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Vol. 46, No. 2 More than 20,000 Members in New Jersey April-June 2017

Gender, Equity & Environment (Population) Issues Coordinator's Report

Women's March on New Jersey – the power of one

By Bonnie Tillery (blt44blt@msn.com)

*"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." - William James**

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time." - Pres. Barack Obama

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 from Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman and others, various activists 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-Jennings who, since the age of 13, has spoken out against discrimination and continues to do so at age 93.

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.

**American philosopher and psychologist (1842-1910)*



The Skinny on Driverless Cars

Report on a lecture by Prof. Alain Kornhauser – by Kip Cherry, Conservation Chair of our Central Jersey Group (KCherry10@gmail.com)

On Jan 23rd, the Central Jersey Group had a full house for a presentation by Princeton Prof. Alain Kornhauser on the future for 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 life, 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 \$871 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 2015.

Kornhauser cataloged "human error" as follows, using 2013 data: driver inattention - 23%, vehicle speed - 19%, alcohol impairment - 18%, perceptual errors - 15%, 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, 15,351 injuries, and \$499,872,628 in losses. With 80,795 buses on American roads, this amounts to \$6,187/bus/year.

Dr. Kornhauser sees self-driving vehicles as inevitable. Besides Tesla's AutoPilot, we already have MB Dystronic Plus, Volvo S90, Subaru Eyesight, and others by BMW and Nissan. Low-speed driverless cars include Easy Mile, 2GetThere, robosoft, Catapult, Meridian shuttle, and the Google Self-Driving Car. Apple, Amazon, Uber and others have models in development.

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

Besides safety, Kornhauser sees enormous environmental 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 creat-

ed by smart technology, there will also be huge consolidations. So the general problem of a future with fewer jobs should be a serious present concern.

Other consequences of driverless cars were touched on: possibly a negative impact on urban sprawl, since longer commutes will be easier. Will the number of private cars decrease as the ease of ordering 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 obtained 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.

Dr. Kornhauser received a PhD in Aerospace & Mechanical Sciences from Princeton University in 1971. At Princeton he holds the positions of Professor, Operation Research & Financial Engineering; Director, Transportation Research Program; and Faculty Chair, Princeton Autonomous Vehicle Engineering (PAVE).



In 1979 he founded ALK Technologies, Inc., which developed Geographical Information Systems to assist the North American Railroad System by creating a standard digital map database that is now used by every railroad and trucking company.

In 2014, he co-founded two new firms, Soterea, which specializes in autonomous vehicles, and IndigoEnergy, which specializes in renewable energy. He also is Board Chair of the Advanced Transit Association and Editor of SmartDrivingCars, an e-mail newsletter.

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Thank You for Your Support!

Supplied by Ken Johanson and George Denzer

The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club wishes to thank all those who provided the Chapter with financial support during 2016. As in prior years, our members and supporters were there when we needed them. Listed below are the names of those who contributed \$100 or more during the calendar year. But please be assured that all contributions are very much appreciated, regardless of the amount.

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Environmental Justice Coordinator's Report Environment and Equity - an 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 the environment and human justice in every struggle facing the earth today.

So, at the end of August, I drove to Jamaica Plains MA to interview a one percent (someone earning in the top one percentile) making a case for tackling inequality, bringing wealth home, and committing to the common good. I found Chuck Collins to be a fascinating individual; his book explains why and how to slow down, pay attention, and connect to nature.

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

The more people see the ecological web, changes the more they realize: no I don't need to take more than my share.

Modern medicine has done some amazing things, and now we have to take the next step to see how we support the amazing natural systems that exist around us. How do we stop poisoning ourselves and the environment, and make the transition to a new and more sustainable system?

Many people are re-engaging with the land, and realizing that on two acres you can grow much of one's food needs. My hope is we tap back into some of the ancient wisdom. That is where super-wealthy people, people who have access to capital and net worth, have a particular role. That's not to say that everybody else doesn't have a role. In fact, part of the job of everyone else is to figure out how to engage and invite that 1% home. How do you say, Come home, your actual wealth and security are tied to your community? Real wealth is in our social networks and our ability to take care of one another. You can be a part of that, you 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 ability and willingness to work with others. Come Home. I know it sounds idealistic but it is completely understandable anger towards how people have been hurt by the current system.

According to the Helium Report, a luxury-vacation guide, every hour a jet-setter spends aloft burns as much

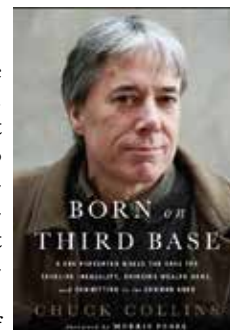
fuel as an entire year of driving. How do we get wealthy people to take responsibility for the luxurious lifestyle that they are accustomed to living?

Firstly, the rest of humanity shouldn't have to subsidize that lifestyle. If people want to fly a private jet, then make them pay the real environmental cost. Secondly, the level of consumption, particularly among the uber-wealthy, is too high. The planet cannot sustain that much consumption. We need to power down the wealthy. Some wealthy people understand this: the early adapters - those who spend \$300,000 on a Tesla. Such people understand the climate and other environmental issues, and are willing to pioneer environmental technologies that will eventually bring the cost down. That is an important role for people of wealth. Retrofit your house before it becomes more affordable."

The Carbon Tax: environmentalists are divided over whether it is a good or bad idea. Your insight?

There should be a two-tier Carbon Tax: all carbon should be taxed at a basic level. Then, luxury use - such as a private jet - should be subject to a much higher Carbon Tax. I would favor a carbon tax with a per capita rebate. Everybody gets a check for the same amount. So if I am a millionaire driving a big car and paying more for fuel, then I am going to be paying a higher carbon tax. But my rebate would be relatively tiny. In contrast, a low-energy-using working class person would come out relatively way ahead. It's tougher in rural areas, where most people have to drive longer distances.

I envision every person receiving a \$5,000 guaranteed Tier-1 rebate from the carbon tax. Then comes Tier-2. If your house and car is 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 renewable energy economy, by supporting workers who will lose their current jobs: coal miners, oil refinery workers, builders of luxury jets.



YOU HAVE MORE TO GIVE THAN YOU KNOW

Maybe you can't make a gift to protect the environment during your lifetime, but you can become a financial hero by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. You can even direct your gift to a special Club program or to the New Jersey Chapter.

For information about making a bequest to the New Jersey Chapter call Paul Sanderson at 908-233-2414

Correction

A sharp reader noticed that Mahatma Gandhi was identified in our previous issue as a one-time Prime Minister of India. He was a prime mover in India's independence movement, and Indira Gandhi (no relation) was a Prime Minister, but he never was. Sorry.

Conservation Report

Urban Trees

by Stacey Ayala, Conservation Chair for our West Jersey Group

From cleaning the air and making oxygen, to offering a shady oasis during hot summer months, it's hard to imagine a community in New Jersey that doesn't benefit from street trees. Not long ago, traveling through some areas of Camden County, there were many streets that didn't have a single tree. Among other consequences, just one inch of rain would overwhelm the stormwater sewer system, resulting in flooding.

Today, that's changing. The Camden SMART Initiative has partnered with the NJ Tree Foundation to transform Camden County's streets from concrete deserts to communities with neighborhood trees - one block at a time. More than 1,400 trees have been planted, which, combined with other projects, is reducing the amount of chronic flooding.

Jennifer Franzini, Senior Program Director of the NJ Tree Foundation, oversees the planting program in Camden County. Jennifer also assists with the

Foundation's TreeKeepers workshops, and helps with other community projects in New Jersey.

Here is a brief interview with Jessica:

How did you start with this program? After graduating from Stockton College with my environmental studies degree, I sought a non-profit job where I could make a difference. The NJ Tree Foundation was hiring for their Camden City program and offered me the chance to join their team. That was about eight years ago. The program has introduced me to some of the most inspirational people I've ever met - Camden residents, fighting to bring their communities back - and showed me the real impact trees can make in tough inner-cities.

Is it hard to convince the neighbors to take care of their trees once you've planted them? Not at all. Our program is application-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 trees have a 95% survival rate, which is above the industry standard for success.

What is the first thing you notice after the trees have been established? I notice how peaceful the block looks. I notice the shade, the birds, and the beauty of the trees. But most importantly, I notice and can truly feel the restored sense of pride in that neighborhood. The decorated tree pits, the benches, the flower boxes - many of us take these things for granted, but they're a part of what makes your community feel welcoming and like "home." Everyone deserves that sense of normalcy in front of their doors. Our trees help transform blighted neighborhoods into brighter neighborhoods.

Do people come to you and ask about the tree planting program? All the time. I'm the point-person for Camden so I'm always answering questions about the program.

When you go back to the first street that you worked with, what is it like now? It's beautiful, to put it simply. Streets are cleaner, people gather outside more, there's less crime, and the trees themselves add so much character to the street. I love it.

What is the ultimate goal of the program? The goal of the program is to improve Camden's environment and quality of life through tree planting, community education, and volunteerism. We are helping Camden reach a tree canopy coverage goal of 25% from the current coverage, estimated at 18%.

With Jennifer's hard work and the hard work of the rest of the people who work and volunteer with the NJ Tree Foundation, a transformation is spreading across Camden. It comes when patches of concrete are replaced with dirt and saplings. Homes are now shaded by growing trees, and residents are now able to have pride in their streets. If you would like to help the NJ Tree Foundation with its tree plantings, go to their website: <http://njtreefoundation.org>. Or contact the West Jersey Group's Greenways Coordinator, Frank Zinni, at 856-596-1086.

Sources: NJ Tree Foundation and The Camden SMART Initiative: <http://www.camdensmart.com/>

[Editor's note: There's a "flaw in the ointment": See my editorial on p.3!]

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

Editorial

Street Trees vs. MS4

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

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 Lindens, Lyme 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 (MS4). 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 empty, would receive less pollu-

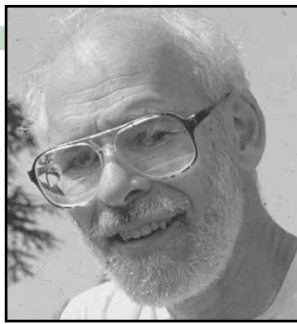
tion if a secondary storm sewer system were built to deliver stormwater to a treatment facility such as a detention basin. It's a boon to the engineering and construction industries.

Never mind that Egg Harbor City is merging the two stormwater systems at the end of each block; the trees have to go, because their roots might interfere with the new pipes that are being laid under the sidewalks. And never mind that no homeowner is happily (or unhappily) actually paying for more new pipes to connect their downspouts to the MS4 pipes, or doesn't need to because the downspouts connect to rain barrels, or 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. Trees have a reputation for lifting sidewalks and damaging 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 there's an engineering solution: stronger pipes or better pipe-laying methods that could enable coexistence of street trees and MS4.



Chair's Message

Chapter Welcomes Our New Volunteers!

By Richard Isaac (risaacx@aol.com)

I'm glad to say that our Chapter continues to gain more activists holding an array of positions, so let me introduce our newest ones!

Bill Murphy, Chapter Risk Assessment Analyst

Retiring after 35 years of actuarial work, the last 25 as a consultant, with substantial experience preparing, delivering and critiquing expert witness testimony, Bill will be responsible for reviewing the risk assessments in various proposed construction projects, e.g., gas or oil pipelines, power plants, LNG export facilities, etc.

Lara Zullo, Chapter High School Coordinator

A junior in high school, Lara Zullo is involved in activities in her school, such as Forensics (a speech and debate club) and Family Career and Community Leaders of America (a club focused on promoting volunteerism and leadership among students). Outside of school, she is greatly involved in the Sierra Club, and serves as both Publicity Chair and Political chair of the Jersey Shore Group. She is now also taking on the position of High School Coordinator as a means of promoting the Sierra Club and its message of environmental conservation to other youth.

Paul Ehrlich, Chapter Clean Air Issues Coordinator

Paul has an extensive background in biophysical chemistry and immunology, has authored and co-authored scientific publications in journals focusing on biochemistry, endocrinology, immunology, and cancer, has been a principal investigator of research and scientific education grants including the National Institutes of Health, and has taught courses in chemistry and biology at M.I.T., Fairleigh-Dickinson University, and Rutgers University. Since Paul's health has been greatly affected by airborne allergens and air pollution for more than 30 years, he spent considerable time learning how to ameliorate symptoms including investigating areas likely to have high and low pollution levels as well as modifying the indoor environment in high pollution areas, and looks forward to helping us work on cleaning up and protecting our air quality.

Lenny Fariello, Chapter Wetlands Issues Coordinator

A strong advocate for open space for his entire life, Lenny took a job back in 1973 as a forest ranger and patrolled land in Great Piece Meadows, Troy Meadows, and the Great Swamp. Currently the Land Manager for Wildlife Preserves, he also has been involved in politics, serving three terms on the Hanover Township Committee before serving as Mayor in 2009. Already the Loantaka Group's Conservation Chair for Morris County, Lenny looks forward to helping our Chapter protect wetlands and wildlife.

Howard Steinberg, Chapter Environmental Health Advisor

Serving in public health for 34 years, Howard has dealt with environmental issues. He started the Morris County Office of Health Management, and was responsible for the implementation of the CEHA (County Environmental Health Act) program, which handled, among other things, lead inspection assistance, ambient surface water testing, safe drinking water, and air pollu-



tion. We look forward to Howard's advice and help on air quality, drinking water quality and lead inspection issues.

Kyle Markmann, Chapter Transportation Issues Coordinator

Kyle Markmann is a Lambertville resident who works in NYC. He always had great admiration for the Sierra Club but when he heard our Chapter Director Jeff Tittel speak at a PennEast pipeline town meeting he knew he needed to do more. Being very interested in becoming more involved with the Sierra Club at the state level, the volunteer position that caught his eye was the transportation issues coordinator primarily because he commutes daily to NYC, and now he is helping us on that issue!

Ashley Baldwin, Chapter Delaware Water Gap Issues Coordinator

While Ashley went to school at the University of Pennsylvania and studied Neuroscience with a focus on Math and Computer Science, the marriage of environmental issues and social justice is really what makes her tick, and she has spent a lot of her time volunteering in Philadelphia programs to bring more opportunity to inner city youth. Aware of how wonderfully accessible the Delaware Water Gap is to so many cities and people, and of how upgrading this area to a national park would create a National Park very accessible to those in this area of the country, she is excited to take on the challenge of helping establish such a park!

In Ashley's free time she kayaks on the Delaware, bikes and walks the Delaware & Raritan Canal Towpath, and is always trying to read and become more aware of environmental issues and the policies surrounding them.

Jim Andreano, Faith Based Issues Coordinator

While Jim is new to Sierra Club, he is not new to the environmental movement. For the last five years he has served as a Climate Realty Leader for the Climate Reality Project (the Al Gore initiative), in which capacity he has presented to a local Sierra Club group. He is also experienced in mobilizing and coordinating faith based groups. He has served for three years as Board Chair of a nonprofit in which interfaith congregations provide services for homeless families. With Jim's help we will work to strengthen our existing relationships with those our religious organizations where we share similar positions.

John Kashwick, Chapter Political Chair

A Business Manager at The New York Times with degrees in Communications, Environmental Management, and Accounting, John has served the Club in several roles including Chair of the North Jersey Group, Utah Issues Coordinator, Outings Leader and Political Vice-Chair. He is also our current Chapter Vice-Chair. He served as a Republican Councilman in Closter for nine years followed by a stint as Closter Democratic Municipal Chair where he led the party to victory in 2015 for the first time in 10 years. He will bring his experience with campaigns and holding elected office to steer the Chapter's political endorsement process, and I am confident that I am leaving the position of Chapter Political Chair in great hands!



BEFORE MS4



AFTER MS4

Resolutions:

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)

Political Corner

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.

Reports from Trenton

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 33 "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 their 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 process, 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 requirement 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 siltation 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!

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The Problem



The Solution



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Re-use
Re-purpose

The Eco Pool Drain "Fountain" is environmentally friendly, economical, and easy to install. It's a fun way to water your lawn while lowering your pool water, back washing your filter water or draining your swimming pool. This revolutionary device is tough, time tested and tranquil to watch. It recycles, re-uses, re-purposes this valuable resource. You'll enjoy the way our "Fountain" sprays water into the air which is then gently absorbed into the soil without erosion or entrance into waterways. It self-drains once its work is done. See our fun animated video at www.ecopooldrain.com.

On the Ballot in 2017: Dedication of Environmental Settlement Funds

From a Press Release issued by our Chapter Staff on Dec 19, edited by Joe Testa

The Legislature has passed a resolution to place a question on the 2017 ballot that, if passed by voters, would restrict environmental settlement funds to certain environmental uses. The Christie Administration has violated the public trust for years by confiscating these funds for other purposes. Until it passes, the Administration has time for more raids on our environmental funds.

This dedication would stop the state from being able to divert funds such as the \$140 million that was taken from the Passaic River Settlement. We are still fighting the Exxon settlement in court; there is a chance that this would protect those funds as well. With this common-sense dedication, settlement funds will go to help clean up the communities and areas affected by the environmental damage. This is important for New Jersey's environment and for the people who deal with the damage these settlements are meant to resolve. This money must not go towards plugging holes in the budget or tax cuts for the wealthy.

Constitutional dedication of money received by the state in Natural Resource Damage litigation is critical given the Christie administration's track record and the language in the FY2016 budget that allowed up to \$175 million to be diverted from the Exxon settlement to the General Fund. The budget allowed Governor Christie to transfer any money from the Exxon settlement agreement over \$50 million to the state General Fund. Most of the remaining \$50 million went to lawyer fees, leaving almost nothing for the people who have been affected by the pollution. The Christie Administration also stole the money from the Passaic River clean-up litigation. The community was victimized once by the pollution, and again by taking the settlement money.

The money from these lawsuits should go to remediating and restoring the site, local ecosystem, and local community. In New Jersey, natural resources belong to all of us - this is called the Public Trust Doctrine. Rivers, streams, wetlands, marshes and fisheries are held in trust by government for the people. Under the New Jersey Spill Act of 1977, when you damage those resources you have to pay for loss of public use as well as for damages to those natural resources. Polluters should be held responsible to pay for the damages to natural resources and the money must go where it is intended.

Legislature Stands Up to Christie: Book Deal, Legal Notice Bills Held

From a Press Release issued on Dec. 19, Edited by Maggie Yilmaz

On December 19th the Senate and Assembly held two bills that would have benefited Governor Christie at the expense of the people of New Jersey. These were A4429, titled "Electronic Publication of Legal Notices Act," and S2851 which "permits receipt of compensation for published works by certain Executive Branch public officers."

A4429 (Prieto) would have permitted government agencies and persons to publish legal notices on official government notice websites instead of in newspapers. This would have undermined democracy by disadvantaging the poor, the elderly, and disabled people who don't have access to the internet. By not passing this bill, the Legislature achieved a major victory for the people of New Jersey and for freedom of the press.

S2851 (Scutari) would have allowed Christie to make money off of signing a book deal while still in Office. Currently state law forbids Christie from making income other than his salary as Governor. If this bill passed, it would have allowed Governor Christie to make more money at the expense of the taxpayers of New Jersey.

A delay is a victory. These bills could come back but a delay will give us more time to build opposition. We want to thank the Legislature for standing up for the people of New Jersey against the Governor, who would take away our rights and spend more of our money for his personal gain.

National Sierra Club Director's Election

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

Attorneys Still Wanted!

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

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

Member Reports

On Transit-Oriented Development

by Steve Lax, Transportation Committee Member
(Steve was employed by NJ Transit for 26 years, 22 of them in Bus Service Planning)

Transit-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 – substituting transit, walking or bicycles. 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 underutilized properties.

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).

New Jersey has on its NJ-DOT website a section devoted to "Transit Village Initiatives" – with links to many useful documents that can help you evaluate a proposal. Included is a "Manual of Best Practices for Transit-Oriented Development." The Internet has many other sources for similar information.

But these documents mostly focus on the development itself, rather than the transit portion of the equation. Usually there is mere reference to "proximity to a transit stop."

THE TRANSIT

We should consider the quality of the transit: what destinations are offered, and with what frequency, seven days a week. The mode is not important. It can be bus, rail or both. But the destinations, travel times, frequencies and span of service should be "great." Anything less than "fair" should be automatic disqualification for use of the term TOD. (See box).

Most municipal officials are not well-versed in what good transit is, and many developers do not really care, so it is our responsibility to educate them.

Here's a good example: downtown Bloomfield (Essex Co) is currently considering several TODs. It has "good" peak-period rail service to midtown Manhattan, Newark, and Hoboken, with some off-peak and weekend service. There is also a "good to great" frequency of bus service to midtown Manhattan and downtown Newark, 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 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 claimed TODs offer only peak period service to Manhattan or Philadelphia. Residents are dependent on their cars for all other travel. And people who need to travel to these developments for jobs or other reasons almost always need a car.

Worse: one TOD is being built in North Brunswick on the promise of a future rail stop to be provided by NJ Transit (read New Jersey taxpayers). More on this below.

GUIDE TO QUALITY TRANSIT FOR A TOD. Here's what to ask:

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

Does it connect with central Manhattan, Philadelphia, and Newark, and what's the travel-time?

What's the nearest Transit Hub and how convenient is the service?

How about airports, major universities, community colleges, shopping malls, hospitals, major employers, libraries, theaters, stadiums, art centers?

How's the frequency of service – on the following scale, also considering off-peak and weekends:

"Great" frequency - Every 15 minutes or better from early morning to mid-evening daily, with half-hourly frequency until late evening.

"Good" frequency- Peak period frequency every 15 minutes or better with weekday midday and evening frequency and weekend frequency every 30 minutes or better.

"Fair" frequency - Every thirty minutes or better during peak periods. During midday periods on weekdays, hourly or better for longer commuter routes, every 30 minutes or better on local routes. Weekday evenings - hourly on all routes. Saturdays - Hourly or better on longer commuter routes and every 30 minutes or better on local routes. Sundays - Hourly through late evening on longer commuter routes and hourly through early evening on local routes.

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 (studios, one bedrooms, two bedroom, some larger), prices (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 available both to residents and to outsiders.

Parking, especially dedicated private parking, should be limited. A TOD where residential units cost upwards of \$500,000 and include two parking spaces per unit, is not really a TOD. It's best for parking spaces to be shared: between residents at night and shoppers/employees during the day.

The environment out to the transit stop should be conducive to walking and bicycling. The sidewalks should be wide, pleasant and well-lit, with plantings, shade, and well-marked crosswalks. They should be visually interesting and safe: not along high speed streets or canyon walls. And they should be quickly cleared after snowfalls.

To promote bicycling there should be separate bike lanes, and bike racks or lockers at the transit stop and throughout the neighborhood. Consider a bike-sharing or rental program. And, as with sidewalks, there should be adequate lighting and snow removal.

The transit stop itself should include at least basic shelter from the elements, a waste receptacle, and notice-boards with an area walking map and information about transit services available, including real-time notice of next departures and destinations for each route that serves the stop.

CASE STUDY: Let's take a look at the transit village/TOD being built in North Brunswick (Middlesex Co), visible looking west from trains between New Brunswick

Tips on Coping with Air Pollution

By Paul Ehrlich, our Air Quality Issues Coordinator (phehrlich-nj@outlook.com)

Environmentalists tend to focus on long-term solutions to environmental degradation. Some environmental problems, however, especially those that are health related, require solutions in the here-and-now.

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 purify 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 no guarantees.

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

Short-term mitigation of health effects from air pollution:

Use an allergy room air purifier with a particulate filter plus an extra charcoal filter; use it in a small room; works best with closed windows and doors, and with continuous filtering; change charcoal filter as often as necessary (maybe as often as once a day). Evidence for the efficacy of this method has been shown by a study in which charcoal filters added to some automobile air filters reduced symptoms caused by diesel exhaust.

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 treatment of tuberculosis, which has 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 exposure to outside air.

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 that is not a long distance). One study of people aged 55 years or older showed higher rates of dementia in those living within 55 yards of a major traffic artery, compared with those who lived 56 to 109 yards away. Additional well-known mitigation efforts include the use of paints low in volatile organics, and refraining from burning firewood. On a community-wide basis, planting trees is probably a good idea.

References and details available from the author at: phehrlich-nj@outlook.com

Water in the Pine Barrens

By Lee Snyder, Pinelands Issues Coordinator (pinelands1@hotmail.com)

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 resource; additional water is in streams, rivers, ponds, lakes and wetlands.

Protection of the Pinelands' surface and underground water quality and quantity is critical to the integrity of our water supply. Several studies by the US Geological Survey, the NJ Pinelands Commission and others show that the aquifers are being over-pumped. Lower water levels harm the various Pine Barrens ecosystems, as well as the integrity of the water supply for present and future needs. Low water levels occur due to natural (drought) and manmade (over-pumping) causes. This can cause streams, ponds and wetlands to dry up. Quality of the water is also degraded by fertilizers, chemicals and non-point sources such as improper development and lax oversight. Proposed gas pipelines through the area will increase the degradation. NJ DEP is tasked with regulating the distribution of Pinelands water from the aquifers. The State has not heeded recommendations, based on many years of studies by various agencies, to reduce water withdrawals and other stresses on this critical resource.

The Pine Barrens, 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.

and Trenton.

1. Housing: The town ordinance requires both market-rate and affordable housing, and doesn't appear to specify the number of parking spaces for each unit. The first units are priced at more than \$550,000, with private two-car garages. Fails the test! Affordable housing should be included from day one.

2. Retail: The first two stores are a COSTCO and a TARGET, surrounded by a sea of parking spaces. Not appropriate to a walkable, bikeable neighborhood! And how many purchases will be too large to be carried on foot or by bicycle?

3. Transit? NJ Transit has committed to construct a train station on its NE Corridor Line, but it doesn't have funding. The earliest completed date is 2026. The Township claims there will be bus service by the time the first residents move in; but it's not in the plans, and will that service satisfy the quality considerations earlier in this article?

4. Connectivity to the surrounding area? The town ordinance permitting this development states that a TOD can have a train station with up to 4500 parking spaces (!) and a bus station with up to 500 parking spaces (!). Woe betide the pedestrian and bicyclist! Clearly, this project has no right to a TOD designation.

If a TOD is proposed for your municipality, use the points discussed in this article to judge its quality. Make sure it is not a TOD in name only.

If any Chapter member wants my opinion of the adequacy of existing/proposed public transit at a specific location for which development is proposed (TOD or not), please e-mail me at zevson2004@verizon.net.



Group News

FROM
AROUND
THE
STATE

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

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

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

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

Skylands Group

(Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

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

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

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

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

Executive Committee:

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

Officers:	Term exp:		
Chair:	12/31/17	Susan Williams	SkylandsGroup@gmail.com
Vice Chair:	12/31/17	Mindy Geary	mwillimas@yahoo.com
Secretary:	12/31/18	Norene Haberski	habersn@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	12/31/17	Jeri Doherty	bjd8974@gmail.com
Board Members:			
Member-at-Large	12/31/18	Greg Gorman	ggorman07419@embarqmail.com
Member-at-Large	12/31/17	Dave Alcock	dwhoob@hotmail.com
Member-at-Large	12/31/18	Marvin Feil	mfeil@writeme.com
Member-at-Large	12/31/18	Nicole Guerrieri	sosaysnicole@gmail.com
Conservation Chair:	N/A	Greg Gorman	ggorman07419@embarqmail.com
Outings Chair:	N/A	Dave Alcock	dwhoob@hotmail.com
Political Co-Chairs:	N/A	Nicole Guerrieri	sosaysnicole@gmail.com
		Susan Williams	SkylandsGroup@gmail.com
Acting Publicity Chair:	N/A	Jeri Doherty	bjd8974@gmail.com
Webmaster:	N/A	Nicole Guerrieri	sosaysnicole@gmail.com

OPEN POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

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

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

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

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

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

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

CURRENT CAMPAIGN:

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

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

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

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

South Highlands Group

(Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties)

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

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

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

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com
Vice Chair:	Celeste Martin*	onecentral@mac.com
Conservation Chair:	Cinny MacGonagle*	cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Amy Weeder*	aweeder@comcast.net
Treasurer:	Celeste Martin *	onecentral@mac.com
Political Chair:	Debbie Young*	debyoung31@comcast.net
Programs Chair:	Patricia Smith	katescat@gmail.com
Membership Chair:	Jim Fleming*	jfleming18@comcast.net
Outings Coordinator:	Jonathan Wall*	psychologist@jonwall.com
Webmaster:	John Kashwick	jkashwick@gmail.com

(*Group Executive Committee Member)

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

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

April 5 (Wed): Prof. Michael Brogan, PhD, Rider College: Kaboom or not to Kaboom, that is the Question! Evaluating Risk and Natural Gas Pipeline Safety: Dr. Brogan's research conducts an experiment on individual's 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 awake 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 psychologist@jonwall.com.

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

North Jersey Group

(Bergen and Passaic Counties)

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

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

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

Officers:

Chair:	Buddy Jenssen *	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Vice Chair:	Jennifer Rothschild *	jenniroth2@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Buddy Jenssen *	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Secretary:	Jennifer Rothschild *	jenniroth2@gmail.com
Conservation Co-Chair:	Mary Walsh *	blehlwalsh@hotmail.com
Conservation Co-Chair:	Laura Tracey Coll *	lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com
Political Chair:	Jermaine Spence*	spencejermaine@hotmail.com
Political Associate:	Phoebe Gistrak*	p-mg@att.net
Air Quality Issues:	Laura Tracey Coll *	lauratraceycoll@hotmail.com
Climate Issues:	Jeff Rapaport	jefrap@optonline.net
Fundraising Chair:	Francie Goldstein	franciegoldstein@gmail.com
Membership Chair:	Buddy Jenssen *	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Outings Co-Chair:	Ellen Blumenkrantz	eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Outings Co-Chair:	Mary Walsh *	blehlwalsh@hotmail.com
Programs Chair:	Buddy Jenssen *	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Publicity Chair:	Marty Cohen	martincohen@verizon.net
Social Media Coord.:	Ariana Schanzer	arianaschanzer@gmail.com
Trail Maintenance:	Marty Cohen	martincohen@verizon.net
Webmaster/Listmaster:	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@gmail.com

(*Group Executive Committee Member)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

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

Apr 3 (Mon): Executive and Conservation Committee Meeting. 7:30pm, location TBD. This is the quarterly meeting of the Executive and Conservation Committees of the North Jersey Group that will include officer appointments and reorganization. The meeting is casual and informative. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about the Club, hear about and discuss issues, plan future events, and become more active. Please check the on-line calendar of events to confirm.

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 Ruckman Road, Closter.

June 11 (Sun): Spring Environmentalist Reception. 5:00pm, Flatrock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Ave, Englewood. Come to meet new and old members and learn about opportunities 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 presentation and tricky tray/raffle. Optional hike beforehand 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/\$35 for non-member families. All ages welcome! RSVP required. Please contact Buddy at buddy.jenssen@gmail.com or 973-310-3173.

Trail Maintenance. To get on our trail maintenance militia email list, just send an email of interest to martincohen@verizon.net.

Gateway Group

Serving Hillside, Elizabeth, and Essex County (except for Livingston, Millburn and Roseland)

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

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

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Suzanne Trimel	201-247-5057	suzanne.trimel@gmail.com
Vice-Chair:	ZaSah Khademi	201-618-8572	zasah@aol.com
Secretary:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Treasurer:	Anne Hirs	973-844-1121	annehirs@msn.com
Program Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Publicity Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Conservation Co-Chairs:	ZaSah Khademi	201-618-8572	zasah@aol.com
and	David Korfhage	973-932-0742	drkorfhage@gmail.com
Political Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Fundraising Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Membership Chair:	Steven Yafet	908-354-2537	syafet@gmail.com
Water, Newark Issues Chr:	Bill Chappel	973-623-6490	chappel.bill@gmail.com
Recycling Issues Chair:	Lyle Landon	201-247-0288	lylelandon@aol.com
Passaic River Co-Chairs:	Brenda Toyloy	973-856-7056	brendatoyloy@yahoo.com
and	Jeff Weiss	973-650-1030	bonefish5000@gmail.com
Elizabeth Issues Chair:	Paula Borenstein	908-289-3584	brdandmkt@aol.com
Outings Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Group Executive Committee:	David Yennior, ZaSah Khademi and Bill Chappel		

Please contact 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 Whitley, John Beadle, Barbara Conover, ZaSah Khademi, Bill Chappel, Steven Yafet, Anne Hirs, Paula Borenstein, and Brenda Toyloy.

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

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

There are several vacant positions listed, along with a full list of officers. For further information about upcoming activities, volunteer opportunities, or to discuss any concerns please contact 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 County Park and increase open space in Hudson County. We also work to support mass transit and bicycling, foster urban composting, and help keep our urban environment a healthy place to live. Come to a meeting and share any issue of concern to you.

Website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/hudson-county>. Sign up here to receive email updates
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubHCAreaNetwork1>
E-mail: HUDSONSIERRAclub@gmail.com
Phone: Toni Granato (609-656-7612) or Pat Hilliard (201-354-9059)

OFFICERS:

Chair:	David "Ace" Case	acecase88@gmail.com
Vice-Chair:	Open position!	
Conservation Chair:	Jon Perrelle	jonperrelle@gmail.com
Secretary:	Patricia Hilliard	hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	Open position!	
Delegate to ExCom:	Hugh Evans	
Political Chair:	Seth Lubin	sthlubin@gmail.com
Publicity Chair:	John Ottomanelli	otto.pittsburgh@gmail.com
Membership Chair:	Open position!	
Programs/Events Chair:	Janet Crowley	jtryx@yahoo.com
Outings Chair:	Seth Lubin	sthlubin@gmail.com
Ex-Com at-Large:	Nancy Booth	boothnancy2011@hotmail.com
Braddock Park Issues:	Lili Martinez	lilimartinez@optonline.net

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

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

Apr 9 (Sun): 12:30-2 pm. Executive Committee meeting of the Hudson County Sierra Club. The public may attend; only officers may vote. Hudson County Community College Library, Jersey City.

May 7 (Sun): 2-4 pm. Environmental Forum. Representatives from environmental advocacy, planning, and outdoor groups in Hudson County will give short talks on their group's current activities and goals, and take questions. Join us as we find out more about what the issues are and what we can do to collaborate to achieve our common goals. Location: Hudson County Community College Library, 81 Sip Ave, Jersey City. Please check our Website and Facebook pages in April for a complete list of speakers and directions/map. Contact Programs/Events Chair Janet Crowley if you would like a 5-10 minute slot on the program.

June 18 (Sun). Executive Committee meeting of the Hudson County Sierra Club. The public may attend; only officers may vote. Hudson County Community College Library, Jersey City.

July 16 (Sun). Second Annual Hudson County Sierra Club Picnic. Liberty State Park, Jersey City.

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

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 2015, Club members gathered informally; in Jan 2016, an executive committee was formed and issue priorities outlined; and on Mar 12, 2016, the Chapter unanimously welcomed 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 key-note speaker Sam Pesin (see Lara Zullo's report in Shore Group News); in Sept our own Chapter 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 technology. On May 7, the Group will host a Forum on action toward conservationism, described above We hope that you will schlep 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.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>
 Loantaka now has a Facebook page. Please check it out and like it: <https://www.facebook.com/LoantakaGroupNJSC>

OFFICERS:

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

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

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

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

(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 Sanderson.

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

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

MEETING SCHEDULE:

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 to safeguard the water resources on which we all depend. In addition, the Group is actively involved in State-wide initiatives involving air quality, transportation, and environmental legislation. Volunteers are always welcome. Call Eric (732-669-0719).

Consult our website (<http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>) for more information.

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

Web-site: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/central-jersey>. Or click from the NJ Chapter's web-site.

OFFICERS (tentative):

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

MEETINGS: 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, at Mercer County Community College (MCCC) in the Student Center, Room SC211, where we hope to attract faculty and students. The list of speakers is being finalized. Easy parking in Faculty lot, across from Security Office. We welcome your ideas and participation!

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

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

Apr 24 and May 15: TBA

Successful Special Event: The Skinny on Driverless Cars – Jan 23

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 Community College - had 47 attendees. See story on page 1.

Our Outings coordinators have put together a list of activities for the spring 2017 season. See pp.11-12.

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

OFFICERS:

Group and	
Conservation Chair:	Gary Frederick 609-203-3382 gfredsierra@gmail.com
Secretary:	<i>Open position!</i>
Political Chair:	Daphne Speck-Barynski 732-390-5311 speckbartyn@comcast.net
Communications:	Dani Leviss
Treasurer:	Sindhu Pasricha
Publicity:	<i>Open position!</i>
Membership:	Gurdon Hornor 678-920-8620 ghornor@yahoo.com

Webmaster:	Paul Ehrlich	p.w.ehrlich@gmail.com
Outings Chair:	Alison Wilkes	
College Liaison:	<i>Open position!</i>	
Bee Affairs:	Brenda Bradley	
Ex-Com at Large:	Roomi Nusrat	rnusrat@att.net

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

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 Frederick. 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:

1. Conservation and Protection of the Raritan River basin area.

Key issues: preservation of our water supply, wildlife and prevention of water pollution

2. Passage of and responsible enforcement of environmentally friendly zoning and development ordinances.

3. Prevention of diversion of conserved land for commercial or other development.

We are for preservation of open space and preventing diversion of land from State's Green Acres program to commercial development are our goals.

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

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair:	Dennis Anderson	732-970-4327	dennisaza@aol.com
	6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ	07747	
Vice-Chair & Secretary:	Bob Grize	732-892-0684	
Conservation Co-Chairs:	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445	faithtei@aol.com
and:	Bob Sandberg	732-241-7757	Sandberg00@gmail.com
Webmaster:	Open position!		
Treasurer:	Pat Fuschetto	732-308-4588	fusche40@yahoo.com
Political Chair:	Lara Zillow		lzulow@optimum.net
Outings Chair:	Mike Verange	908-902-0718	mjverange@aol.com
Outings Leaders:	Needed!		
Membership Chair:	Bob Grize	732-892-0684	nyucwnyppb@aol.com
Program Chair:	George Moffatt	732-544-1726	gmoffattgt@aol.com
Climate Chair:	Open position!		
Fund-raising Co-Chairs:	Lois Blake	732-863-5917	lqblake@optonline.net
and:	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445	faithtei@aol.com
Publicity Chair:	Lara Zillow		lzulow@optimum.net
High School Coordinator:	Lara Zillow		lzulow@optimum.net

Jersey Shore Group Happenings:

The Jersey Shore Sierra Club is a partner of the Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association whose goal is to restore the banks and water quality of the Whale Pond Brook and create a greenway from the shore in Long Branch to the uplands in Tinton Falls. In Long Branch, on a glorious November day, volunteers used a rope to pull themselves out to Ross Island on our raft in order to put two tarps over our beloved 100 year old stone hut. In early spring, the third phase of a restoration project jointly funded by Long Branch and the Monmouth County Historic Preservation Commission will begin. The east side of the hut's roof will be repaired.

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

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

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

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

GENERAL MEETINGS: Our general membership meetings take place at 6pm on the fourth Monday of the month at Brookdale Community College's Lincroft Campus (BCC). We are delighted that the college has invited us to continue the joint meetings of Sierra members, BCC students and the public through 2016. Our meetings, billed by BCC as "Science Monday," average 75 attendees a month, with some talks peaking at 120 to 150 people. The cooperative effort between Sierra and BCC extends the "reach" of both organizations into the Monmouth community. Our BCC liaison is Dr. Patricia Dillon, biology professor in the college's Science Department.

We meet at BCC to share our speakers with environmentally-concerned BCC college students, the general public, and other environmental organizations. A buffet is available for the students and adults at 6pm. The programs start at 6:30 pm.

To get to Brookdale, take GSP Exit 109 to Rte 520 West (Newman Springs Rd, which becomes E Main St at the Lincroft campus). Exit the traffic circle into the campus and

follow the signs to the Warner Student Life Center (SLC), where the meeting usually is in the Twin Lights Rooms I and II. Use parking lot 7. As you walk towards the building complex, Warner will be down the slope on your left. If lot 7 is full, use parking lots 5 or 6. A campus map is at http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP_04_08.pdf.

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 bureaucratic delays. Established in 1988, the DRN protects the Delaware River Watershed, which includes Pennsylvania, 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 in conservative circles to admit to, let alone deal with, global warming. We have invited an economist to discuss the pros and cons of such a tax, solely as an economic issue, excluding any hair-splitting or political ideological arguments that often muddy such issues.

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 JCP&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.

Ocean County Group

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

OFFICERS:

Chair & Treasurer: A. Gregory Auriemma, Esq. 732-451-9220 sierraclubOC@aol.com
Vice-Chair & Conserv Chair: Margit Meissner-Jackson 609-296-4367 sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com
Outings Chair & Env'l Ed'n Coord: Terrance Brown 848-333-7331
Outings Co-Chair: Monica Zabroski 609-384-2693 monicazabrowski@yahoo.com
Fund-Raising: Joyce M. Isaza 732-920-9270 realtymstr@aol.com
Group ExCom Member: Nancy Brown 732-892-6089 nancybrown624@comcast.net
Group ExCom Member: Sierra Palmer

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

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

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

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

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

MEETINGS AND EVENTS: General Meetings are held bi-monthly (i.e., in alternate months) usually on the FOURTH MONDAY at 7pm at the “Skywalk Cafe” in the Ocean County Administration Building, 129 Hooper Ave (2nd Floor), Toms River. (See our website 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/WestJerseyGroupNJSC> Log on and Like Us

Follow us on Twitter @Wjsierraclub and Instagram @wjsierraclub

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Gina Carola 856-848-8831 ginaceee@verizon.net
Vice-Chair: Frank Zinni efzin4@aol.com
Secretary: Ellen Zinni efzin4@aol.com
Treasurer: Trish Clements patri3210@gmail.com
Publicity Chair: Anne Caridi annecaridi@yahoo.com
Political Chair: Linda Rubiano Linda_Maritz@yahoo.com
Pinelands Rep: Lee Snyder pinelands1@hotmail.com
Greenways Coord's: Frank and Ellen Zinni efzin4@aol.com
Conservation Chair: Stacey Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Delegate at Large: Aida Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Membership Chair: Mike Brown 856-547-9221 eyebrown@verizon.net
Fundraising Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Smart Growth Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Programs Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Outings Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831

Social Media

Coord's: Evan Kostka evan.kostka@gmail.com
 and Dayna Hovern dayna.hovern@gmail.com

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

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

Apr 12: Environmental Education Program in Camden, NJ at UrbanPromise Ministries - Victoria Carberry, Environmental Education Program Director at UrbanPromise, will be joined by students from the UrbanPromise Academy to share their experiences learning about and advocating for the Cooper River Watershed.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY: Apr 19, all day long, 11:30am to 10pm. Please join the members of the West Jersey Sierra Club at Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant, 124 E Kings Highway in Maple Shade for fun, food, brews and camaraderie. Iron Hill will donate 20% of the proceeds to the West Jersey Sierra Club. Non-members welcome so bring all your friends, too. For free tickets, contact Gina at 856-848-8831 or ginaceee@verizon.net

May 10: Through Hiking the Appalachian Trail - Hiker Andy Futuro will regale us with tales and photos from his months long adventure hiking the trail from Georgia to Maine.

The West Jersey Group does not meet in June, July or August. Please join us on a hike or paddling trip. Meetings resume on Sept 13.

South Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:

Group, Outings Chair: Tom Boghosian 609-625-0878 boghosian1@verizon.net
Vice-Chair: *Open Position!*
Conservation Chair: *Open Position!*
Pol. Chair, Calendars: Dick Colby 609-965-4453 dick.colby@stockton.edu
Membership Chair: *Open Position!*
Secretary/Treasurer: Julie Akers 609-432-3280 julieakers56@gmail.com

The central conservation issue, for which the South Jersey Group was founded in the 1970s, continues to be protection of the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continues to consume the energies of those few officers who remain active both within the Sierra Club and in the Watershed Association (GEHWA) that spun off from the South Jersey Group. Very few of our local members seem interested in the meetings we once scheduled (monthly, until 2005). For now, we'll continue to be listed in this Newsletter, and offer a point of contact for Club members in South Jersey who want help with local issues. We strongly recommend GEHWA's website for keeping up with local issues, and for links to many other local, regional, state and national environmental organizations: www.gehwa.org. If you have topics (and places) for meetings, please let the officers know about them. We welcome general comments from Club members in South Jersey. To be placed on a carefully guarded distribution list for local issues and meetings, please e-mail dick.colby@stockton.edu. Dick is also an Atlantic County Parks Commissioner; contact him if you might be interested in attending monthly meetings of the Commission, which are open to the public.

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

Some Possibly Relevant Meetings of Allied Organizations:

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 in Estell Manor, Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 3½ miles south of Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

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

(continued on page 10)

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

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

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. WFNC*. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

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

Apr 26, May 24 and Jun 28 (fourth Wednesdays), 7pm: Atlantic Audubon Society is a lively member-organization with strong environmental programs and an excellent monthly on-line newsletter. Membership is free. Meetings are in the Galloway Twp Library, 306 E Jimmie Leeds Rd. www.AtlanticAudubon.org.

May 23 (alternate fourth Tuesdays) 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: Annual Frog Walk, location TBA, Contact Lynn Maun, 856-649-2792 or email lynnkmaun@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 Twp, Atlantic Co. Contact Glenn Klotz: glennk1949@gmail.com.

Singles Section

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

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

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

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

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

OFFICERS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HIKES AND OTHER OUTINGS:

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

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

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Section

The mission of this Section is to support Sierra Club goals, and to promote activism within the LGBT community through letter writing, phone calls, and other active support for environmental issues. Anyone is welcome to join our outings regardless of sexual orientation.

WEB SITE: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/>

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

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

OFFICERS:

Co-Chair:	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@gmail.com
Co-Chair:	Robert Zitzman *	robertmz@att.net
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Treasurer:	<i>Open Position - volunteer needed!</i>	
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Outings Co-Chair:	Robert Zitzman *	robertmz@att.net
Webmaster/		
Listmaster:	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@gmail.com
Ex-Com Member:	<i>Open Position - contact John or Robert if interested</i>	

(* Section Executive Committee Member)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Check Meetup.com/njsierraclub 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 litres 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 robertmz@att.net.

Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

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

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

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

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

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

Paul Ehrlich is the Vice-Chair (p.w.ehrlich@gmail.com).

Sierra Student Coalition

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

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

Introducing Children to the Outdoors Section

(another Chapter-wide special interest activity with the motto: No Child Left Inside!)

OFFICERS:

Chair: Marty Cohen martincohen@verizon.net

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

If you would like information about volunteering or if you would just like to be placed on our email list for our sporadically issued e-newsletters, please send an email to martincohen@verizon.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."



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Litigation Oversight Committee
Greg Auriemma**, Ken Johanson

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

Information Technology Committee
Joe Testa**, Sunil Somalwar, Nicole Guerrieri

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

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

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

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

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Open Position!

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Jamie Zaccaria
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OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

Jun 10 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Tidal 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: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 14 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River on Flag Day (Hunterdon Co). 10am. We'll paddle 8 miles from Bulls Island to Lambertville. Paddling helmets required for all paddlers. Rentals are not available. Bring lunch, snacks and beverage. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location. Current Sierra Club membership required. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 18 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Hunterdon Co): 9am. We're paddling 10 miles from Riegelsville to Kingwood Access. The proposed route of the Penn East Pipeline with "fracking gas" will cross from PA thru Riegelsville, destroying the environment and the fragile ecosystems of the Sourland Mountain in Hunterdon. Paddling helmets required for all participants. Rentals are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 21 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Batsto River on the First Day of Summer (Burlington Co). 9:30am. We'll enjoy a lovely Pinelands paddle from Quaker Bridge to Batsto Lake. Pinelands Preservation Alliance has launched Pinelands Adventures and rental boats are available as well as private boat shuttling. We'll use Pinelands Adventures for our trip shuttle. www.pinelandsadventures.org. Contact leaders to confirm the trip, meeting location and your participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 25 (Sun): Canoeing/Kayaking 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 refresher is held on Lake Oswego. Boats can be rented from Mick's Canoe and Kayak Rental: 609-726-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com/. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Contact leaders to confirm the event and your participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 28 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak with your Pooch on the Wading River (Burlington Co). 9am. Join us for a mid-week trip. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental: 609-726-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip and river section we are paddling: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jun 30 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 10am. This is a 9-mile trip on the "Egg" from Penny Pot to Weymouth Furnace. Palace Restaurant & Outfitters will provide our shuttle. Rentals are available: 609-625-8552 or www.thepalaceoutfitters.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

JULY

Jul 2 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am. Double Trouble State Park was established in 1964 to help protect the Cedar Creek watershed and now features over 8000 acres of Pine Barrens habitats. We'll paddle 7 miles from Ore Pond to Dudley Park. Rental boats are available from Cedar Creek Campground: /www.cedarcreeknj.com/kayak-canoe. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation.: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

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

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

April 8 at the Hamilton (Mercer Co.) Library, 1 Justice Samuel Alito Jr. Way
May 13 at Chatham Public Library, 124 Main St.
June 10 at Reformed Church of Highland Park, 19-21 South 2nd Ave.



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

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

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

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Oakland, CA 94612
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SIERRA CLUB
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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Two Reports from Trenton and One from a Member

Four Former Governors Oppose South Jersey Gas Pipeline

From a Press Release issued on Jan 17, and edited by Irene Gnarra

For the third time, four former New Jersey governors, Brendan Byrne (1974-82), Thomas Kean (1982-90), Christine Todd Whitman (1994-2002), and James Florio (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 it down in 2014. The 22-mile pipeline 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.

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 heritage. Kean produced the Wetlands Protection 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 1998 assures funding for these purposes. Florio wrote legislation to establish federal support for the Pinelands National Reserve, and he chaired the Pinelands Commission from 2002 to 2005.

In their latest letter the former governors repeat their previous contentions: "As we observed three years ago, the proposal would compromise the integrity of the CMP 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 2014."

They continue: "We understand that a rationale can always be constructed to approve a major development such as this one. We wish to stress, however, that the Pinelands program will only work over the long term if the CMP is implemented consistently and in a manner that respects the underlying goals and intentions of the Pinelands Protection Act."

They also denounce Gov. Christie's abuse of power in replacing the member of the Commission who voted against the pipeline—Robert Jackson—with a pro-pipeline ally. Last year three of the former governors successfully challenged, in court, the current Administration's previous approval of the pipeline.

These bipartisan former governors have renewed their opposition to Christie's project because the Pinelands are important to our state. Three years ago the Pinelands Commission determined that the pipeline would be a public utility rather than a private development, 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 Commissioners, proclaiming it a private development in the Pinelands. The three former Governors and the Sierra Club challenged that proclamation in court, resulting in an Appellate Court ruling that the Executive Director's unilateral approval of the pipeline violated Pinelands rules. So the case went back to the Commission for a new determination.

We'll keep you informed.

Outrage over NJ Pipelines is Growing

By Gary Frederick (gfredsierra.com) – Chairperson Raritan Valley Group

From President Trump's tone-deaf approval for completing the Dakota Access Pipeline to reviving the unnecessary Keystone XL Pipeline, consumers have been besieged by news of controversial pipelines slicing through 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 no different, and the NJ 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. And 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 proposed 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 of waterways such as the Delaware River.

The Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter is opposed to these new gas pipelines, hoping to kill them outright. Especially objectionable are the Pinelands Pipeline, which South Jersey Gas wants to run 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 that we hope will eventually cancel these projects.

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. Alarming, Williams/Transco proposes to build a new compressor station on land owned by Trap Rock Quarry in Franklin Twp to move the gas through the pipeline. Trap Rock is an active blasting site that is expected to operate for at least another 10 years.

Compressor stations operate under enormous pressure to keep the gas flowing. This proposed compressor station (named Compressor Station 206), near Rte 27 in

Gov. Christie's State of State Message: Disaster for New Jersey

From a Press Release, edited by Irene Gnarra

The Governor's seventh State of the State speech, delivered on Jan 9, failed to acknowledge any of the damage he has done to New Jersey. His corporate subsidies have ruined the State's economy, as jobs continue to migrate elsewhere. Environmentally sensitive areas have been developed, including many pipeline projects. Our air and water supplies continue to deteriorate. Expect continued contributions to climate change during his final year in office.

We will continue to oppose him.

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 teachers in new charter schools, and to all those bothered by environmental and other government regulations. Big Money interests will enjoy living and retiring in New Jersey. And Christie's successors will deal with the pollution and the resulting fiscal crisis.

During the last hour of his speech he outlined plans for his final year in office, soliciting help from his favored developers and polluters in conquering our epidemic alcohol and drug addictions, which he considers our single most important issue, hoping that his program will be a model for the Nation.

Here it is: a one-stop information center, called REACH, to supply medical information and treatment to all affected. Upon successful completion of the program, everyone is guaranteed access to employment, which will enable former addicts 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 dangerous for our environment and our climate.

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 climate change plan. We will remember Chris Christie for his undoing of forty years of environmental laws, for reducing DEP staff by forty percent, and environmental programs by one third. He has failed to update 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 settlements in the courts, such as the Passaic and Exxon-Mobil payments, 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 businesses and consumers. This January, we lost a \$47 million grant from the Department of Energy for the installation of six offshore wind turbines about three miles off the coast of Atlantic City. He has not yet accepted the Volkswagen Settlement Funds, amounting to \$65 million, because those funds would have to be used to help reduce emissions and improve air quality, thus reducing climate impact from transportation.

While New York's Governor Cuomo expanded the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Governor Christie withdrew us from that program, which taxes energy providers, resulting in a loss of 1800 jobs. While Cuomo vetoed a liquefied natural gas export terminal off Sandy Hook, Christie vetoed the bill to ban Pennsylvania's toxic fracking waste from disposal in New Jersey. Governor Cuomo is closing the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant; Governor Christie has settled deals to keep our nuclear plants open. Cuomo killed the Constitution Pipeline; Christie supports the South Jersey Gas and the PennEast pipeline projects.

In the year ahead, we hope that our state Legislature will continue to challenge Gov. Christie's efforts to pass dirty deals, with the assistance of the Sierra Club. For example, the Club is supporting the Legislature's court case against Exxon-Mobil, to force the company to clean up its contamination throughout the State. The Legislature has denounced the new Flood Hazard Rules that promote development in environmentally sensitive areas, and we are lobbying the Senate to pass a second resolution to overturn them. We also urge the Legislature to overturn the Christie Administration's Highlands Septic Rule, which would jeopardize the drinking water used by 6 million people.

We applaud the Legislature's refusal to eliminate public notification of regulatory changes, thereby weakening the press. We are also delighted by its striking down of Christie's plan to privatize Liberty State Park. Another important bill currently in consideration would prevent governors from diverting money earmarked for environmental projects. And we appreciate the Legislature's refusal to change ethics rules so as to permit Christie to profit from a book written while in office.

Not noted in his speech was his record as the worst governor for the environment in State history.

South Brunswick, would contain two 16,000 HP gas-powered turbines situated near almost 1,000 homes, a church, mosque and businesses. Gas compressor stations leak methane gas, a significant global warming contributor, and are explosion hazards. They are also noisy. The roar of a compressor station, especially during "blowdowns" when pressurized gas is purposefully released, has been described as a jet taking off. Not something you'd want in your backyard.

"Everyone I've spoken to about the compressor location calls it insane and dangerous," said Barry Kutch, who along with the Sierra Club is one of the local organizers opposed to the pipeline and compressor station. Williams is scheduled to submit its application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on March 27. FERC will then issue a draft Environmental Impact Statement and take public comments.

Between existing pipelines, plus proposed new ones and almost 33,000 miles of distribution lines to homes and businesses, there are potential natural gas dangers lurking near almost every New Jersey resident. To learn how you can help stop this reckless expansion of new pipelines and compressor stations in our state, go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/issues>. Or contact either Jamie Zaccaria (jamie.zaccaria@sierraclub.org) or me, Gary Frederick (gfredsierra@gmail.com).

Member Reports

Air Quality and Health - Then and Now

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An historic air inversion 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 required during daytime. This shocking situation led to Federal clean air legislation, starting 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 achieving clean air and reducing health risks throughout the USA. Today, severe air pollution is a big problem in China, a result of burning coal as China rushes to increase its industrial power. Chinese people wear face masks when walking on their streets. The unregulated industrial air pollution in China is repeating the mistakes made in the USA decades ago. Today, the first thing that visitors from China admire in the USA is the regular appearance of blue skies and non-irritating air.

Industrial areas like Donora, 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 revived by demolishing the EPA and clean air standards. Today, old industrial towns face changes in industrial technology, e.g., robots; a workforce needing new skills; and changed consumer preferences. The Trump administration, pushing to eliminate "regulations" threatens to reverse our benefits of cleaner air.

Toxic air is now less visible, but 500 deaths per day in the US are attributed to air pollution. Invisible pollutants in our air cause subtle, but serious, hazards to our health. Three air pollutants of current concern in NJ are Nitrous Oxide compounds (NOx), fine particulate matter (PM 2.5, commonly called soot), and ozone (O3). Our weather service regularly warns about poor air quality on summer days. The NJ-NY Metro area is second only to Los Angeles in number of these air quality warnings which are caused largely by exhaust from vehicular traffic and electric power plants. These pollutants enter deep into the lungs and impair breathing, especially for the most vulnerable citizens (the very young, very old and those with heart-lung disorders). There may be no safe amount of NOx or PM 2.5 in the air; even low amounts increase the risk of atherosclerosis leading to heart disease or impaired brain function. This is hauntingly similar to what we found with particles from environmental tobacco smoke. Exposure to NOx and PM 2.5 is greatest near the sources, e.g., transit terminals, highways, and ports such as Newark.

Improving air quality along the Hudson River required a bi-state partnership of private and governmental agencies. A few years ago, this group got Federal Funds to clean-up engines on ferries. Three other problems await solutions.

(1) Diesel exhaust from heavy truck traffic serving the Port of Newark affects those living or working near the port and near highways carrying traffic to and from the port. (<https://www.panynj.gov/port/cross-harbor.html>). Although cleaner truck motors were mandated in 2007, many pre-2007 trucks are still in use because their replacement is expensive. Concentrations of diesel exhaust particles are highest in Hudson, Union, Camden and Mercer counties. The NJDEP's Diesel Risk Reduction Program aims to reduce particulate matter from vehicles by a mandatory diesel retrofit program, idling restrictions, a diesel vehicle inspection program, and efforts to reduce emissions from other vehicles at ports.

(2) The Volkswagen Corp is paying a large fine to settle charges that it cheated on emission tests of its diesel vehicles. We are waiting for Governor Christie to announce a plan to allow NJ to accept \$65 million, our share of the settlement funds from VW, before the deadline expires. Settlement funds could help reduce NOx emissions, by replacing old diesel trucks and promoting electric vehicles.

(3) Stricter air quality guidelines are being considered by the NJ DEP, with a public hearing in Trenton on Feb 13 and a deadline for comment on March 4. To read the proposal: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/notices.html>.

Information about specific air pollutants is at <https://www26.state.nj.us/doh-shad/topic/AirQuality.html>. Daily reports on air quality in NJ are at <http://www.njaqinow.net/>. Individuals with respiratory problems may be interested in the article elsewhere in this issue: "Coping with Air Pollution" by Paul Ehrlich, our Air Quality Issues Coordinator.

Conclusions: It is short-sighted to think that money is saved by avoiding measures to control air pollution. Without pollution controls, we will pay more for medical care and days lost at work because of pollution-induced illnesses. In order to avoid health risks from dirty fossil fuels, we need to continue the transition to clean energy sources.

Local preservation, at Liberty State Park and Sandy Hook Bay, featured in two talks

By Lara Zullow, Publicity Chair, Jersey Shore Group, sierraclubhs@optonline.net

Greg Remaud on the preservation of Liberty State Park:

Greg Remaud, Deputy Director of NY/NJ Baykeeper, spoke to the Jersey Shore Group on Nov 28. He is a trustee on the board of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust, and is a board member and past president of the Liberty State Park Conservancy.

The land that is now Liberty State Park had been a derelict waterfront. Morris Pesin, a Jersey City councilman, led the campaign for its conversion to a park, famously paddling a reporter, in a canoe, for the eight-minute trip to the Statue of Liberty, demonstrating the proximity of Jersey City to one of the nation's most famous landmarks. The Park opened in 1976, purchased with both federal and Green Acres funds.

Pesin's son, Sam, has continued his work with the Friends of Liberty State Park: confronting Gov. Christie's attempts to privatize it and add a golf course.

Sam and his friends aroused the public through coverage in the Jersey Journal newspaper, and by such cleverness as a billboard in front of the Trenton office of the DEP, advocating the Public Trust Doctrine.

The Park will now will now "regreen" itself, restoring its natural state. The NJ Recreation and Parks Association is developing statewide pro-park-protection strategies.

Rik van Hemmen on the preservation of Sandy Hook Bay:

Van Hemmen is president of a marine consulting firm, and of the Navesink Maritime Heritage Association. He spoke on Jan 23, on efforts to protect the estuaries that feed Sandy Hook Bay, and to establish a Sandy Hook Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

He called his approach one of "Sustainable Man/Nature Interaction in Eastern

On The Trail: Sustainable Life-style Cars, Rainwater and Swimming Pools

Thoughts from an Eco freak, namely Dennis Anderson, Chair of our Jersey Shore Group

I bought my first van in 1966, a 1962 Volkswagen. By 1982 I realized that VW vans don't last more than about 60,000 miles. So I switched to American vans with a 1983 Chevy. It could seat seven.

At that time I owned two 100-year-old rental houses in New Brunswick, a two-family and a three-family, so I needed the van for hauling carpenter tools. I also used it to take East Brunswick High School Outdoor Club members on many canoeing and rafting adventures, including driving six students and another teacher to the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, where a livery company supplied a pontoon raft with an out-board motor. We started at Lee's Ferry AZ, just below Glen Canyon Dam.

Many times I filled the van with rafting gear and as many as 12 kids, for day trips on the Lehigh River, starting at White Haven PA and taking out at Jim Thorpe. On Memorial Day weekends I took groups to Ohiopyle PA to self-guide the lower section of the Youghiogheny River (Class III/IV). What an adrenaline rush!

Many times, after a Sierra Club meeting, a Sierran would look at my van and ask, "Why this gas guzzler?" My answer was, "I have no children; this extravagance doesn't begin to compare with the consumption of a person with even one child."

In 2012 I gave my last van, a beautiful Dodge Conversion, to my stepson who lost his work van to the Sandy storm surge. My wife Carol bought a Chevy Volt. It is a plug-in which gets 42 miles to a charge (2017 models get over 50 miles); a gasoline-powered generator then takes over, charging the battery which continues to turn the electric motors that are attached to the front wheels. The Volt has a total range of 290 miles. Life is good.

We had gone to a Tesla Party (as in Tupperware Party) where you got to visit with the owners and test-drive a Tesla. As soon as I put the pedal to the metal, my body said, you have to get one too. We ordered it in September and took possession three months later. In 2015 we drove a total of 20,000 miles, paying \$166 for gasoline and \$166 to JCP&L for electricity, which included the cost of operating our 1400 sq. foot home.

"Yeah, yeah, yeah, so what's your point, Anderson?"

I'm getting to it! I also use rainwater to irrigate my garden, minimizing my use of city water. My two back-yard downspouts are attached via hoses to 4-inch black flexible porous plastic pipes, which lie in a trench between rows of berry plants and fruit trees, on top of two inches of gravel.

Isn't that a lot of work? You bet, but once done it is there for your lifetime. Another back-yard downspout is diverted to fill two 50-gallon rain-barrels. So the vast majority of my roof runoff proceeds to the garden.

Now, finally, the reason for this article: a recent issue of "Consumer Reports" had a side bar about a moisture-sensing monitor for lawns - with electronically controlled sprinklers. I thought wow! One of our recent Shore Group speakers, Rich Bizub from the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, claimed that up to 60% of the water consumed by a residential home is used for lawn watering!

Another water-saving "trick" is a lawn sprinkler that is hooked up to the overflow release of one's swimming pool. "Wait a minute, Anderson, we are Sierrans; we don't own a swimming pool." That's probably true. However, I bet you dollars to donuts that you have friends and neighbors with swimming pools set on or in back-yard lawns. So please read on for their sake.

Here is how it works: the water level in a pool is maintained by the release of overflow into . . . where? Usually a sewer system or a storm-sewer, aka the street gutter. In many communities this is now illegal, or soon will be.

Punchline: Stan Greberis, a Shore Group Executive Committee Member and a Life Member of the Sierra Club, has designed and patented a lawn sprinkler that attaches to the swimming pool overflow outlet. He checked with Scott Lawn Products to learn that properly balanced pool water is safe for lawns, especially since sprinkler water is aerated before it touches your lawn. Every inch of rainfall adds approximately 360 gallons to the average pool. Think of my two 50-gallon rain-barrels.

That 360 gallons would cost about \$3.50 if you bought it from your utility (about a penny a gallon). The average pool owner wastes 5,040 gallons each summer. Reusing this captured water will save 10,080 gallons of water and \$98 off your water bill every year. It will also keep chemically treated water from reaching our waterways. The sprinkler and hook up device and hose only costs \$60 retail.

Stan has purchased an ad for his "Eco Pool Drain Fountain" - on p.4 in this Newsletter. There is a link to an animated video explanation. Please do your pool-owning friends and our depleted NJ reservoirs a favor by sending this information to those who could use it.

Monmouth County." He reviewed the 2016 Master Plan for Monmouth County, including its watersheds. He emphasized that the National Sanctuary designation would not require any new regulations, only the use of existing regulations to protect the watersheds.

To support the need for protection, van Hemmen cited episodes of clinging jellyfish and fecal coliform bacteria, during the summer of 2016 in the Shrewsbury and Navesink Rivers. The jellyfish are an invasive species; their sting brings horrendous pain, requiring opiates. Coliform pollution required closing of more than 700 river acres to shellfishing. Clean Ocean Action is leading a coalition of organizations in a "Rally for the Navesink": to restore the health of its watershed.

Creation of a National Marine Sanctuary requires a demonstration of cultural and historic significance. Thus van Hemmen spoke about the Hartshorne family's Portland Place estate and its 1830s mansion overlooking the Navesink River, currently on the National Register of Historic Places. The Hartshorne family was among the original settlers of Monmouth County in 1676 when they purchased the Portland acreage, and at its peak their estate covered 2,411 acres.

Now the bad news: The efforts toward a National Maritime Sanctuary have been abandoned - due in part to opposition by fishermen, who may constitute an example of the "Tragedy of the Commons," not understanding that a sanctuary would help rather than hurt them—by protecting the water quality needed for their livelihoods. Van Hemmen and the Navesink Maritime Heritage Association continue to advocate for the preservation of Sandy Hook Bay and its associated watersheds, including through the efforts of the Rally for the Navesink Coalition.