

The Jersey..... SIERRAN

Vol. 45, No. 4 17,300 Members in New Jersey October-December 2016

Hundredth Birthday Party for National Park Service

By Toni Granato, Administrative Assistant

The Sierra Club is proud to commemorate this centennial because the National Park Service shares and carries out our mission of Preserving and Protecting the Planet. National Parks display the distinctly American ideal of land ownership by the people and for the people. Other countries may have crown jewels, but our jewels are our national parks.

The National Park Service is also a specific Sierra Club legacy. It was leading conservationist and Sierra Club co-founder John Muir who led the movement to create national parks. Muir famously educated President Theodore Roosevelt on the need to establish a national park system when he led him, in 1903, on a three-day wilderness trip in and above California's Yosemite Valley. Afterwards, Roosevelt worked with Sierra Club leaders to pass the Antiquities Act that gave Presidents the authority to designate national monuments and public lands for all Americans. The Club then lobbied for the legislation that established the National Park System we know today, passed in 1916 during Woodrow Wilson's presidency.

New Jersey is home to many "service units" of the National Park System. We have three National Historical Parks (Paterson Great Falls, Thomas Edison, and



Ellis Island), two National Recreation Areas (Gateway (Sandy Hook) and Delaware Water Gap), parts of two National Scenic Trails (including the Appalachian), five National Wild & Scenic Rivers (the Great Egg Harbor, Maurice, Musconetcong and the Middle and Upper Delaware), a National Coastal Heritage Trail, a National Historical Trail (the Washington-Rochambeau), and 58 National Historic Landmarks. The best way for you to celebrate this anniversary

is to enjoy one of them with your family. There is one near you; just google <National Parks New Jersey>; you don't have to drive all the way to Wyoming.

The picture above, taken on Aug 19th, shows Congressman Bill Pascrell (D, 6th CD), Chapter Director Jeff Tittel, and Sierra Club members Ken Johanson, Laura Tracey Coll and her son at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park. The event marked the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.

SIERRA CLUB BALLOT

2016 Election of Officers of the New Jersey Chapter, and its Groups and Sections

All Sierra Club members in the New Jersey Chapter are invited to vote for Club officers, both Chapter-wide and in our Groups and Sections. Club members have the choice of voting electronically or by this paper ballot.

The Chapter's Executive Committee (ExCom) meets monthly for discussion of State, regional and other environmental issues, to take policy positions (including initiation of legal actions), make political endorsements, hear reports from staff and volunteer officers, elect the Chapter Chair, socialize, and consider matters arising.

ExCom consists of nine at-large members serving three-year terms, three of whom are elected each year, plus one representative sent by each of our eleven active regional Groups, usually the Group Chair. Please vote for the three at-large ExCom members and for the leadership of your regional Group. If you participate in our LGBT Section, you may also vote for its leadership. (Other optional specialty Sections are for Singles, Seniors and for providers of Outings for Inner City children.)

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

If the Sierra Club has your e-mail address in its records, you will receive in October a ballot by e-mail, and you may vote EITHER online, as described below, OR by this paper ballot. If you cast an online ballot, any paper ballot you mail in will not be counted. Online votes must be cast by December 1, 2016.

If the Sierra Club doesn't have your email address, you must use the paper ballot overleaf to cast your vote.

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Conservation Chair's Report

Healthy Forests for NJ

By Greg Gorman (ggorman07419@embarqmail.com)

"A forest without young growth is like a family without children. It will speedily die out." (Gifford Pinchot, "A Primer of Forestry, Part II-Practical Forestry, 1905).

In the Eastern United States, wildlife populations that depend on young forests have been in decline for decades. This is a result of development, land use changes, a lack of fires, and management practices that do not support healthy forests. A healthy forest has a balanced array of age classes ranging from young forest, mature transitioning forests, and old growth climax forests. To restore young forest wildlife populations, we must properly manage existing fields on State land - or cut mature forests. Old growth forest is mature forest that has never been logged.

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service administers programs to encourage wildlife habitat development in young forests on private lands. The NJ-DEP's Division of Parks and Forestry, and Division of Fish & Wildlife, are developing plans to establish young forests on public lands in New Jersey. The Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter supports the objectives of the young forest initiative, but has concerns regarding the State's planning approach and its application of commercial forestry processes that threaten forest functions.

Our forest regions include the

Highlands, Ridge and Valley (Upper Delaware), the Pinelands, and fragmented forests in the Camden-Jersey City urban corridor. Our State forest properties were acquired not for their lumber value, but to provide recreation in perpetuity, water and endangered species protection, migratory greenways, and flood control - not to produce lumber products. Each region has unique characteristics, reacts differently to natural disturbances, and therefore requires a tailored management strategy. Considering that approximately two thirds of our two million acres of forest is privately held, public participation is critical. The NJ-DEP needs to develop a broad vision for these forests before implementing site-specific plans for public lands.

Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the US Forest Service, introduced a scientific approach to forestry. He recognized two forest types. One should function to produce the greatest sustainable income. This is the realm of privately owned forests, managed for timber production. The other, "large or small, may render its service in many ways. It may reach its highest usefulness by standing as a safeguard against floods, winds, snow slides, moving sands, or especially against the death of water in the streams. A forest used in this way is called a protection forest." These "protection forests" are our state forests and wildlife management areas that should require minimal disturbance

(Continued on page 3)

Candidates Endorsed For Political Office

By Chapter Chair and Chapter Political Chair Rich Isaac

The Sierra Club urges your vote for the following candidates for US President and Congress - based upon their voting and sponsorship records and interview performances.

The election will be held on Nov 8th. I would welcome the opportunity to explain to Club members, members of the Press, and anyone else, details of the basis for each endorsement (or non-endorsement) in New Jersey's 12 Congressional Districts, and suggest how you can contribute your time, energy and money to help our endorsed candidates get elected. (Please contact me at: richard.isaac@sierraclub.org.)

President and Vice President: Sec. Hillary Clinton and Sen. Tim Kaine

Congress:

Dist.	Candidate
1	Rep. Donald Norcross (D)
5	Josh Gottheimer (D) *
6	Rep. Frank Pallone (D)
8	Rep. Albio Sires (D)
9	Rep. William Pascrell Jr. (D)
10	Rep. Donald Payne Jr. (D)
12	Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D)

* District 5 may be *extremely* competitive.

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BALLOT

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To vote online: click on the link in the e-mail you receive. If you have a joint membership, pairs of boxes are provided to enable each member to cast a separate vote. The ballot page will have links to the same candidate statements as are printed below in this newsletter.

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

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

- Paul Sanderson Rich Isaac
 Joan Denzer John Kashwick
 Write in: _____

Group and Section Ballots

Group and Section Ballots: Please vote your GROUP ExCom ballot, below, and the LGBT SECTION ballot if you are active in it.

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

- Amy Weeder Debbie Young
 Jim Fleming Patricia Smith
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

North Jersey Group: Candidates for four positions on the Group ExCom, who will serve for two years. Please vote for UP TO FOUR:

- Phoebe Gistrak Francie Goldstein
 John Kashwick Jermaine Spence
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Loantaka Group: Candidates for five positions on the Group ExCom, who will serve for two years. Please vote for UP TO FIVE:

- Scott McCarthy Clea Carchia
 Wanda Knapik Wynn Johanson
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

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

- David Yennior Bill Chappel
 ZaSah Khademi
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Hudson County Group: Since we're just starting up fresh, our entire seven-member ExCom needs legitimization as follows: Please vote for UP TO FOUR candidates for two-year seats:

- Janet Crowley Pat Hilliard
 John Ottomanelli Seth Lubin
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Also, please vote for UP TO THREE candidates for one-year seats:

- Ace Case Yasmine Tebha
 Nancy booth
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

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

- Pat Fuschetto Kim Rowe
 Bob Sandberg Bob Grize
 Dennis Anderson
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

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

- Nancy Brown Terry Brown
 Margaret Mary Piccolo Laura Stone
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

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

- Ellen Zinni Frank Zinni
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

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

- Tom Boghosian Dick Colby
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

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

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

Population Issues Coordinator's Report

This Really Is Important

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@msn.com)

Every election cycle we are told how important the election is, and how we need to get out and vote for candidates that will address important issues like health and the environment. Well, this year, no kidding, it really is. When it comes to women and the environment, the differences couldn't be greater and the implications more stark.

The Republican platform calls for more oil, gas and coal exploration and extraction. They believe that climate change is a hoax. Tell that to people in the "Fertile Crescent" often called the cradle of civilization because of the once abundant supply of water for agriculture which led to thriving early civilizations. According to a recent article in *The Economist* (8/6/2016), "climate change has led to milder winters in the Middle East (and) has intensified summer extremes." This has led to the deaths of "230,000 lives annually ... making it a bigger killer than war." The article goes on to note "Population increase has reduced the water supply, leaving two-thirds of the countries in the Arabian Peninsula and Fertile Crescent without what the UN considers enough...The capital of Yemen is set to run out of water in 2019 or...earlier."

When it comes to health care, the choices could not be more stark. The Democrats were able to enact the Affordable Care Act which increases coverage for millions of Americans. This is something a 2017 Democratic administration would build upon, with Hillary Clinton having a strong record of concern and achievement in this area. The Republicans have tried to repeal this coverage over 60 times and if in control of the House, Senate and Presidency, millions of people will lose their health care.

The Affordable Care Act has allowed most women to access birth control – especially the most effective methods of long acting birth control – at little or no cost. According to the Guttmacher Institute, close to half (45% or 2.8 million births) of the pregnancies in the United States each year are unintended. The rate in New Jersey is up to 54%. People need to be educated about family planning and have access to the resources to voluntarily decide on the size of their families. When they do, families tend to be smaller, demanding fewer resources.

This brings up another area where Democrats differ from Republicans. Republicans feel that any education about sexuality should be exclusively about abstinence-only until marriage. This has been proven ineffective many times over, yet Republican legislators consistently throw money at these programs. Democrats believe that sexuality health education should be science

based and age appropriate, which studies have proven effective.

As I write this in August, the CDC reports that there are 1,658 cases of Zika in the continental U.S. and 4,750 cases in U.S. territories. Zika, transmitted by mosquito bites and in some cases sexual contact with an infected person, can cause microcephaly in developing fetuses and paralyzing neurological disorders in adults. What have our Republican members of the House and Senate done? Gone on vacation, of course! Before leaving, the \$1.9 billion funding requested from the President was reduced to \$1.1 billion and then had riders attached. These included defunding the Affordable Care Act and Planned Parenthood. Since many women get their birth control through Planned Parenthood, and women in affected areas have been advised not to become pregnant, the inhumaneness of these add-ons is incomprehensible. Many of the geographic areas which will be most affected also include those states where Planned Parenthood clinics have already been defunded and in many cases closed due to state action, including here in New Jersey.

Around the world, 225 million women want to plan their families but are not using reliable modern forms of birth control. We as a country committed to support programs that would provide education about family planning and access to contraceptives. Yet budgets to support the U.S. Agency for International Development and the United Nations Population Fund have seen no increases in support with Republicans in charge of the purse strings.

Many people are saying that we need a change because the system isn't working, and we need a strong leader who will shake things up and fix it. I am reminded of a proverb I read recently in a mystery book (one of my secret indulgences) – "Throw the stone, then hide the hand." In other words, break something and then complain that it's broken and needs to be fixed. This is what Republicans have done, and we should not fall for their tactics.

While Hillary Clinton may not be everyone's ideal candidate, a vote for third party candidates is a vote for Donald Trump and the Republicans. Please consider that, and the health and environmental consequences, when you go to the polls.



Is Your Email Address Up-To-Date?

Does the Sierra Club have your current email address on file? This lets us send you online membership renewal notices and ballots in our annual elections. Don't know? You can check at <https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/ConsProfileUser>. To update your address, please send an email to membership.services@sierraclub.org with your name, address, and (if you know it) your membership number.

Ballot Statements (Name-order has been randomized)

Paul Sanderson (Loantaka Group):

I first joined the Sierra Club in the early 1990's and have served on the Loantaka Group ExCom as Membership Chair, Treasurer and Group Chair and Group Co-Chair during the following years. I am an avid gardener and hiker, giving me an intense sense of caring about our environment. I credit my involvement and interest in politics to my activities with the Club, having participated in many candidate interviews and discussions to decide on political endorsements. I am currently in training to become the next Chapter Treasurer.



Rich Isaac (Loantaka Group):

A Club member since 1976, Rich has served as Chair and Political Chair of the North Jersey, Loantaka Group and Essex County Groups, and organized the Ocean County, South Highlands, Skylands, and Hudson County Groups. Now serving as both the Chapter's Chair and Political Chair, Rich is also currently serving on the Club's national Political Committee. For his efforts, he has received the Chapter's Political Action Award and Outstanding Group Chairperson Award. Rich enjoys quiet walks in the woods with his wife.



Joan Denzer (Central Jersey Group):

My husband and I have been Sierra Club members since 1983: for 33 years. In that time I have held positions at the local, state, regional and national levels. I've learned that, like politics, all environmentalism is local. I have therefore tried to support local efforts. Since these efforts take money, I've worked mainly in fundraising efforts for the Chapter. My main conservation issues are clean air, energy and the Arctic Refuge. Should you choose to reelect me, I will continue to support local efforts. Thank you for your consideration.



John Kashwick (North Jersey Group):

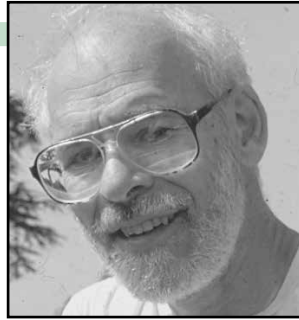
An avid hiker and political activist, I currently serve as Chapter Vice-Chair, Chair of the North Jersey Group (since 2011), and a member of the National Parks and Monuments Team (since 2005) championing the Club on the state, local, and national level. Other positions I have held since becoming a member in 1992, include Utah Issues Coordinator (2003-2015), Chapter Political Vice-Chair (2004-2005), and Co-Chair of LGBT Section that I helped establish in 2014. I have visited 48 of the 59 National Parks, led numerous outings, and participated in training and political advocacy in Trenton, California, and Washington, DC.



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

Editorial Presidential Politicking

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



Based on environmental issues, the Sierra Club's endorsement of Hillary Clinton is a no-brainer. (See Michael Brune's statement on p. 5.) But, unfortunately, that won't get her elected. The outcome of a popular election rarely turns on so rational a basis as platform statements, and, ever since polls have been conducted of issues that motivate voters, environmental issues have been way down the ranking, far behind jobs, taxes, national and residential security, "change and hope," abortion rights, gun control and health care entitlement.

My perspective benefits, I like to think, from the opportunity my job has long provided for me to spend three months of each year at a British university. So I've had a chance to follow closely the June 23rd "Brexit" election in which the United Kingdom voted decisively to abandon its membership of the European Union. Even many of my intellectual friends chose to reject the rational economic arguments for "remaining," as well as the post-Second World War lesson of a need for political unity as antidote to national hostile tendencies (restraining Germany and Russia), not to mention that "money influence" would have been expected to follow the corporate (economic) interests.

Opposing those arguments was a powerful gut rejection of the petty regulatory meddling that the EU bureaucracy is felt to impose on everyday life, and its perceived unaccountability, perhaps most expressed as the imposition of immigrants (especially Muslims); also the patriotic flare of desire to maintain the "separateness" of British culture. There were also economic arguments for Brexit, such as the damage imposed by the EU on Britain's fishing industry and its agriculture. Some of my British friends would probably support an improved version of European Union (just as the original form of our federal government proved to be unworkable). Of course Brits are different from us in having wisely neutralized the influence of campaign finance.

One immediate lesson for us: strictures imposed by the EPA and DEP should be clearly shown to be justified. But my main message is that we need to pay more attention to our bellies!

If we want Hilary to win, I urge that we think beyond the environmental

issues and deal with the factors that are more likely to sway American voters. As I often say at meetings of the Club's Political Committee, we should "keep our eyes on the prize."

I suggest that the contest between Hilary and Donald Trump is primarily one of visceral disgust, and that victory will go to the one who disgusts less. We have to understand it and deal with it. I'm not sure it can be put into words, or that it is capable of discussion - but I will try. Don't we all know people we don't like? Just about any trivial behavior is capable of triggering disgust: mannerisms, clothing style, hair style, makeup, brashness, obsessions, tone of voice, expressions (such as "loser!"), interests, ego interaction, even odor. I'm not suggesting that the candidates can or should change their behaviors; rather that voters be made aware and understanding of the psychology that motivates them, in the hope that issues will replace personalities as a basis for voting. Unlikely?

No doubt the spin-doctors who produce campaign strategy are well aware of the need to out-demonize each other's opponent candidates. Experience dictates that each attack must be immediately countered, with barbs targeted onto appropriate audiences. It is a price we pay for our version of democracy.

I think my disgust for Donald Trump has a more substantive basis. His promotion of national "greatness" reminds me of other populist campaigns that have morphed into dictatorships, most dramatically that of Adolf Hitler in 1933. "Deutschland ueber Alles" isn't that different from "Making America Great Again." Trump's book, "The Art of the Deal," isn't that different from Hitler's "Mein Kampf" with respect to the promotion of "winners" at the expense of "losers," and his contempt for many of us, bordering on psychopathology. Trump's blanket denigration of immigrants and religious minorities smacks of Hitler's denigration of Jews, Roma, and the physically and mentally disabled.

If Trump wins on Nov 8th, I suggest that we study carefully the mechanisms by which Hitler swiftly dispensed with the democratic institutions of Weimar Germany, in the hope that it couldn't and wouldn't happen here.

Please vote environmentally on Nov. 8.

Chair's Message New: Chapter Environmental Justice Committee!

By Richard Isaac (risaacx@aol.com)



Our Chapter has created an Environmental Justice Committee to promote environmental justice issues in New Jersey, in alliance with a number of other Community-based organizations.

While the Committee may change somewhat as it gets established and decides its priorities, below is a prospectus, approved by the Chapter's Executive Committee.

If you are interested in helping, please contact me at (H) 973-716-0297 and/or at risaacx@aol.com.

Sierra Club - New Jersey Chapter Environmental Justice Committee

Introduction

New Jersey is a state that not only is rich in ethnic and racial diversity, but also had a strong history of manufacturing companies residing in the state. There are certain communities bearing the burden of pollution that continues to this day. Pollution sources often come from cars and trucks on our highways, airports, power plants, incinerators, factories, contaminated sites, landfills and much more. There is clear, overwhelming evidence showing that low-income neighborhoods and communities of color in many of the large urban communities such as Newark, Camden, and Jersey City bear incidences of environmental injustice, including exposure to polluted air, water and lead-based paint, and even lack of access to and/or poor maintenance of open space and greenways for recreation. Since the Sierra Club supports the right to a clean and healthful environment for all people, the New Jersey Chapter is committed to working for Environmental Justice throughout the State.

Mission

The mission of the Environmental Justice (EJ) Committee is help strengthen the Chapter's existing efforts in alliance with a number of Community-based organizations working on environmental justice issues in New Jersey, bringing into the alliance whatever resources the Club may have or find that can be brought to bear, and to do so in a way that not only takes into account the State's diversity, but in a way that is also equitable and inclusive.

Possible Activities

- Supporting existing local and state organizations working on environmental justice issues, our own activists already involved, and others that may be interested in doing so.
- Seeking additional resources for Club

activists already involved including, but not restricted to, pro-bono attorneys, expert witnesses, grants, and supplying helpful materials, such as soil- and air-testing kits.

- Recruiting more people in areas facing environmental justice issues, such as from communities in Newark, Jersey City, Paterson/Passaic, Trenton, and Camden.

Membership and Chair

The EJ Committee Chair and other committee members shall be appointed annually by the Chapter Chair, subject to the approval of the Chapter Executive Committee. Committee members must be members of the Sierra Club.

Quorum

A quorum shall consist of a majority of EJ Committee members, with a minimum of three members required for a quorum.

Meeting Dates and Time

Meetings shall be held at least quarterly. The Committee Chair is responsible for setting agendas and calling meetings. Meetings may be held in person or by teleconference call. Minutes shall be kept and Robert's Rules shall apply.

Source Materials

If voting is anticipated, an agenda and any pertinent background materials shall be provided to EJ Com members at least two days prior to Committee meetings. Voting can still proceed if all voting members attending feel that sufficient information has been provided.

Grants

Should the EJ Com decided to apply for grants, all grant applications should be in full accordance with Sierra Club guidelines and be approved by two-thirds of the EJ Committee, the Chapter Chair, and the Chapter Director.

Any staff, in including part-time or temporary staff, hired with funding from successful grant applications will be hired with the consent of the EJ Chair, the Chapter Chair, and the Chapter Director, and work under the direction of the Chapter Director according to the policies and programs adopted by the Environmental Justice and Executive Committees of the New Jersey Chapter.

Reports

The Environmental Committee Chair shall annually report and/or present a written report to the Chapter ExCom regarding the Committee's efforts and progress and an outline of its goals.

Resolutions:

Passed by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in June, July and August, 2016

We generalized a previous resolution by **opposing the privatization of ALL public parklands** in New Jersey, in particular, Liberty State Park (Hudson Co). (June)

We began the process of seeking litigation approval for **opposing Salem Nuclear Generating Station's NJPDES permit**, i.e. its permit to continue discharging hot cooling water into Delaware Bay. (July)

Two resolutions were directed to Sierra's national Council of Club Leaders (consisting of delegates from each Chapter throughout the country), for consideration at its annual (September) opportunity to influence the Club's Board of Directors: support for a limited distribution of **"free" Club memberships**, intended for Boy and Girl Scouts who distinguish themselves environmentally, and support for empowerment of Chapters to **oppose sport hunting** on state, county and local public lands. (July)

We declared opposition the construction by Jersey Central Power and Light of a **high-voltage power transmission line from Aberdeen to Red Bank** (Monmouth Co). (August)

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.

HEALTHY FORESTS

(Continued from page 1)

to maintain healthy attributes.

Pinchot identifies "four requirements for the best service" of a forest. His third requirement "is a regular supply of trees ripe for the ax. This can be secured only by the right proportion of each of the smaller sizes constantly coming on in the growing forest." Using the function to produce greatest sustainable income, he explains that if the objective is to cut 100 year old trees for cordwood for sustainable income, then one should cut 1% per year, or 10% of the property over a 10-year period. The NJ-DEP proposes to use this commercial goal for Sparta Mountain WMA (Sussex Co).

Sparta Mountain's climax forest is oak

(with an expected lifespan of 300 years) or maple (150 years). As a "protection forests, Pinchot would establish a "healthy" forest with balanced age classes by cutting 3-6% of the property every 10-year period.. For this amount, commercial harvesting would be uneconomical. So let's eliminate the need for 15-ton skidders and access road construction. To enrich the soil, leave the logs where they fall.

Please contact your state legislator to oppose "The New Jersey Healthy Forest Act" (S768) and develop appropriate legislation that ensures proper planning and protection of all stages of forests -- not just "young" forest.

Reports from Trenton

Irresponsible Legislation Proposed to Restore NJ's Transportation Trust Fund

From a press release issued by our Trenton staff on July 29

The State Senate's Budget and Appropriations Committee has released a set of bills intended to solve the problem of a bankrupt Transportation Trust Fund (TTF), enabling repair of our crumbling roads and bridges, and continuation of the subsidies that make public transportation in New Jersey affordable. Most legislators agree with us that the appropriate source of new funding should be an increase in the tax on gasoline. But the problem with a series of proposals has been Gov. Christie's, and other legislators', insistence on no net new taxes, such that any tax increase must be balanced by a tax decrease somewhere else. You can guess who would be given that tax decrease: New Jersey's wealthiest taxpayers! And you can guess the net effect therefore of funding road repairs: cuts to other essential budget programs! Stupidity is afoot!

The deal announced on July 29th is a merging of S2412 (Sarlo)/A10 (Prieto), S2411 (Sarlo)/A11 (Prieto), and A12 (Prieto). These revisions include a 12.5 percent increase in the Petroleum Products Gross Receipts Tax, a four-cent diesel surcharge and a seven percent tax on non-motor-fuel petroleum products, all to fund the TTF, which was expected to run out of money on August 10th.

A previous Assembly plan would have lowered the State's sales tax. The Senate's new plan would eliminate estate and inheritance tax on the wealthiest people in New Jersey. It would also give a \$20 million tax break to veterans. It would cause a fiscal crisis in New Jersey: producing budget holes in environmental programs such as the Clean Energy Fund, cleaning up toxic sites, replacing lead pipes, and removing lead paint from schools.

There is a fundamental problem with politics in New Jersey if our elected officials are so blind to our fiscal realities.

Senate Sides with Christie by Selling Out Clean Water

From a press release issued by our Trenton staff on July 29th, with editing by Irene Gnarra

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has issued an Administrative Order to implement its new Flood Hazard Rules. The package is merely a public relations ploy that will enable developers to obtain permits to increase pollution and flooding in New Jersey.

The package authorizes multiple disturbances of up to 7,000 square feet. Larger disturbances require mitigation, but this often doesn't work because of localized impacts. The package violates the anti-backsliding criteria of the federal Clean Water Act, the total maximum daily load (TMDL) river clean-up process, the EPA Municipal Stormwater Rules (MS4), and the anti-degradation criteria in other New Jersey laws.

The Administrative Order does attempt to correct one deficiency in the new Rules. The Rules eliminated Special Water Resources Protection Areas: the 150-foot strip adjacent to environmentally sensitive streams. While it restores this provision, the Order isn't worth the paper it's written on; the changes are minor and unenforceable.

The Administrative Order attempts to fix the "Surface Water Quality Standards loophole": The Flood Hazard Rules dispensed with water quality standards, allowing unlimited pollution, thus violating the federal Surface Water Quality Standards and Clean Water Act. The Administrative Order reattached the standards. But this needs to be put into a rule that could be defended by a court. The same is true for the entire Administrative Order; you can't do rulemaking through an AO.

The Sierra Club believes the package continues to violate the Federal Clean Water Acts and the EPA's municipal stormwater rules. We ask the Legislature to step in and stop these rollbacks by the Christie Administration. The Assembly has passed a resolution to block the rules and now we want the Senate to do the same. Thus far the Senate leadership has refused to post SCR66.

Christie Budget Steals from DEP and Clean Energy

From a press release issued by our Trenton staff on July 1st, edited by Maggie Yilmaz

Governor Christie's budget legislation has once again stolen funding from New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Clean Energy Fund.

The DEP budget was cut this year by another \$13 million, now down a third since Christie took office in 2010. We now have the lowest level of DEP funding since the Kean Administration (1982-89). This means less money for cleaning up toxic waste and redeveloping brownfields in New Jersey.

The budget also continues to treat the Clean Energy Fund, intended for programs promoting clean energy or reduced energy use, as an ATM for the rest of the State budget. This year \$20M was taken from the Clean Energy Fund and given to Parks Management. The Clean Energy Fund is meant to help cut energy costs for NJ energy consumers; when this money is diverted to Parks it amounts to a hidden tax on energy consumers, since the fund is derived from a tax on utility bills.

New Jersey suffers from the effects of climate change, which include an increased frequency of storm events such as Hurricane Sandy, so reducing greenhouse gases in addition to cleaning up the environmental should be a priority. The Clean Energy Fund, which can help reduce greenhouse gases, should not be raided, and the DEP should be well funded so that dangerous pollution in NJ will be cleaned up.

Delays at the Water Quality Institute Threaten Public Health

From a press release issued on July 1st, edited by Joe Testa

The Drinking Water Quality Institute (DWQI), a State agency charged with recommending standards to guarantee the quality of our water supply, has delayed an important report that would limit the permitted level of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), a carcinogenic chemical prevalent in New Jersey's drinking water.

PFOA was once used in nonstick cookware, carpets and clothing, and is now present in many public water systems throughout the State. This chemical causes cancer in rodents used for testing, and is especially toxic for human infants. It has also been linked to Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in children. The DWQI promised to release its findings after a year-long investigation, but instead held a closed meeting and has now delayed releasing the results. After the report is released, there will be a 30-day comment period. Then a recommendation will be sent to Governor Christie, who has failed to adopt standards previously recommended by the Institute.

We have waited more than six years for this report. PFOA directly impacts public health. Not only is the DWQI not doing its job, but it continues to side with polluters rather than protecting our environment. We need to set a safe standard that will force treatment of contaminated water.

The EPA found PFOA and other chemicals from the perfluorocarbon family of chemicals in 88 New Jersey water systems in 2014-2015. PFOA was found in 12 systems at or above a "guidance" level set by the DEP in 2009. The DWQI has met only three times in the six years of Christie's Administration, and New Jersey has not adopted any new, protective health-based standards for drinking water.

When the Governor first took office he froze all environmental rules and standards, including those recommended by the DWQI. The Governor did real damage by issuing Executive Order 2, which called for no state standards stricter than federal standards. The Institute had been working on standards for perchlorate, PFNA, PFC, chromium and arsenic, but the DEP failed to act on some of their recommendations. The then-head of the DWQI, Mark Robson, resigned in protest because the perchlorate standard was delayed and then withdrawn.

Prior to the Christie Administration, the DWQI received awards for the work it did: saving thousands of lives and millions of dollars. In recent years, there has been public outcry in places such as Paulsboro (Gloucester Co), which suffers from contaminated water. The Governor has stacked the DWQI with appointees tied to the chemical industry.

This Administration is conducting a war on science. It has removed scientists from key positions. The DEP's award-winning Division of Science has been downgraded to an Office, headed by a political appointee rather than a scientist. The Science Advisory Board has been stacked with polluters, such as DuPont.

Coastal Report Shows DEP Says One Thing and Does Opposite, Putting Our Coasts at Risk

From a press release supplied by our Trenton staff on July 18th, edited by Joe Testa

The DEP has submitted its most recent Coastal Management Program Assessment - for 2016 through 2020 - to the federal government. Under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, states must submit such a report and use it when creating state policies and regulations. According to the report, New Jersey has seen a significant increase in coastal waters leased for aquaculture, and requests for offshore mining and seismic testing, as well as a decrease in wetlands. The report shows clearly that the combined effects of climate change and overdevelopment are devastating the Jersey Shore.

The Christie Administration continues to promote development over conservation, and to refuse acknowledgement of the threat that climate change poses to our coastal communities.

This new DEP report says one thing to the federal government and another to the people of New Jersey. While the DEP acts like everything is fine, its own report shows a deterioration of wetlands and watershed quality across the State.

The increase in the number of people living in coastal flood plains from 2000 to 2010 is 13.6%. Impervious surfaces increased by two percent. More than seven acres of wetlands in coastal counties disappeared between 2007 and 2012. Despite a warning from NOAA that more than 60% of New Jersey's coast is at a risk for erosion, the state continues to promote overdevelopment. According to Rutgers, nine percent of coastal New Jersey could disappear in 50 years.

The report includes mention of recent changes to the DEP's Flood Hazard Rules. It claims that the proposed amendments would "facilitate the expeditious rebuilding of more resilient coastal communities" after Hurricane Sandy. This despite the fact that increasing development only causes more pollution and flooding.

It is hypocritical for the DEP to discuss all of the problems facing New Jersey's coasts while simultaneously promoting Flood Hazard Rules that would actually increase flooding and make people more vulnerable. These rules will allow stormwater to be pumped directly into streams, get rid of important buffer protections, and allow improper development, even making it easier for new pipelines to go through. The rules will roll back decades' worth of environmental protections. They will threaten waterways across the state, especially in environmentally sensitive areas such as the Highlands and the Pinelands. The DEP's claim that its Flood Hazard Rules will help New Jersey's coasts is like claiming that Hurricane Sandy cleaned our beaches.

Sierra Club Endorses Hillary Clinton for US President

Nation's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization cites Clinton's detailed plans and ability to build on Obama's legacy

From a Press Release issued on June 9th by Club Executive Director Michael Brune

The Sierra Club believes Secretary Clinton will be the strong environmental champion that we need to lead our country.

Over the last eight years, under Barack Obama, our country has made enormous advancements in cutting carbon pollution, transitioning away from dirty fuels, and increasing clean energy deployment. Secretary Clinton has a long record on the environment and is the leader we need to build on this progress. She has listened to the grassroots, and crafted detailed plans to safeguard our climate, air, water, and public lands, to protect the most vulnerable from environmental injustice, and to continue the rapid expansion of our

clean energy economy.

Senator Bernie Sanders and his millions of supporters ran a hard-fought campaign and helped elevate climate change and protecting our environment while reducing inequality as key issues in the Democratic Primary. Senator Sanders and his supporters brought the passionate, principled advocacy that we need, and we are eager to work together to raise these issues in every campaign—not just the presidential race.

Together, Senator Sanders and Secretary Clinton made this an election about issues and finding real solutions. Solutions like protecting our oceans and public lands from fossil fuel development; rejecting dangerous trade deals

such as the Trans Pacific Partnership; and transitioning onto 100% clean, renewable energy.

Contrasted with that, we have a reckless and misinformed candidate in Donald Trump, who has called climate change a “hoax,” a “con job,” and a “concept created by the Chinese.” Trump’s record-setting contradictory statements include his “energy plan.” Trump claims he’ll protect clean air and water but has pledged to dismantle the EPA. He offers vague promises to create jobs but would stifle growth in wind and solar, which are among the fastest growing sectors of the U.S. economy. And when he gets to specifics, Trump makes rash promises, like ripping up the Paris Climate

Agreement, a landmark agreement that brought 196 countries together for the first time in history. The gap on environmental and climate issues between Secretary Clinton and Donald Trump is the largest in U.S. political history.

The Sierra Club, like so many Americans, not only wants to protect President Obama’s legacy—we want to expand it. That is something we can accomplish with a Clinton White House, and it’s why the Sierra Club’s members and supporters will work tirelessly to make sure she’s elected this November. We have an historic opportunity to build a clean energy economy that puts millions of people to work, and there’s no turning back.

Reports from Trenton

FERC Denys Transco’s Application for a Natural Gas Pipeline

From a press release issued by our Trenton staff on July 6, edited by Maggie Yilmaz

In a win for the Sierra Club, The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has denied Transco’s application to begin construction on their proposed Garden State Expansion Project, which would run from central Pennsylvania through Warren, Hunterdon, Somerset, Middlesex, and Mercer Counties, ending in Chesterfield (Burlington Co). Transco (known in the US as Williams) applied for a Partial Notice to begin working on the project on Friday, July 1st, just before close of business. FERC denied this request on the grounds that Transco had not yet obtained a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certificate and a Section 404 Permit from the New Jersey DEP.

Bordentown, as well as Chesterfield, had submitted requests to FERC for rehearings, based on Transco failing to comply with notice requirements, not obtaining environmental approvals such as the 401 Certificate, and violating the National Environmental Policy Act by improperly segmenting the Project from other related projects. FERC granted the rehearings, and they have yet to be scheduled.

The Garden State Expansion compressor station would bring more noise, light, and air pollution, as well as construction and water pollution to the area. It is unneeded and unnecessary and we will continue to fight to stop it.

B.L. England Permit: Dirty Deal for Dirty Air

From a Press Release issued on Aug 4 by Chapter Director Jeff Tittel

The NJDEP has approved new air permits for the B.L. England electric power plant in Marmora (Cape May Co), which will enable the plant to continue burning coal for another five years. The permits are written loosely, enabling the plant to increase operations and air pollution. The plant includes three burner units, some for coal and some for oil, and is currently operated only as a peaker plant, but it is under reconstruction so as to enable the burning of natural gas. Then, full-time operation would result in a 500% increase in pollutant emissions. This Christie Administration permit constitutes an “end run,” enabling the repowering by natural gas to bypass the more-stringent regulations that would apply if the plant were to be built from scratch.

The DEP’s response to our public comments on the application is full of deliberate misinformation. It fails to consider the substitution of solar or offshore wind energy for B.L. England. The claimed air quality impacts from the plant are based on a part of the plant that hasn’t operated for years. The DEP lied in saying that if this plant closed down, the region would depend on dirtier out-of-state power. That is not true because those out-of-state plants are being replaced by renewables.

In 2007 the Sierra Club sued the EPA to require that the DEP close or clean-up the plant, because it could not meet Clean Air Act standards. But the Christie Administration has since extended its permits three times. In 2014 it emitted 87 tons of carbon dioxide, 534 tons of nitrogen oxides, and 288 tons of sulfur oxides. This permit would increase the CO2 footprint to 1.7 Mtons, NOx to 5,500 tons, and Sox to 8,000 tons. It will also allow fine particulate emissions, 129,000 pounds of lead, 35,800 pounds of arsenic, 10,360 pounds of cadmium, and 99,000 pounds of chromium per year. Another risk from the switch to natural gas is of the release of methane, which is 87 more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas. If you consider leakage of methane from pipelines and drilling, natural gas has about the same global warming effect as coal, overall.

The Christie Administration has refused to look at the climate change impacts, as well as the secondary and cumulative impacts of this power plant. DEP has refused to honor the public comments because they are more concerned with keeping this plant open and building the South Jersey Gas pipeline.



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)

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 & PoliticalChair:** 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.

(Continued on page 6)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 5)

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)

Section Members:

Please use the Ballot on Page 2 to vote for your officers

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:	Kristie Keith-Hall	Kristie.keith.hall@gmail.com
Political Chair:	Debbie Young*	debyoung31@comcast.net
Membership Chair:	Jim Fleming*	jffleming18@comcast.net
Outings Coordinator:	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com
Webmaster:	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com

(*Group Executive Committee Member)

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

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

Oct 5 (Wed): Being River Friendly in Clinton! Kristi MacDonald, PhD, Director of Science, Raritan Headwaters will discuss all of the programs assessing the health of the South Branch. She will include studies on arsenic and other contaminants found in our groundwater.

Nov 2 (Wed): Wild Alaska! Amy Weeder, the NJ States Alaska Issues Coordinator, will present on the initiatives spear headed by the Alaska Wilderness League. She also plans to share photos of her recent Alaska inner ocean passage and her travels to Tongass National Forest, Kenai Peninsula and Mt. Denali. She will update us on initiatives to preserve lands around the National Forests, Parks and Refuges, particularly in the Tongass and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, affectionately referred to as the 'Serengeti of the North.'

Dec 7 (Wed): Olympic National Park's Tales of Trails! Join Jonathan Wall and John Kashwick's jaunt through the diverse and "vast wilderness" of Olympic National Park. We will tell tales of our trek along glacier-capped mountains, in old growth temperate rain forests and over 70 miles of wild coastline.

OTHER EVENTS:

Oct 7 (Wed): Executive Committee/Planning Meeting. 7:30 pm 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.

Oct 16 (Sun): Cooper Mill hike to Kay Center: 1pm. Leaders: Celeste Martin and Jim Fleming We will start our hike along the Black River from the trail head on Highway Rte 24 at the Cooper Mill. There is a foot bridge across the Black River that leads to a nice stroll through the woods. 8 miles with a Visit to the Kay Center to enjoy the butterfly garden and then off to Hacklebarney State Park before returning to Cooper Mill. Moderate Hike, Wear appropriate hiking shoes, bring water and snacks. Rain Cancels. Any questions, Please contact Jim Fleming at: jffleming18@comcast.net, or Celeste Martin at: onecentral@mac.com

Dec 18 (Sat): Winter Solstice Hike and Winter Holiday Party. 2pm. Meet at the trailhead for the Landsdown Trail in Clinton, (next to Fox Lumber). Be prepared for a cold, moderate hike, but lots of warm holiday cheer at the Office of Dr. Jonathan Wall, PsyD, 27 Center St, Clinton. We'll hike for 4-5 miles on relatively flat terrain. Party is a potluck so please bring your favorite appetizer, dessert or beverage. Registration required. Let Jonathan know what you plan to bring at psychologist@jonwall.com. Rain or snow may cancel the hike. .

North Jersey Group

(Bergen and Passaic Counties)

Section Members:

Please use the Ballot on Page 2 to vote for your officers

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

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

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

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
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 northjersesierraclub@gmail.com.

Oct 18 (Mon): 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.

Trail Maintenance. 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)

Group Members:

Please use the Ballot on Page 2 to vote for your officers

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

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

OFFICERS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hudson County Group

Group Members:

Please use the Ballot on Page 2 to vote for your officers

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:

Group Chair:	David "Ace" Case	acecase88@gmail.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
Membership Chair:	Yasmine Tebha	yasminetebha@gmail.com
Programs/Events Chair:	Janet Crowley	jtryx@yahoo.com
Ex-Com at-Large:	Nancy Booth	boothnancy2011@hotmail.com
Outings Chair:	Seth Lubin	sthlubin@gmail.com
Braddock Park Issues:	Lili Martinez	lilimartinez@optonline.net

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Meetings and events are free and open to general public. Please check our Facebook page, or web site for meeting dates, times, and topics (see below for URLs and email).

Sept 18 (Sun): 1-4pm. Toni Granato will speak on Why Hudson County Should be Concerned about Oil Trains, held at Hudson County Community College at the Culinary Arts Institute/Conference Center at 161 Newkirk St, Room 510 (fifth floor). Hudson County Group is working to lead the County into a sustainable future, we support developing alternative energy sources. Along with the State Chapter and National Sierra Club, we oppose new fossil fuel infrastructure. We are working to ban potentially deadly "oil-trains" which transport highly explosive crude oil from the Bakken oil fields through our communities.

Oct 16 (Sun): 1-4pm. Guest Speaker, topic to be determined, at Hudson County Community College, please check the Hudson County Sierra Club Facebook page or Website for updates.

Dec 18 (Sun): 1-4pm. Meet and Greet Holiday Party, 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, Milburn and Roseland, approximately)

Group Members:

Please use the Ballot on Page 2 to vote for your officers

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

Loantaka now has a FaceBook page. Please check it out and like it: <https://www.facebook.com/LoantakaGroupNJSC>

OFFICERS:

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

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

To find out our activities, go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>

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

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

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

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

MEETING SCHEDULE: (Please use the website)

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 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 (tentative):

Group Chair:	Joanne Pannone	609-443-6992	jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
Group Vice Chair:	Xiaping Du		xiaping_du@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Leona Fluck		Leona@pineypaddlers.com
Outings Coordinators:	Leona and George Fluck		Leona@pineypaddlers.com
Treasurer:	Open Position!		
Programs:	Steven Eisenberg		Stevens@Optimum.net
Conservation Chair:	Kip Cherry		Kcherry10@gmail.com
Recycling:	Scott Fulmer		Swfulmer@icloud.com
Trails:	Dave Mattek		MattekDC@aol.com
Webmaster:	<i>Open position!</i>		
Membership:	<i>Open position!</i>		

Science Mondays at Mercer County Community College - third Monday of the month: We will be holding our Central Jersey Group monthly meetings on THIRD MONDAYS. The first will be Monday, Sept 19 at 6pm. The meetings will be held at the Mercer County Community College in the Student Center, where we hope to attract faculty and students. The list of speakers is being finalized. We welcome your ideas and participation!

Please see the Outings List in this newsletter for some of our Fall adventures.

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Roomi Nusrat	609-389-6036	sierra_nj_rartian@att.net
Group Vice-Chair:	Steve Bisbee	917-951-6166	vtbis@yahoo.com
Conservation Coordinator:			<i>Open position!</i>
Secretary:			<i>Open position!</i>
Political Chair:	Daphne Speck-Barynski	732-390-5311	speckbartyn@comcast.net
Webmaster:			<i>Open position!</i>
Treasurer:			<i>Open position!</i>
Membership:	Gurdon Hornor	678-920-8620	ghornor@yahoo.com
Outings Coordinator:			<i>Open position!</i>
Recycling Coordinator:			<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)

Group Members:

Please use the Ballot on Page 2 to vote for your officers

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

(Continued on page 8)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

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
Publicity Chair:	Lara Zillow		lzillow@optimum.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.

Report from Faith Teitelbaum:

Here are some clean-up events and a seminar put on by the Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association, a formal partner of the Jersey Shore Group.

Seminar: Rain Gardens. Sept 24, 1-3pm: Making the Beds and picking native plants, Ocean Twp Library, Deal Road, Ocean NJ.

Ross Island Cover-up. Sept 17, 10am: 20 Elinore Ave, Long Branch 07740: Help us put a giant tarp (donated by the Urban Coast Institute) to protect the 100 year-old stone roof from the freezing and thawing of winter. We just completed Phase II of a four phase project.

Ross Lake Park garden maintenance. Oct 8, 10 am: Help us get the garden ready for its fall beauty.

Takanassee Lake and trestle clean-up. Nov 5, 10 am: Lake Drive, Long Branch 07740. This part of the greenway needs some fresh vision. Come help us clean and come to know it.

Recently, we received permission from Ocean Township to begin pursuing a dual easement which would allow us to gain access to the first 1 mile (the blue line) of our Greenway. To the right you can see a map of the Cindy Lane Trail.



Next, here are some pictures of our first exploratory hike and GPS mapping outing. We have a 2016 grant from the NJDEP Trails and Recreation Division which will allow us to purchase simple tools for clearing a deer trail and also designing a kiosk for the entrance. We are so delighted to be making headway on our Greenway



Our Monmouth County Watershed Ambassador, Tiffany Falcone, has helped us immensely this year. If you haven't worked with your county watershed ambassador you are missing out on a great resource.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Our general membership meetings take place at 6pm on the fourth Monday of the month at Brookdale Community College's Lincroft Campus (BCC). 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.

Oct 24: The Lives of Red Knots and Horseshoe Crabs. A round-robin talk by representatives of the American Littoral Society and NJ Audubon Society will explain the interdependence of horseshoe crabs and red knots, and the efforts of both organizations to protect both species in the Delaware and Raritan Bay areas.

Nov 28: Protecting Liberty State Park. Greg Remaud, deputy director of NY/NJ Baykeeper, will discuss how Gov. Christie's now-defunct plan to allow private development in the very popular Liberty State Park fell apart due to citizen opposition. Baykeeper and the Sierra Club were two of many organizations that spearheaded the successful opposition, and Remaud will describe the coalition's tactics to defeat the plan.

Dec 4: Sierra's traditional holiday party will be held at Dennis Anderson's house: 6 Maple Ave, off of Middlesex Rd, Matawan. Use MapQuest for directions, but beware: there are two Middlesex Roads in Matawan. If you get lost, call him at 732-970-4327. Everyone is asked to bring hors d'oeuvres, cakes or other hot and cold dishes, as well as soda, wine and beer. Please let Dennis know in advance at dennisaza@aol.com so we don't wind up with five tofu dishes (unless, of course, you are bringing lobster and filet mignon.). If members of other Sierra Groups are in the neighborhood, please stop by and say hello.

Ocean County Group

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

Group Members:

Please use the Ballot on Page 2 to vote for your officers

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)

Group Members:

Please use the Ballot on Page 2 to vote for your officers

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	ginaceee@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_Maritz@yahoo.com
Pinelands Rep: Lee Snyder pinelands1@hotmail.com
Greenways Coord's: Frank and Ellen Zinni efzin4@aol.com
Conservation Chair: Stacey Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Delegate at Large: Aida Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Membership Chair: Mike Brown 856-547-9221 eyebrown@verizon.net
Fundraising Chair: *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.

Oct 12: The Unjustifiable Case of the Banggai Cardinalfish - Dr. Alex Vagelli, director of the science and conservation program at the Center for Aquatic Sciences will tell us the story of how a remarkable species is being led to extinction by the aquarium fish trade.

Nov 9: Camden's Trees: Where are we now? Jessica Franzinni of the New Jersey Tree Foundation will update us on how much improved the air and environment in the city of Camden is since the Foundation starting planting trees in Camden many years ago.

Dec 14: Join us for our Year-End Wrap Up and holiday party. Bring a favorite munchie to share as we discuss our successes and ongoing efforts for 2016 and plan for 2017.

South Jersey Group

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

Group Members:

Please use the Ballot on Page 2 to vote for your officers

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:

Oct 5, Nov 2 and Dec 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.

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

Oct 19 and Dec 21 (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.

Oct 26, Nov 23 and Dec 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.

Nov 22 (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. Program TBA. Website: www.gehwa.org. The Watershed Association holds an annual fall paddle/cleanup on the river, probably on Saturday, Sept 24, from Weymouth Furnace to Lake Lenape.

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

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

(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)

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

Section Members:

Please use the Ballot on Page 2 to vote for your officers

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:	<i>Open Position - volunteer needed!</i>	
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:	<i>Open Position - contact John or Robert if interested</i>	

(* 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.

Oct 16 (Sun): Executive Committee Conference Call. 9am. Help plan events for the summer months and discuss administrative issues. Contact John for dial-in number or more information at jkashwick@gmail.com.

Nov 12 (Sat): Palisades Interstate Park Hike, Alpine. 11am. This is a 5-mile hike starting at the Alpine Boat Basin heading north via the shore trail. After climbing approximately 500 feet, we return via the Long Path at the top of the Palisades with sweeping views of the Hudson. Leader: John Kashwick (jkashwick@gmail.com) or Jonathan Wall (docjd-wall@gmail.com). Contact leader if in doubt.

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

Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

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

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

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

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

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

Sierra Student Coalition

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

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

Introducing Children to the Outdoors Section

(another Chapter-wide special interest activity with the motto: No Child Left Inside! Once known as Inner City Outings, aka (nationally) "Inspiring Connections Outdoors")

OFFICERS:

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

NJ-ICO is a public service program, one of 50 Sierra Club groups nationwide which provide about 1,000 nature outings per year, oriented towards children. About five such outings take place in New Jersey each year.

In June we provided hikes in Harriman State Park for two groups of students from the New Roberto Clemente Middle School, in Paterson. We were blessed with exuberant students and pretty good weather, even a refreshing shower for the last ten minutes. (After one of the hikes one student, with an impish smile, thanked us for "punishing"

her. She obviously understood one of our tenets: that one has to suffer some in order to truly enjoy an activity.)

Since we are currently only partnering with schools, we didn't have any outings in July or August, but we do have some hikes scheduled for this Fall.

If you are an experienced hiker willing to commit to leading two hikes per year, or if you have no hiking experience but are willing to commit to attending two 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 note: This section of the Jersey Sierran is ready to publicize YOUR favorite trail adventures, broadly speaking, in prose, poetry, photography and even song! PLEASE send your trail news to the editor of this newsletter.)



On August 13th, the Sierra Club celebrated its role in lobbying for protection of the New Jersey Highlands with a picnic and hike, co-led by Joe Testa and Jeff Sovelove, and described by Joe as follows:

A group of 35 hikers braved hot and humid weather on a 2-hour hike at Norvin Green State Forest (Passaic Co), climbing to take in views of the area preserved by the Highlands Act. The Act protects a region responsible for the purity of much of North Jersey's water supply.

(The top photo is credited to Joe Testa. The remainder were supplied by Wynn Johanson.)





Outings

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

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Outing Leaders: Please send January-March 2017 write-ups to your Group Outings Coordinator (or, if you don't associate yourself with a single Group, directly to Ellen Blumenkrantz, the Chapter Outings Chair) before November 5. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it for the previous Sierran, due to the occasional lag in mailing. Also, please send outing rosters or sign-up sheets to the Chapter Office as soon as possible after each outing.

Note: Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your January-March 2017 trip write-ups by November 8.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| (C) - Central Jersey | (JS) - Jersey Shore |
| (G) - Gateway | (L) - Loantaka |
| (N) - North Jersey | (Sk) - Skylands |
| (RV) - Raritan Valley | (S) - South Jersey |
| (W) - West Jersey | (NJ) - NJ Chapter |
| (RT) - River Touring (New York) Chapter | (ACOC) - Atlantic Chapter |

OCTOBER

Oct 1 (Sat): Pinelands Month - Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am. Our annual "Cranberry Cruise" is 10 miles from Dover Forge to Dudley Park - we'll pick cranberries along the way. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. Rental boats are not available. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Oct 2 (Sun): Hike Cattus Island County Park and Enjoy the Nature Festival (Ocean Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. The Cattus Island Nature Festival is an annual celebration of Natural Science Education at Cattus Island County Park from 8am to 4pm. The entire day will be full of exciting educational activities such as van and boat tours, nature walks, scining, kayak trips, lectures and children's programs. A variety of exhibitors including a food vendor will be on hand and there will be live music throughout the day. Buy or bring lunch and beverage. We'll meet in the Parking Lot. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

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

Oct 8 (Sat): Norvin Green State Forest, Ringwood (Passaic Co). 10am. <http://www.nynjtc.org/park/norvin-green-state-forest-7> This hike will be 7 miles in 4 hours in rugged terrain. Features: Magnificent views of the Wanaque Reservoir from Carris Hill. Facilities: The New Weis Center. Requirement: No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch. Registration required via email. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: <The_Hikist@mac.com>

Oct 8 (Sat): Pinelands Month - Wells Mills Hike and 22nd Annual Pine Barrens Jamboree (Ocean Co). 10am. 3-4 miles, easy pace. After the hike we'll enjoy the Jamboree! This day-long festival celebrates the history and culture of the Pinelands with music, crafts, "piney vittles" and local produce. Leashed dogs are welcome. Bring a lawn chair. Meet in the Wells Mills parking lot, 905 Wells Mills Rd (Rte 532), Waretown. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Oct 9 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the DWGNRA (Warren Co): 10am. Calling "leaf peepers" as we paddle 8-10 miles in the Water Gap hoping that fall foliage will be at its peak. Spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Paddling helmets required for all participants. Bring lunch and beverage. Rentals are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip and details: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Oct 12 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Abbott Marshlands (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 10am. Meet at Bordertown Beach, end of Park St. We'll see migrating Red-winged Blackbirds on our 8-mile tidal trip in the Abbott Marshlands from Bordertown Beach to Watson Woods and back to Bordertown. Rental boats are not available. Bring lunch and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm trip: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Oct 15 (Sat): Cushetunk Mt. Preserve (Hunterdon Co). 10 am. 5 miles at a moderate pace over mostly hilly terrain. Some steep sections. Nice views of Round Valley Reservoir. Directions: I-78 to exit 24; head south on Rte 523 towards Whitehouse. When you reach Rte 22, turn left, then a quick right staying on Rte 523. Proceed an additional 1.5 miles and turn right on Mountain Rd. Go 150 yards and turn left into Pickell Park. The parking area is ahead on your right. Leader: Jay Dibble: 908-289-8813; 908-209-2936 (day of hike only).

Oct 15 (Sat): Pinelands Month - Canoe/Kayak the Batsto River (Burlington Co). 9:30am. We'll enjoy a Fall Foliage Pinelands paddle from Quaker Bridge to Batsto Lake. Pinelands Preservation Alliance has launched Pinelands Adventures and rental boats are available as well as private boat shuttling. www.pinelandsadventures.org Contact leaders to confirm the trip and get meeting location. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Oct 16 (Sun): Bicycle Ride on the Columbia Trail (Hunterdon Co). 10am. 12+ miles, 5-8mph pace. Fall foliage will be spectacular as we bike the Ken Lockwood Gorge from High Bridge to Califon. Meet at High Bridge Municipal Lot, Main St, High Bridge. Bicycle helmets are required. Bring water and snacks. Rain cancels. Optional late lunch at Casa Maya restaurant in High Bridge. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Oct 19 (Wed): Hike Princeton Battlefield State Park and Institute Woods (Mercer Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. On January 3, 1777, the peaceful winter fields and woods of Princeton Battlefield were transformed into the site of what is considered to be the fiercest fight of its size during the American Revolution. The famous Mercer Oak once stood in the middle of the battlefield, not far from the spot where General Hugh Mercer fell during the Battle of Princeton. The Clarke House, built by Thomas Clarke in 1772, witnessed the fierce fighting and served as sanctuary for General Mercer, who died there nine days later. We'll meet at the Thomas Clarke House, 500 Mercer Rd., Princeton. Kip Cherry, Princeton Battlefield Society vice president, will provide an overview of the battle at the beginning of our hike. Leashed dogs are welcome. Heavy rain cancels. Option for late lunch at Tortuga's Mexican Village in Princeton. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com or Joanne P: jpjtmeadowbrook@gmail.com (C)

Oct 22 (Sat): Sterling Forest Bare Rock Vista (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. Meet at the Visitors' Center. We'll climb to the Sterling Forest Fire Tower then to the Bare Rock Vista for lunch. Then we'll return to the Visitors' Center back down the Bare Rock Trail. See the Sterling Forest web site for information and directions: <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/74/details.aspx>. Inclement weather cancels. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. 8 miles with considerable climbing. Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com

Oct 22 (Sat): Pinelands Month - Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am. Celebrate Pinelands Month with an 8-mile trip on the "Jewel of the Pinelands." Meet at Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego Rd. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Oct 23 (Sun): Pinelands Month - Hike the Franklin Parker Preserve (Burlington Co). 10am. 5-6 miles, easy pace on the Yellow Trail. The acquisition of the Franklin Parker Preserve in 2003 by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation was a momentous occasion in conservation. This 9400-acre preserve is a keystone piece of land, linking the expanses of Brendan Byrne, Wharton, and Penn State Forests and creating a more contiguous Pinelands National Reserve. Meeting at Speedwell entrance off Rte 563, Woodland Township. Leashed dogs are welcome. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Heavy rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Oct 27 (Thur): Pinelands Month - Guided Hike at Double Trouble State Park/Village (Ocean Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. Originally a cranberry farm and packing plant, the former company town called Double Trouble is a window into past and current industries in the Pinelands. Andrew Anderson, Resource Interpretive Specialist, will be our guide. Meet at Double Trouble Park, Pinewald-Keswick and Double Trouble Rds. Leashed dogs are welcome! Bring lunch and beverage. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Oct 29 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak On-Water Cleanup in the Delaware River Watershed (Burlington Co). 11am. Support the Sierra Club Water Sentinels Program on our annual fall cleanup of the Crosswicks and Thornton Creeks with the Bordertown Yacht Club. Wear boots and gloves. Meet at Bordertown Beach, end of Park St. Contact leaders to confirm the cleanup: Leona & George F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Oct 30 (Sun): Ramapo Reservation (Bergen Co). 10am. 8-9-mile loop past several lakes to scenic views. Some rocky and hilly terrain. Moderate hiking pace (2 mph), plus lunch stop at one of the lakes. Bring lunch, water. Group limit 12, and registration required. Rain would cancel. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Oct 30 (Sun): Pre-Halloween Canoe/Kayak Trip on the D&R Canal (Mercer Co). 9am. Wear your "finest" Halloween outfit and join us in your canoe or kayak. We'll paddle 10 miles from Firemen's Eddy to Lower Ferry Rd. - a great section for fall foliage! There are 2 portages - bring portage wheels if you have them. Rental boats are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

NOVEMBER

Nov 6 (Sun): "Fall Back" Bicycle Ride at Duke Farms (Somerset Co). 10am. Approx. 10 miles; leisurely day with stops along the way. Duke Farms serves as a model of environmental stewardship in the 21st century. Meet at the Farm Barn Orientation Center. Bring lunch and beverage on the ride. Bicycle helmets are required and must be worn. Bicycles can be rented with helmets! Directions: www.dukefarms.org/ Rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Nov 8 (Tues): Clayton Park Hike on Election Day (Monmouth Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy/moderate pace; mix of hilly and flat trails. This rustic 421-acre site in rural Upper Freehold is located amidst the rolling farmland of western Monmouth County. Bring lunch, water and snacks. Leashed dogs are welcome. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Nov 11 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Abbott Marshlands (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 9:30am. Veterans Day is a public holiday and began as a day to remember the end of World War I and was declared a holiday by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919. Originally known as Armistice Day, the holiday became Veterans Day in 1954. Meet at Bordertown Beach, end of Park St. Our 8-mile tidal trip in the Abbott Marshlands is from Bordertown Beach to Watson Woods and back to Bordertown. Rental boats are not available. Bring lunch and beverage. Experienced cold weather paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Nov 12 (Sat): Wawayanda State Park (Sussex/Passaic Cos). 10am. This hike will be 7 miles in 4 hours in rugged terrain. <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/wawayanda.html> Facilities: There is a restroom at the parking lot. Features: The Appalachian Trail and the "Pinwheel" Vista over the Pochuck Valley. <http://www.njhiking.com/stairway-to-heaven-pochuck-valley-to-pinwheel-vista/> Requirements: No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water. Bring a lunch. Registration required via email: Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: <The_Hikist@mac.com>

Nov 12 (Sat): Jenny Jump State Forest (Warren Co). 10am. 5 miles at a moderate pace. Easy hiking going out, moderate to strenuous coming back with several nice views. Directions: I-80 west to exit 12. At the bottom of the ramp, turn left on Rte 519. Proceed 1 mile to the blinking light and turn left on Rte 521. Go 1 mile and turn right on Shiloh Rd. Go 1 mile and turn right on State Park Rd. Go approx. 1.5 miles to a large park sign and turn left towards the park office, then bear right onto the road going uphill to the parking lot. Leader: Jay Dibble: 908-289-8813; 908-209-2936 (day of hike only).

Nov 13 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. The section we paddle will depend on weather and river conditions. Rentals are not available. Experienced cold weather paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Nov 26 (Sat): Turtleback Rock, South Mountain Reservation (Essex Co). 10am. We will start at Turtleback Rock trailhead. See the Essex County Parks Commission web site www.essex-countynj.org/p/index.php?section=parks/sites/so for directions. Bring lots of water, and wear hiking boots. We will take the Orange Trail down to Hemlock Falls and also see the famous Turtleback Rock. Heavy/steady rain cancels. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. 5.5 miles, moderate terrain. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com

Nov 26 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the D&R Canal from Lawrenceville to Kingston (Mercer Co). 9am. Work off those Thanksgiving calories with this 11-mile paddle from Cherry Tree Lane to Kingston - no portages either! Bring lunch and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm trip participation and logistics: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Nov 30 (Wed): Hike The Lenape Trail in Plainsboro (Mercer Co). 10am, 2.5-mile easy hike on the Lenape Trail. The trail is located between Maple Ave and George Davison Rd in Plainsboro. Partially paved, it meanders along Plainsboro Pond behind the Fox Run complex. There is a parking lot across the street from the entrance at Maple Ave on Grovers Mill Rd. There is a port-pot available on the trail. After the hike, option for lunch at Teddy's Luncheonette at 49 N Main St, Cranbury. Leashed dogs welcome. Rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com or Joanne P: jpjtmeadowbrook@gmail.com (C)

DECEMBER

Dec 4 (Sun): Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. Scenic 8-mile loop along streams to beautiful lake views. Some rocky terrain and hills. Moderate pace (2 mph) plus lunch stop. Bring lunch and water. Rain cancels. Group limited to 10 and registration required via email. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com

Dec 7 (Wed): Hike at Jakes Branch County Park (Ocean Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. Jakes Branch has a nature center with hands-on exhibits and an observation deck that offers a 360 deg view of the

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 Greg Auriemma**, Ken Johanson

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Information Technology Committee
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* Indicates Chapter-wide elected ExCom members.
 ** Indicates committee chair or co-chair

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

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

Pinelands. Leashed dogs are welcome. We'll see the newly installed "Play Trail" where children and their parents can appreciate the rich diversity of the environment while walking the trail. Meet at Jakes Branch Park, 1100 Double Trouble Rd, Beechwood. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Dec 10 (Sat): Watchung Reservation (Union Co). 10am. 7 miles in 4 hours in moderately difficult terrain. <http://ucnj.org/parks-recreation/paths-trails-greenways/watchung-reservation/> Features: moderate terrain, visit to Historic Village, Lake Surprise, vistas. Facilities: Visitor Center and Restrooms Requirements: No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch. Registration required via email. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: <The_Hikist@mac.com>

Dec 10 (Sat): Whitesbog Village Fall Hike (Burlington Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace on sandy trails. Last December the Tundra Swans were on the bogs and perhaps they will be at Whitesbog for our hike again. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet in the parking lot across from the Whitesbog General Store. The store will be open and carries many unique items in time for the holidays. Leashed dogs are welcome. Optional, guided village tour after lunch for small fee. Directions and information: www.whitesbog.org. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Dec 16 (Fri): Hike Historic Smithville and Tour Smithville Mansion (Burlington Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. After the hike we'll tour the Mansion decorated for a Victorian Holiday. (small fee). Option: late lunch at Vincentown Diner. Meet at Smith's Woods at Historic Smithville Park, East Railroad Ave, Easthampton. Leashed dogs are welcome. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Dec 18 (Sun): Celebrate the Winter Solstice Early - Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. The trip section depends on weather conditions. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Dec 21 (Wed): D&R Canal Hike (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. It's the first day of winter - let's take a walk on the towpath from Bordentown to Trenton. Leashed dogs are welcome! Meet at the RiverLine parking lot in Bordentown City. Option for late lunch at Heart of Bordentown (HOB) Tavern. Inclement weather cancels. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Dec 26-31: Patriots Week - History of the American Revolution in NJ (Mercer Co). Learn about the American Revolution during Patriots Week. This week offers fun and history for the entire family. See the First and Second Battles of Trenton Reenactments and participate in Walking Tours of the Trenton Battlefields. Check website for events www.patriotsweek.com. More info: Leona F: leona@pineypaddlers.com or Joanne P: jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com (C)

JANUARY

Jan 1 (Sun): New Year's Day Paddle on the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. Ring in the New Year with the NJ Sierra Club. The section we paddle will depend on river conditions. Enjoy a tailgate get-together after the trip. Bring something to share. Experienced cold weather paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and details: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

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

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

January 14, February 11, and March 11, all at the Hamilton (Mercer Co.) Library, 1 Justice Samuel Alito Jr. Way



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The Jersey Sierran appears in January, April, July and October. The deadline for copy is on the 10th of the month, two months before appearance. Members are cordially invited to propose articles, essays, letters, poetry and artwork. (Group/Section News columns are prepared by Group/Section Chairs; Outings are vetted by the Chapter Outings Chair, Ellen Blumenkrantz.)

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Thank you to all who contributed to this issue!
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