base) level. All public water supplies are required to be monitored regularly for lead and many other contaminants: the old records should be checked.

We hope that the reduction in inspections and enforcement that characterize the Christie Administration in the last six years isn’t at the root of Newark’s problem. That’s another reason to demand an independent investigation – we don’t trust Christie’s DEP. Perhaps the investigation needs to be broadened to include all of New Jersey, especially our urban areas.

Federal Money Received for Trail Work: State Funds Lacking

From a Press Release issued on Feb 19

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has announced how it will divide up federal funds for 63 recreational trail projects in New Jersey. The grants of more than \$1.1 million came from the Federal Highway Administration’s Recreational Trails Program, and will be administered by the DEP’s Green Acres Program. The objective is to improve and develop trails for recreational purposes, and to create urban and suburban corridors.

The money is being distributed to various applicant groups, including the Monmouth County Park System, the New Jersey Youth Corps of Paterson and the Appalachian Mountain Club. Trail development and maintenance was formerly carried out by DEP staff, but 33% funding cuts by the Christie Administration have eliminated much of that. New Jersey now relies on volunteers and the federal government to maintain our parks and trails.

New Jersey’s parks should be places for people to spend vacation time with their families, enjoy nature, and exercise. Millions of people visit our parks every year, adding billions to the state’s economy. New Jersey’s budget should include money for the DEP to maintain our parks and trails.

For a list of all the funded projects, google NJDEP News Release 16/7. Here’s a sampling:

Atlantic County:

- Buena Vista Township, Collings Lakes Interpretive Trail: \$12,000
- Egg Harbor Township, Nature Reserve Restoration: \$24,000

Bergen County:

- Rutherford Recreation Department, Rutherford Walking Trails: \$800
- Park Ridge Borough, Park Ridge Walking Trail: \$24,000
- Woodcliff Lake Borough, Woodcliff Lake Reservoir Walking Trail Project: \$24,000

Burlington County:

- Bordentown Township, Crosswick Creek Trails: \$24,000
- Burlington County, Delaware River Heritage Trail: \$24,000
- Medford Township, Hartford Crossing Bike Trails, \$24,000
- Mount Laurel Township, Bicycle Master Plan/Multipurpose Trail: \$24,000

Camden County:

- Cherry Hill Township, Cherry Hill ADA Trails: \$24,000
- Camden County Department of Parks, Grove Street Connector Trail: \$24,000
- Cooper’s Ferry Partnership, Camden-Merchantville Circuit Connector Trail: \$24,000

Essex County:

- City of East Orange, Soverel Park Trail: \$21,000
- Trust for Public Land, Newark Waterfront Trail: \$24,000
- Bloomfield Township, Morris Canal Greenway Trail: \$24,000

Gloucester County:

- Woolwich Township, High Hill Trailhead Parking Area: \$24,000

Hudson County:

- Jersey City Parks Coalition, Morris Canal Greenway: \$24,000
- Town of Secaucus, Secaucus Greenway Improvements: \$24,000

Hunterdon County:

- High Bridge Borough, Nassau Multipurpose Trail Expansion: \$11,300
- Clinton Township Environmental Commission, Windy Acres Preserve: \$12,800
- Union Forge Heritage Association, Ironworks Trail: \$24,000
- Tewksbury Township, Pascale Arboretum: \$3,700

Mercer County:

- Hamilton Township, Veterans Park Boardwalk and Trail Renovations: \$24,000
- Lawrence Hopewell Trail Corporation, Lawrence Hopewell Trail Signage: \$24,000
- D&R Greenway Land Trust, Cedar Ridge Trail Expansion: \$15,500

Middlesex County:

- Highland Park Borough, Highland Park Meadows Trail: \$6,500
- City of Perth Amboy, Raritan Riverwalk Trail: \$24,000
- Sayreville Borough, Capik Nature Preserve Trail: \$24,000

Monmouth County:

- Friends of Holmdel Open Space, Ramanessin Brook Greenway Trails: \$10,000
- Monmouth Council Boy Scouts of America, Quail Hill Recreation Trail: \$11,100

(continued on page 6)

TRAIL FUNDS

(Continued from page 5)

Monmouth County Park System, Henry Hudson Trail Extension: \$24,000
Roosevelt Borough Environmental Commission, Roosevelt Woodland Trail: \$8,000

Morris County:

Town of Morristown, Martin Luther King/Patriots Path Gateway: \$12,000
Pequannock Township, Pompton Riverwalk: \$11,800

Ocean County:

Brick Township, Airport Tract Trail: \$24,000
Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, Grassle Marsh Trail: \$24,000

Passaic County:

Pompton Lakes Borough, Morris Canal Greenway: \$24,000
Woodland Park Borough, Henderson Pond Trail: \$24,000

Salem County:

South Jersey Land & Water Trust, Oldmans Creek Preserve: \$24,000

Somerset County:

Bernardsville Borough, Patriots' Path Extension: \$22,200

Sussex County:

Appalachian Mountain Club, Buttermilk Falls Rehabilitation: \$24,000
Lake Hopatcong Foundation, Lake Hopatcong Trail: \$20,000
Student Conservation Association, Stokes State Forest Loop Trails: \$24,000

Warren County:

YMCA Camp Ralph S. Mason, Wilderness Trail Renewal and Extension: \$10,700
Frelinghuysen Township, Frelinghuysen Forest Preserve: \$14,400
Mansfield Township, Hector A. Cafferata Jr. Multiuse Trail: \$24,000

Projects in Multiple Counties:

New York/New Jersey Trail Conference, Highlands Trail Crew: \$24,000
New York/New Jersey Trail Conference, Signage and Maps: \$12,300



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

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: *Open Position!*

Programs/

Events Chair: *Open Position!*

Ex-Com

Members-at-Large: Dave Alcock dwhoob@hotmail.com
Marvin Feil mfeil@writeme.com

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

We 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*	onecentral@mac.com
Conservation Chair:	Cinny MacGonagle*	cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Amy Weeder*	aweeder@comcast.net
Treasurer:	Celeste Martin*	onecentral@mac.com
Political Chair:	Debbie Young*	debyoung31@comcast.net
Publicity Chair:	Susan Schirmer*	soupys@att.net
Membership Chair:	Jim Fleming*	jfleming18@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.

*Please note, there will be no general meeting in July and August but always check our Meetup page for updates.

Sept 7 (Wed): New Jersey Climate Change and its Likely Impacts: Dr. David Robinson—NJ State Climatologist, Professor of Geography, Rutgers University. We will examine climate variability and change in New Jersey, past, present and future. The impacts of changes that are underway and expected to intensify as this century progresses will be discussed across a number of sectors, such as health, agriculture, ecology, transportation and tourism.

OTHER EVENTS:

July 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.

Sept 17 (Sat): Stockton to Bull's Island Hike: 11am to 3pm. Meet at Bridge Café in Stockton for a six mile round trip hike up along the NJ side on back via the PA side. Moderate hike along flat canal trail. Bring picnic lunch or buy it at Center Bridge Deli. Leader: Jonathan Wall registration required at www.meetup.com/njsierraclub. Rain 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/northjersseysierraclub>

Officers:

Chair:	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@gmail.com
Vice Chair:	Mary Ellen Shaw *	meshaw.001@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Buddy Jenssen *	buddy.jenssen@gmail.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

There's an electronic bi-weekly Chapter Alert Service. Sign up at www.scnj.convio.net.

Publicity Chair: Marty Cohen martincohen@verizon.net
Social Media Coord.: 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.

July 19 (Tues): Executive and Conservation Committee Meeting. 7:30pm, 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.

July 27 (Wed): Environmental Rights--Do We Have Them? 7:30pm, River Vale Public Library, 412 River Vale Rd, River Vale. Is everyone entitled to the basic right of clean water, breathable air, and a safe environment? Come hear Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, talk about whether or not we have these environmental rights in the state of New Jersey.

Sept 7 (Wed): Saving Snakes. 7:30pm, 7:30pm, River Vale Public Library, 412 River Vale Rd, River Vale. Rattlesnakes are increasingly rare residents of the region whose existence here is affected by habitat loss, automobile encounters and more. Kathy Mitchell will provide greater understanding of these animals, their importance in the eco-system, and what we can do to help protect these creatures.

Trail Maintenance. On a nice day last April, Bill Drapkin, Moshe Arad, and Marty Cohen clipped blueberry bushes and mountain laurels, which finished our current effort to make an entire trail passable again. Thanks also to the others who have helped on previous outings. As you know, Mother Nature continues to work at undoing our efforts, so there is never a shortage of trail maintenance opportunities. If you might want to join our love-hate (mostly the former) relationship with the Mother, please contact Marty Cohen and he will put you on our email list for future outings. To get on our trail maintenance militia email list, just send an email of interest to martincohen@verizon.net.

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: *Open Position!*
Treasurer: Anne Hirs 973-844-1121 annehirs@msn.com
Program Chair: *Open Position!*
Publicity Chair: *Open Position!*
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: *Open Position!*
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: *Open Position!*
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 County Group

Working to help preserve Liberty State Park and Braddock County Park, support mass transit and bicycling, foster urban composting, and help keep our urban environment a healthy place to live.

Website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/hudson-county>. Sign up here to receive email updates

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubHCAreaNetwork1>

E-mail: hudsonsierraclub@gmail.com

Phone: Janet Crowley (201-617-1316) or Toni Granato (609-656-7612)

OFFICERS:

Co-Chairs: David "Ace" Case acccase88@gmail.com and Janet Crowley jtryx@yahoo.com
Secty, Conserv. Chair: Patricia Hilliard hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com
Delegate to ExCom: Yasmine Tebha yasminetebha@gmail.com
Publicity Chair: John Ottomanelli otto.pittsburgh@gmail.com
Urban Composting: Yasmine Tebha yasminetebha@gmail.com
Ex-Com at-Large: Martin Andersen martin.c.andersen@gmail.com and Nancy Booth boothnancy2011@hotmail.com
Braddock Park Issues: Lili Martinez lilimartinez@optonline.net
Membership Chair: *Open Position!*
Programs/Events Chair: *Open Position!*

MEETINGS and EVENTS:

July 17 (Sun) 11am to 4pm: POT LUCK PICNIC and Talk-back with Sam Pesin (President of Friends of Liberty State Park and son of park founder Morris Pesin) regarding recent developments and the future of the park. 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

Aug 21 (Sun) at 12:30 pm: Hudson County Group Executive Committee meeting. Location to be determined; please check the Hudson County Sierra Club Facebook page or Website for updates.

Sept 18 (Sun): Hudson County Group Executive Committee meeting 12:30-2pm; General meeting at 2pm. Location to be determined; please check the Hudson County Sierra Club Facebook page or Website for updates.

Loantaka Group

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

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

OFFICERS:

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: *Open Position!*
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: (Please use the website)

(Continued on page 8)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

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 educate 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/MAPS/MAP_04_08.pdf.

July 10: Group Picnic. Noon to 3pm. Our annual summer pot-luck picnic will be held on Sunday, July 10 at Turkey Swamp Park, 200 Georgia Tavern Rd, Freehold. From Rte 9, take Rte 524 west to Georgia Road (Rte 53), turn left (south) on Georgia and follow the signs to the park. From I-95, at Exit 22 take Jackson Mills Rd north to Georgia Rd, turn left (west) on Georgia and follow the signs. Meet in the picnic area behind the main building. No speakers, just relax and enjoy the food and conversation. Check with Dennis Anderson (Dennisaza@aol.com) on what to bring and to get other details. Aug: No meeting. Enjoy the summer

Sept 26: Our Endangered Groundwater Supplies – Rich Bizub, Director for Water Programs for the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, will discuss the quality of state's groundwater supplies; the interactions between these aquifers and surface streams, rivers and wetlands; the dangers from surface pollution; and the impacts from excessive groundwater withdrawals, including dry wells and saltwater intrusion. He also will make a few predictions on what the future holds for the state's aquifers and the ecosystems that depends on them. Since groundwater aquifers provide 80 to 95 percent of the base flow to our streams and rivers (the rest is rain runoff), how we exploit and abuse our aquifers has a direct impact on both freshwater and brackish ecosystems.

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 annecaridi@yahoo.com
Political Chair: Linda Rubiano Linda_Maritza@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: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Smart Growth Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Programs Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Outings Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Social Media
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.

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.

Sept 14: The Story of Batsto:- Barbara Solem, author of several books about New Jersey's Pine Barrens will discuss her latest book "Batsto Village Jewel of the Pines" shedding new light on this significant South Jersey site. Learn about the history of Batsto, from its modest beginnings as a sawmill in the 1760s, to a thriving industrial community through the Revolutionary War years and beyond. Barbara will have copies of her book on hand for purchase.

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 rain-forest 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:

July 6, Aug 3 and Sept 7 (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.

July 27, Aug 24 and Sept 28 (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.

Aug 10 (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.

Aug 17 (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.

July 26 and Sept 27 (alternate fourth Tuesdays) 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: open to the public. WFNC*, Contact Lynn Maun, 856-649-2792 or email lynnkmaun@comcast.net. The Watershed Association holds an annual fall camping and kayaking/canoeing weekend on the river, based at Camp Acagisca.

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: *Position Open.* 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: *Position Open.* Contact us! We need you!
Publicity: *Position Open.* Contact us! We need you!
Membership: *Position Open.* Contact us! We need you!
Nominations: Nancy Sullivan nancysullivan@comcast.net

(continued on page 10)

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

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

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. Anyone is 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:	Corbett Klein *	corbettklein@outlook.com
Treasurer:	Open Position - volunteer needed!	
Outings Co-Chair:	Jonathan Wall *	psychologist@jonwall.com
Outings Co-Chair:	Robert Zitzman *	robertmz@att.net
Webmaster/		
Listmaster:	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@gmail.com
Ex-Com Member:	Open Position - volunteer needed!	

(* 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.

July 3 (Sun): Independence Day Weekend Hike in Harriman. Harriman State Park, NY. 10am. Join us for a moderate hike at a steady pace of about 6-8 miles. Bring at least two liters of water and lunch. Wear hiking boots or sturdy footwear. Please check the Meetup page or web site for meeting location and further details. and w and water. Leaders: Jonathan Wall and John Kashwick. Rain or other severe heat cancels. .

July 31 (Sun): Executive Committee Conference Call. 9am. Help plan events for the fall months and discuss administrative issues. Contact John for dial-in number or more information at jkashwick@gmail.com.

September Event–To Be Announced. Please check web site, Meetup, or Facebook page for information about this outing and other events that may come up.

Oct 23-30: Fort Ord National Monument Service Trip, Monterey, CA. This might be the first LGBT-themed trip at a national level for the Sierra Club. The trip is a week-long service trip, which will be doing habitat restoration with BLM at the Fort Ord National Monument, just outside of Monterey, CA. On the two free days there will be a visit to the world renowned Monterey Bay Aquarium, a talk by a NOAA satellite oceanographer (me, the trip leader) and excursions to some local beaches. We will be car camping in an awesome undeveloped piece of land that we will have all to ourselves (and unknown to most locals). We will also have a dedicated cook on the trip who is fantastic! I'm happy to answer any questions



about the trip or about Monterey in general. The trip will be led by Cara Wilson (#16286 trip leader). For more information, please use the link below or contact Cara at caracaraw@yahoo.com.

<http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/national/brochure/lgbtq-service-fort-ord-national-monument-monterey-california>

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".

On the Trail

Editor's plea: this column is intended to celebrate and publicize our favorite wilderness adventures in New Jersey and elsewhere. We thank the many who have contributed in the last few years, but plead to any of our members who have Trail experiences that they have not yet shared. In the current absence of any such, here are some quotations posted on the Poetry Trail at the solid waste complex of the Atlantic County Utilities Authority, in Egg Harbor Twp. I hope they inspire you to find your own trails, and report back on them!



John Muir: "Every natural thing is a conductor of divinity."

Walt Whitman: "Now I see the secret of the making of the best persons, it is to grow in the open air and to eat and sleep with the earth."

Ralph Waldo Emerson: "The earth laughs in flowers."

Helen Keller (from The Story of My Life): "What a joy it is to feel the soft, springy earth under my feet once more, to follow the grassy roads that lead to ferny brooks where I can bathe my fingers in a cataract of rippling notes, or to clamber over a stone wall into green fields that tumble and roll and climb in riotous gladness."

David Wagoner: "Lost":

Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you
Are not lost. Wherever you are is called Here,
And you must treat it as a powerful stranger,
Must ask permission to know it and be known.
The forest breathes. Listen. It answers,
I have made this place around you.
If you leave it, you may come back again, saying Here.
No two trees are the same to Raven.
No two branches are the same to Wren.
If what a tree of a bush does is lost on you,
You are surely lost. Stand still. The forest know
Where you are. You must let it find you.



Addressing Equity in Urban Green Space Creation in Post Industrial Landscapes

This essay is by Kaitlyn Millsaps, our Conservation Program Coordinator from 2011 through 2014, now a graduate student in the Rutgers Blaustein School of Public Policy. It was awarded a prize in a contest sponsored by the Sustainable Communities Division of the American Planning Association, and is reprinted with her permission.

Cities around the world are embracing opportunities to transform obsolete infrastructure, such as rail lines and brownfields, into new land uses. As cities focus on increasing urban sustainability in an era of decentralized infrastructure, many are creating new green spaces with a goal of improving their environment, economy, and equity. However, these green spaces are often driven by market forces, resulting in disastrous impacts for the local community. Fear of environmental gentrification, when a new park or environmental amenity increases local land values and pushes out low or middle income residents, has led many of the communities most in need of parks to reject such projects altogether. But new approaches and paradigms are emerging that can provide green space to park-poor communities while maintaining their character and affordability.

First, the paper will describe the urban conditions driving the move to revitalize obsolete infrastructure into more sustainable land uses. Next, I will discuss the challenge of environmental gentrification, followed by an examination of the techniques that can be used to minimize or avoid such outcomes. The paper ends with concluding remarks.

Drivers of Infrastructure Redevelopment

Following the 1970's, many cities lost their industrial and manufacturing bases and began focusing on service industries (Checker 2011). This post-industrial landscape has left numerous urban sites derelict, with obsolete land uses. Redeveloping these neighborhoods is seen as a key strategy for future urban growth. Additionally, the reclamation and redevelopment process can include cleaning up the pollution left behind by previous uses (Curran and Hamilton 2012).

Many cities are adopting a "sustainability" paradigm to address this post-industrial legacy in future growth, focusing on the "three E's": environment or ecology, economy, and equity (Jaffe 2014). Cleaning up existing pollution and promoting future environmental health is often a priority. New York City's sustainable development plan, PlaNYC 2030, was launched by Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2007 and calls for the remediation of 7600 acres of contaminated sites by 2030 and the creation of 480 new "pint sized parks" (Pearsall 2010, 877; Checker 2011, 211). However, in many sustainability plans, the final E, equity, is often disregarded, resulting in detrimental social impacts. Checker (2011) found there is often a "contradictory relationship of sustainable policies to inequitable urban redevelopment." In many working class communities, residents feel environmentalism and sustainable policies are being used as a cover for high-end redevelopment projects.

Urban park accessibility is an environmental justice issue as low income and minority residents have worse access than wealthier, white city residents, and less funding to create and maintain such spaces (Jaffe 2014). Wolch, Byrne, and Newell (2014) also note the fewer parks

in low income and minority communities tend to be more congested. Increasing access is a priority in these park-poor communities and reuse of obsolete infrastructure is seen as a key strategy for addressing the problem, as many working class areas contain this type of underutilized land (Wolch, Byrne, and Newell 2014).

Environmental Gentrification: The Challenge

Environmental gentrification is the process by which an improvement to the local environment, the cleanup of brownfields or pollution, the creation of parks, or other "green" projects attracts people more affluent than the current residents to a neighborhood (Curran and Hamilton 2012). This subsequently changes the housing affordability, the housing stock, and the commercial and retail landscape of the area to benefit better-off, newer residents to the disadvantage of long-time residents (Wolch, Byrne, and Newell 2014). Unfortunately, such negative impacts are relatively common. Matsuoka and Kaplan (2007) observed urban parks increased housing and hotel room prices in neighborhoods. A study by Dale and Newman (2009, 1031) found an "inverse relationship between the 'greening' of neighborhoods and affordability." Pearsall (2010, 878) reported about half of the neighborhoods in his study on brownfield redevelopment experienced gentrification impacts between 1990 and 2000.

Environmental gentrification is especially appalling as displaced residents are often those most in need of environmental amenities and increased access to parks. In many cases, the long-time residents suffered from the impacts of the pollution emitted by the obsolete infrastructure. As the site is being cleaned up or redeveloped into a new use, those residents are pushed out and will not enjoy the benefits of the improvement (Curran and Hamilton 2012). The displaced residents often move to other affordable, but park-poor areas, that have higher crime rates and lack retail, infrastructure, and services (Dale and Newman 2009). The environmental gentrification process spatially segregates cities as residents intended to benefit from the green space project are priced out of the neighborhood (Haffner 2015).

Unfortunately, fearing environmental gentrification, some low-income neighborhoods have actively opposed the construction of new environmental amenities. This paradox means the most park-poor areas are fighting to stop new green spaces and environmental cleanups (Curran and Hamilton 2012). Checker (2011) offers an example from 2010, where Harlem residents opposed the expansion of two small existing green spaces into a larger park out of concern the new development was being proposed to attract commercial developers and affluent residents to the area. This paradox may be well founded, as Curran and Hamilton (2012, 1034) found that "green space projects are often tied explicitly to residential and commercial redevelopment," driven by market forces.

The most famous recent example of environmental gentrification is the High Line on Manhattan's Lower West Side. Opening in 2009, the project transformed an abandoned, elevated rail line into a linear park, attracting five million visitors a year (Haffner 2015). The High Line was conceived as an urban sustainability project but has subsequently earned millions of dollars for developers, while driving

out long-time residents and small businesses. Wolch, Byrne, and Newell (2014, 241) note that between 2003-2011 surrounding property values increased 103% and nearby property development investments totaled \$2 billion.

Environmental Gentrification: Minimization and Avoidance

Despite the challenges, communities are finding innovative ways to create needed green spaces without attracting big developers. The "just green enough" movement focuses on park creation based on community input, small-scale projects, and equity policies to resist affordability loss.

Eckerd (2011) found some neighborhoods were more vulnerable to environmental gentrification impacts, based on three important factors. The first is the probability that the new green space will create a "rent gap," where the potential rent far exceeds currently price. Therefore, more affordable areas are more vulnerable, as the profitability of gentrification is increased (Curran and Hamilton 2012). Second, environmental gentrification is more likely to occur in neighborhoods with a large pre-1940 housing stock. Finally, location plays a major role in predicting loss of neighborhood affordability as Eckerd (2011, 50) found environmental gentrification potential "decreased for each quarter mile further a neighborhood was from the" Central Business District.

Communities have been focusing on stopping the creation of a "rent gap" and future gentrification by advocating for projects that provide green space while maintaining the character and culture of the neighborhood. Dale and Newman (2009, 679) and Haffner (2015) found communities can actively plan to create "buffers against displacement" through strategies such as maintaining working class jobs and retail landscapes, having changes occur gradually, and rejecting projects such as fancy waterfront developments that have produced displacement outcomes in other locations the past. This approach fosters economic diversity, equity, and democracy while rejecting the neoliberal market forces that produce gentrification (Curran and Hamilton 2012).

An active citizenry is key to ensuring projects are "just green enough" (Curran and Hamilton 2012). The local residents need to raise equity concerns and call for community-based planning as the project is developed and present new visions and initiatives outside the sustainability paradigm to combat developers' plans (Checker 2011). Checker (2011) offers the West Harlem Piers Park project from the early 2000's as an example. Private developers wanted to transform derelict industrial piers into a park surrounded by luxury housing and hotels and other commercial development. Residents were able to demand a community input process where they fought the development proposals and won; the piers were renovated into a two-acre park and greenway without the planned buildings. In Curran and Hamilton's (2012) study of redevelopment in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, they attributed the area's success in resisting gentrification to a group of long-active environmental advocates who fought to have a participatory process. The Newtown Creek Nature Walk was built to provide residents waterfront access but still maintained the industrial and working-class character of the neighborhood. The community wanted green space, while allowing Newtown Creek to serve

as "a 21st century industrial corridor;" they did not want to simply turn old infrastructure into a park, but valued the preservation of the neighborhood's current character (Curran and Hamilton 2012, 1035). Essentially, community input by low-income and working-class residents ensures the parks being created are the ones they want, not what the gentrifying developers would like to see, and helps to stop the market takeover of their neighborhood.

Planners need to encourage and listen to community input to achieve landscapes the communities support. Matsuoka and Kaplan (2008, 12) found of the newly created parks reviewed in their study, only 46% included citizen participation and only 38% focused on "community identity". This is troubling for ensuring green space design prioritizes maintaining local cultures and histories, as Schauman and Salisbury (1998) recognize landscape planners often lack this knowledge. They call on professionals to increase their "understanding of the environmental needs of people" in order to build landscapes that better suit communities (Schauman and Salisbury 1998, 294). Checker (2011, 241) also found urban planning professionals need to move away from the market driven, "conventional urban design formulae or ecological restoration approaches" to embrace plans founded on community concerns and needs.

The "just green enough" strategy also promotes the construction of many, smaller parks across neighborhoods, instead of large civic projects. Wolch, Byrne, and Newell (2014, 241) found that creating larger parks and green space projects "geographically concentrate(s) resources and kick-start(s) rounds of gentrification." Small sites offer ecological and equity benefits to residents without attracting big commercial projects: they do not work as an epicenter for market-driven development strategies (Schauman and Salisbury 1998). The more widespread the parks, the more evenly distributed access they provide to residents, while still improving the environmental health of the city overall.

Public policy that plans for and funds equity programs can also curb the impacts of environmental gentrification, but requires political leadership. Popular approaches to pair with new green space creation include affordable housing requirements; rent stabilization for residents and businesses; financial programs and incentives to increase home ownership; shared equity homeownership; quotas for local ownership of businesses; quotas for larger companies to employ local residents; and measures to maintain industrial uses in the area (Wolch, Byrne, and Newell 2014). If residential development is included in the creation of new green spaces, governments must ensure the affordable housing set aside produces housing that meets low income families' needs. Case studies by Dale and Newman (2009) found that often the new high-end residential developments produced one bedroom units to satisfy the quotas, rather than the multi-bedroom units families needed. Pearsall (2010) warns about embracing a rent stabilization program as the perfect solution. In the future, residents could be more vulnerable to pressure from landlords to vacate or may even face eviction, as the owner can then deregulate the unit and charge a market rate.

ESSAY

(Continued from pg. S1)

Conclusion

In transforming obsolete industrial land uses, equity and preserving a community's character must be a priority to ensure existing residents are best served. Neighborhoods lacking environmental amenities are rejecting the construction of crucial improvements, out of fear of environmental gentrification. Residents and planners can develop techniques and tools to create green spaces while protecting a community's quality of life and affordability. Increased community participation, smaller parks, and equity policies can all be used to convert derelict industrial and manufacturing infrastructure into needed green spaces in our urban areas while ensuring working class residents are not displaced.

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*Report from Trenton***Sparta Mountain Logging Plan: Guise or Disguise**

From a Press Release issued by our Trenton Staff on March 31, and edited by Joe Testa

The NJ Sierra Club has submitted comments on the NJDEP's destructive "Forest Stewardship Plan" that would allow logging on Sparta Mountain. The proposal, under the guise of providing habitat for one bird species, is a really a disguise to log an environmentally sensitive forest. It would destroy critical natural resources, violate the objectives and goals of the Highlands Act, go against the Regional Master Plan (RMP), and threaten the drinking water supply for half of the state.

Sparta Mountain was purchased with public money to be protected for future generations, but this plan will interfere with recreation and public access for years to come. There is no public benefit to logging, especially when you consider the environmental costs of more pollution, loss of habitat, increased flooding,

and the spread of invasive species and deer overpopulation.

Sparta Mountain is an important forested greenway. The DEP wants to clear-cut the mountain under the excuse of providing habitat a bird, when it is really about bringing in commercial forestry. This is an important canopy forest and the destruction of the canopy will cause pollution and run-off. DEP should not take down 120-year-old oaks to turn them into a logging field. If this plan moves forward, it will threaten the highest water quality in the state. Logging operations will impact pristine trout streams and other birds who depend on a deep forest to protect them from other species.

The Highlands Act was signed into law in 2004 to preserve open space and protect the state's water supply. According to the Highlands RMP, the biggest threats

to the region are the alteration of habitat and fragmentation. This proposal would increase fragmentation by removing the forest canopy. Clear-cutting will impact the area 300 ft. inland from the cut. It will change the soil composition by opening the forest floor to more sunlight.

We've seen irreparable damage in forests from logging machinery that create ruts and gullies that persist decades after the project has ceased. In the past, streams near logging operations have run brown for years afterward and the runoff cannot be controlled. We are most concerned because it will remove important 300 ft. buffers near streams that protect high quality waterways and critical headwater areas.

The DEP should not destroy an entire ecosystem to create habitat for one bird

species when they can do this somewhere else. There are 75 different species of neo-tropical song birds, along with endangered bats, that would be impacted by logging on Sparta Mountain.

The DEP should be protecting our preserved forests, not logging them. With this plan, instead of hiking trails on Sparta Mountain, we will have logging roads. This horrible sell-out to our open space for private logging companies is part of Governor Christie's plan to privatize our parks. If they do it here, they can do it anywhere in the Highlands or Pinelands, which together hold the drinking water supply for millions of people. Sparta Mountain must be preserved so that its natural resources can be enjoyed today and by future generations. We cannot turn Sparta Mountain over to commercial logging operations.