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 Titel 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, current Mayor of Jersey City and who had one of the worst records for the environment in Congress. Hillary Clinton won New Jersey by 13 percentage points and +59,583 votes.

Our distinguished awardees include two local elections: offshore drilling-opponent John Weber was elected to the Bradley Beach Town Council (Monmouth Co) and anti-natural-gas-pipeline advocate Jeff Titel was elected to the Chesterfield Township Committee (Burlington Co).

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

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 for 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 conserva
tion 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. B. Dickson (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 never did.”

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 step 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’re an expert but can’t find others nearby to work with. 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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| Climate Change in NJ. WV Settlement Money Refused? NJ’s Super Polluters, 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/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.

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| Quarterly Newsletter of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club |
By Hugh Evans, PhD (HLEvans.Sierra@gmail.com)

Health Problems from issues in New Jersey, and (EJ), Jo-Anne Chasnow. She is contacting house paint in 1978 and as an ingredient used by the CDC (5 mg/dl). (10 mg/dl in blood) that is twice that published by the US Centers for Disease analysis of a blood sample.束
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be smelled or tasted, so a person's accu-
havior does not contribute to household's sale before balanced between bone and blood. The

Like most of you, the day after our recent presidential election I woke up, not feeling particularly enthusiastic about the night before. We are head back to darker days.
We no longer have a firewall protect-
ing our rights and are able to do whatever we wish. As for 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 develop-
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 popula-

Our New Jersey Chapter has a new Coordinator for Environmental Justice (EJ), Jo-Anne Chasnow. She is contacting all other State-wide and Community-based environmental justice groups on issues in New Jersey, and may create an EJ Committee to partner with them if they feel we could work together on efforts. The essence of Environmental Justice is not just protection from environmental health haz-
ards, for all residents of New Jersey, especially poor neighborhoods. Newark has 30 poor neighborhoods. Camden has been forced to rely on bot-
tered water into 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 sys-
tems for its schools.

Our views in science are mainly in the water system, with long-lasting neuro-
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To vote by paper ballot: Please use the ballot below; vote for the number of boxes you have dashed line, and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Jan 31, to Sierra Club Ballot, 1481 Union Ave, Nutley, NJ 07110. PARs of boxes are to enable two members of family membership to vote. If you are voting online, only a single ballot paper you mail in will be counted. Online votes must be in by Jan 31, 2017. If the Sierra Club doesn’t have your email address, you must use the paper ballot and you cannot vote online.
To vote online: click on the link in the e-mail you receive. If you have a joint membership, login to your email account and enable each member to cast a separate vote. The ballot page will have links to the same candidate statements as printed in this newsletter.

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 all other State-wide and Community-based environmental justice groups on issues in New Jersey, and may create an EJ Committee to partner with them if they feel we could work together on efforts. The essence of Environmental Justice is not just protection from environmental health hazards, for all residents of New Jersey, especially poor neighborhoods. Newark has 30 poor neighborhoods. Camden has been forced to rely on bot-

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I fear she will only get longer and longer. Those fears cannot be dismissed.

The vacancy on the Supreme Court will be filled by a president who will either choose someone who will over-
turn Roe v. Wade. While replacing a conserva-
tive with another conserva-
tive will not necessarily tip the balance of power, it will not tip the balance of power to the right. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is 85. Anthony Kennedy is 80. Stephen Breyer is 77. The Supreme Court term, four years is a long time.

The Affordable Care Act will, at best, be eroded and degraded. Funds that are not spent on family

Here is a proposal by the NJ and Federal agencies, is not essen-
tial. Nearly all the pregnancies in the U.S.
and up to 54% of the pregnancies in NJ are not planned. Access to a NJ women's studies Academy of Sciences study, just by meet-
ing the need for family planning.

CO₂ emissions can be reduced by 1 billion tons of carbon a year. Slower popula-
tion growth could cause a 29% of the reduction needed to stabilize emissions by 2050.

Hillary Clinton spoke to the young girls listening to her concession speech say-

"never doubt that you are valuable and beautiful. And that you are destined to do great things."

In Pence's state, a woman who wants to have an abortion will have someone to help her choose someone who will over-
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tive will not necessarily tip the balance of power, it will not tip the balance of power to the right. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is 85. Anthony Kennedy is 80. Stephen Breyer is 77. The Supreme Court term, four years is a long time.
One slight consolation with regard to our environmental “loss” on Nov 8 is that the “know-nothing” period is over (for the time being). Over the current ones, when we fought a civil war before: in its earliest years, when we lived in fear, and dirty tricks (voter-suppression).

That’s interesting, because suburbs tend to vote Republican and urban centers, 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 “battle-ground” states (FL, PA, OH, MI, NC, VA, WI, CO, IA and NH) are mostly small and rural, direct election would enhance the political efficacy of voters in more populous and urban states such as New Jersey. This would raise the importance of those environmental issues that are differential-ly important to us: energy efficiency, reducing the sea-level rise, protecting our megatons, mass transit, cleaning up polluted sites, replacing decaying infrastructure, providing air quality, providing open space, and rushing in urban areas, and relieving the environmental injustices and existential minuscule populations (such as the residents of Newark’s Ironbound) — forced by economics to live in and near heavily polluted states.

It is politically practical to expect ¾ of the states and ¾ of both houses of Congress, to vote for a Constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College? Expectably, the bias of some, against, since more states benefit from the bias than are hurt by it. But logic and experience, justice and fairness, would be stronger otherwise, especially if the recent trend of disproportional election-outcomes continues and the political balance of lobbying strength shifts to benefit minority populations that are increasing in relative size. I should think that the impetus for a 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 delib-erating the question “whether, given one vote, we would have more states than the other 41 states combined.”

The Electoral College was invented, in 1789, to “balance” large-population states with small ones and to limit slave-ownship states. There were only 13 states then, the largest (ranked by population) being VA, PA, NC, LA, and NY, with our state (touted by Alexander Hamilton as the most industrial) ranked 12th, although New Jersey was already benefiting from the distortion imposed by the Electoral College. (Then, the deficit for the New England states and the west and least-populous states was a factor of ten; today it’s 60.)

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

Chair’s Message

Chapter Welcomes Our New Volunteers!

By Richard Isaac (risaac@zol.com)

You may want or need to give to the Sierra Club, and you may be able to do so at a special club program or to the New Jersey Chapter.

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.)

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

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

By Dick Cobly (dcobly@stockton.edu)
From a Press Release issued by our Trenton staff on Sept 17, edited by Irene Gnanra

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-authorization in the past two years, and PJM recommends changing the performance standards required by PJM’s Capacity Performance Construct. A final decision might be made by December, 2016.  The Christie Administration will close both these coal plants so as to reduce the air pollution and greenhouse-gas atmospheric warming that they cause.  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 Indianapolis from the danger of low-level radiation.  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 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 an action plan 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 reject our message of sea walls and preventing leaks, our construction code standards, and our technology for reducing lawn sprinkling. The worst droughts 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 have a robust conduct and enforcement rules to block 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 the wastewater.

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 Water Quality Act and the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES), 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 (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 cloud 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 been an overall plan for water supply needs for close to two decades. The DEP 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

Settlement Money: Will you 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 affected by the car company admitted in September 2016 to cheating on emissions tests. The $14 billion settlement is supposed to help people impacted by Volkswagen’s environmental crime. New Jersey’s share is expected to be about $60 million.

We need this money to get polluting diesel buses off the road, build electric vehicle charging stations, electrify our ports, etc. But here’s the bad news: the US Department of Justice lawsuit proceeds allow the money to 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 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.

2017 is the year of a gubernatorial election in N.J. For involvement, contact a PolCom member.
From a Press Release dated Oct 11, edited by Irene Gnuar

New Jersey’s Super Polluters

According to a report issued by the Center for Public Integrity, New Jersey ranks 3rd in the nation for greenhouse gas emissions, and 57th for toxic air pollution. The report also notes that New Jersey’s top 70 Super Polluters, together with four other federal agencies, are responsible for the majority of all air pollution in New Jersey. These sources are mostly industries, power plants, and refineries that have not been regulated by the federal government.

New Jersey’s Super Polluters

The report lists 15 major industrial facilities that are responsible for the majority of New Jersey’s air pollution:

1. Hackensack River Generating Station (Union Co)
2. AES Red Oak Power Generating Facility in Middlesex County
3. Paulsboro Refining Co. (Gloucester Co)
4. Chambers Cogeneration in Hudson County
5. Natural Gas Power Plant in Essex County
6. AES Dabney Station (Union Co)
7. AES Desert Mountain Station (Hudson Co)
8. AES Desert Mountain Station (Gloucester Co)
9. AES Desert Mountain Station (Passaic Co)
10. AES Dabney Station (Hunterdon Co)
11. AES Desert Mountain Station (Morris Co)
12. AES Desert Mountain Station (Bergen Co)
13. AES Desert Mountain Station (Burlington Co)
14. AES Desert Mountain Station (Somerset Co)
15. AES Desert Mountain Station (Mercer Co)

The report notes that these facilities are responsible for the majority of New Jersey’s air pollution, and that they continue to emit pollutants that are harmful to the environment and public health.

New Jersey’s Super Polluters

The Christie Administration has been criticized for its failure to address these environmental problems. In 2016, the Christie Administration announced that it would exit the Northeastern States’ Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a program aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

New Jersey’s Super Polluters

The report also notes that the Christie Administration has been slow to act on climate change, and that it has failed to implement policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The report calls for the Christie Administration to take swift action to address these issues, and to work with the federal government to implement effective policies.

New Jersey’s Super Polluters

The report concludes that New Jersey’s Super Polluters are a serious problem that must be addressed by the New Jersey government. The report calls for the state to take action to reduce emissions, and to protect the health and well-being of the citizens of New Jersey.
Tired of DEP Budget Games?

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

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 $2.5 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 Dep. 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 pol- lute the atmosphere and groundwaters 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 serves 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 monther’s meetings, tours of local areas, look at the birds, hike, bird walk, or take in an informative talk on a particular topic. We meet 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 important ecological area. Please visit SaveSpartaMountain.org to learn more about this important issue.

March 1 (Wed): Dan O’Connor, Executive Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club will present on the importance of clean energy and how we can make a difference in our daily lives. He will give an overview of the Clean energy Act of New Jersey which will be introduced in the legislature this year.

Mar 15 (Wed): Select Executive Committee/Planning Meeting.

The Skylands Group 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.

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Please check our page on MEETUP: http://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/
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 973-884-1384.

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

Jan 15 (Sun): 12:30 pm: ExCom Meeting. Location to be announced.

Mar 19 (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.

Loantaka Group

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://kits.sierraclub.org/archives/usjloantaka-news.html

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: are held on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at the Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St, Chatham. All members are invited to these meetings and will be held in conjunction with the Executive Committee meetings.

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
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://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/ for more information.) The Loantaka Group is working with concerned citizens and local environmental organizations to protect open space and wildlife habitat in Morris and Union Counties, and to safeguard the water resources on which we all depend. In addition, the Group is actively involved in state-wide initiatives involving air quality, transportation, and environmental legislation. Volunteers are always welcome. Call Eric (732-669-0197)

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
Canoe Club in Flemington
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 Decor. Also: Winemeter’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)


OFFICERS: (noteat)

Group Chair: Joanne Panno 609-445-6992 Jpannoeawoodbrook@gmail.com Group Vice Chair: Xiaping Du xiaping_du@yahoo.com Secretary: Leona Fluck Leona@pineypaddlers.com Outings Coordinators: Leona and George Fluck Leona@pineypaddlers.com Treasurer: Open position! Programs: Steven Eisenberg Steveneis@Optimum.net Conservation Chair: Kip Cherry Kcherry100@gmail.com Recycling: Scott Fulmer Scottf@optonline.net Trails: Dave Mattke MattkeDC@asl.com Webmaster: Open position! Membership: Open position!

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: Kipathieserrachub@gmail.com - seating is very limited.

Dr. Kornhauser received his Ph.D in Aerospace & Mechanical Sciences from Princeton University in 1982 and continues to hold the positions of Professor, Operation Research & Financial Engineering, Director, Transportation Research Program, and Faculty Chair, Princeton Autonomous Vehicle Engineering, which 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 IndigoF-energy, which specializes in renewable energy. He is also 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 s-p position. Room 211 is on the second floor.

Future sessions: Feb 20: Professor Michael J. Brogan, PhD, Rider University will present on 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 Newrark 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 took them to over 1300 miles of beautiful coastline to 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: Open position! Political Chair: Daphne Speck-Barynski 722-590-5311 speckbarynski@comcast.net Communications: Dani Leviss Treasurer: Sindhru Parochia Membership: Gurdon Honor 678-920-8620 ghonor@yahoo.com Outings Chair: Alison Williams Beef Affairs: Brenda Bradley Ex-Com at Large: Roomi Nusrat 609-894-6036 sierra_nj_raritan@att.net

WEBSITE: http://www.sierracluborg/new-jersey/RaritanValley/

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_njraritan@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 Path/Café in New Brunswick. Please subscribe to our Email list: NJRARITANVALLEYNEWS after creating a password on http://lists.sierraclub.org/

Please contribute to our Quarterly News Letter sent via the Email 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. Passage of and responsible enforcement of environmentally friendly zoning and development ordinances.
2. 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/JerseyShore/

OFFICERS:

Program Chair: Dennis Anderson 732-979-4327 denniszaza@aol.com Vice-Chair: Joe Deluca 732-389-1855 Joe-deluca@att.net Secretary: Faith Teitelbaum 732-515-9445 faithtei@aol.com Webmaster: Open position! Political Chair: Pat Fuschetto 732-808-4558 fuschetto4@yahoo.com Political Chair: Bob Sandberg 732-777-3224 sandberg80@gmail.com Outings Chair: Mike Verage 708-902-0718 mveragea@aol.com Membership Chair: Bob Grize 732-2409-0684 nywcmypbb@aol.com Program Chair: George Moffatt 732-544-1726 gmoffatt@fargo.net Conservation Chair: Ron Youker ron.youker@gmail.com

Funds- raising

Co-Chairs: Lois Blake and Ruth Landy 732-863-9517 732-741-4776 gblake@optonline.net julney@comcast.net Publicity Chair: Lara Zillow lzillow@optimum.net

Jersey Shore Group Happenings:

The Jersey Shore Sierra Club is a partner of the Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association whose mission is to restore the brook. Events or utility of the New Whale Pond Book 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 fund-
ed 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 Emlere 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 at 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 designed the plants and Barke Con-struction, Inc. has volunteered to do the excavating. This is the culmination of a grant we received from the New Jersey State Pinelands Institute. This past spring we taught 6 semi-
nars to 6th graders and 2 to adults. The rain garden is located on the watershed.

Help Needed for Closures: If you would like to participate in cleanups of our local waterways, please contact Laura Bagwell at lbagwell3@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 lbagwell3@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 7pm on the first Monday of each month at Broaddale Community College’s Lincolns Campus (BCC). We are delighted that the college has invited us to continue the joint meetings of Sierra New Jersey and Save the Navesink effort. The BCC liaison is Dr. Patricia Dillion, biology professor in the college’s Science Department.

We meet at BCC to share our speakers with environmentally-conscious 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 Broaddale, take GSP Exit 99 to Rte 520 West (Newman Springs Rd., which becomes E Main St at the Lincolns campus). Exit the traffic circle into the campus and follow the signs to the Warren Student Life Center (MLC), where the meeting usually is in the LMC next to the auditorium. Use the main entrance to enter the auditorium through the doors on the right side of the building. Do not go into the tavern on the left. After crossing Grove Rd, go two blocks and turn right on to BUC Lawn, where the meeting room is.

General meeting information:
- Jan 23: The Health of the Navesink. Rik F. Van Hammen, 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 replace-
- Feb 27: Climate Challenges to Polar Bears and us. 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 of the Pacific Northwest and Arctic region, with 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 off the Jersey Coast, defending the Endangered Species Act, fight-
- Mar 27: The Lives of NJ-NY’s Turtles and Other Species. Dr. Russell Burke of Hofstra University will discuss his research about local coastal marine species, including terra-
- Apr: The Lives of NJ-NY’s Turtles and Other Species. Dr. Russell Burke of Hofstra University will discuss his research about local coastal marine species, including terra-
- May: The Holds of the Navesink. Rik F. Van Hammen, 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 replace-
- Jun 20: Man-A man leaves behind his lib-
- Jul 18: The Green Chicken Lady – Maria T. Brimat will present “Green Backyard Manure – Building a Rain Garden that Produces Compost and a Vege-
- Aug 15: The Green Chicken Lady – Maria T. Brimat will present “Green Backyard Manure – Building a Rain Garden that Produces Compost and a Vegetable Garden”.
- Sep 19: The Green Chicken Lady – Maria T. Brimat will present “Green Backyard Manure – Building a Rain Garden that Produces Compost and a Vegetable Garden”.
- Oct 17: The Green Chicken Lady – Maria T. Brimat will present “Green Backyard Manure – Building a Rain Garden that Produces Compost and a Vegetable Garden”.
- Nov 21: The Green Chicken Lady – Maria T. Brimat will present “Green Backyard Manure – Building a Rain Garden that Produces Compost and a Vegetable Garden”.
- Dec 19: The Green Chicken Lady – Maria T. Brimat will present “Green Backyard Manure – Building a Rain Garden that Produces Compost and a Vegetable Garden”.

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

MEETINGS AND EVENTS: General Meetings are held bimonthly (i.e., in alternate months) starting the first MONDAY of each month at 7pm at the “Tavern on the Green” at the Ocean County Administration Building, 129 Hooper Avenue (2nd Floor), Tom's River. Information on meetings in Jan-March will be posted on the website: www.newjersey.sierraclub.org/ ocean.

West Jersey Group (Carmen, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:
- Chair: Linda Rubiano: Linda_Maritza@yahoo.com
- Vice-Chair: Lee Snyder: pinelands1@hotmail.com
- Secretary: Ellen Zinni: efzinni@aol.com
- Treasurer: Devan Good: devangood@skyscrapers.com
- Publicity Chair: Anne Caridi: amariecaridi@yahoo.com
- Political Chair: Linda Miranda: Linda_Maritza@yahoo.com
- Highlands Rep: Joe Snyder: pinelands1@hotmail.com
- Greenways Coord: Frank and Ellen Zinni: efzinni@aol.com
- Conservation Chair: Stacey Ayala: thunderowlgalaxy@yahoo.com
- Delegate at Large: Ed Ayala: edayala@subway.com
- Membership Chair: Mike Brown: 856-547-9221: eyebrown@verizon.net
- Fundraising Chair: Open Position; Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8851
- Smart Growth Chair: Open Position; Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8851
- Programs Chair: Open Position; Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8851
- Outings Chair: Open Position; Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8851
- Social Media Coord: Evan Kostka: evan.kostka@gmail.com and Dayna Hovem: daynahovem@gmail.com

GENERAL MEETINGS are held at 7:30 pm on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month, September through May, at the Quaker Meeting Hall on Friends Ave in Haddonfield. Inclement weather may cancel. Please call 856-848-8851 if unsure.

Directions: From I-295, take exit 25, take Exit 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 (Race Rd). Make the next right and then the next left onto Kings Hwy. About a mile, you will cross Grover Rd (Indian King Yaw - is on the right before Grover Rd). After crossing Grover Rd, you will cross two more blocks and turn right onto 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 Feinster from the Vegetarian Society of South Jersey will speak about the merits and environmental ben-

March Movie Night – No Impact Man - A man leaves behind his lib-

NEWS: The West Jersey Group held its annual food drive to bene-

South Jersey Group (Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS:
- Chair, Outings Chair: Tom Boghosian: tom@marketersonthehill.com
- Vice Chair: Open Position
- Conservation Chair: Open Position
- Pol. Chair, Calendar: Open Position
- Membership Chair: Open Position
- Secretary/Treasurer: Julie Abers: 856-432-3820: julieabers65@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 to continue to consume the resources of those few officers who remain active both within the Sierra Club and in the Watershed Association (GEHWA) that spans off from the South

(continued on page 10)
GROUP NEWS

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. Please visit our website (at www.sierraclub.org/vents) for some general contacts 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! We are looking for volunteers from Chairs, Co-Chairs and other persons in our South Jersey. To be placed on a carefully guarded distribution list for local issues and meetings, please email info@sierranj.org. It 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 Timmole, probably the most knowledgeable person in the Chapter. (2) Contingent on the construction of a large-diameter (24”) natural gas pipeline to feed the BL 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 email: director@unexpectedwildliferefuge.org. (4) Campaigns to prevent the use of tropical rainforest wood for reboarding 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 Municipal ordinance prepared by the Parks 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 Aks, 609-432-3280.

Jan 24 and Mar 28 (alternate fourth Tuesdays) 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association: open to the public. WFNC. Contact Lyn Mau, 856.649.7922 or email lynmaun@comcast.net. Program TBA. Website: www.gehwa.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 (C3) at 609-774-5853 or karla.rossini@cummairvercer.org. Website: www.cummairvercer.org.

Feb 15 (alternate third Weddays), 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss river management issues. Contact Julie Aks, 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: glenrklotz1949@gmail.com.

Singles Section

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

Please join us! The NJ Singles Section was specifically created to offer a variety of single-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 offer as many activities as any other section, if volunteers run them – if you have the slightest urge to get involved, please contact one of our officers!

WEBSITE: http://www.sieraclub.org/new-jersey/Sierra-Singles/

The BEST way to be notified of upcoming events is to join our free listserve: Anyone can subscribe by going to http://listserv.sierraclub.org/.listserv?majordomo-NEWWS.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. You will receive notices to our listserve of all annual events starting at least few weeks before each event. Events are also listed on the online calendar on the Chapter’s website: www.sieraclub.org/new-jersey/

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

OFFICERS:

Interim Chair: Ron Paie
Outings Chair: Joyce White
Conservation Chair: Position Open. Contact us! We need you!
Treasurer: Joe Prebisch
Social Chair: Jeff Sooleve
Vice Social Chair: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com

Program: Position Open. Contact us! We need you!
Publicity: Position Open. Contact us! We need you!
Membership: Position Open. Contact us! We need you!
Nominations: Nancy Sullivan

2015 Executive Committee members: Rozanna Fonelli, Joyce Haddad, Ron Paie, Joe Prebisch, Jeff Sooleve, 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 listserve; 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 Monticule 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 listserve 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 the Chapter’s online calendar. See the Outings section of this Newsletter for singles outings led by Jim Oleskiak and Jeff Sooleve. Please join the listserve 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 following by a optional meal at a location determined by the leader. See the Outings section of this Newsletter for Silver Singles outings. Check the Singles listserve 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.

WEBSITE: http://www.sieraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/

MEETUP: http://www.meetup.com/sierranjLGBT/

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

OFFICERS:

Co-Chair: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com
Co-Chair: Robert Zitzman * robertmz@att.net
Secretary: Corbett Klein
Treasurer: Open Position - volunteer needed
Outings Co-Chair: Open Position - volunteer needed
Outings Co-Chair: Carl Prebisch
Webmaster/ Listmaster: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com
Ex-Com Member: Open Position - contact John or Robert if interested

(* Section Executive Committee Member)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Check Meetup.com/sierranj or www.sieraclub.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, 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 website: http://www.fruntravels.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 they can list items they are searching for or want to buy.

Afline 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.fruntravels.com for tips, tips, and travel information regarding New Jersey and other states.
Jan 8 (Sun): Veteran’s Park (Mercer Co), 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. Enjoy a winter hike in one of our favorite winter destinations. A walk through the woodland and a view of beautiful Lake Mercer, which is now the home for 4 F Swamp forests which honors Veterans who have served in the US Armed Forces and who currently serve in the National Guard. Meet at Veteran’s Park, 311 S. Clinton Ave, Hamilton, NJ 08610. Non-Members: Dinner. Inclement weather cancels. Co-Leaders: Leona & George F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Jan 14 (Sat): Jockey Leader’s Choice (Morris Co). 10am. Leader’s choice of trails depending on conditions at Jockey Hollow National Park in Morristown. See http://www.nps.gov/joh/planyourvisit/conditions.htm for details. Rain/Snow: Tbd. Information is subject to change, please call Leona and George (609-259-3734) to confirm trip and details. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Jan 14 (Sat): Kittatinny Valley State Park Hike, Andover (Sussex Co). 10am. 7 miles in 4 hours in less than 3 hours. A hike to the summit of Kittatinny Mtn offers a 360’ view of the Pinelands. Meet at the Kittatinny Valley State Park parking lot. No pets. Inclement weather cancels. Information is subject to change, please call Leona and George (609-259-3734) to confirm trip and details. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Jan 18 (Sat): D&D Canal Hike (Burlington Co). 10am, 5 miles, easy pace. We’ll hike over the lock 1 “swimming bridge” as we walk along the towpath; perhaps see the resident Bald Eagles. Meet at the Rancocas Visitors Center. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footwear required (sandals, crampons or snowshoes appropriate for the conditions. Organizers will be at a local eatery for lunch at 1:30 pm or in time. No pets please. Leader: Joseph Shieloe: Hiker_Dodro@yahoo.com. Join ADK/Jersey Club hike.

Jan 22 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Trip on the D&D Canal (Mercer Co). 10am. Let’s get your winter canoe or kayak season off to a good start by going down the D&D Canal. Bring your own canoe, kayak or paddle. Non-Members: Dinner. Inclement weather cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Jan 25 (Wed): Hike the Franklin Parker Preserve (Burlington Co). 10am. 56 miles, easy pace on the Yellow Trail. The acquisition of the Franklin Parker Preserve in 2005 by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation was a momentous occasion in conservation. This 9400-acre preserve is a key stitch in the regional conservation pie of land, linking the expanses of Brendan Byrne, Wharton, and Penn State Forests to create a more cohesive network of protected open lands. An interpretive trail leads into the forest. The path is wide, partly paved, partly crushed gravel substrates with very little in the way of elevation gain. The trail will be similar in nature to outdoor paths in very modern suburban residential areas. An interpretive sign explains the trail for beginners. No pets please. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footwear required (sandals, crampons or snowshoes appropriate for the conditions). Organizers will be at a local eatery for lunch afterwards. Leader: Joseph Shieloe: Hiker_Dodro@yahoo.com. Join ADK/Jersey Club hike.

Feb 2 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak Cedar (Ocean Co). 10am. It’s almost Groundhog Day! maybe “Pine Phy” will show up with an early departure about Spring! The river section we paddle will depend on river conditions. Contact winter Pines paddlers to confirm trip. Inclement weather cancels. Non-Members: Dinner. Co-Leaders: contact George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Feb 11 (Sat): High Point State Park Cross Country Ski (Sussex Co). 10am. There is a full-service cross-country ski center at High Point State Park. The ski center is open seven days a week. At High Point: skis/snowboards/parks/highpoint.html http://www.skicrosscountry.com/ We expect to take 4-5 hours for the hike. Please bring snowshoe/ski poles/snowshoes/snow pants. Dress appropriately. Winter Transportation devices are required. Contact leaders to confirm trip on the day prior to the outing via Web: http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/home_calendar Directions for the meeting place will be e-mailed to all confirmed participants. Leader: Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Feb 11 (Sat): Path to the Past Hike (Burlington Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. We’ll be hiking to the Lock 1 “swimming bridge” as we walk along the towpath; perhaps see the Bald Eagles. Meet at the Rancocas Visitors Center. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footwear required (sandals, crampons or snowshoes appropriate for the conditions. Organizers will be at a local eatery for lunch at 1:30 pm or in time. No pets please. Leader: Joseph Shieloe: Hiker_Dodro@yahoo.com. Join ADK/Jersey Club hike.

Feb 12 (Wed): Whisploping Village Winter Hike (Burlington Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. We will be hiking to the Lock 1 “swimming bridge” as we walk along the towpath; perhaps see the Bald Eagles. Meet at the Rancocas Visitors Center. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footwear required (sandals, crampons or snowshoes appropriate for the conditions). Organizers will be at a local eatery for lunch at 1:30 pm or in time. No pets please. Leader: Joseph Shieloe: Hiker_Dodro@yahoo.com. Join ADK/Jersey Club hike.

Feb 14 (Tues): Valentine’s Day at Smithville Park (Burlington Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. Contact winter Pines paddlers to confirm trip. Smithville Park is an eventful mixture of native woodland, wetland, and open field. The historic Victorian homes and grounds are a delight to visit. Meet at the South Gate. Inclement weather cancels. Contact George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Feb 20 (Mon): Presidents Day Hike at Lakes Branch County Park (Ocean Co). 10am, 4 miles, easy pace. Lakes Branch has a nature center with interesting exhibits and an observation deck that offers a 360’ view of the Pinelands. Meet at Lakes Branch, 1100 Double Trouble Rd, Berscheid Brook, Howell. Inclement weather cancels. Contact winter Pines paddlers to confirm trip. Inclement weather cancels. Contact George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Feb 26 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. The section we paddle will depend on river conditions. Contact winter Pines paddlers to confirm trip and details. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Feb 20 (Sun): Ramapo Reservation Hike (Bergen Co). 10am, 6-7-mile loop on combination of hiking and cross-country ski trails. Contact winter Pines paddlers to confirm trip. Non-Members: Dinner. Information is subject to change, please call Leona and George (609-259-3734) to confirm trip and details. Information is subject to change, please call Leona and George (609-259-3734) to confirm trip and details. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)


Mar 5 (Sun): Hike at Monmouth Battlefield State Park (Monmouth Co). 10am, 5 miles, easy pace. Monmouth Battlefield is a very popular site and there are many exhibits on light snow and a very good view of Monmouth Battlefield. Inclement weather cancels. Contact George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Mar 11 (Sun): Ramapo Valley Reservation Hike, Mahwah (Bergen Co). 10am, 6-7mile loop on combination of hiking and cross-country ski trails. Contact winter Pines paddlers to confirm trip. Non-Members: Dinner. Information is subject to change, please call Leona and George (609-259-3734) to confirm trip and details. Information is subject to change, please call Leona and George (609-259-3734) to confirm trip and details. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Mar 15 (Sat): Saddle River Hike at High Point State Park (Sussex Co). 10am, 4 miles, easy pace. On March 20, 1778, it was in an artillery battle that Mary Hayes, known as “Molly Pitcher” carried water to drink for her husband at the Battle of Monmouth. The hike takes place on the 244th anniversary of the famous battle. Meet at the High Point Rest Area, 385 County Route 516, High Point. Parking will be available along the road. Non-Members: Dinner. Inclement weather cancels. Contact George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Mar 19 (Sat): Riverside Hike at Historic Smithville Park in Vincentown. The Park features a diverse collection of habitats and terrain and a view of the Delaware River and Bay. Stick to the main trails and avoid the back roads. Inclement weather cancels. Contact George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Mar 24 (Wed): Inclement weather cancels. Contact George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Mar 25 (Thu): Ramapo Reservation Hike, Mahwah (Bergen Co). 10am, 6-7-mile loop on combination of hiking and cross-country ski trails. Contact winter Pines paddlers to confirm trip. Non-Members: Dinner. Information is subject to change, please call Leona and George (609-259-3734) to confirm trip and details. Information is subject to change, please call Leona and George (609-259-3734) to confirm trip and details. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)