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The Jersey..... SIERRAN

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17,500 Members in New Jersey

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Report from Trenton

Election Roundup

From a Press Release issued on Nov 10 by Chapter Director Jeff Tittel (Jeff.Tittel@Sierraclub.org)

There's good news in the results of the Nov 8 Congressional election in New Jersey: all of the Sierra Club's endorsed candidates won. These include Reps. Norcross (CD-1), Pallone (CD-6), Sires (CD-8), Pascrell (CD-9), Payne (CD-10) and Watson Coleman (CD-12). These Members of Congress have made tremendous efforts to protect New Jersey's air, water and land, and will stand up to any attempts by the Trump Administration to roll back environmental protections.

In addition, Josh Gottheimer won a huge victory in the 5th Congressional District -- against Tea-Party incumbent Rep. Scott Garrett, in office since 2003, and who had one of the worst records for the environment in Congress.

Hillary Clinton won New Jersey by 13 percentage points and 459,583 votes.

Other environmental victories include two local elections: offshore drilling-opponent John Weber was elected to the Bradley Beach Town Council (Monmouth Co) and anti-natural-gas-pipeline advocates Andrea Katz and Rita Romeu were elected to the Chesterfield Township Committee (Burlington Co).

Voters also approved a dedication of gas tax revenue to transportation projects for the Transportation Trust Fund, a position endorsed by the Club.

We had hoped for some good news about Gov. Christie, but now it seems that he will remain in New Jersey until his term ends in January, 2018.

Much to Appreciate in 2016

The Club's annual "Appreciation Day" party for our activists, benefactors and community heroes took place on Nov 20 at the William Paca Club in New Providence, catered as usual by our Joan Denzer, Wynn Johanson and their friends, and presided over by Chapter Chair Rich Isaac.

Chapter Director Jeff Tittel reminded us of the year's achievements: successful campaigns to end the lives of two of the three remaining coal-burning electric power plants in New Jersey, ending the Congressional career of 5th District Congressman Scott Garrett, a court decision to void the Pinelands Commission's Executive Director's arbitrary approval of a natural gas pipeline, keeping drilling for offshore oil away from New Jersey's shore, and celebrating the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.

A special guest was Phil Murphy, currently a strong candidate to replace Gov. Chris Christie in one of only two Governor races nationwide in 2017. We were reminded that the contest may reveal public opinion on satisfaction with Donald Trump's presidency.

The awards honored an extraordinary array of local politicians who have been fighting the 16 proposed new pipelines for oil and natural gas that would, in Jeff's words, convert the State that was the "Crossroads of the Revolution" (in 1776 and all that) into the State that would be the "Crossroads of all the Pipelines." The awardees included:

- State Assemblywoman Valerie Vaineri Huttle (District 37, Bergen Co), sponsor of legislation to address lead in our drinking water and promote container recycling, as well as a promoter of clean energy such as the use of electric vehicles,



Jeff Tittel, Jill Popko, Susan Lockwood and Len Resto



Rich Isaac, Ken Johanson and Jeff Tittel



Frank Huttel, Elizabeth Muoio and Valerie Huttel



Phil Murphy with Lara Zullow

• Assemblywoman Elizabeth Maher Muoio (District 15, Hunterdon and Mercer Cos), sponsor of legislation to deal with the lead crisis, require stricter oversight of natural gas pipelines and improve safety for the transport of crude oil by rail, as well as an opponent of the PennEast pipeline, and advocate for environmental legislation as a member of the Budget Committee,

- Susan D. Lockwood, Mayor of Delaware Township (Warren Co), another organizer of opposition to the proposed PennEast pipeline, who formed a Pipeline Committee, partnering with other municipalities in opposing the issuance of permits and submitting comments to FERC opposing the project,
- Jill Popko, Mayor of Bordentown, and

mobilizer of opposition to the proposed New Jersey Natural Gas Southern Reliability Link pipeline, as well as the proposed Transco Garden State Expansion compressor station, and

• Chatham Councilman Len Resto, organizer of the Municipal Pipeline Group of 15 mayors opposing the Pilgrim Pipeline.

Rich Isaac presented a plaque to the Club's most valuable volunteer: Ken Johanson, who retired in 2016 from 11 years of service as our Chapter Chair. Ken continues to Chair our Legislative and Fund-raising Committees, and to serve on the Chapter-wide Executive Committee.

(photo credits: Wynn Johanson, David Yennior, Bonnie Tillery, and Jamie Zaccaria)

Meet Jamie Witsen, our new Environmental Education Chair

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1983. I taught Life and Environmental Science for 32 years, retiring in June of 2016. I attended Cook College-Rutgers University, earning a BS in Conservation.



My career included being awarded several grants to travel to six continents, enabling me to be a part of environmental conservation in many countries. The photos and videos I brought back were shared with my enthralled students, helping them to become environmentally compassionate stewards.

My primary role in the NJ Sierra Club is to assist educators to build an environmentally literate citizenry. I am excited to spearhead this ambitious endeavor to infuse environmental concepts into curricula, to promote environmental education as an integral part of Club conservation work, and to supply materials pro-

duced by or for the Sierra Club. I will also incorporate my experience and knowledge as a certified National Geographic Educator and Advisory Board member of the NJ Geographic Alliance.

These four quotes summarize my beliefs and have guided me in

teaching science:

- 1) Margaret Mead (anthropologist) "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has."
- 2) B. Dioum (African ecologist) "In the end we protect what we love, we love what we understand, and we understand what we are taught."
- 3) Dr. Seuss (author) "Unless someone like you cares a whole lot, nothing is going to get better, it's not."
- 4) Mahatma Gandhi (Prime Minister of India) "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

Introducing the Sierra's Club's Grassroots Network

By Joe Testa (testa-j@live.com) – Chair of our Information Technology Committee

Have an environmental issue you are interested in getting more involved in? Or, searching for an issue where you can make a difference? Your first stop should be your local NJ Sierra Club Group, where you can meet other folks who share your interests.

But perhaps you're interested in an issue where there isn't a 'critical mass' of interest in your area. Maybe it's something where you'd find supporters from around the country. Now there is another option: joining the Sierra Club Grassroots Network.

The Grassroots Network is an online community where you can engage with volunteer-driven Sierra Club teams concerned with a wide range of topics, such as the "Hydrofracking Grassroots",

"Agriculture and Food", "Clean Air", and the new "Delaware Water Gap - Upgrade to National Park" teams. Share ideas and information with members of any team you join. Find a list of teams at <https://content.sierraclub.org/grassrootsnetwork/teams>

It's easy to sign up to participate in the Grassroots Network at <https://content.sierraclub.org/grassrootsnetwork/user/register>. Just pick a username and enter your name and email address, and a link will be sent to you that will enable you to choose a password to log in. After you log in, you can browse the list of teams and sign up for any that interest you.

Better yet - if you have an idea for a new team, you can create one in only a few minutes! This will let you recruit other people who share your interests.

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SIERRA CLUB BALLOT

Sierra Club members in the **Skylands Group** (Sussex and northern Warren Counties) are invited to vote for members of their Group Executive Committee (ExCom).

If the Sierra Club has your e-mail address in its records, you will receive in January 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 January 31, 2017.

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

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 in this newsletter.

To vote by paper ballot: Please use the ballot below; then clip it on the heavy-dashed line, and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Jan 31, 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 overleaf. This is to verify your membership; it will be removed before ballots are counted.

Skylands Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Two-year terms. Vote for UP TO FIVE.

- Norene Haberski Greg Gorman
 Marvin Feil Nicole Guerrieri
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Volunteer Toxicology Advisor's Report

Health Problems from Environmental Lead: An Environmental Justice Issue

By Hugh Evans, PhD (HLEvans.Sierra@gmail.com)

Our New Jersey Chapter has a new Coordinator for Environmental Justice (EJ), Jo-Anne Chasnow. She is contacting several other State-wide and Community-based organizations already working on EJ issues in New Jersey, and *may* create an EJ Committee to partner with them *if* they feel we can add value to their ongoing efforts. The essence of Environmental Justice is access to green space, and protection from environmental health hazards, for ALL residents of New Jersey, especially those in our older cities who get too little green and too many hazards.

A current alarming example of environmental **injustice** is a proposal by the NJ DEP to relax pollution standards at the huge Newark Energy Center, making pollution worse in Newark's Ironbound community. The citizens of Newark already carry a disproportionate burden of pollution from three power plants, sewage treatment, and transit corridors – all significant sources of toxic materials.

One serious New Jersey Environmental **Injustice** is caused by the toxic metal **lead** in our environment. Disproportionate exposure of poor and minority citizens to lead is well documented. Lead, like many other environmental pollutants regulated by NJ and Federal agencies, is not essential for any bodily function; any amount that accumulates in our bodies or in our environment should be considered excessive. Lead continues to be used in various industrial products, such as the batteries in automobiles. If lead gets into drinking water, and into humans, it can't be smelled or tasted, so a person's accumulation must be determined by chemical analysis of a blood sample.

Lead has its most devastating effects on the very young and the elderly. In children it disrupts development of the nervous system, with long-lasting neuro-behavioral consequences. Federal statistics cited by NJ.COM reveal that almost 3% of kids in NJ have blood-levels of lead that are above the level of concern established by the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC). In 2015 alone, 3000 NJ children were newly identified with elevated lead-levels. We think this is a severe underestimate: NJ "cheats" on lead-reporting by using a definition of health risk (10 mg/dl in blood) that is twice that used by the CDC (5 mg/dl).

Awareness of lead poisoning is not new; it was banned as an ingredient in house paint in 1978 and as an ingredient in gasoline in 1984. It was once the mate-

rial of choice for water pipes. It survives in soil at old industrial sites and in homes built before 1978, in which lead-based paint hasn't been replaced. People are exposed to lead when remodeling old homes, sanding off old lead paint, and removing old exterior lead where it washes into the soil, including garden soil. Poor families disproportionately live in old buildings still having lead-based paint, which peels, creating contaminated dust. Toddlers play in this dust, ingesting enough lead to impact learning capacities. Exposure to lead also comes from drinking water that has been delivered through old pipes and plumbing fixtures, again most likely in older homes and old school buildings in old, poor neighborhoods. Newark has 30 schools with drinking water at or above the safe level established by the US EPA. Camden has been forced to rely on bottled water in its schools. Hoboken has borrowed money to replace six miles of old water mains under its streets, but the water pipes leading into the homes are the responsibility of the home-owners. Hoboken is buying water filtration systems for its schools.

My brief review leads to two important lessons: First, remediating environmental lead is a very slow and expensive process, requiring decades. Even then, lead, and many other pollutants, linger in the environment long after people assume the problem has been corrected. Second, lead's greatest impact is often concentrated in disadvantaged communities, illustrating the need for EJ.

To learn more about the national Sierra Club's Toxics Program, and to see resource documents posted by its Grassroots Network Team, go to this site: <http://content.sierraclub.org/grassrootsnetwork/teams/national-toxics-team>. The US EPA has much information about lead in water and other toxic hazards at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water#schools>.

Sierra Club members, as well as anyone eager to collaborate in advancing EJ here in NJ, are urged to contact Richard Isaac, SC NJ Chapter Chair (risaacx@aol.com).



Population Issues Coordinator's Report

"All change is not growth, as all movement is not forward"

(Ellen Glasgow*)

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@msn.com)

Like most of you, the day after our recent presidential election I woke up, not from a nightmare but to a nightmare. We are headed back to darker days.

We no longer have a firewall protecting a woman's right to be able to choose for herself the number and spacing of the children she will have, if she even chooses to have children. What does that mean for the environment? We add roughly one billion people to the planet every 12 years. Whether in developed or developing countries, they all need food, clean water, clean air, clothing and housing – resources that must be provided by a planet that is not enlarging as the population increases.

Nearly half the pregnancies in the U.S. and up to 54% of the pregnancies in NJ are unplanned. According to a National Academy of Sciences study, just by meeting the unmet need for family planning, CO₂ emissions can be reduced by 1 billion tons of carbon a year. Slower population growth could provide 29% of the reduction needed to stabilize emissions by 2050.

Hillary Clinton spoke to the young girls listening to her concession speech saying, "never doubt that you are valuable and powerful and deserving of every chance and opportunity in the world to pursue and achieve your own dreams." Yet one wonders how these young women and girls will be able to achieve their dreams when they won't even have control over their own bodies.

One woman, Ping Zhu, wrote, "I fear that my body will no longer be my own." Those fears cannot be dismissed.

The vacancy on the Supreme Court will be filled by a president who has said he will choose someone who will overturn *Roe v. Wade*. While replacing a conservative Scalia with another conservative will not necessarily tip the scales, Emily Bazelon, in the NY Times, noted, "Ruth Bader Ginsburg is 83. Anthony Kennedy is 80. Stephen Breyer is 78. In Supreme Court terms, four years is a long time."

The Affordable Care Act will, at best, be changed drastically and tens of millions of people could again be without health care. This will be especially hard on women who have had access to contraceptives including long-acting reversible contraceptives – some of the most effective forms of birth control – at little or no cost. If these forms of birth control will even be available in a male-dominated government that views these devices as abortifacients, they will be expensive. Already we hear that women are making appointments to have IUDs inserted before January 20, 2017, and hoping that in five years (the recommended time frame to have them changed) they will be able to have them replaced under a more progressive regime.

Planned Parenthood has long been the target of the anti-choice crowd. Approximately 40% of Planned Parenthood's funding comes from federal programs such as Medicaid (health care for lower-income Americans) and Title X (family planning programs serving a similar economic group). Under Medicaid,

overseen by the states, reimbursement to the states is 90% of monies they spend on family planning services. Many of the services provided by Planned Parenthood are for screening and treating sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), along with contraception.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, STDs such as chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis have increased throughout the country. They are up 27% in New Jersey since Gov. Christie cut \$7.5 million from the budget for reproductive health care. Six clinics have closed and many others have had to cut hours.

We are told that if Planned Parenthood clinics close their doors, other health providers will step in and take over. In Florida, where state funding to Planned Parenthood was cut, a list of other providers to pick up the slack included school nurses and dentists. Call a dentist for your next PAP-smear!

As frightening as the statements of the president-elect are, the actions of vice-president elect Pence are even more disturbing. He is by no stretch of the imagination pro-woman or pro-environment. In Congress, Pence got a 4% League of Conservation Voters lifetime score. In Indiana, he pushed a bill to defund Planned Parenthood. According to the Chicago Tribune, one center that closed was the only place where HIV testing was done, and the county of 23,000 saw an explosion of more than 150 new HIV cases. He believes in conversion therapy, does not favor marriage equality, and voted against fair pay for women and minorities. He is against raising the minimum wage, opposes aid to Syrian refugees, has said condoms won't prevent STDs and pregnancy, and believes the LGBTQ community doesn't need protection against discrimination. Oh, and smoking doesn't kill. In Pence's state, a woman was convicted of fetal homicide for taking pills to end her pregnancy. She was sentenced to 20 years in prison. Will women under this administration have to prove they had a miscarriage or face prison time?

What can we do? When federal funding is cut to Planned Parenthood, it will be much more important for states to step in with progressive leadership. We need to support and vote into office leaders at the state level who care about women and the environment.

It is important for us to keep fighting for the planet and the women who nourish it. Advocacy groups such as our own Sierra Club and health care providers such as Planned Parenthood are even more important now. Yes, it is disheartening to work so hard for progressive issues and lose, then be told we have to work even harder. But, if we give up in the face of what seems like insurmountable challenges, we lose twice.

*American novelist who supported female suffrage in the early 1900's, and who won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1942.



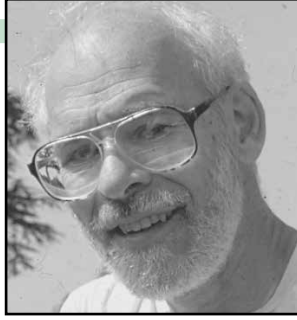
Is Your Email Address Up-To-Date?

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.

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

Editorial

More Presidential Politicking: the Electoral College



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

One slight consolation with regard to our environmental “loss” on Nov 8 is that, whatever motivated so many Americans to vote for Donald Trump, or not vote at all, it wasn’t the environment. It will be interesting to dissect out the motivating factors: personal, issue-related, and dirty tricks (voter-suppression). All’s fair in love, war, and now politics and perhaps business.

Our Country has been deeply divided before: in its earliest years, when Jeffersonians opposed Hamiltonians over principles not very different from the current ones, when we fought a civil war in the 1860s, when the robber barons of the Gilded Age were taken on by fledgling labor unions, over immigration in the “know-nothing” period, and over the issue of “free silver” at the beginning of the 20th Century.

New Jersey is a Blue State (i.e. one that tends to vote for Democrats, at least in Presidential elections), thanks to its industrial (labor union) heritage, and its urban-Hispanic and other ethnic concentrations of voters. Consequently, we didn’t see much campaigning here during the Presidential race last Fall; our Electoral College votes were always securely in Hillary Clinton’s grasp. It also means that our votes were far less influential than the votes cast by residents of Wisconsin, North Carolina, New Hampshire, and other small (low-population) battleground states.

You might think that to be unjust: a violation of the one-person = one-vote principle, but there are reasons for it, and the Electoral College System is enshrined in Article Two of the US Constitution. My purpose here is to consider the **environmental** consequences, and the **practical prospects**, for attempting to do for the Presidency what the 17th Amendment (in 1913) did for the Senate: provide for direct election.

The Electoral College gives geographical **spread** to the Presidential election, at the cost of allowing a candidate to sometimes be elected by less than a majority of the voters. We saw it happen in 2000, when George Bush defeated Al Gore, even though Gore received more votes, and again in 2016, when Hillary Clinton received about 2.4M more votes than Donald Trump. The Electoral College System artificially increases the “weight” of rural (low-population) states. In the most extreme case without Electors, the nine most populous states, CA, TX, NY, FL, IL, PA, OH, MI and GA, would have more votes than the other 41 states combined.

The Electoral College was invented, in 1789, to “balance” large-population states with small-population states, especially slave-ownership states. There were only 13 states then, the largest (ranked by population) being VA, PA, NC, MA and NY, with our state (touted by Alexander Hamilton to be the most industrial) ranking as the fifth smallest, and therefore benefitting from the distortion imposed by the Electoral College. (Then, the difference in population between the most- and least-populous states was a factor of

ten; today it’s 62.) The distinction between “rural” and “urban” states was not meaningful then. Today, the Electoral College **does** mitigate that distinction. Today’s largest population-segment is neither rural nor urban, but rather suburban – and wealthy, relative to the other two populations. But suburbs imply nearby urban centers, so the distortion imposed by the Electoral College system deprives them of voting clout.

That’s interesting, because suburbs tend to vote Republican and urban centers Democratic, a distinction that is not “adjusted” by the Electoral College. I would argue that whatever intent the founding fathers had in creating the Electoral College, it isn’t applicable today. So let’s get rid of it!

What would be the **environmental** consequences of directly electing the President? Since the current “battleground” states (FL, PA, OH, MI, NC, VA, WI, CO, IA and NH) are mostly small and rural, direct election would enhance the voting efficacy of voters in more populous and urban states such as New Jersey. This would raise the importance of those environmental issues that are differentially important to us: energy efficiency, reducing the rate of sea-level rise, promoting mass transit, cleaning up polluted sites, replacing decaying infrastructure, mitigating air pollution, protecting wilderness in proximity to urban areas, and relieving the environmental injustices that befall minority populations (such as the residents of Newark’s Ironbound) – forced by economics to live in and near polluted sites.

Is it politically practical to expect ¾ of the states, and 2/3 of both houses of Congress, to vote for a Constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College? Expediency would argue against, since more states benefit from the bias than are hurt by it. But logic (fairness, justice) would hopefully argue otherwise, especially if the recent trend of discrepant election-outcomes continues, and the balance of lobbying strength shifts to benefit minority populations that are increasing in relative size. I should think that an important benefit of direct election would be the increased attention that candidates would pay to voters in non-battleground states such as New Jersey. Candidates would have reason to appeal to every voter, equally.

Would this be an issue worthy of national Sierra Club campaigning? It would take approval by our Board of Directors, perhaps at the behest of the Council of Club Leaders, based on deliberation to decide whether “one-person = one-vote” would increase the prospects for our issue-initiatives. I will propose that it be considered at this year’s annual meeting.

Here’s a brief reading list on this topic: “Why the Electoral College is Bad for America,” by George C. Edwards III (2004), “The Constitution Today,” by Akhil Reed Amar (2016), and “Many Call the Electoral College Outmoded. So Why Has It Endured?” – an essay in the New York Times for Nov 11, 2016.

Chair’s Message

Chapter Welcomes Our New Volunteers!



By Richard Isaac (risaacx@aol.com)

Our Chapter extends a warm welcome to several new volunteers, including several members of a newly revitalized Central Jersey Group, another group of folks of the up and coming Raritan Valley Group, and three new members [officers] on the Chapter level!

Central Jersey Group Volunteers

Joanne Pannone is now Chair of the Central Jersey Group. A long-time Sierra Club member, Joanne has already been serving as our Chapter’s Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) Issues Coordinator.

In addition to Joanne, Xiaoping Du has assumed the position of Vice Chair, Kip Cherry is the Conservation Chair, Steven Eisenberg is now the Programs Chair, and Leona Fluck is the Group’s Secretary and Co-Outings Chair along with George Fluck. All are members of the Group’s Executive Committee.

In addition, Dave Mattek is the Group’s Trails Coordinator, and Scott Fulmer and Stefanie Wallner will be involved with Recycling/cleanup issues.

Raritan Valley Group Volunteers

Gary Frederick has become Chair and Conservation Chair of the Raritan Valley Group. With considerable management experience, Gary particularly enjoys strengthening entities within an organization, and he’ll have a number of new volunteers to work with in doing that for his group!

The other new members of the Raritan Valley Group include Gurdon Hornor (Membership), Dani Levis (Communications), Alison Wilkes (Outings), Brenda Bradley (Pollinators), Sindhu (Treasurer). In addition to these new members, Daphne Speck-Bartynski is continuing as the Group’s Political Chair and Singles Coordinator, and former Group Chair Roomi Nusrat will be staying on as an Executive Committee at-large member.

New Chapter Volunteers

Our chapter also welcomes the following folks to these Chapter-level positions:

* Jamie Witsen, Environmental Education Chair (see p. 1)

A 1984 graduate from Cook College, Rutgers University with a degree in

Natural Resource Management, Jamie is a retired Science Teacher who taught for 32 years, the past 25 in Montgomery Township, NJ. Someone who loves learning and meeting new people (she’s attended innumerable conferences and workshops and traveled widely throughout numerous countries in Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America), Jamie now looks forward to reaching a larger audience on a range of environmental issues utilizing her with her considerable education and travel experience.

* Jo-Anne Chasnow, Environmental Justice Coordinator

Jo-Anne has an incredibly strong background, particularly with voter registration. With over 20 years’ experience organizing and building relations regarding voting rights, registration, and other voting-related issues with local, state and federal legislators and officials, non-profit agencies and community-based groups.

She will help ensure that all of us within the Chapter are apprised of the Environmental Justice community’s positions on a range of issues before we take policy positions in the future that may be of concern to that community, and help us foster better communications with that community in general.

* Hugh Evans, PhD, Toxicology Advisor

A member of Sierra Club since 2009, Hugh has lived along the Hudson River for 30 years, the last 16 of them in Hoboken, where he has participated in walks and lectures. Recently retired after 33 years as Professor at NYU School of Medicine with research interests in neurotoxicology, i.e., environmental chemicals and nervous system disorders, Hugh directed lab research and taught graduate students about health hazards from chemicals in the environment. In a state with more Superfund sites per capita than any other in the nation beset with an array of contaminants in its soil, water, and air, Hugh will be an invaluable resource. (See his article on p.2)

Again, a warm welcome to you all our new volunteers – as well as an invitation to others who may be interested in volunteering! :-)

Resolutions:

Passed by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in September, October and November, 2016

We reconstituted our Central Jersey Group after a period of inactivity, appointing interim members of its Executive Committee. (Sept) (see above Chair’s Message.)

Chapter Volunteer Appointments: Jo-Anne Chasnow as Environmental Justice Issues Coordinator; Jamie Watson as Environmental Education Chair; Hugh Evans as Toxicology Advisor; Bonnie Tillery to fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee.

We adopted the new national Sierra Club’s policy permitting electronic (e-mail) voting on issues considered too urgent for delay to a monthly meeting. (Oct)

Positions on the Statewide Public Questions on the November ballot: No position on Q #1 (casino gambling in North Jersey); YES recommendation on Q #2 (dedication of gas taxes to transportation uses). (Oct)

Some new volunteer officers were approved. Contact information is on p.12 of this Newsletter: John Kashwick as Chapter Political Chair, Len Fariello as Wetlands Issues Coordinator, Bill Murphy as Risk Assessment Analyst, Howard Steinberg as Environmental Health Advisor, Paul Ehrlich as Clean Air Issues Coordinator, and Kyle Markmann as Transportation Issues Coordinator. (Nov)

We approved the adoption of updated national Club procedures for financial accounting by our Groups, Sections and committees, as explained by Paul Sanderson. (Nov)

We also considered mechanisms for deciding on Chapter issue priorities for 2017 – that will be further discussed and approved at our annual reorganization meeting, Jan 14, at the Hamilton (Mercer Co) Public Library. Rich Isaac will probably lead the discussion. (Nov)

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.

Reports from Trenton

Hudson and Mercer Coal Plants Shutting Down?

From a Press Release issued by our Trenton staff on Sept 15, edited by Irene Gnarra

According to a report presented to the Pennsylvania-Jersey-Maryland Power Pool (PJM), the coal-powered PSEG Hudson and Mercer electricity-generating stations will close down soon. Neither station has cleared the PJM capacity-auction in the past two years. According to the report, they would need significant investment to achieve the performance standards required by PJM's Capacity Performance Construct. A final decision might be made by December, 2016.

The Sierra Club supports closing both these coal plants so as to reduce the air pollution and greenhouse-gas atmospheric warming that they cause.

These two coal plants, located in Jersey City and Hamilton, respectively, are among the largest point-source air-polluters in the state. They now operate only part-time. Shutting them down will also result in lower prices for electricity – since other fuels, such as natural gas, are now less expensive than coal.

There would also be health benefits: Smog triggers asthma attacks and other respiratory ailments. In New Jersey, every year, coal-burning is thought to account for about 445 hospitalizations, 987 heart attacks, and about 530 deaths.

Closing these plants would also achieve a measure of Environmental Justice, since the people most affected by their pollution are the poor ethnic minorities in Hudson County, who also suffer disproportionately from vehicle exhausts associated with the Port of Newark.

Another environmental benefit would be reduced pollution of the Delaware River, which would no-longer receive hot cooling water discharges from the Mercer Generating Station. Each year, that contaminated water kills about 70 million fish and the larvae of more than 30 species of fish.

Yet more reasons for abandoning coal as a fuel for making electricity would be the solving of the problem of disposing of the coal ash, and protecting the landscape of Indonesia, which is the current supplier of low-sulfur coal.

If these plants do close, we should demand that PSEG replace them not with plants using natural gas, another dirty fossil fuel, but instead adopt clean energy sources such as solar and wind.

HUD Audit Shows NJ Failed to Spend \$43M in Sandy Money

From a Press Release issued on Oct 4

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released an audit questioning New Jersey's disbursement of roughly \$43 million to a contractor hired for cleanup work after Hurricane Sandy. The audit investigated \$68 million that was disbursed under the state's Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery-funded Superstorm Sandy Housing Incentive Program. The contractor was Hammerman and Gainer Inc. (HGI), hired to oversee housing recovery and elevation efforts. However, HGI's three-year contract was terminated within the first year because of delays and inefficiencies. This is the same company that had oversight problems during Hurricane Katrina. HUD believes the money was either misspent or that HGI did not comply with federal requirements. This investigation is a good first step, but it needs to be expanded to detect other failures by New Jersey to adequately spend the recovery money we received.

At the time the contract was terminated, the state had paid HGI only \$36 million. It then agreed to pay another \$7 million. HUD found that the "State did not disburse disaster funds to its contractor in accordance with HUD, Federal, and other applicable requirements. Specifically, the State did not ensure that (1) disbursements met a national objective, (2) expenses were incurred after the contract was executed, (3) other direct costs were fully supported and the prices paid were fair and reasonable, (4) labor costs were fully supported, (5) travel costs were fully supported, and (6) disbursements were for costs that were reasonable and necessary," according to the audit.

According to HUD, every activity, except for program administration and planning, must meet one of the following three national objectives: (1) benefit low- and moderate-income persons, (2) aid in preventing or eliminating slums or blight, or (3) address certain urgent needs in a community because conditions pose an immediate threat to the health and welfare of the community. HUD believes that New Jersey did not sufficiently document that its expenses met these national objectives. Examples include payouts without receipts or improperly authorized, for more than \$2 million in computer equipment, software and office furniture.

The Christie Administration has not used the federal funds to address climate change and sea level rise; it has not considered buyouts, creating flood storage areas, or elevating structures to above flood levels. They refuse even to use the words "climate change" or "sea level rise." This stubbornness has cost us millions of dollars in federal funding.

Nor has it completed FEMA remapping after Hurricane Sandy. Instead of addressing sea level rise, this Administration is plans to build sea walls that will not work. When waves crash against hard structures like metal walls or bulkheads, it only leads to more beach damage in the long run.

National Sierra Club Director's Election

In March, all Club members will receive a ballot for electing members of the Club's national Board of Directors. Our NJ Chapter ExCom may decide to make endorsements, in which case you'll find them on the Chapter website.

NJ Not Prepared for Climate Change

From a Press Release issued on Sept 30

A new Rutgers report, *Climate Change: Adaptation in the Water Supply Sector*, highlights the problems with New Jersey's water supply and explains how climate plays into those problems. Prepared by The New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance, the two-volume report recommends action to prepare for climate change. Threats include variations in temperature, precipitation patterns, sea level, and the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. All can drastically affect our water quality and supply.

First drinking water: we should update our methods for tracking losses and preventing leaks, our construction code standards, and our technology for reducing lawn sprinkling. These steps are especially important during the summer months when parts of New Jersey often experience droughts. One of the most important ways to protect our drinking water is at the source.

Droughts are obviously a result of low rainfall, but they couple with pollution and poor water quality. When streams run between 75 and 90 percent of normal flow, they impact reservoirs. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) does not properly conduct drought-monitoring and has proposed rules to roll back water quality protections, which would make droughts worse. We believe that the DEP needs a much more proactive system to deal with droughts – that includes cleaning up and reducing pollution in our waterways.

The DEP has been amending rules so as to increase development and sewer hook-ups, while limiting the capacity of sewage treatment plants to comply with pollution limits. Changes in the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDDES), which limits the permitted levels of pollutant discharges from sewage treatment plants, permit discharges to be based on 12-year flow-averages rather than 3-month flow-averages, which means the plants will be permitted to discharge large amounts of waste into streams with very little flow.

Next: coastal flooding: Recent changes to the DEP's CAFRA (Coastal Area Facilities Review Act) and Coastal Zone Management rules will add more loopholes and waivers, and weaken coastal protections. The rules do not encourage regional planning, or address climate change or sea level rise, or restore natural habitats, and they do not include programs that would prepare for sea level rise, or damage from future storms. The emphasis instead is for more development in hazard areas, putting people and property in harm's way. There is even refusal to use the words "climate change" or "sea level rise."

New Jersey is already experiencing impacts of climate change: longer growing seasons and more-severe storm events. The summers are hotter and drier, making water supply sources such as the Ramapo and Passaic Rivers too low-flowing and dirty to take water from. This also leads to algal blooms, which clog filters and impact water quality in the Manasquan Reservoir. Rain patterns are also shifting toward heavier and less-frequent downpours.

The state Water Supply Master Plan has not been updated since 1996. The Christie Administration prepared a draft report, but has failed to release it to the public. There has not been an overall plan for water supply needs for close to two decades. The plan is supposed to determine water availability and where there are potential water quality and quantity issues. The DEP may be allowing development in areas where there is inadequate water supply.

(Photo: Round Valley Reservoir - by Laura Lynch)

VW Settlement Money: Will NJ Accept It?

From a Press Release issued by our Trenton Staff on October 25, and edited by Joe Testa and Gary Frederick

A U.S. District court has approved Volkswagen's settlement with regulators and vehicle owners after the car company admitted in September 2016 to an emissions cheating scandal that has resulted in more air pollution for New Jersey and elsewhere around the world. VW installed software in certain diesel vehicles, including passenger cars, which bypassed pollution control systems except when the vehicles were being tested for emissions. This resulted in dangerous emissions of up to 40 times that allowed by law when the vehicles were in normal operation.

Approximately 580,000 such vehicles were sold in the United States, including about 17,420 in New Jersey. The \$14 billion settlement is supposed to help people impacted by Volkswagen's environmental crime. New Jersey's share is expected to be \$65,328,105.

We need this money to get polluting diesel busses off the road, build electric vehicle charging stations, electrify our ports, etc. But here's the bad news: the US Department of Justice requires that the money go towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Christie Administration has announced refusal to accept the money, because doing so would be seen as something positive on climate change.

The Governor has vetoed bills to build plug-in stations for electric cars, and has refused to join a Compact with other Northeastern States to promote electric vehicles. Electric vehicles not only reduce air pollution from traffic, but also (because they don't use gasoline) reduce emissions from refineries, oil drilling, and fuel delivery.

We urge Governor Christie to take the next step in claiming the \$65 million for New Jersey by submitting the name of the state agency that will plan for and administer these funds (called beneficiary certification) before the deadline.

Member's Reports

Pilgrim Pipeline Opposed by Fifteen Municipalities

By Len Resto, Chatham Borough Councilman and one of our Appreciation Day honorees (lresto@chathamborough.org)

Fifteen municipalities in Bergen, Essex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset and Union Counties have joined together to create the Municipal Pipeline Group (MPG): to oppose the proposal by Pilgrim Pipeline, LLC, to construct a 178-mile bi-directional pipeline between Albany, New York, and the refineries in Linden, New Jersey. It would transport crude oil from Albany to Linden, and finished products (gasoline, jet fuel, diesel fuel, kerosene and home heating oil) from Linden back to Albany.

The proposed route crosses 30 New Jersey municipalities and sensitive environmental features, including streams and sole-source water aquifers that provide water to millions of people in towns on the route, neighboring towns and even distant communities that depend on those streams and aquifers for their water – such as Newark and Jersey City.

The primary purpose of the MPG is to ensure that the interests of the affected municipalities and their residents will be protected when the pipeline company applies for permits from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and other governmental regulatory authorities. The MPG has retained legal counsel and will coordinate activities among the municipalities to protect critical environmental resources.

The MPG will continue to work closely with the Sierra Club and Food & Water Watch, advocacy groups that are opposed to the pipeline.

The Group consists of the following municipalities: Berkeley Heights, Chatham Borough, Chatham Township, East Hanover, Fanwood, Florham Park, Livingston, Madison, Mahwah, Montville Township, Oakland, Parsippany, Scotch Plains, Wanaque, and Watchung. It is an outgrowth of a series of public information sessions on the pipeline proposal hosted by Watchung and Madison, and follow-up meetings of the mayors and other elected officials from towns on the proposed pipeline route. This is an “ultimate bi-partisan shared service.” By banding together, the expense required for legal representation can be split 15 ways – or more, should additional municipalities decide to join us.

Pilgrim has filed for environmental permits in New York State, and it is expected to do so in New Jersey in 2017. New Jersey law requires NJDEP to rule within 90 days of a permit application. The DEP does not conduct its own independent environmental study. That is why, as a group, we need to be ready at a moment's notice to conduct a professional analysis of the proposal's environmental impacts, that DEP can use in its decision-making.

To see the proposed route, go to <https://stoppilgrimpipeline.com/maps/>. Sierra Club members are invited to discover whether the route passes near their municipalities and places of work, and to invite their local officials to join the MPG if they haven't already done so. I would welcome the opportunity to provide more information.

New Jersey's Super Polluters

From a Press Release dated Oct 11, edited by Irene Gnarra

According to a report issued by the Center for Public Integrity, New Jersey ranks 34th in the nation for greenhouse gas emissions, and 37th for toxic air pollution. The report also identifies the top ten sources: (1) PSEG's Bergen Generating Station; (2) Phillips' 66 Bayway Refinery; (3) Quixx Power Services in Union County; (4) Linden Generating Station (Union Co); (5) AES Red Oak Power Generating Facility in Middlesex County; (6) Paulsboro Refining Co. (Gloucester Co); (7) Chambers Cogeneration in Salem County; (8) Logan Generating Co. in Gloucester County; (9) Chemours Chambers Works in Salem County; and (10) PSEG's Hudson Generating Station. The report clearly shows that we must do more to achieve clean air in New Jersey.

These facilities emit ammonia, nitrogen oxides, and many other toxics. It is alarming but not surprising that the most egregious offender for greenhouse gas emissions, the Ridgefield Generation Station, uses natural gas as fuel. Four other facilities on the list are also gas-powered. Thankfully for people in Jersey City, the coal power plant in Hudson County is scheduled to close by 2018. (See article on p.4.)

Natural gas consists mostly of methane, one of the worst greenhouse gases and a contributor to smog formation. Pipeline ruptures are common. So are methane's health effects: asthma and other respiratory ailments, as well as premature death. Besides methane, the Bergen and Linden facilities emit ammonia, which can irritate eyes, throat, lungs, and skin.

The Christie Administration has undermined all attempts to reduce air pollution and the emission of greenhouse gases in New Jersey. It has derailed our clean energy goals by supporting anti-regulatory forces. It is suing to block the Clean Power Plan that would reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases. It has pulled us out of the Northeastern States' Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), and it has closed the Dept. of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) Office of Climate Change. Instead of issuing permits that take into account public health and the environment, the DEP has failed to enforce regulations, and it has supported polluting facilities that have a negative impact on us. In addition, government agencies have ignored the fact that there is a serious problem of ozone pollution in New Jersey. In fact, almost every county that conducts monitoring of ozone levels has received a failing grade. Our high ozone levels endanger the health of sensitive individuals, especially children and the elderly.

The Christie Administration's Energy Master Plan has continued to undermine our renewable energy goals by 2020, from 30% to 22.5%, relying on natural gas for about 45 % of our electricity. The Administration has supported policies that foster air pollution. Thus, the number of proposals for dirty fuel infrastructure, like pipelines, has increased.

New studies show that climate change is getting more severe. Instead of respecting scientific evidence and worldwide mandates to promote green energy, the Christie Administration has blocked offshore wind production, and it has subsidized natural gas plants. The BPU's Energy Master Plan has increased our reliance on natural gas by about 45 percent. By pulling out of the RGGI, the Christie Administration has allowed companies to get millions of dollars a year in tax breaks. Money from RGGI is supposed to expand renewable energy, create green jobs, reduce energy bills, and

Two Success Stories: Ground Water Protection in the Pinelands, and Post-Sandy Beach Restoration in South Jersey

By Lara Zullow, Publicity and Political Chair, Jersey Shore Group lzullow@optimum.net

Two New Jersey environmental success stories were described last Fall at the Jersey Shore Group's monthly “Science Monday” series at Brookdale Community College.

The Director of Water Programs at the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) spoke on aquifer depletion in the Pinelands, and the Executive Director of the American Littoral Society (ALS) spoke on the restoration of horseshoe crab and migratory red knot populations along the Delaware Bayshore, through fishing moratoriums and restoration of beaches lost to Superstorm Sandy.

On Sept 26, the PPA's Rich Bizub explained that our streams, rivers and wetlands are interconnected hydrologically with a shallow aquifer, such that all are sensitive to groundwater withdrawals. Each year sees an average 44 inches of rainfall, of which 24 evaporate, 2 to 3 are lost to overland runoff, and 17 to 18 enter the shallow water table. The impact of groundwater withdrawals is greater on wetlands than on streamflow, so that, “by the time you see stream impacts,” as Bizub put it, “you've trashed the wetlands.” Being alerted by residents to signs of these losses, Bizub and the PPA have been able to get high-volume pumping wells turned off.

Water conservation has also made a difference, and Bizub cited Hammonton's recourse: residents are charged **progressively** for their water-usage. Hammonton also obtained a Sustainable Jersey grant to provide rebates to customers who upgrade appliances to water-efficient models.

NJ's Water Supply Master Plan was last updated 20 years ago, using now-outdated low population estimates and outdoor water usage estimates. Golf courses and lawn sprinkling are a big factor in that outdoor usage and the resulting groundwater depletions. A draft of a newer State Master Plan is currently being withheld by Governor Christie.

Everyone can do their part by going to www.saveh2onj.org to sign the petition asking for release of the new master plan, to prevent a crisis like California's. The petition is sponsored by PPA, the ALS, the NJ Highlands Coalition, the NJ League of Conservation Voters, and ANJEC. Towns can also pass municipal resolutions to petition for release of the new master plan.

On October 24, we heard from executive director Tim Dillingham of the ALS. Tim was previously (in the 1990s) our Chapter Director! He grew up on the Chesapeake Bay, and at the ALS has helped restore post-Sandy beach environments to accommodate the previous populations of horseshoe crabs, whose eggs laid on the beaches feed migrating Red Knot birds. Delaware Bay is the world's hot spot for horseshoe crabs, which are evolutionary relics from 350 million years ago. Other migratory shorebirds also commute annually between the southern tip of South America and the Arctic (5000 miles) so are pretty hungry when they arrive at Delaware Bay. In mid-April they require crabs' eggs at Delaware Bay beaches.

Horseshoe crabs begin breeding at 10 years of age, so it takes time to rebuild their population, which was starting to happen when Superstorm Sandy hit. Beach sand was stripped to historic low levels. With Congressional recovery funding, the ALS partnered with other groups to remove tons of rubble from the beaches and to rebuild many of the beaches in Cape May County, as well as salt marshes and artificial reefs to absorb future storm waves. There's \$35 million per year in tourist revenue generated by bird watchers there.

This success story shows that environmentalists can work in partnership with economic concerns and with local needs. It is an inspirational story for future environmental efforts!

decrease our carbon emissions. Because the Administration has been promoting natural gas, PSEG is building their sixth power plant—Sewaren 7. While we are pleased that they abandoned their plans to build a natural gas power plant in Hillsborough, we are concerned that they might build one somewhere else.

Although PSEG has announced the closure of coal-fired power plants in Mercer and Hudson counties, they still operate natural gas plants in Bergen, Burlington, Essex, Hudson, and Union counties. Natural gas plants contribute just as much greenhouse gas emissions as coal, when you consider the impact from fracking, pipelines, and the burning of the gas. Over a 20-year time-frame, methane released from natural gas is a pollutant 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

There are 15 proposed pipelines in New Jersey. They will cut through environmentally sensitive land, pose risks to public safety, and threaten water quality. The PennEast pipeline will endanger potentially the water supply from the Delaware River. The South Jersey Gas and New Jersey Natural Gas pipelines will imperil the Pinelands and harm biodiversity. Moreover, these pipelines will promote fracking, cause water and air pollution, and contribute to climate change.

The Christie Administration must be persuaded to move away from fossil fuels and promote clean energy. Clean air is an essential part of a healthy economy, as it will reduce health costs. Furthermore, investment in renewable energy will create jobs and protect our environment.

We should move toward 100 percent clean renewable energy instead of continuing to use fossil fuels, and we should promote the use of electric vehicles to assure clean air in New Jersey. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has leased out enough areas for wind energy development off our coast that would enable production of at least 1/3 of our electricity needs. Finally, we must advance environmental justice for the heavily polluted port cities of Newark, Jersey City, and Linden so as to safeguard their health and economic security.

For more information on the study go to:

<https://www.publicintegrity.org/2016/09/29/20271/here-are-super-polluters>

<https://www.publicintegrity.org/2016/09/29/20253/americas-super-polluters-methodology>

You can also find listings on the EPA Greenhouse Gas Data Tool and the Toxic Release Inventory:

EPA Greenhouse Gas Online Tool

<https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program>

Report from Trenton

Tired of DEP Budget Games?

From a Press Release Issued by our Trenton Office on Sept. 9, edited by Joe Testa

A recent audit of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) Tire Recycling Program, by the Office of Legislative Services, has shown that stealing money from the DEP budget has consequences.

A serious problem in New Jersey is the prevalence of tire dumps throughout the state. In 2004 the Legislature voted funds to clean them up. The law imposed a \$1.50 tax on each new tire, raising \$2.3 million a year that was supposed to pay for cleaning up 3.2 million scrap tires. That money has been heavily raided for other budgetary uses; for example, \$9.2 million was taken by the Dept. of Transportation for snow removal.

The audit revealed that, to save money on tire disposal, scrap tires have simply been moved from one remediation site to another, as well as to new sites. 18 of the 26 inspected sites were out of compliance, requiring additional clean-ups, and 11 new sites were identified. Between 350,000 and 550,000 tires were counted at these sites. One site had 40,000 tires when it was only designated to have 5,000.

It is important to remove scrap tires because they breed mosquitoes, which can carry the West Nile and Zika viruses. There is also the risk of fire, which would pollute the atmosphere and downwind fallout zones with toxic chemicals.

This isn't the only program that's been hurt by budgetary raids. Money has been taken from the Clean Energy Fund, from recycling grants, and from programs intended to clean-up brownfields and close landfills. These program raids have consequences to the environment and public health.

GENERAL MEETINGS: SECOND TUESDAY of each month and is open to the public. We meet from 7-9pm at the Unitarian Fellowship, One West Nelson St, Newton.

The Skylands Group of the NJ Sierra Club services the environmentally sensitive region of Sussex and Northern Warren Counties in Northwestern NJ.

The Skylands Group offers a variety of opportunities for the public to learn about and connect with their natural environment. We host movies and speakers at our monthly general meetings; engage people to explore the great outdoors by leading hikes, edible plant tours and picnics; provide outreach services to the public during town tabling days; and travel to schools to teach students about the environment. Our hope is to foster a love of and deep respect for our great outdoors.

As advocates, The Skylands Group works with other grassroots organizations to protect open spaces and water quality; promote clean energy; oppose privatization of our water and land public trust resources; and other local, national and global environmental issues as they arise.

Annually, we host a summer picnic in July and our holiday party in December, both in lieu of formal presentations. We don't have our General or Executive Committee meetings in August. All our events are free of charge and open to the public.

CURRENT CAMPAIGN:

The Skylands Group is currently advocating for the protection of the Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area (SMWMA) from logging which is being done under the guise of creating 'healthy forests'.

Forests throughout NJ have been or will be logged. Many of these forests are High Conservation Forests with closed canopies. They provide water to millions of New Jerseyans. Clear cutting can adversely impact water quality, biodiversity and threaten the existing rare and endangered species' habitat.

The SMWMA has become the poster child for the larger statewide issues of commercializing our public trust lands purchased with Green Acres funds and exempting the State Forester from rules and regulations put in place to protect Public Trust Resources. Please visit SaveSpartaMountain.org to learn more about this important issue.

The Skylands Group, NJ Sierra Club welcomes donations to help with legal assistance and other related expenses for the Save Sparta Mountain campaign. Please visit SaveSpartaMountain.org to make your donation. This will ensure your donation is directly applied to the Save Sparta Mountain account.

South Highlands Group

(Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties)

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

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

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

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com
Vice Chair:	Celeste Martin*	oncentral@mac.com
Conservation Chair:	Cinny MacGonagle*	cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Amy Weeder*	aweeder@comcast.net
Treasurer:	Celeste Martin *	oncentral@mac.com
Political Chair:	Debbie Young*	debyoung31@comcast.net
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.

Jan 4 (Wed): Jim Wright, a trustee of Nature Conservancy, a freelance writer and photographer will present on the Nature Conservancy's efforts to preserve High Mountain, Wayne, NJ. As a former reporter for the Bergen Record and now columnist for The Record, he will discuss how the state and community worked together to preserve this beautiful area.

Feb 1 (Wed): Robert De Saro of ERCo Energy Research presents: "How we think and how we are fooled over climate change issues: Why people don't base decisions on facts. Understanding and addressing their decision criteria." Why is it that some people deny climate change despite overwhelming evidence? There has been considerable work in understanding how people react to new information. Some of it is determined by how we evolved, some on how the mind operates to act quickly and intuitively at one level and slowly and critically on another. These two mind systems sometimes create conflict resulting in erroneous conclusions. These and other issues, including how to address them, will be explored.

Mar 1 (Wed): Talk by Farmer John Smith of Two Barn Farm, Pittstown, NJ. The Garden State: a discussion of the past, present, and future through the eyes of a first generation market farmer. Farmer Jon Smith will share his unique experiences and perspective as a vegetable farmer in suburban NJ. There is much to learn in this agriculturally based discussion of society, the food we eat and how we eat it.

"If you don't know where you are from, you will have a hard time saying where you are going." -Wendell Berry

OTHER EVENTS:

Jan 11 (Wed): Executive Committee/Planning Meeting. 7:30 pm at the office of Dr. Jonathan Wall, 27 Center St, Clinton. This is the quarterly meeting, casual and informative. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend to discuss issues, plan future events, and become more active. Please check the on-line calendar of



Group News

FROM
AROUND
THE
STATE

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

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

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

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

Skylands Group

(Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

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

Web-site: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/skylands/>

Or click from the NJ Chapter's web-site.

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

E-mail: skylandsgroup@gmail.com **Phone:** 973-222-0274

Executive Committee:

Officers and At-Large Members are elected positions and serve 2-year terms.

Officers:	Term exp:		
Chair:	12/31/17	Susan Williams	SkylandsGroup@gmail.com
Vice Chair:	12/31/17	Mindy Geary	mwillimas@yahoo.com
Secretary:	12/31/16	Norene Haberski	habersn@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	12/31/17	Jeri Doherty	bjd8974@gmail.com
Board Members:			
Member-at-Large	12/31/16	Greg Gorman	ggorman07419@embarqmail.com
Member-at-Large	12/31/17	Dave Alcock	dwhoob@hotmail.com
Member-at-Large	12/31/16	Marvin Feil	mfeil@writeme.com
Member-at-Large	12/31/16	Nicole Guerrieri	sosaysnicole@gmail.com
Conservation Chair:	N/A	Greg Gorman	ggorman07419@embarqmail.com
Outings Chair:	N/A	Dave Alcock	dwhoob@hotmail.com
Acting Publicity Chair:	N/A	Jeri Doherty	bjd8974@gmail.com
Webmaster:	N/A	Nicole Guerrieri	sosaysnicole@gmail.com

OPEN POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

Member-at-Large (for a 2 year term), Political Chair, Membership Chair
 Programs/Events Chair

events to confirm. For more information please contact Jonathan at psychologist@jon-wall.com.

Please check our page on MEETUP: <http://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/>

North Jersey Group (Bergen and Passaic Counties)

WEBSITE: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/north-jersey>
MEETUP: <http://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/>
FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/northjerseysierraclub>

Officers:

Chair:	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@gmail.com
Vice Chair:	Mary Ellen Shaw *	meshaw.001@gmail.com
Treasurer:	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@cnvsci.rutgers.edu

(*Group Executive Committee Member)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

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

Jan 9 (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 that will include officer appointments and reorganization. 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.

February: Don Torino of Bergen County Audubon Society makes his annual visit to the Sierra Club North Jersey Group with a program discussing the birds of Bergen County. Date, time and location TBD.

March: Program TBD.

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)

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 sug-

gestions for a program in the future. The Gateway Group is very grateful for the contributions of John Beadle, Barbara Conover, ZaSah Khademi, Bill Chappel, Steven Yafet, Anne Hirs, Paula Borenstein, and Brenda Toyloy.

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

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

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

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

Hudson County Group

Working to help preserve Liberty State Park and Braddock County Park and increase open space in Hudson County. We also work to support mass transit and bicycling, foster urban composting, and help keep our urban environment a healthy place to live. Come to a meeting and share any issue of concern to you.

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: Toni Granato (609-656-7612) or Pat Hilliard (201-354-9059)

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	David "Ace" Case	accase88@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).

Jan 15 (Sun): 12:30 pm: ExCom Meeting. General Meeting 2-4 pm. at Hudson County Community College, in the library, Room 427, 71 Sip Ave., Jersey City.

Feb 19 (Sun): 12:30 pm: ExCom Meeting. Location to be announced.

Mar 19 (Sun): 12:30 pm: ExCom Meeting. General Meeting 2-4pm. Location to be announced.

Loantaka Group

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

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

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chairs:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
Secretary:	Scott McCarthy	813-767-5593	hi_risescott@earthlink.net
Conservation Chair:			
Morris County:	Len Fariello		len@wildlifepreserves.org
Union County:	<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

(Continued on page 8)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

ourselves. Please see the schedule, below, and join us!

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

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Jan 11: Matt Smith of Food and Water Watch will talk to us about the dangers to the environment which the incoming administration will signify to organizations like the Sierra Club. He will also discuss his recent activism with regard to the fight against pipelines.

Feb 15: Debbie Young, our state Utah Issues Coordinator, will give a presentation about her fight to promote the establishment of the Bears Ears National Monument, with lots of illustrations.

The March general meeting will not take place due to lack of conference room availability.

ACTIVITIES: (Consult our website (<http://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. 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).

Loantaka held our 12th annual online auction, raising almost \$600, of which \$100 was donated immediately to the Chapter.

Four new donors helped us: D'Oro Ristorante in Chatham
Dreyer Farms in Cranford
Cranford Canoe Club
Chatham Hair Salon
T.M. Ward Coffee Co. in Chatham

The following merchants in Chatham helped us once more: North Jersey Dog Grooming School, Charley's Aunt, Village Hardware, Chatham Sandwich Shop, Athena Salon, Cafe Beethoven, Chatham Sports Shop, and Quartet Home Décor. Also: Winberie's Restaurant in Summit.

If you are in the area, please consider patronizing these generous businesses who have helped the NJ Sierra Club!

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:	<i>Open position!</i>		
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 the third Monday of the month, the first being, Monday, Jan 16, at 6 pm. The meetings will be held at the Mercer County Community College (MCCC) 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!

Special Event: The Skinny on Driverless Cars – Jan 23 – 6-8pm, MCCC

You are invited to a presentation by Dr. Alain Kornhauser on driverless cars entitled "Smart Driving Cars: the Good, the Bad, the Great," Monday, January 23, 2016 – 6-8pm – Mercer County Community College – Student Center-Room 211.

The presentation is sponsored by the Sierra Club's NJ Central Group and it's Transportation Committee. Pizza and snacks are provided. Must RSVP to: Kipatthesierraclub@gmail.com – seating is very limited.

Dr. Kornhauser received his PhD in Aerospace & Mechanical Sciences from Princeton University in 1971. He joined the faculty of Princeton in 1972 and continues to hold the positions of Professor, Operation Research & Financial Engineering, Director, Transportation Research Program, and Faculty Chair, Princeton Autonomous Vehicle Engineering (PAVE). He was Princeton University's Faculty Leader for its 2005 and 2007 entries into the Defense Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Challenges, which offers a \$1 million prize for facilitating robotic development for autonomous ground military forces.

In 1979 he founded ALK Technologies, Inc. that enhanced and utilized PTNM/GIS to assist the private North American Railroad System to implement substantial operational efficiencies, including the creation of the first computer-graphic Operation Control Center at Canadian National and the first Optimal Locomotive Management System at Burlington Northern. ALK, which Dr. Kornhauser sold in 2012, has created a standard digital map database that is used today by essentially every railroad and trucking company in North America.

In 2014, he co-founded two new firms, Soterea, which specializes in autonomous vehicles and, IndigoEnergy, which specializes in renewable energy. He also is Board Chair of the Advanced Transit Association (ATRA) (2005-present), and Editor of

"SmartDrivingCars," an electronic newsletter: www.smartdrivingcar.com.

Mercer County Community College is located at 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, 08550. Plenty of parking will be available in the normally-closed lot at the entrance to the Student Center. Just drive around to the entrance and you should find the entrance-arm in the up-position. Room 211 is on the second floor.

Future sessions: Feb 20: Professor Michael J. Brogan, PhD, Rider University will present political science and environmental science views on the Pipelines invading New Jersey.

Mar 20: Margo Pellegrino - Environmentalist and Blogger, solo- coastal paddler, who has paddled her outrigger canoe from Miami to Maine, from Newark NJ to Chicago, from Miami to New Orleans, and from Seattle to San Diego – to raise awareness about water quality issues. This petite mother of two has gone the extreme route to get people involved in protecting the water in our rivers, bays and estuaries. The epic journey from Chicago to New Orleans, a distance of 927 miles, would take at least 13 hours of straight driving; cf: two months of paddling.

Our Outings coordinators have put together a list of activities for the winter season. See pp.11-12.

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

OFFICERS:

Group and Conservation Chair:	Gary Frederick	gary.frederick3@gmail.com
Secretary:	<i>Open position!</i>	
Political Chair:	Daphne Speck-Barynski	732-390-5311 speckbartyn@comcast.net
Communications:	Dani Leviss	
Treasurer:	Sindhu Pasricha	
Membership:	Gurdon Hornor	678-920-8620 ghonor@yahoo.com
Outings Chair:	Alison Wilkes	
Bee Affairs:	Brenda Bradley	
Ex-Com at Large:	Roomi Nusrat	609-389-6036 sierra_nj_rartian@att.net

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: Our meeting locations will be at the Highland Park Reformed Church, the Somerset Dinner or the Harvest Moon Pub/Café in New Brunswick. Please subscribe to our E-mail list: NJ-RARITAN-VALLEY-NEWS after creating a password on <http://lists.sierraclub.org/>

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

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

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

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

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

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Dennis Anderson	732-970-4327	dennisaza@aol.com
	6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747		
Vice-Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Secretary:	Joe DeLuca	732-389-1835	joe-deluca@att.net
Conservation Chair:	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445	faithtei@aol.com
Webmaster:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Treasurer:	Pat Fuschetto	732-308-4588	fusc40@yahoo.com
Political Chair:	Bob Sandberg	732-747-3224	sandberg00@gmail.com
Outings Chair:	Mike Verange	908-902-0718	mjverange@aol.com
Membership Chair:	Bob Grize	732-892-0684	nyucwnyppb@aol.com
Program Chair:	George Moffatt	732-544-1726	gmoffattgt@aol.com
Climate Chair:	Kim Rowe		krowe48483@gmail.com
Fund-raising Co-Chairs:	Lois Blake	732-863-5917	lqblake@optonline.net
and	Joellen Lundy	732-741-4756	jfutey@comcast.net
Publicity Chair:	Lara Zillow		lzulow@optimum.net

Jersey Shore Group Happenings:

The Jersey Shore Sierra Club is a partner of the Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association whose goal is to restore the banks and water quality of the Whale Pond Brook and create a greenway from the shore in Long Branch to the uplands in Tinton Falls. In Long Branch, on a glorious November day, volunteers used a rope to pull them-

selves out to Ross Island on our raft in order to put two tarps over our beloved 100 year old stone hut. In early spring, the third phase of a restoration project jointly funded by Long Branch and the Monmouth County Historic Preservation Commission will begin. The east side of the hut's roof will be repaired.

At the same time members of the Long Branch garden club joined us at the Ross Island Park garden on Elinore Ave. to help spread wood chips and weed in our all native shrub and bee garden.

On the watershed in Ocean Township, a rain garden will be planted in the cafeteria courtyard of the Ocean Township High School by the Science Club.. This area will not only give all students a peaceful place to be outside but will teach them about how a rain garden works to reduce the storm water coming from the flat school roof.

Rutgers Water Resources Division donated the design and plants. Burke Construction, Inc. has volunteered to do the excavating. This is the culmination of a grant we received from the Stony Brook Watershed Institute. This past spring we taught 6 seminars to sixth graders and 2 to adults. The rain garden is located on the watershed.

Help Needed for Cleanups: If you would like to participate in cleanups of our local waterways, please contact 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.

Help Needed for Other Cleanups: If you would like to participate in cleanups of our other local waterways, please contact another dynamo, Laura Bagwell at l.bagwell3@verizon.net. Laura focuses on the Red Bank area watersheds. In this effort, we work with the Navesink Swimming River Group which, since 2002, has removed more than 20 tons of debris from our local banks and streams. Alas, pollution never ends; we are in constant need of volunteers.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Our general membership meetings take place at 6pm on the fourth Monday of the month at Brookdale Community College's Lincroft Campus (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/MAAPS/MAP_04_08.pdf.

Jan 23: The Health of the Navesink. Rik F. Van Hemmen, Vice President of the Navesink Maritime Heritage Association and President of Martin & Ottaway Inc., a marine engineering firm in Red Bank, NJ, will provide an overview of the many issues affecting the Navesink River, including the Rally the Navesink effort, bridge replacement, storm water runoff, invasive species, river front access, educational efforts, park and preserved land integration, historical preservation, oyster restoration, and his proposal to nominate the Navesink to be a National Marine Sanctuary. Employing his engineering expertise, he will also focus on complex engineered sustainable solutions from an ecosystem point of view. He also is the author of a book, "A Chronology of Boating on the Navesink".

Feb 27: Climate Challenges to Polar Bears and, Yes, Sharks. Dave Grant, Deputy Director of the Shark Research Institute (SRI) and former professor at Brookdale Community College, will discuss the effects global warming on the inhabitants and wildlife resources of the Pacific Northwest and Arctic region, as part of his studies on global warming. Talk is rescheduled from 2016.

Mar 27: The Lives of NJ-NY's Turtles and Other Species. Dr. Russell Burke of Hofstra University will discuss his research about local costal marine species, including terrapins. He studies the ecology, evolution, and conservation biology of turtles and lizards, most of which are either introduced species or rare species, thus population control. And since a lot of his field work takes place in the urban and suburban habitats of New York City and Long Island, he calls his work "Urban Ecology." His interests include ecology, evolution, behavior, conservation biology, urban habitats, and ecology of wildlife diseases.

Ocean County Group

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

OFFICERS:

Chair & Treasurer: A. Gregory Auriemma, Esq. 732-451-9220 sierraclubOC@aol.com
Vice-Chair & Conserv Chair: Margit Meissner-Jackson 609-296-4367 sylviaj1910@yahoo.com
Outings Chair & Env'l Ed'n Coord: Terrance Brown 848-333-7331
Outings Co-Chair: Monica Zabroski 609-384-2693 monicazabrowski@yahoo.com
Fund-Raising: Joyce M. Isaza 732-920-9270 realtymstr@aol.com
Group ExCom Member: Nancy Brown 732-892-6089 nancybrown624@comcast.net
Group ExCom Member: Sierra Palmer

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

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

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

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

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

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

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseyGroupNJSC> Log on and Like Us

Follow us on Twitter @WJsierraclub and Instagram @wjsierraclub

OFFICERS:

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

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

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

Jan 11: The Green Chicken Lady - Maria T. Brimat will present "Green Backyard Chickens". Come and learn about the growing backyard farming movement and why keeping chickens can help make your life greener.

Feb 8: The Environmental Benefits of a Plant-based Diet - Steve Fenster from the Vegetarian Society of South Jersey will speak about the merits and environmental benefits of a plant based diet.

Mar 8: Movie Night - No Impact Man - A man leaves behind his liberal complacency for a vow to make as little environmental impact as possible for one year.

NEWS: The West Jersey Group held its annual food drive to benefit the South Jersey Food Bank. 75 pounds of food was collected for South Jersey families in need.



South Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:

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

(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)

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

Current Issues: (1) A land-use controversy in Millville - over what is known as the Durand Tract, seems to be back in controversy, with a court requiring reconsideration. Jeff Tittel is probably the most knowledgeable person in the Chapter. (2) Controversy continues over the construction of a large-diameter (24") natural gas pipeline to feed the BL England electric power plant in Marmora (Cape May Co), with a likely lawsuit originating from the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. (3) Veronica Van Hof has been hired as director of the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, which straddles Atlantic and Gloucester Counties on Unexpected Road. She holds a degree in wildlife biology. You can reach her through the Refuge telephone: 856.697.3541 - or by e-mail: director@unexpectedwildliferefuge.org. (4 etc.) Campaigns to prevent the use of tropical rainforest wood for rebuilding oceanfront boardwalks, in Ocean City and Wildwood, seem quiescent at present. Club officers and staff have been following several studies seeking to determine sustainable water supply levels for southeastern New Jersey, with the hope that findings will be used by planners (such as those employed by the Pinelands Commission) who permit development. On damage being done to sand trails by ORVs in Wharton State Forest, the DEP has sided with the vehicle enthusiasts by rejecting a Motorized Access Map prepared by the Park staff. The next move will be the DEP's. Also a campaign to promote Community Solar (photovoltaic) installations (especially in each municipality in Atlantic County), support for legislation that would end the free distribution of plastic bags at supermarkets (as Longport in Atlantic County has done), and support for a New Jersey Bottle Bill, known as the Smart Container Act.

Some Possibly Relevant Meetings of Allied Organizations:

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

Jan 24 and Mar 28 (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.

Jan 25, Feb 22 and Mar 22 (fourth Wednesdays), 7pm: Atlantic Audubon Society is a lively member-organization with strong environmental programs and an excellent monthly on-line newsletter. Membership is free. Meetings are in the Galloway Twp Library, 306 E Jimmie Leeds Rd. www.AtlanticAudubon.org.

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

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

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

Singles Section

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

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

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

The BEST way to be notified of upcoming events is to join our free listserv. Anyone may subscribe by going to: <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-SINGLES-NEWS.html> and clicking on "Join or leave the list." You may subscribe and unsubscribe at will; directions on how to unsubscribe are at the bottom of each announcement. We recommend joining the listserv to receive announcements for all of our events a few weeks before each event. Events are also listed on the online calendar on the Chapter's web site: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/.

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

OFFICERS:

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

Programs:	<i>Position Open.</i> Contact us! We need you!
Publicity:	<i>Position Open.</i> Contact us! We need you!
Membership:	<i>Position Open.</i> Contact us! We need you!
Nominations:	Nancy Sullivan nancysullivan@comcast.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

HIKES AND OTHER OUTINGS:

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

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

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Section

The mission of this Section is to support Sierra Club goals, and to promote activism within the LGBT community through letter writing, phone calls, and other active support for environmental issues. 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
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Treasurer:	<i>Open Position - volunteer needed!</i>	
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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:

Check [Meetup.com/njsierraclub](http://www.meetup.com/njsierraclub) or www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/ for outings listings. You can also receive updated information by joining our email list. Please contact John at jkashwick@gmail.com to be included in the list.

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.

Care for more Club involvement? You can sample (and subscribe to) several specialist Club national electronic newsletters by logging on to: insider@sierraclub.org, currents@sierraclub.org, www.sierraclub.org/population, and www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming.



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Personnel Committee
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Legislative Committee
Ken Johanson**, Carey Huff, Dave Mattek, and Kelly-Ann Norgaard

Litigation Oversight Committee
Greg Auriemma**, Ken Johanson

Finance Committee
George Denzer**, Paul Sanderson**, Sunil Somalwar, Ken Johanson

Information Technology Committee
Joe Testa**, Sunil Somalwar, George Newsome

Facilities (office, meeting sites)
George Denzer**, Joan Denzer, Paul Sanderson, Sunil Somalwar, Laura Lynch, and Bonnie Tillery

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

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.

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

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OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

will be a moderate to slow one. See the Morris County Parks Commission website <http://www.morrisparks.org/aspparks/lmdir.asp> for directions. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Meet in parking lot. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footgear required (sabliders, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com . Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Mar 19 (Sun): World Day for Water: NJ Sierra Club Walk for Water along the D&R Canal and the Delaware River (Hunterdon Co). 10am. Join us as we walk 3 miles on the Canal towpath from Bulls Island State Park to Prallsville Mills. World Water Day is held annually on March 22 as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. Every year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater and in 2017 the focus is "Wastewater". Ring water, snacks and lunch. Leashed dogs are welcome! Meeting Bulls Island State Park, 2185 Daniel Bray Hwy, Stockton 08559. Co-Leaders: Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com and Joanne P: jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com (C)

Mar 23 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak Crosswicks Creek/ Abbott Marshlands (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 10am. Our 8-mile round trip with the tide begins on the Crosswicks Creek in Bordentown. We'll see returning waterfowl. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St. Experienced cold weather/water paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Mar 25 (Sat): Bicycle the Barnegat Branch Trail (Ocean Co). 10am. 10-12 miles, easy pace. The BBT is a 15.6-mile linear "rail-to-trail" project that will extend from Barnegat Township to Toms River Township. The public trail, which lies primarily along the abandoned Barnegat Branch Division of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, and including 2 miles of existing trail and proposed road and sidewalk connections, will be developed and constructed in several phases. Bicycle helmets must be worn. Bring water and snacks; option for a late lunch at a local restaurant. Inclement weather cancels. Contact leaders to confirm the ride and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Mar 29 (Wed): Bicycle the Edgar Felix Bikeway (Monmouth Co). 10am. 10-12 miles, easy pace. The Bikeway extends from Manasquan to Allaire State Park; additional biking trails at Allaire. Bicycle helmets must be worn. Bring lunch, water and snacks. Inclement weather cancels. Contact leaders to confirm the ride and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

APRIL

Apr 1 (Sat): April Fool's Day Hike at Rancocas State Park (Burlington Co.) 10am. 5-6 miles, easy pace. No Fooling - Spring is here! Let's look for early signs of spring as we hike. Bring water and snacks. Meet at Long Bridge Park, Deacon Rd. Directions: <http://www.co.burlington.nj.us/pages/pages.aspx?cid=589>. Leashed dogs are welcome. Option: late lunch at Vincentown Diner. Inclement weather cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Apr 5 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 9:30am. The section we paddle will depend on weather conditions. Experienced cold weather/water paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and details. Option for early breakfast at the Vincentown Diner. 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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Dick Colby (dick.colby@stockton.edu) Editor
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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.)

Opinions, unless otherwise attributed, are of the writer only. Advertised products and services carry no Club endorsement.

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue!
This newsletter is produced mostly by volunteers.

Members please send address changes: To address.changes@sierraclub.org, or Sierra Club Membership 2101 Webster St. Oakland, CA 94612 or 415-977-5653, and NJ Sierra Club, 145 West Hanover St. Trenton NJ 08618

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