The Skinny on Driverless Cars

On Jan 23rd, the Central Jersey Group held a full house for a presentation by Princeton Prof. Alain Kornhauser on the future of driverless vehicles. Smart Cars, aka Automated Vehicles, fall into three categories: Safe-Driving Cars, Self-Driving Cars, and Driverless Cars. Their primary virtue, which he said would make their adoption inevitable, is their safety. Kornhauser presented the data in terms of loss of lives, injuries and property damage. About 35,000 American lives are lost each year, 1.25 million lives worldwide. Driving, as an occupation, is one of the most dangerous, more than coal mining.

In 2014, the costs of car crashes were $887 billion in the US, $2,800/person. 99% of these involved human error. Fatalities had been decreasing steadily from a high in 2005 until, in 2012, with the economy doing better, the number started to increase. The annual increase was 5% in 2012, rising to 8% in 2013. Kornhauser cataloged “human error” as follows, using 2013 data: driver inattention – 25%, vehicle speed – 19%, alcohol impairment – 18%, perceptual errors – 16%, decision errors (turning with obstructed view) – 10%, and incapacitation (falling asleep) – 6%.

In 2005 and again in 2007 Dr. Kornhauser led teams of Princeton students in national competitions to develop a smart car. Each member of the team focused on a different technology: real-time decision systems, organization systems, computing systems, object detection systems, control systems, mechanical systems, electronic systems, and planning systems. They didn’t win, but they learned a lot and these students are now employed by the fledging smart car industry.

Insurance claim data already show that smart features which have been incorporated into the latest cars are producing significant decreases in number of collisions, property damage and bodily injury. These features include forward collision warning (FCW), FCW with autobrake, adaptive headlights, and side view assist (for blind spots).

For example, Tesla’s Autopilot, a smart system, results in a 40% crash-rate reduction. Dr. Kornhauser projected that smart systems will reduce collisions by 50% in a relatively short period of time. Fleet operators and insurance companies stand to save great sums of money from this progress.

Here are some data for buses: in 2013 there were 119 fatalities, 15,551 injuries, and $499,872,628 in losses. With 80,779 buses on American roads, these numbers amount to $6,187/bus/year.

Dr. Kornhauser sees self-driving vehicles as inevitable. Besides Tesla’s Autopilot, we already have MB Dystronic, Plus Vono, 5900 Subaru Eyesight, and others by BMW and Nissan. Low-speed driverless cars include Easy Mile, 2GetThere, robosoft, Catapalt, Meridian shuttle, and the Google Self-Driving Car. Apple, Amazon, Uber and others have models in development.

In New Jersey, he says there is potential for a fleet of 1 million driverless taxis, making 28 million daily person-trips, and tying into a five-fold expanded NJ Transit ridership.

Besides safety, Kornhauser sees enormous economic benefits: better air quality, and positive impacts on climate change.

There will also be economic costs in terms of the jobs of those who drive professionally: truckers, bus drivers, delivery services, and taxi drivers, not to mention soccer-moms. With the demise of labor-intensive manufacturing, and its replacement by overseas manufacturing and automation and robotics in the US, there are fewer opportunities for mass employment. While there will be new jobs created by smart technology, there will also be huge consolidations. So the general problem of a future with fewer jobs should be a serious concern.

Other consequences of driverless cars were touched on: possibly a negative impact on urban sprawl, as smart driving commutes will be easier. Will the number of private cars decrease as the ease of owning a “public” car increases? How will the volume of traffic change? Will automatic route-finding GIS technology smooth traffic, on congested roads? What will be the social impacts, where you no longer have access to the privacy and other benefits of a private car? How will smart cars take to other activities that occur in cars?

On a high note, Dr. Kornhauser reported that many of his students are going into the field. One is working on the Google car. Another has founded a PhD in the neurosciences and is studying deep learning related to cognition in driverless cars. Two are at Artificial Intelligence companies doing related work for the military; one is at Uber; one at AirB&B; and two are with related startups.

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Women’s March on New Jersey - the power of one

By Bonnie Tiley (btiley@msn.com)

“The act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.” - William James

Elizabeth Meyer, wanted her young daughters to know that the horrible things being said about women, minorities, immigrants, the disabled and others should not stand. She needed to let her daughters know it was important to speak out against injustices. Yet, how was she going to take two little girls on a 4 1/2 hour one-way bus ride to Washington, DC for the Jan. 21 March? That’s when she rolled up her sleeves and formed a coalition of many organizations, including Sierra Club, to march on Trenton. Organizers first hoped for 1,000 people, in the end the State Police estimated the peaceful, energized gathering at 7,500. In between speeches at the War Memorial in Trenton for Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman and others, various activities and co-sponsors of the March spoke about why they were marching. Our own Jamie Zaccaria noted that women are most affected by, and bear the brunt of, climate change. In front of the State House, additional inspiration came from NJ Civil Rights icon Edith Savage-Njennings who, since the age of 15, has spoken out against discrimination and continues to do so at age 95.

“Whether you marched in Trenton, at one of the five sister marches around New Jersey, or Washington, Philadelphia or New York City, everyone came away with a new sense that together each one of us can help fight the daily injustices the current administration in Washington is throwing at us. Meyer noted there is strength in our diversity and strength in coming together as one. One of the many signs carried by participants from the Trenton March read: “Snowflakes that stick together become an avalanche.”

Activism at the state level to change the makeup of representation in Washington is essential if we are to grow as a nation of freedom and justice.

“One American philosopher and psychologist (1842-1910)
Environmental Justice Coordinator’s Report

Interview with Chuck Collins, author of “Born on Third Base”

by Anny M. Martinez (anny.m.martinez@gmail.com)

Having completed the Sierra Club’s Global Population training last Spring, in Washington DC, I was primed to recognize the interconnectedness of our environment and human justice in every struggle facing the earth today. So, at the end of our training I moved to Jamaica Plains MA to interview one person (everyone earning in the top one percent) making a case for tackling inequality, bringing wealth home, and committing to the common good. I found Chuck Collins, a 92 year old frail looking man with a full white beard; his book explains why and how to slow down, pay attention, and connect to nature.

How do we get past the need vs. greed dynamic?

The more people see the ecological web, changes the more they realize: no I don’t need to take more, I have to give away. So, how do we get past the need vs. greed dynamic? To do this, you have to share your wealth, you have to give what you have. Grant your wealth to a good cause. It’s not only about you, it’s about the world. People are starting to realize that on two acres you can grow much of the food we need. We hope is we tap back into some of the ancient wisdom. That is where super-wealthy people, people who have had capital and net worth, have a particular role. That is not to say that everybody else doesn’t have a role to play but a role of the job of everyone else is figure out how to frame language and write that in a way that how do you say, Come home. Your actual wealth and security are tied to your community, to local wealth. Our social system and our ability to take care of one another. You can be a part of that. You can have been off on exile, but we want to invite you home. Come back to this community, bring your wealth and your skills and your creativity and to work with others. Come Home. I know it sounds idealistic but it is completely the right message. That is an enough under-developed and standable anger towards how people have taken over in other development systems.

According to the Helium Report, a luxury-vacation guide, every hour a jet-setter spends aloft burns as much fuel as an entire year of driving. How do we get people to take responsibility for the luxuri- ous lifestyle they are accus- tomed to living? Firstly, the rest of humanity shouldn’t have to subsidize that. If people want to fly a private jet, then they need to pay the real environmental cost. Secondly, the level of consumption, particularly among the ulcer- ously wealthy, is too high. The planet cannot sustain that much consumption. We need to get people to see that the wealthy people understand this the early adopters — those who spend $500,000 on a Yatch of the rest of the people who are rela- tive and other environmental issues, and are willing to pioneer environmental technology. Thirdly, they have to bear the cost down. That is an important role for people of wealth. Retrofit your house Next we have to get into.

The Carbon Tax: environmentalists are still arguing that it’s a good or bad idea. Your insight.

There should be a two-tier Carbon Tax: all the poor people can be above a certain size, if you own a private jet, or are otherwise an energy hog, then you should pay a much higher Carbon Tax. That money should be used to help America transition to a better, more prosperous, and more sustainable system. People who will lose their jobs, coal miners, oil refinery workers, builders of luxury yachts.

Correction

A sharp reader noticed that Mahatma Gandhi was identified in our previous issue as a one-time Prime Minister of India. He was, in fact, India’s first Prime Minister. Our mistake? Not at all. Our program is so strong, we gather them to help our communities back- and showed me the real impact trees can make on their own communities.

It is hard to convince the neighbors to take care of their trees once you’ve plant- ed them! Not at all. Our program is applying- based and involves resident input from the beginning. In my experience, residents are happy to water and care for the trees post-planting. Thanks to them, our tree survival rate, which is above the industry standard for success.

What is the best thing you notice after the trees have been established? I notice how peaceful the block looks. I notice the children playing in the beds of the trees. But most importantly, I notice and can truly feel the restored sense of pride our community feels welcoming and like “home.” Everybody says that sense of normalcy in front of the for the city’s trees help transform blighted neighbor- hoods and brighten the day of all who see them. Do people come to you and ask about the tree planting program? All the time. One of the most personable and knowledgeable people I have ever met is Reef Greenway Coordinator, Frank Zinni, at 856-596-1086.

Sources: NJ Tree Foundation and The Camden SMART Initiative

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.

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Block by block, the beautiful street trees in my town, Egg Harbor City (Atlantic County), are being removed, never to be replaced. Graceful London Planes, colorful sugar maples, massive tulip poplars, sturdy basswoods (aka Linden, Lyne trees), oaks, red maples, many other species. No more shade, no more squirrels, birds, leaves to rake. (The Fall smell of burning leaves is long gone, a sad but necessary tradeoff for cleaner air!)

The reason given is MS4, a recent federal regulation that requires all municipal streets in the USA to suffer the installation of Municipal Secondary Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s). They are pipes that collect rainwater runoff, such as from roof downspouts, that was previously allowed to join street runoff in gutters. The logic is that our waterways, into which storm sewers connect to rain barrels, or pipes, or doesn’t need to because the runoff fully infiltrates into the lawn. How about your community? The best opportunity for you to find out might be a visit or phone call to the municipal engineer’s office or planning board secretary. Or you could attend a planning board meeting, where the municipal engineer is generally willing to answer questions before or after the meeting.

I was surprised to discover a lack of outrage when I broached the subject to many of my neighbors. Trimming trees has a long history of lifting sidewalks and damming curbs, imposing costs that aren’t worth the benefits. Are we environmentalists such a minority?

I am left with the hope that our Shade Tree Commissions and Federations will be inspired to intervene, perhaps by lobbying legislators, and with the hope that the Trump Administration will curb implementation of this particular misguided federal regulation. Or perhaps the only engineering solution: stronger pipes or better piping, laying methods that could enable coexistence of street trees and MS4s.

Resolution:
Passed by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in January and February, 2017

Annual reorganization: Rich Isaac was re-elected as Chapter Chair, and other officers and leaders were approved: all listed on p.12 of this issue. (Jan)

An annual set of Chapter Goals was also approved, starting with campaigns to elect an environmentally responsible Governor and other public officials in the November general election. The full list is on the Chapter website. (Feb)

Recent disparities between the national popular vote for US President, and the outcome produced by the Electoral College, were addressed in a resolution asking for a national Sierra Club lobbying effort to enact legislation in each state to assign Electoral College votes based on the outcome of the national popular vote. (Feb)

Litigation was authorized to promote environmental cleanup of a contaminated site in Teterboro ( Bergen Co). (Feb)

Chapter Political Chair
Call for Volunteer College Student Interns!

Work with the Chapter Political Chair to help with voter registration efforts and to elect a new pro-environment governor!

If available to do a college student internship this summer, interested in gaining hands-on experience in electoral politics and helping the environment at the same time, please contact Chapter Political Chair John Kashwick, at jkashwick@gmail.com, 201-294-1092.

A variety of Club books, notecards, badges and clothing is available from www.sierraclub.org/store
PennEast EIS Release
Pushed Back Yet Again, to April

From a Press Release issued by our Chapter Staff on Jan 23, edited by Joe Testa

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has delayed the release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for PennEast, a proposed natural gas pipeline across the Delaware River Valley, from February 17 to April 7. This change is due to the filing of additional environmental information that the FERC staff needs time to evaluate. PennEast submitted alternative route modifications consisting of 35 “deviations” after the docket was closed. FERC opened the comment period for an additional 30 days to allow comments on these late changes. This is the second time in three months that they’ve pushed back the EIS release date.

The 110-mile pipeline would have detrimental effects on the Delaware Valley. Beginning in Dallas Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, it would cross the Delaware River, and 254 other major waterways, into Hopewell Township (Mercer Co) and connect to an existing pipeline in Pennington, New Jersey. The pipeline would threaten the entire valley, 1600 acres overall, including 91 acres of wetlands and over 44 miles of forest.

These delays show that our opposition is working. This project is a disaster; PennEast can’t even get enough information to finish its flawed EIS. The further delay on EIS means that the Delaware River Basin Commission’s (DRBC) hearings and meetings must be delayed even further, and the DEP permitting process will be delayed even longer. Thanks to public opposition, PennEast has already been delayed more than a year, and most likely longer. The more we delay this project, the better chance we have of stopping it. We will continue to fight against PennEast. This project is a disaster because of the overall damage it would do to the environment and public safety.

PennEast doesn’t even supply enough information for the permits required from NJDEP. The PennEast Pipeline would violate the Clean Water Act, and cannot meet the criteria for “404” permits. Also, we believe that this pipeline cannot meet the requirements for a “401” water quality permit - because of the number of high quality streams, wetlands, and rivers it would cross through. Many of these streams carry anti-degradation criteria. The route will cut through areas with steep slopes, impacting streams with sedimentation and runoff.

The current “preferred” route crosses forests that have never been logged, pristine Category 1 streams, and habitat such as Important Bird Areas (IBAs). Alternative routes have only been looked at because of all of the concerns by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, and other agencies of it going through Baldpate Mountain. FERC can require this alternative over the preferred route, especially because it avoids IBAs and will be easier to get permits. That is why PennEast’s claims that there was no alternative route never passed the straight face-test: FERC requires one in the EIS.

The New Jersey Sierra Club has previously submitted comments to FERC, asking them to deny the EIS because it is incomplete. There are dozens of instances of missing information in the document, and people were not given enough time to analyze and comment on it. We believe that for all these reasons, FERC should deny the EIS. We are continuing our fight to tell PennEast to stay the FERC out of our Valley!
Transport-oriented development (TOD) is looked upon kindly by environmentalists. There are many reasons: First, it is assumed that such development will reduce the need for automobiles, and that this will result in lower emissions of greenhouse gases (even if bicyclists and Eurasians). Relatedly, the number of parking spaces required for each square foot of building space would drop. Third, TOD works well for infill and brownfield properties, or as part of the redevelopment of unsuccessful shopping centers.

But are all TODs (and their big brothers, transit villages) truly good? If a TOD is proposed for your municipality, how should you evaluate it? A good TOD has three elements: transit, the development itself, and the area around the development as far as the transit stop: up to a half-mile (10 minutes) walk.

The guidelines here are just that, guidelines. They will vary depending on types of land use, size of the specific TOD, and population and job density of the surrounding area.

GUIDE TO QUALITY TRANSIT FOR A TOD. Here’s what to do:

Does transit serve both residents traveling out, and employees, shoppers, visitors traveling in?

Does it connect with central Manhattan, Philadelphia, and Newark, and Hoboken, with some off-peak and weekend service. There is also a good transit connection to the New Jersey Transit rail system, or the New Jersey Turnpike, or the Turnpike highway, or the Turnpike high way, as well as to a large regional mall and the thriving arts and dining scene in nearby Montclair, and to many other locations - all in addition to the existing and growing opportunities for retail and dining in downtown Bloomfield itself. As an added bonus, there is a frequent, inexpensive, limited stop bus service to Newark Airport. One can walk, bike, or use transit for almost all one’s daily needs.

In contrast, some TODs offer only peak period service to Manhattan or Montclair, and to many other locations -- all in addition to the existing and growing opportunities for retail and dining in downtown Bloomfield itself. As an added bonus, there is a frequent, inexpensive, limited stop bus service to Newark Airport. One can walk, bike, or use transit for almost all one’s daily needs.

Developers desiring TOD designations (and public subsidies) for their projects should be willing to provide or subsidize transit or a transit upgrade, say from “good” to “great” frequency, for at least three years. (That’s a minimum time for new transit patterns to stabilize.)

The guidelines here are just that, guidelines. They will vary depending on types of land use, size of the specific TOD, and population and job density of the surrounding area.

THE BUILDINGS AND THE SURROUNDINGS

It is ideal for the building or group of buildings to have a mix of housing types (studio, one-bedroom, large-size apartments and single-family detached) and price levels (affordable, middle income, upper income), and other uses (retail, perhaps some offices, especially medical and dental); so that residents can walk to services they need, and so that employment can be close to the residence.

Parking, especially dedicated private parking, should be limited. A TOD where residents are priced at more than $550,000, with private two-car garages. Fails the test! Parking, especially dedicated private parking, should be limited.

Water in the Pine Barrens

The most important natural resource in and below the 1.1 million-acre Pinelands National Reserve in New Jersey is an estimated 17 trillion gallons of fresh water. Most of this is in the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer, one of the largest in the United States. An aquifer is an underground fresh water reservoir which, in the case of the Pinelands, is contained in and filtered through sandy soils. The aquifer is only part of the water resources: additional water is in streams, rivers, ponds, lakes and wetlands.

Protection of the Pinelands' surface and underground water quality and quantity is critical. During the intervention of our way of life we have seen the loss of much of the Pinelands' water. The ground water level has fallen the Pinelands' water over the years; that is due to over-pumping. Lower water levels harm the Pinelands' ecosystems, as well as to the integrity of our drinking water supplies. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

The Pinelands water to survive. Many people, animals and plants rely on it. It will take a continuing effort on the part of New Jersey officials, concerned residents and environmental organizations to protect this amazing fresh water resource.

Another new Sierra Club website to explore: www.sierraclubgreenhome.com.

Environments and environmental organizations tend to focus on long-term solutions to environmental degradations. Some environmental problems, however, especially those that are health related, require solutions in the short run -- sometimes immediately.

Having suffered for many years from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), even though I never smoked, I am highly sensitive to air pollution. So I’d like to offer some potential mitigation techniques. These tips are for methods that partly reduce air or supply clean air; they should help anyone affected by air pollution, including asthma sufferers. I’m not credentialed as a medical specialist, however, so I can offer suggestions.

Please check with your doctor that none of these activities will be harmful to you.

Short-term mitigation of health effects from air pollution:

Avoid exposure to directly polluted areas. If you are aware that pollution concentrations are high at a particular time or place, try to avoid exposure. Use the technology on your phone to tell you how bad the pollution is where you are.

Take long weekend vacations in an area with low pollution (many Sierra Club members do this anyway). Resulting effects on symptoms of air pollution will range from a quick reduction of symptoms to no effect at all. If there is some relief the relief period may extend after the vacation, especially if these trips are repeated many times a year (I know this can be expensive and time-consuming). This practice goes back to the 19th century. For example, the large number of older people exposed to a higher incidence in urban and otherwise air-polluted areas, long involved staying in sanatoria located in areas with clean air. Not all patients recovered, but many did, and the lack of both indoor and outdoor pollution probably played an important role. Many sanatoria were located in the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains of New York State, and included bedrooms with significant fresh air changes.

Intermediate-term mitigation of health effects from air pollution:

Relocate within your town or city to a neighborhood as far as possible from sources of pollution (even if it is not a long distance) that may extend after the vacation, especially if these trips are repeated many times a year (I know this can be expensive and time-consuming). This practice goes back to the 19th century. For example, the large number of older people exposed to a higher incidence in urban and otherwise air-polluted areas, long involved staying in sanatoria located in areas with clean air. Not all patients recovered, but many did, and the lack of both indoor and outdoor pollution probably played an important role. Many sanatoria were located in the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains of New York State, and included bedrooms with significant fresh air changes.

If a TOD is proposed for your municipality, use the points discussed in this article to evaluate it. However, it is not in the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency or the Environmental Protection Agency. In contrast, the Environmental Protection Agency or the Environmental Protection Agency has the ability to regulate the distribution of Pinelands water from the aquifers. The State has been recommended, based on many years of studies by various agencies, to reduce water withdrawals and other stresses on this critical resource.

The Pinelands, past, present and future, require a high water level of pure fresh water to survive. Many people, animals and plants rely on it. It will take a continuing effort on the part of New Jersey officials, concerned residents and environmental organizations to protect this amazing fresh-water resource.
South Highlands Group
(Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties)

WEBSITE: http://www.sierrabc.org/new-jersey/south-highlands/
MEETUP: http://www.meetup.com/southhighlandsmeetup/
FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/groups/53817516817/

OFFICERS:
- Chair: Jonathan Wall*  jonathanwall@jwall.com
- Vice Chair: Celeste Martin*  oneccentral@mac.com
- Conservation Chair: Cinny MacGonagle*  cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
- Secretary: Amy Weeder*  awreeder@comcast.net
- Treasurer: Celeste Martin*  oneccentral@mac.com
- Political Chair: Debbie Young*  debbyosung31@comcast.net

Program Chairs:
- Conservation Chair: Patricia Smith
- Membership Chair: Jim Fleming*  jfleming18@comcast.net

Outings Coordinator: Jonathan Wall
Webmaster: John Kashwick
("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 topics as 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.

April 5 (Wed) Prof. Michael Irogan, PhD, Rider College: Kaboom or not to Kaboom, that is the Question! Evaluating Risk and Natural Gas Pipeline Safety: Dr. Irogan’s research conducts an experiment on individuals’ perceptions of natural gas pipeline incidents and the expansion of natural gas pipeline infrastructure in the USA.

May 3 (Wed): Jonathan D. Wall, PsyD Group Chair, presents “Nature Deficit Disorder and Our Immersion in the Virtual World.” Dr. Wall will review research on the perils of internet addiction and discuss how play and exploration in the natural world can help all of us to awaken from the numbness, alienation and social stress evoked by an unnatural dependence on electronic media.

June 7 (Wed): Dr. Robert De Saro, President, Energy Research Company presents his 2nd talk in regards to relying on our reason and judgment— Truth or Fiction - How to be Certain: ‘Techniques useful in judging the validity/truth of a claim’. When confronted with different facts on any topic, but especially on global warming, how do you judge which is true and which is biased, uncertain, or just plain wrong? This section will provide techniques that can be used to judge the information and the source, but more generally and importantly, how to balance large amounts of information that may be nonetheless incomplete. Also, examples of propaganda techniques will be given so the participants can be on guard for such tactics.

OTHER EVENTS:
- April 12 (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 events to confirm. For more information please contact Jonathan at jonathan@jwall.com.

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

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.

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- April 12 (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 events to confirm. For more information please contact Jonathan at jonathan@jwall.com.

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

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.

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.

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.
There are no events currently on the calendar. Concerns please contact Suzanne Trimel: 201-247-5057.

Orange Seton Hall project, the Newark Water Wars, advocating for NJ Sierra endorsed canals: River Restoration Community Advisory Group, Maplewood Green Day, formerly the West Orange parking lots in Newark, banning Fracking Fluids in Elizabeth, cosponsoring a GMO-Free Morris lawn movement.

Please contact Suzanne Trimel, Gateway’s Chair, if you have any ideas or suggestions for a program in the future. Please check our Facebook page for complete details on all events. To join our e-mailing list, go to: http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/nj-loantaka-news.html


May 4 (Thu): The Plant Life of New Jersey with Elaine Silverstein of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey. 7:00pm, Closter Nature Center, 154 Buckman Road, Closter.

June 11 (Sun): Spring Environmentalist Reception, 5:00pm, Flatsbrook Nature Center, 445 Van Nostrand Ave, Englewood. Come to meet new and old members and to become more involved in Sierra Club activities. Elected officials, political candidates and representatives from other environmental organizations also will be in attendance. Music, live animal nature presentations and trivia game with prizes! Tribal tapas: optional. Light dinner with kosher options will be served. Admission free with Sierra Club membership. $20 for nonmembers individuals/$5 for non-member families. All ages welcome! RSVP required. Please contact Buffy at buffy.jensen@gmail.com or 973-310-5173.

Trail Maintenance. To get on our trail maintenance militia email list, just send an email of interest to martincollen@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.sierrachurch.org/new-jersey/Gateway/. Also accessible from the NJ Chapter, on Facebook: Gateway Group, NJ Sierra or http://www.facebook.com/pages/Gateway-Group/NJ-Sierra-Club/128995363842782

OFFICERS:
Chair: Suzanne Trimel 201-247-5057 suzanne.trimel@gmail.com
Vice-Chair: Zaah Khademi 201-618-8572 zasah@aol.com
Secretary: Open Position!
Treasurer: Open Position!
Co-Chairs: Zaah Khademi 201-618-8572 zasah@aol.com
Publicity Chair: Open Position!
Conservation Chair: Open Position!
Program Chair: Open Position!
Fundraising Chair: Open Position!
Membership Chair: Open Position!

Chair: Steven Yafet 908-354-2537 syafet@gmail.com
Water, Newark
Issues Chair: Bill Chappell 973-623-6490 billchappell@gmail.com
Recycling Issues Chair: Lyle Landon 201-247-0288 ylandon@aol.com

Passaic River
Co-Chairs: Brenda Toyoy 973-856-7056 brendatoyoy@yahoo.com
and Jeff Weiss 973-650-1030 bonefish5000@gmail.com

Elizabeth
Issues Chair: Paula Borenstein 908-289-3584 bordankmt@aol.com
Outings Chair: Open Position!
Group Executive Committee:
Chair: David Yeninor, Zaah Khademi and Bill Chappell
Co-Chairs: Paula Borenstein 908-289-3584 bordankmt@aol.com

Please contact Suzanne Trimel, Gateway’s Chair, if you have any ideas or suggestions for a program in the future. The Gateway Group is very grateful for the contributions of Anna Whiteley, John Beadle, Barbara Conover, Zaah Khademi, Bill Chappell, Steven Yafet, Anne Hirs, Paula Borenstein, and Brenda Toyoy.

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, blocking 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 Greenway, formerly the West Orange Seton Hall project, the Newark Water Wars, advocating for NJ Sierra endorsed canals: River Restoration Community Advisory Group, Maplewood Green Day, formerly the West Orange parking lots in Newark, banning Fracking Fluids in Elizabeth, cosponsoring a GMO-Free Morris lawn movement.

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 Suzanne Trimel 201-247-5057.

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 Park County 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 get involved. Let’s get this party started! We meet the 1st at 4 PM (meet in parking lot). Light dinner with kosher options will be served. Admission free with Sierra Club membership. $20 for nonmembers individuals/$5 for non-member families. All ages welcome! RSVP required. Please contact Buffy at buffy.jensen@gmail.com or 973-310-5173.

Website: http://www.sierrachurch.org/new-jersey/hudson-county
Sign up here to receive email updates.
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubHCAreaNetwork1
E-mail: Hudsonsierrachurch@gmail.com
Phone: Toni Granato (609-656-7612) or Pat Hilliard (201-554-9059)

OFFICERS:
Chair: David ‘Ace’ Case acecase88@gmail.com
Vice-Chair: Open Position!
Conservation Chair: Open Position!
Secretary: Patricia Hilliard hilliard_patrice@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Open Position!
Delegate to ExCom: Open Position!
Publicity Chair: Seth Lubin stlubin@gmail.com
Membership Chair: Open Position!
Outings Chair: Open Position!
Programs/Events Chair: Janet Crowley jrc51@yahoo.com

Braddock Park Issues: Lili Martinez lilmartinez@optonline.net

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:
Open to one of our General Meetings on the second Wednesday 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 more events, please check our Facebook page, or web site for meeting dates, times, and topics. (see below for URLs and email). Open position!


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

Urban Conservationism in Hudson County
By John Ottomanelli, Publicity Chair, Hudson County Group

Urban conservationism is building in Hudson County. With the revival of our Sierra Club Group, there is renewed dedication among Club members in NJ's most densely populated county. In Nov 2013, Club members gathered informally; in Jan 2016, an executive committee was formed and issue priorities outlined; and on Mar 17, 2016, the Charter unanimously nominated the restored Hudson County Group.

We began by supporting other organizations fighting for quality open and green space - such as opposition to easements in Braddock Park and privatization of Liberty State Park. We also supported efforts to close the coal-burning power plant ("Old Smokey") in the western part of the County. We then began to plan our own events: presentations, talks, and film-viewings that highlighted the efforts of affinity groups in the County. In July, we hosted a picnic in Liberty State Park, with keynote speaker Sam Pesin (see Lara Zullow’s report in Shore Group News); in Sept our own Charter staff-person Toni Granato spoke on the Coalition to Ban the Oil Trains; in Nov there was a film and presentation on urban wildlife; in Jan, 2017, a talk on urban and regional trail networks that pass through Hudson County.

On Mar 19, the Group will have hosted a panel discussion about transportation issues in Hudson County – exploring the roles of expanded transit and new technologies.

On May 7, the Group will host a Forum on action toward conservationism, described above: We hope that you will scrib into Hudson County and join us for one of our upcoming events!

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

WEBSITE: http://www.sierrachurch.org/new-jersey/loantaka/
Loantaka now has a Facebook page. Please check it out and like it: https://www.facebook.com/LoantakaGroupNJC/

OFFICERS:
Group Chairs: Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com
Trailer: Paul Sanderson 908-253-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.com
Secretary: Open Position!
Publicity Chair: Open Position!
Union County: Len Farleio len@wildlifepreserves.org
Political Chair: Open Position!
Outings Chair: Open Position!
Fundraising Chair: Open Position!
Webmaster: Open Position!
Membership Chair: Open Position!

Please check our Facebook page for complete details on all events.

If you might be interested in getting involved, come to one of our Executive Committee Meetings at our 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 more events, please check our Facebook page, or web site for meeting dates, times, and topics. (see below for URLs and email). Open position!

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

(Continued on page 8)
GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

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 Sandberg.

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

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

MEETING SCHEDULE:
Apr 12: Local member Kent Lucas will talk to us about electric cars and their potential to help the environment.
May 10: We will watch a movie “The Power of Community” about how Cuba adapted to its energy crisis in the 1990’s.

June 14: a Great Courses CD Lecture by a Sustainability philosopher will be shown.

ACTIVITIES: We are in touch with a local group “Friends of the Rahway River” opposing a Corps of Engineers project to remove trees along the Rahway River in Cranford for a questionable flood control project.

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 for a questionable flood control project.

We are in touch with a local group “Friends of the Rahway River” opposing a Corps of Engineers project to remove trees along the Rahway River in Cranford for a questionable flood control project.

A popular presentation by Dr. Alain Kornhauser on driverless cars entitled “Smart Driving Cars: the Good, the Bad, the Great,” Monday, January 23 – Mercer County College.

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 tidal portion of the Rahway River. 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 tidal portion of the Rahway River.

2. Reciprocal use of both organizations into the Monmouth community. Our BCC liaison is Dr. Patricia Albert.

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. Barke Construction, Inc. volunteered to do the excavating. This is the culmination of a grant we received from the Storm Brook Watershed Institute. This past spring we taught 6 semi-nars to sixth graders and 2 to adults. The rain garden is located on the watershed.

For a complete list of 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-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 Brookdale, take GSP Exit 109 to Rt 520 West (Newman Springs Rd. which becomes E Main St at the Lincroft campus). Exit the traffic circle into the campus and

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. On Sunday, May 7, 2017, we had 47 attendees. See story on page 1.

WEBSITE: http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/RaritanValley/

Our monthly committee meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, from 7pm to 8:30. The meeting is usually held in New Brunswick. Please check our website to confirm the location or contact Gary Federick. You are also invited to subscribe to our e-mail list: NJ/RARITAN VALLEY NEWS after creating a password on http://lists.sierra.org.

The issues of interest to our communities include but are not limited to:
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 purchases 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 at gf Federick@gmail.com.

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. On Sunday, May 7, 2017, we had 47 attendees. See story on page 1.

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

Dennis Anderson 752-970-4327 denniszaza@aol.com
Bob Grize 732-492-0404 bobgrize@gmail.com
Lara Zillow 732-565-5145 lziallouz@gmail.com
Jamie Witsen 732-995-4680 jamiewitsen@gmail.com
Mike Verange 908-965-5917 mikeverANGE@gmail.com
Lara Zullow lzullow@optimum.net
Paul Ehrlich p.w.ehrlich@gmail.com
Brenda Bradley brenda@blday.com
Roomi Nusrat rnusrat@att.net
Please share this newsletter with a non-member friend, inviting use of the coupon on p. 12.
follow the signs to the Warner Student Life Center (SLC), where the meeting usually is in the Twin Lights Rooms 1 and 2. Use parking lot 7. As you walk towards the building coming from the left, you will see the slope on your left. IF 7 *is* full, use parking lot 6 or A campus map is at http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP_MON08.ps

Apr 24: High-Tech Environmental Sleuthing. Fred Stein, the Citizen Action Coordinator of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN), will explain how student volunteers use the photo capabilities of their cell phones, GPS, and instant messaging to instantly alert officials about pollution problems along the Delaware and its tributaries, without the bureaucratic delays. Established in 1988, the DRN protects the Delaware River Watershed, which includes Delaware, New Jersey, Delaware and New York; and at the federal level deals with issues that impact the health of the Delaware River.

May 22: Will a Carbon Tax Save Humanity? An unexpected announcement from three establishment conservatives, former US Secretaries of State James Baker III and George Schultz, and former US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson Jr., proposes a “carbon tax” on fossil fuels to mitigate global warming. Their action marks a breakthrough and a substantial departure from the efforts of the Sierra Club to push Congress to enact policies to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

June 26: Yes, You Can. Continuing our program inaugurated in 2015 to celebrate individual efforts to protect the environment, several local environmentalists will discuss their community projects, emphasizing the success individuals can have in solving local environmental problems. Topics include: residential RAGE over proposed JP&L powerline; development of the Whale Pond cleanup and greenway trail between Long Branch and Eatontown; and a proposal to expand the offshore artificial reefs to increase the fish habitat off Monmouth County.

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’re also targeting 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 Ocean County. 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.

FUNDING: 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 bimonthly (i.e., in alternate months) usually on the FOURTH MONDAY at 7pm in the “Skywalk Cafe” in the Ocean County Library. The next general meeting is May 22, 2017, 7pm, in the Skywalk Cafe. Details online at www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/ocean-county for April, May and June meeting topics.) 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/WestJerseyGroupNJ/ Log on and Like Us Follow us on Twitter @WJsierraclub and Instagram @wjsierraclub

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Gina Carola 856-488-8851 ginacee@verizon.net

Vice-Chair: Frank Zinni efzin4@aol.com

Secretary: Ellen Zinni efzin4@aol.com

Treasurer: Anne Caridi annecaridi@yahoo.com

Publicity Chair: Anne Caridi annecaridi@yahoo.com

Linda Martin linda_martin@yahoo.com

Pinelands Rep: Lee Stidley

Greenways Coord: Frank and Ellen Zinni

Conservation Chair: Stacey Ayala

Delegate at Large: Aida Ayala thunderwolflady@gmail.com

Membership Chair: Mike Brown 856-547-9221 eyebrown@verizon.net

Fundraising Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer. 856-488-8851

Smart Growth Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer. 856-488-8851

Programs Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer. 856-488-8851

Outreach Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer. 856-488-8851

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

WEBSITE: http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/south-jersey/

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Tom Boghosian 609-625-0878 boghosian@verizon.net

Vice-Chair: Open Position!

Conservation Chair: Open Position!

Pol. Chair: Paul Roessler, Paul.roessler@stockton.edu

Membership Chair: Open Position!

Secretary/Treasurer: Open Position!

DEP Commissioners: Our DEP Commissioners are Dick Colby and Julie Akers.

The central conservation issue, for which the South Jersey Group was founded in the 1970s, continues to be protection of the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continues to consume the energies of those few officers who remain active both within the Sierra Club and in the Watershed Association (GEHWA) that spun off from the South Jersey Group. Very few of our local members seem interested in the meetings we once scheduled (monthly, until 2005). For now, we’ll continue to list in this newsletter, and on our calendar, the monthly meetings 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 email dick.colby@stockton.edu. Dick is also an Atlantic County Parks Commission member, contact him if you might be interested in attending monthly meetings of the Commission, which are open to the public.

Current Issues: (1) A land-use controversy in Millville – well known as the Delaware Riverkeeper since the 1970s, seems to be back in controversy, with a court weighing 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 planned electric power plant in Marmora (Campe Co, NJ) 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@unexpectedwildlife.org. (4) etc. Campaigns to prevent the use of tropical rainforest wood for re-building 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 the Cape May State Forest, the DEP has supported the NJ beaches via赠送 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), in support for legislation that would end the free distribution of plastic bags at supermarkets (as Longport in Atlantic County has done), and support for a New Jersey Bottle Bill, known as the Smart Container Act.

Some Possibly Relevant Meetings of Allied Organizations: Apr 5, May 3 and Jun 7 (first Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Atlantic County Friends of the Parks: Monthly meetings of Friends of the Parks, a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Park System. All are welcome. Warren Fox Nature Center (WFNC*), Atlantic County Park Road, Ocean Pines, MD 21811, 15 on NJ Rte 50, 5 miles south of Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers. 609-432-5280.

Apr 12 and Jun 14 (alternate second Wednesdays), 7pm: Bimonthly 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, 62 College Drive, Cumberland, NJ 08310. Topics to be discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Karla Rosini (CU) at 609-774-5855 or karla.rossini@cumanmarkert.org. Website: www.cumanmarkert.org.
GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

Apr 19 and Jun 21 (alternate third Wednesdays) 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss river management strategies. Open to the public. WFCN*.

Contact Julie Aker, 609-452-3287.

Apr 23 (Sun), 10am-3pm: Earth Day Festival at the ACUA (Atlantic County Utilities Authority), 6700 Defalco Rd. Egg Harbor Township: Tables of environmental organizations, tours, vendors, children’s activities - at the site of Atlantic County’s recycling center.

Apr 26, 24 May and Jun 24 (fourth Wednesdays), 7pm: Atlantic Audubon Society is a lively member-organization with strong environmental programs and an excellent monthly newsletter. Meetings are in a free. Meetings are at the Galloway Town Library, 306 E Jimmies Rd. Online at: www.AtlanticAudubon.org

May 25 (alternate fourth Tuesdays) 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: Annual Frog Walk, location TBA, Contact Lynn Maun, 856-649-2792 or email lynnmknn@comcast.net.

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

WEB SITE: 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 end of each announcement. We recommend you join 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 Mate
Outings Chair: Joyce Haddad
Conservation Chair: Positon Open
Treasurer: Joyce White
Social Chair: Joe Prebish
Vice Social Chair: Jeff Sovelove
Programs: Position Open
Publicity: Position Open
Membership: Position Open
Nominations: Nancy Sullivan

2015 Executive Committee members: Rozanna Fonelli, Joyce Haddad, Ron Pate, Joe Prebish, Jeff Sovelove, Dalph Soeky, 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. Please email us for more information. We are always looking for more volunteers. We welcome anyone who wants to help.

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

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Check Meetup.com 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.

Apr 30 (Sun): Jockey Hollow Hike, Morristown National Historical Park, Morristown, 10am. We’ll follow the Grand/Outer Loop Trails for a total length of about six miles with some ups and downs. Bring at least 2 liters of water, lunch, and snack. Wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. Meet by Visitor Center Parking Lot. Participants must register on Meetup or by emailing leader. Leader: John Kashwick jkashwick@gmail.com. Rain cancels.

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

Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

(A chapter-wide special interest section which offers a monthly to weekly calendar of activities which include: hiking, biking, walking, education seminars, speakers, and letter-writing at the Chatham Library. Dates and topics will be announced in 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’.

WEB SITE: http://www.ssierraclub.org/new-jersey/Sierra-Singles/

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.

MEETUP: http://www.meetup.com/nj-sierrablack

OFFICERS:

Co-Chair: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com
Co-Chair: Robert Zitman * robertmjnet.net
Secretary: Corbett Klein * corbettklein@outlook.com
Treasurer: Open Position - volunteer needed
Outings Co-Chair: Jonathan Wall * psychologist@junosv.com
Listmaster: Open Position - volunteer needed
ExCom Member: Open Position - contact John or Robert if interested

(* Section Executive Committee Member)

NATIONAL WEBSITE:


Support Sierra Club and get more information, please email John at jkashwick@gmail.com or Robert at robertmjnet.net.

ON THE TRAIL

Editor’s statement: The column intended for this space can be found on page 14 of the electronic edition of this Newsletter, available from the Chapter website: www.SierraClub.org/New-Jersey. It describes more of Dennis Anderson’s adventures in his vehicles, as they relate to energy use, and his sustainable lifestyle. Club members are earnestly invited to describe their experiences “on the trail” for future issues of the “Jersey Sierran.”
Apri 1 (Sat): Spring Cleanup at Princeton Battlefield State Park (Mercer Co). 1-4pm. 
Meet us at Watson Woods with your kayak or canoe. We'll launch there to pick up trash floating or caught in the
literature. Bring water and snacks. Co-Leaders: Joanne Pannone: jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com and Leona
3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Apri 1 (Fri): Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. Field trip on the ferry to Cobia Island. Bring water
Build a shelter for the night. Use only natural resources. The Nature Conservancy
protects itself on protecting great places like the Maine Coastal Islands, a bay-to- wafer with water required. Contact leaders for
life. Rain cancels. George & Leona #609-259-5754 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Apri 24 (Wed): Cape May/Showboat. Travel to Showboat for a guided tour of the historic town of Showboat.
Co-Leader: Blumenkrantz: ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (W)

Apri 25 (Thu): Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. Field trip on the ferry to Cobia Island. Bring water
of your paddling experience, whether you need or can offer equipment. In some cases, we may be able to provide
the 2 quarts water, hiking boots. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY . Meet in front of 450 Piermont Av.

Apri 20 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River and Tour Lambertville's 32nd Annual Shad Festival. 9:30am.
Co-Leader: Joanne Pannone: jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com and Leona
392-2283 (W) 4-5pm. Bring water and snacks. Co-Leaders: Joanne Pannone: jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com and Leona

Apri 18 (Wed): Blue Bell Park Kayak in Rock Creek Park (DC/Maryland). 9am.
Co-Leader: Jim Blumenkrantz (NJ-ICO) 17 Mt. Horeb Rd, Warren, 07059

Apri 17 (Fri): Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. Field trip on the ferry to Cobia Island. Bring water
of your paddling experience, whether you need or can offer equipment. In some cases, we may be able to provide
the 2 quarts water, hiking boots. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY . Meet in front of 450 Piermont Av.

Apri 16 (Fri): Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. Field trip on the ferry to Cobia Island. Bring water
of your paddling experience, whether you need or can offer equipment. In some cases, we may be able to provide
the 2 quarts water, hiking boots. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY . Meet in front of 450 Piermont Av.

Apri 15 (Thu): Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. Field trip on the ferry to Cobia Island. Bring water
of your paddling experience, whether you need or can offer equipment. In some cases, we may be able to provide
the 2 quarts water, hiking boots. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY . Meet in front of 450 Piermont Av.

Apri 14 (Fri): Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. Field trip on the ferry to Cobia Island. Bring water
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the 2 quarts water, hiking boots. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY . Meet in front of 450 Piermont Av.

Apri 13 (Thur): Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. Field trip on the ferry to Cobia Island. Bring water
of your paddling experience, whether you need or can offer equipment. In some cases, we may be able to provide
the 2 quarts water, hiking boots. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY . Meet in front of 450 Piermont Av.

Apri 12 (Wed): Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. Field trip on the ferry to Cobia Island. Bring water
of your paddling experience, whether you need or can offer equipment. In some cases, we may be able to provide
the 2 quarts water, hiking boots. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY . Meet in front of 450 Piermont Av.

Apri 11 (Tue): Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. Field trip on the ferry to Cobia Island. Bring water
of your paddling experience, whether you need or can offer equipment. In some cases, we may be able to provide
the 2 quarts water, hiking boots. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY . Meet in front of 450 Piermont Av.

Apri 10 (Mon): Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. Field trip on the ferry to Cobia Island. Bring water
of your paddling experience, whether you need or can offer equipment. In some cases, we may be able to provide
the 2 quarts water, hiking boots. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY . Meet in front of 450 Piermont Av.

Apri 9 (Sun): Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. Field trip on the ferry to Cobia Island. Bring water
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Apri 8 (Sat): Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. Field trip on the ferry to Cobia Island. Bring water
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Apri 7 (Fri): Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. Field trip on the ferry to Cobia Island. Bring water
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Apri 6 (Thu): Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. Field trip on the ferry to Cobia Island. Bring water
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the 2 quarts water, hiking boots. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY . Meet in front of 450 Piermont Av.

Apri 5 (Wed): Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. Field trip on the ferry to Cobia Island. Bring water
of your paddling experience, whether you need or can offer equipment. In some cases, we may be able to provide
the 2 quarts water, hiking boots. Take Rte 9W to Piermont NY . Meet in front of 450 Piermont Av.
MEMBERSHIP COUPON

Name ____________________________ Address ____________________________

□ Check enclosed, make payable to Sierra Club
□ Mastercard □ Visa □ American Express

Exp Date ____________________________ Card Number ____________________________

Cardholder Name ____________________________ Signature ____________________________

Address changes: To: addresses@sierranet.org or Sierra Club Membership 1015 S Park Av Highland Park NJ 08904-2954 or 415-977-5653, or NJ Sierra Club, 145 West Hanover St. Trenton NJ 08618

Prospective advertisers: see instructions: http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/new-jersey-information-advertisers


The Jersey Sierra is published quarterly by the Sierra Club’s New Jersey Chapter, 45 West Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618

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The Chapter website, http://www.sierranet.org/new-jersey, has been upgraded to provide more useful information.

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

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Chair: Jamie Zaccaria
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47 Fellows Dr, Livingston NJ 07039-2035

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Conservation Chair: Greg Auriemma
jgauri@optimum.net
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Co-Vice-Treasurers: *George Denzer (609) 798-5839 gdenzer72@gmail.com
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215 Liscombe Rd Nw Gig Harbor Qw 01822-1129

Webmaster: Nicole Guerrieri Sierran@xfinity.com

Membership Chair: *Laura Tracey-Coll jcollins@singerfedun.com

High School Coordinator: Sara Zullow l2z@hotlink.net

Introducing Children to the Outdoors Coordinator: Molly Castellano (732) 857-8283 mcastellano@sierraclub.org

Legal Chair (Compliance Officer): Bill Inger, Esq. (609) 358-7793

Other ExCom members at large: "Laura Lynch 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)
"Lyle Skiff 973-743-1208 (N)
"Ken Johanson (609) 464-8442 kjohan@comcast.net
"Joan Denzer 609-798-5839 gdenzer72@gmail.com
"Bobbie Tilly 609-259-6438 billy@laf.com
386 Sassafras Rd, Hamilton NJ 08619

Group Effectiveness Committee: Rich Isaac*, Greg Auriemma

Regional Issues Coordinator: *Joan Denzer (GDenzer72@gmail.com)

Fundraising Committee: Ken Johanson**, Joan and George Denzer, Paul Sanderson

Personnel Committee: Rich Isaac**, Joan & George Denzer, Paul Sanderson

Legislative Committee: Ken Johanson**, Carey Huff, Dave Mattek, and Kathy-Ann Norgard

Litigation Oversight Committee: Greg Auriemma**, Ken Johanson

Finance Committee: George Denzer, Paul Sanderson**, Suril Somalwar, Ken Johanson

Information Technology Committee: Joe Testa*, Tom Testa, Nicole Guerrieri

Facilities (office, meeting sites)
George Denzer, Joan Denzer, Paul Sanderson**, Suril Somalwar, Laura Lynch
* 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 for is daytime or evening.

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

Jun 10 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Tidewater Maurice River (Atlantic Co). 10am. The Maurice is a nationally recognized Wild and Scenic River and its environment supports a great variety of plant and animal life, including Ospreys and Bald Eagles. We’ll paddle 10 miles on the tidal Maurice River. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location.

George & Leona F: 609-259-7574 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 14 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River on Flag Day (Burlington Co). 10am. We’ll paddle 8 miles from Bulk Island Ramp to Lambertville. Paddling helmets required for all paddlers. Rentals are not available. Bring lunch, snacks and beverages. A limited number of canoes and kayaks will be available for those who do not have a kayak of their own. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location.

Current Sierra Club membership required: George & Leona F: 609-259-7574 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 19 (Tue): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River on their 2nd Day of Summer (Burlington Co). 9am. We’re paddling 10 miles from Riegleburg to Keasbey. Access to the Delaware sits on the east side of the Delaware River Bridge. The proposed route of the Penn East Pipeline with ‘fracking gas’ will cross from 46 acres of Riegleburg. Destroying hundreds of acres of the Riegleburg Marsh. Paddling helmets required for all paddlers. Rentals are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location.

George & Leona F: 609-259-7574 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 21 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Batsto River on the First Day of Summer (Burlington Co). 10am. We’ll enjoy a great Paddlers paddle from Eastampton to Rancocas to Batsto Lake. Paddlers Preservation Alliance has launched Pinelands Adventures and rental boats are available as well as private boat shunting. We’ll paddle 9 miles to_created by George & Leona F 609-259-7574 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 25 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Skills Refresher on Lake Oswego (Burlington Co). 9am. ACA-certified instructors from the Sierra Club will share information about paddling efficiencies, safety practices, rescue techniques and equipment. The refresh course is held on Lake Oswego. Boats can be rented from Muck’s Canoe and Kayak Rental 973-790-1580 or www.sierracluboar.org. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Contact leaders to confirm the trip and location and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-7574 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)


George & Leona F: 609-259-7574 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jul 5 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 10am. This is a 9-mile trip on the Egg Harbor. Paddle from Pennington to West Windsor Dam. Pinelands Adventures & Outfitters will provide our shuttle. Rentals are available: 609-625-8952 or www.thepinelandsoutfitters.org. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation.

George & Leona F: 609-259-7574 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

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

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

Saturday, April 8 at the Hamilton (Mercer Co.) Library, 5 Justice Samuel Alito Jr. Way
May 13 at Grahm Public Library, 155 Main St.
June 10 at Refounded Church of Highland Park, 21-29 South 2nd Ave.

JULY

Vol. 46, No. 3 • Spring, 2017

Dick Cobly (dick.cobly@stodonton....) Editor

-Assisted by Irene Grims, Joe Testa and Meghan Yima
Karen Brown (kbrown@yaho...yaho...)  designer

George Denzer (GDenzer72@gmail.com) publisher

Editorial Board: George and Joan Denzer, Rich Isaac, Ken Johanson, Laura Lynch, Paul Sanderson, Suril Somalwar, Joe Testa, Bonnie Tilly and Jeff Tittel.

The Jersey Sierra appears in January, April and July on the 15th day of the month. Two months before appearance. Members are cordially invited to submit for possible publication, essays, letters, poetry and artwork. (Group/Section News columns are prepared by Group/Section Chairs: Outdoors are vetted by the Chapter Outings Chair, Ellen Bumerantzen.)

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

This newsletter is produced by volunteers.
From a Press Release issued on Jan 17, edited by Irene Gnanara

For the third time, four former New Jersey governors, Brendan Byrne (1974-82), Thomas Kean (1982-90), Christie Whitman (1994-2000) and James RL Co (1990-94) have voiced opposition to the South Jersey Gas Pipeline. Their letter to the Pinelands Commission comes after continued opposition to this project since the Commission turned down the proposal in 2014. This pipeline will travel through the Pinelands from Cumberland County to fuel the B.L. England power plant in Cape May County. It would violate the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), because the electricity generated would not benefit primarily the inhabitants of the Pinelands.

Three of the governors have joined the Sierra Club in a lawsuit against the pipeline, arguing that it would not only destroy open space; it would also risk drinking water and cause more air pollution. It would also undo the work of the former governors to protect this unique and sensitive ecological area.

Gov. Christie has done disservice to the legacies of his predecessors, who produced legislation to protect the Pinelands. Byrne fathered the Pinelands Protection Act of 1979 that recognizes the uniqueness of the ecology of the Pinelands, and protects our state’s open spaces and natural environment. With the Whitefield Act of 1982 that protects waterways, Whitman’s Garden State Preservation Trust Act of 1999 preserves open spaces, farmlands, and historic properties. The New Jersey constitutional amendment of 1968 established the Pinelands Commission to make sure the Pinelands are conserved and serve to encourage future development, contrary to the vision the CMP sets out for growth and conservation in the Pinelands. Because the development is materially unchanged, this concern is equally true today as it was in 1982.

They also denounced Gov. Christie’s abuse of power in replacing the member of the Commission that he appointed, to replace the one that controlled the account. They added: “We believe the current Administration’s treatment of the Pinelands Commission is a violation of the Commission’s independence.”

Three bipartisan former governors have renewed their opposition to Christie’s proj- ect because the Pinelands are important to our state. Three years ago the Pinelands Commission unanimously approved another pipeline project rather than a pro- vention, so as to violate the CMP. But the Pinelands Commission’s Executive Director reversed that position, without a public hearing or full vote by the Commission members, proclaiming the project to be consistent with the Pinelands Protection Act.

These bipartisan former governors are expressing their opposition to Christie’s proj- ect because the Pinelands are important to our state. Three years ago the Pinelands Commission unanimously approved another pipeline project rather than a pro- vention, so as to violate the CMP. But the Pinelands Commission’s Executive Director reversed that position, without a public hearing or full vote by the Commission members, proclaiming the project to be consistent with the Pinelands Protection Act.

From President Trump’s tone-deaf approval for competing the Dakota Access Pipeline to reviving the unnecessary Keystone XL Pipeline, consumers have been betrayed by governments that threaten to bypass their neighborhoods. We are nervous, and recent gas pipeline explosions in Texas (2017), Alabama (2017), and West Virginia (2015, 2012), among others, have reinforced those fears.

New Jersey is not different, and the Sierra Club is battling several pipeline proposals. Like strands of spaghetti on a plate, 1,520 miles of natural gas pipelines snake across New Jersey, according to the US Department of Energy. More are planned as gas fracking increases and energy companies look to grab profits while the price of gas is low.

Some of the new pipelines are extensions to existing lines. Others, like the pro- posed PennEast pipeline, are new and would carry natural gas from fracked fields in Pennsylvania. Not only are these pipelines unnecessary, they are dangerous — posing a potential threat to NJ residents from gas explosions, from methane gas leaks, and from pollution with toxins such as PFAS and Vinyl Chloride.

The Sierra Club’s New Jersey Chapter is opposed to these new gas pipelines, hop- ing to kill them outright. Especially objectionable are the Pinelands Pipeline, which would pass through the protected Pinelands National Reserve, and the PennEast Pipeline, a 120-mile line from Luzerne, PA, terminating in Mercer County. Our opposition, along with that of residents and other groups, has forced delays from Washington to the states, and in some cases, these projects have been canceled.

Now there’s another pipeline project sparking outrage. Local opposition in and around Franklin Township (Somerset Co) is growing against the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE) being proposed by Williams/Transco. The company wants to add 32 miles to an existing interstate pipeline, extending it from York County, PA, through Somerset and Middlesex Counties in New Jersey, and then under Raritan Bay to a facility in Queens to service New York City residents. Alarmingly, the NESE would travel through the Pinelands from Cumberland County to fuel the B.L. England power plant in Cape May County. It would violate the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), because the electricity generated would not benefit primarily the inhabitants of the Pinelands.

Outrage over NJ Pipelines is Growing

By Gary Frederick (gfredsiana@gmail.com) – Chairperson Raritan Valley Group

The Governor’s seventh State of the State speech, delivered on Jan 9, failed to address most of the issues that have ruined the State’s economy, as jobs continue to migrate elsewhere. Environmentally sensitive areas have been developed, including many pipeline proj- ects, that are supposed to protect the environment. Expect continued contribu- tions to climate change during his final year in office.

It’s clear that he spoke to the Conservative Right, cataloging his gifts to the pension fund; to veterans, retirees and the wealthy in the form of tax cuts, to unqualified teach- ers in his charter schools; to natural gas plants; to “special interest” and other gov- ernment regulations. Big Money interests will enjoy living and retiring in New Jersey. And Christie’s successors will deal with the pipeline and the resulting fiscal crisis.

During the last hour of his speech he outlined plans for his final year in office, solic- iting help from his favored developers and pollutants in conquering our epidemic alco- hol and drug addictions, which he considers our single most important issue, hoping that his program will help us win the 2018 US World Cup for the Nation.

Here it is: a one-stop information center, called REACH, to supply medical informa- tion and treatment to all affected. Upon successful completion of the program, every- one who achieves sobriety would be rewarded with a license to regain a healthy sense of self-worth. He proposes to work with Koch Industries and their General Counsel Mark Holden to [motivate] New Jersey based companies to challenge ourselves and long accepted exclusions for employment of the formerly incarcerated.

Note the rhetoric: “The Administration has done more than any in New Jersey history on the issue of addiction.” This will be Chris Christie’s legacy.

By focusing on the epidemic of drug addiction, he forgets that all state residents are also subject to the serious effects of noxious air, polluted water, and toxic waste sites. Cognitive impairment, neurological problems, kidney failure, reproductive difficulties, heart and lung diseases pose as much of a threat to society as opioid addiction. In his final year in office, Christie will continue to support fossil-fuel corporations, which are damaging our climate and environment.

The Governor refuses to address the consequences of man-made climate change, and he will not promote green energy. New Jersey is the only state on the eastern seaboard without a wind farm. While our climate crisis is bad enough, we also have thirty years of environmental laws, for reducing DEP staff by forty percent, and environmental policies by the current Administration. To two of the Water Supply Master Plan, and to increase standards for disposal of toxic chemicals; he has done nothing to clean up our water supplies, including elevated levels of lead in drinking water. He has taken money from environmental sentiments in the courts, such as the Passaic and Hackensack-Meadowlands projects, to plug holes in the budget. The $1.4 billion that he redirected from the Clean Energy Fund cost 4000 jobs in energy efficiency and savings on energy bills for business- owners, who lost $47 million.

As Governor, Christie has supported the Pinelands Protection Act. “The Pinelands program will only work over the long term if the CMP is implemented con- sistently with the law as interpreted by the courts and that respects the underlying goals and intentions of the Pinelands Protection Act.”

We’ll keep you informed.
An historic air invasion in 1948 resulted in a wall of chemical smog that killed 20 people and sickened 7,000 in the steel town of Donora. PA. Street lights were requerined to red for the first time. It led to Federal Clean Air laws. Congress started in 1955, enabling research into health hazards of polluted air and setting air quality standards enforced by the US EPA. The following decades brought important strides in improving air quality, but the risks that led to severe air pollution are big in China, a result of burning coal as China rushes to increase its industrial power. Chinese people wear face masks when walking on the streets. The concentration of air pollution in China is repeating the mistakes made in the USA decades ago. Today, the first thing that visitors from China admire are their clean beaches and unobstructed air. The industrial areas like downtown, now referred to as the Rust Belt, are smaller in population and economic power than in their peak years in the 1940s. Rust Belt voters in 2016 were energized by Donald Trump's simplistic view that our choice is between jobs or pollution. Unfortunately, the Rust Belt economy is much more complicated than the expectation that full employment would be achieved by demolishing the EPA and I-80. Today, industrial towns face changes in the industries that feed them. Air Quality and Health -

proposal: http://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/notices.html. a hearing in Trenton on Feb 13 and a deadline for comment on March 4. To read the emission tests of its diesel vehicles. We are waiting for Governor Christie to announce the Program aims to reduce particulate matter from vehicles by a mandatory diesel retrofit. Reducetion is expensive. Concentrations of diesel exhaust particles are highest in motors were mandated in 2007, many pre-2007 trucks are still in use because their replacement is expensive. Emission tests of its diesel vehicles. To read the

Van Hemmen is president of a marine consulting firm, and of the Navesink Maritime Heritage Association, and is a board member and past president of the Liberty State Park Conservancy. Greg Remaud, Deputy Director of NY/NJ Baykeeper, spoke to the Jersey Shore Club on the preservation of Liberty State Park:

Greg Remaud on the preservation of Liberty State Park: Greg Remaud, Deputy Director of NY/NJ Baykeeper, spoke to the Jersey Shore Club on the preservation of Liberty State Park:

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