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Vol. 46, No. 3 More than 21,000 Members in New Jersey July-September 2017

Member's Report

NJ Contributes to Record Breaking Crowds for People's Climate March

By Dani Leviss, Publicity Chair, Raritan Valley Group (danileviss@gmail.com)

In the early morning hours before the People's Climate March on April 29, a thunderous bang exploded across the sky, a powerful portent that this was going to be a momentous day. Marchers using the New Brunswick bus stayed dry in their cars while an intense thunder and lightning storm rolled over the Sears parking lot, setting off a car alarm. Then, minutes before 5am, nearly 50 marchers dashed through the rain to board the bus and set off on the 4-hour ride to Washington, D.C.

The New Brunswick bus was one of 14 sponsored by the NJ Sierra Club. Anticipation was palpable as strangers met each other and traded stories about what led them to march in the nation's capital. One rider, Carol Meyer of Clark, said she would be marching for clean air, water and soil. She said, "I know the physical and psychological benefits that occur from enjoying our parks system. I feel the urgency of the effects of climate change increasing exponentially, and the current Administration's complete disregard of the facts that have been brought to the forefront by the scientific community."

Meyer had brought two signs to carry, one reading, "Dismantle/Defund EPA

Equals Higher Healthcare Costs—Who's Paying for That???" the other: "Smart People Say Climate Change is Real." The March was organized by the People's Climate Movement and many partner organizations including the Sierra Club. Reportedly, more than 200,000 environmentalists and climate justice activists flooded the streets of Washington. Colorful, creative and clever signs and art pieces waved high over the crowd marching up Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol to the White House. Coming a week after the March for Science and Earth Day, organizers explained that the Climate March would be more political and aimed at specific Trump administration policies. It coincided with the 100th day of the Trump Administration, and included groups such as LGBTQI, labor, environmental justice, immigrants, voting rights and labor organizations.

After a smooth ride to D.C., the marchers headed out from RFK Stadium to the meeting spot in front of the Capitol. Sierra Club groups comprised one of eight sections in the lineup, under the banner: "Many Struggles, One Home."

The near record-breaking temperature of 91° did not wilt the spirits of march-



ers, but made the call for action on climate change even more urgent. New Brunswick Bus Captain Gary Frederick said, "The majority of Americans want to see action on climate change and many were willing to go to D.C. on a sweltering April day to demand it. Not just Sierra Club, but people from all walks of life. People hit by drought. People flooded out of their homes. People who lost their jobs because of climate injustice."

Those towards the back of the lineup waited hours to begin marching. One reason may have been the overwhelming number of people participating, well over the 50,000 to 100,000 originally anticipated. Although sweaty, we were patient, relishing in this good problem to have. Frederick, who is also Group and Conservation Chair of the Raritan Valley Group, added, "I'm so proud to be part of a movement fighting for our environment and taking on the deniers and special interest groups who only care about their profits."

At the front of the March were celebrities including Leonardo DiCaprio and Bill Nye, offering chants such as, "What do we want? Climate justice; When do we want it? NOW!" People from across the country became a unified voice calling for protection of the Earth for the benefit of everyone. At exactly 2 pm, marchers paused wherever they were, sitting down in the streets and clapping their hands in rhythm, representing a collective heartbeat drowning out the noise of climate-deniers. As we passed the Trump

International Hotel we pointed our fingers and chanted "Shame! Shame! Shame!" As the March made its way to the White House, some participants peeled off at the Washington Monument to hydrate at one of several water stations, listen to music and speeches, and display handmade signs and banners.

Smaller sister-marches were held across the U.S. and the globe. So far, 2017 has been a major year for protest permits. Overseeing the National Mall, the National Park Service received 33 percent more requests to protest on Washington's federal land than it had at the same time in 2016, according to The Washington Post.

Though the March is over, the fight to protect our environment continues. In an effort to sell off public lands, Pres. Trump ordered the Dept. of the Interior to review the Antiquities Act, which gives the President control over National Monuments. In the history of that Act, signed by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, no National Monument designation has ever been revoked. We need to remain vigilant, vocal and active in calling our Representatives, writing letters, and yes, marching for clean air, clean water and our future.

Photo credits: Bonnie Tillery and Gina Carola

Report from Trenton

Sierra Club Endorses Phil Murphy for Governor

From a Chapter Press Release issued by our Trenton staff on March 22nd, and edited by Irene Gnarra



The New Jersey Sierra Club endorses Ambassador Phil Murphy for the 2017 New Jersey Gubernatorial Election.

Murphy served as Finance Chair of the Democratic National Committee, and President Obama appointed him U.S. Ambassador to Germany. Those experiences show that he is well qualified to run the state and that he has a multi-national view on how to protect the environment.

Jeff Tittel, Senior Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club, has stated that Ambassador Murphy would bring vigor and energy to the Statehouse and that he will introduce initiatives to assure protection of our environment and natural resources. He would counter the roll-backs of the Trump Administration while promoting clean energy and protecting New Jersey from damage by future storms. He promises to purge current executive branch staff who represent special interest groups and polluters, and who have attempted to undermine green jobs. Murphy recognizes that the environment of New Jersey must be protected for future generations and that the land and water belong to all of us.

As Governor, we expect Phil Murphy to help transition New Jersey to a green economy by promoting renewable energy over fossil fuels. He supports making New Jersey a leader in wind and solar power. He has denounced abuses of both the Trump and Christie Administrations. Christie has overseen the loss of almost half of our solar jobs, and has failed to support offshore wind turbines. Murphy will oppose offshore drilling. He also proposes to dedicate environmental settlement funds to the purposes for which they were intended, and promote jobs in clean energy fields. He is committed to an Energy Master Plan that provides for a sustainable future.

The Ambassador has been an outspoken critic of Governor Christie's failure to protect New Jersey's drinking water. He plans to halt the diversion of lead remediation funds and to update aging water infrastructure. Murphy is opposed to fracking and to the dumping of fracking waste in New Jersey. Whereas Governor Christie stacked councils and commissions with representatives of the gas and oil industries, Murphy will appoint staff dedicated to strengthening environmental protections and addressing the effects of climate change.

We look forward to working with him if he is elected the next Governor of New Jersey.

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Gender, Equity & Environment Issues Coordinator's Report

The Necklace

By Bonnie Tillery (Blt44blt@msn.com)

It's my "go-to" piece of jewelry. The one thing that seems to work with every outfit. And, each time I put it on I think of the family in one of the largest slums in North Dehli who, like thousands of other families, spent hours making these necklaces.

It's a simple necklace - just 3 fine strands of tiny black beads, gathered in places along its length with slightly larger gold- and silver-colored beads. Every member of this family of five - mother, three daughters and a son - spent time making necklaces. They could produce up to 12 necklaces a day for which they were paid 30-cents a necklace. They found it difficult to afford three meals and sometimes subsisted on tea and biscuits.

There was no running water in the small room where they all lived. Water was collected many blocks away and gathered after waiting sometimes two or more hours in line. Two daughters could not go to school because they had to stay home and make necklaces. And yet, this mother, whose husband died of AIDS, knew the importance of education, and in particular age-appropriate sexuality education. That is why she sent one daughter to a program, partially funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), to learn about her body and to come back and teach her sisters and other young women in her community.

This was in 2009 and it seemed that the world was moving forward. Fast forward 8 years and we have a Republican Administration and Republican controlled House and Senate. They are proposing a long-term budget that will pour more money into abstinence-only education which has been shown time after time not to work; that will cut off all funding to Planned Parenthood; that will strip funding from programs like USAID that present our country in a positive light and help millions of people around the world; and, that will cripple the EPA whose goal is to protect our water and air to keep us safe and healthy. It appears that all positive pro-family, pro-health initiatives for people and the planet will be eliminated.

This all seems pretty hopeless, but there are things we can do.

Keep Up The Pressure: A bill in the House to replace the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) narrowly passed. It seems that calls, visits, and vigils in front of local Congressional offices may have helped keep the vote as close as it was. We need to let our Senators know that taking away healthcare from 23 million

Americans is not a healthy way to move forward. Continue making those calls to legislators.

Vote For Pro-Choice Candidates:

After review of comprehensive questionnaires from candidates, the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club endorsed Phil Murphy for Governor. Twice in open forums I asked Mr. Murphy if he would restore the funding our current governor stripped from family planning clinics around the state.* And twice he has assured me he would definitely put the money back in the budget. Support Phil Murphy for Governor, and other candidates who support women's reproductive health care.

Donate: If at all possible, put your money where it can do some good by financially supporting programs like Planned Parenthood and the United Nations Population Fund. These programs do great work and face challenging times under the current Republican-controlled government.

We know that the more education a woman has the longer she delays having children. And when women are able to voluntarily decide the number and spacing of their children, they tend to have smaller families. That, along with reduced consumption on the part of each of us in developed nations, puts less stress on the planet that gives us all life.

If women on the other side of the world can sacrifice so their daughters can learn about reproductive health care, we should support and fund it too.

**Since our current governor slashed funding of reproductive health care programs, here in New Jersey bacterial sexually transmitted infection (STI) rates are up 35% for the period 2009 to 2015. In Bergen, Gloucester and Passaic Counties, STIs have increased more than 70% according to a recent report from NJ Planned Parenthood Action Fund. The report goes on to note that between 2009 and 2013, breast and cervical cancer cases rose 5.2% among all New Jersey women. However, they rose 6.6 percent among Black women and 25.1 percent among Latinas. Additionally, more than 435,000 women across New Jersey need publicly funded contraception.*



Option to save paper and postage by receiving the Jersey Sierran electronically

Sierra Club members, and others who receive the "Jersey Sierran," now are able to receive our quarterly newsletter as an e-mail attachment in PDF format. Your computer would need (free) software called Adobe Acrobat Reader. The electronic version is in color, sometimes has extra (supplementary) pages, and will arrive several weeks before the paper version. You can also choose to receive BOTH versions. To make the change, send an e-mail message with your name, membership number (on your mailing address label), and your choice for both versions or just the electronic version to the Editor: Dick.Colby@Stockton.edu - with "Electronic JS" in the Subject line.

Environmental Justice Coordinator's Report

Our New Environmental Justice Committee Begins Work

By Howard Steinberg, Committee Chair (howz1648@hotmail.com)

In the short time since our founding, we have forged connections with other organizations, which will open up doors in the future. We are working with the following groups:

- **Isles:** this non-profit has been operating out of Trenton for a number of years. One of our members has been trained to identify lead in homes, and is training others to do it in Newark and Hackensack.

- **New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance:** We sit on 2 of their committees: education, which is developing a curriculum around climate change, and preparedness, which is building a template for municipalities that have EJ communities, to help them reach these communities during disasters such as Hurricane Sandy.

- **State Dept. of Health:** We have a seat on the lead advisory task force.

- **Newark Environmental Committee:** We have an advisory role, and look forward to working with the Ironbound Community to help oppose the siting of a transfer station, and with other EJ communities and groups.

On April 24th there was a meeting of the NJ Environmental Justice Alliance. We decided to use climate change for the template that is being developed for municipalities to use in planning for Environmental Justice. We picked the Ironbound and West Ward sections of Newark, Long Branch, and adjacent Asbury Park as the places for this project: the Ironbound has an actively-planning community group, but the plans are deficient. The West Ward lacks a plan. Long Branch is a very prepared city, but we are not sure if the plans take into account the needs of the EJ community. We are juxtaposing Asbury Park because it is so close to Long Branch.

We are modeling the response phase of a climate event - from the view of the EJ communities.

Population Needs: Some of the issues we looked at in the identified communities:

- Does the city have an evacuation plan that encompasses the entire population? -are evacuation routes known? -what facilities are at the other end of that route? -is there food, shelter, access to medicine? -are the needs of disabled people in the plan? -is there enough transportation, buses, etc, and are rally points known in advance? -for those who can't evacuate, are there safe havens, do they have food, water, access to medical supplies? -are instructions in multiple languages, and are they known by the population?
- Do the plans consider home-bound people, the homeless, group homes for people with mental health issues, and is

there a way to medicate them during the event?

- What other resources are there: NGOs like the Red Cross, CBOs (community based organizations)? Other issues: Is there enough of a workforce to accomplish this?

- Are the local plans tied into county, state and federal plans? The missing piece is often the preparations required of the EJ community. Are there community leaders? What role do religious institutions play? Is there a clergy council?

- Are there local groups that can play a role? We are hoping that an indigenous leadership emerges out of this.

- On the Recovery side, post event: will resources and aid reach the EJ community?

- What is the recovery plan? We will look at lessons learned from Hurricane Sandy. Finally, is there the political will, and commitment, to the EJ community - to not leave them behind to fend for themselves?

We are also setting up training for homeowners and renters on how they can self-inspect for home lead hazards, and starting a climate justice group within the committee.

We are organizing an EJ conference for next Spring, hoping to partner with other community-based organizations and a college.

If you think that we missed something, or if you want to give me some input, please do: this is a work in progress!

My background: 34 years working in public health and environmental protection. I sat on the State Health Planning Board, and was on the board of a teaching hospital. In public health I dealt with an EJ community, and worked with the hospital to bring their services into the community. I dealt with lead poisoning issues and other societal problems. We were the only Health Department in the state to provide drug outreach and referral services. I was also a leader in bioterrorism response preparedness, and started the Morris County Office of Health Management, where we also implemented the County Environmental Health Act environmental protection program.

Other roles: Board Chair of Morris County After Care; President of Morris County Health Officers Assoc, Chair of NJ County Health Officers Assoc, and Chair of Morris County Bioterrorism Response Taskforce.

After retirement I worked for Mind-Alliance as a consultant in homeland security. I was given the "Commitment to Environmental Excellence" award by NJDEP in 2006.

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

Political Report

Are You Registered to Vote? Important Election on Nov. 7

In 2017, New Jersey voters will elect a new Governor, and all 120 state legislature seats (Assembly & Senate) are up for election. With an administration in Washington that is proving to be hostile to sound environmental policies, it is critical that Sierra Club members participate in this election in order to influence the policies that will be enacted on the state level.

It is the right of U.S. citizens residing in NJ at least 18 years old to vote, but in order to be able to vote, you must be registered to vote at least 21 days in advance of an election.

The General Election will take place

on Nov 7. The registration deadline is Sept 12.

To register to vote, you must fill out a simple paper Voter Registration Application form, and mail or deliver it to your County Commissioner of Registration (or Superintendent of Elections). While you can't register by email or online, you can download the postage-paid application form for your County from this link: <http://www.nj.gov/state/elections/voting-information.html>.

Fill in and print the form (2-sided is best); remember to sign it; fold & tape it shut; and drop in the mail (no stamp required).

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

Editorial

New Jersey's Water Supply

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

On May 1, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection issued a 92-page Statewide Draft Water Supply Plan, as is required every five years by a law passed in 1981. Except that the previous plan dates from 1996!

You can read it for yourself, along with its five appendices, at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/wsp.html>. The many charts, maps, tables and other data presentations are fascinating.

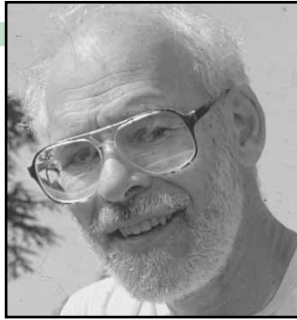
As with many government documents, there's something for everyone: good news and bad news, boiler plate, much hidden, much spin, and a great need for explication by qualified and unbiased experts. (Such as me? I am a scientist, and have taught "water" courses at college level, but it's far from my area of expertise! So here goes:)

Here's an example, in the Plan, of good and bad news. Compare: "Generally, New Jersey has sufficient water available to meet needs into the foreseeable future. . . ." (p.6) with: ". . . four of the State's 20 watershed management areas are currently stressed and eleven more would become stressed if pumped at volumes authorized under existing permits." (p.7)

Northern New Jersey's water is supplied mostly from reservoirs in the Highlands, some owned by the City of Newark, and is thus surface water, i.e. rainwater collected by surface runoff into the streams that feed the reservoirs. We need to be concerned about its quality as well as its quantity, since as rain it dissolves whatever pollutants are in the atmosphere, and in streams it collects whatever pollutants are there: lawn and agricultural fertilizer runoff, and whatever else we dump into streams. The Plan's failure to consider water quality is its most serious deficiency, negating its value for guiding future development. But that blame can be laid on the Legislature, which approved a defective law: separating the DEP's considerations of quantity and quality.

Much of southern New Jersey's water is groundwater: pumped up out of subsurface aquifers, also ultimately from rainwater, but long ago: it takes thousands of years for a raindrop filtering into the soil of, say, Camden County, to flow through the sand of the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer to the Atlantic coast. Its supply is thus fixed: i.e. unalterable, so we can only plan to use it wisely and keep it uncontaminated.

There's a third source of drinking water: rivers such as the Delaware, the Raritan and the Passaic, from which water is taken directly. Some concerns for this water's quantity include the tidal



salt carried up from downstream estuaries, which is a function of the quantity withdrawn, and the diluted effluent of upstream sewage treatment plants, but again a matter of water quality more than quantity.

Another major criticism of the report is that it is limited to supply only for human needs. Nothing on the need for fresh water by wildlife habitat, such as provision for trout in our most pristine streams. The role of brackish estuaries in spawning the fish stocks of the Atlantic Ocean is dependent on a delicate blending of fresh and salt water that would be disrupted by over-withdrawal for human uses.

Neither is the detail adequate to enable development restrictions to be assigned to individual municipalities. And nor does New Jersey have a statewide mechanism by which data showing scarcity can be translated into restrictions on new development. We do have regional mechanisms, thank goodness: the Pinelands Commission and the Highlands Council have such powers, but subject to political pressures such that water supply has never been used to restrict local development.

Since all of our water ultimately depends on rainfall, which varies from year to year, one might expect to see historical data used for modeling of probable future scenarios so as to protect us in a succession of stages of drought. Not there. There's an entire chapter on drought, but it consists entirely of bureaucratese: the process by which the Governor can declare emergencies, definitions of drought stages, distinctions between precipitation, agricultural, environmental, and water-supply drought, a map showing the regions of the state in which droughts are evaluated, mention that droughts occurred in "the mid-1960s, the early-to-mid 1980's, in 2001-02, and in 2016 going into 2017," etc. No numbers. The two regions of New Jersey that were declared drought zones in 2016, Burlington County's Delaware River frontage and Middlesex County's Raritan River frontage, roughly, are said to be mostly recovered.

One can only wonder at the mental state of the water professionals who contributed to the Plan: so much expertise going to waste!

For other takes on this water supply plan, see Jeff Tittel's coverage on p. 13 of the electronic edition. Analysis was also published, in the weeks after May 1, by newspapers such as the Bergen Record, and other environmental organizations including ANJEC and New Jersey Future.

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!

• **Gary Frederick, National Campaign Coordinator:** Gary has been a member of the Sierra Club for more than 30 years. After a career in marketing and advertising at a major NY advertising agency, he became involved with our Raritan Valley Group, eventually becoming its Chair and leading the newly reinvigorated group. Gary is also a member of the Environmental Justice committee and is a frequent contributor to The Jersey Sierran. He lives in Edison, and is a frequent weekend hiker and photographer on New Jersey's incredible trails.

• **Harold Zullo, Chapter Campaign Finance Reform Issues Coordinator:** Harold Zullo is a clinical and social psychologist from Monmouth County. His commitment to abating environmental impacts on health began during his doctoral work at the University of Pennsylvania, and during a National Institutes of Mental Health post-doctoral fellowship: at Rutgers' Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research; and at Columbia's psychiatric epidemiology program at the Mailman School of Public Health. His interest in campaign finance and electoral reform stems from political and policy experience, community organizing to preserve the watershed-vital land at the former Marlboro State Hospital, and an interest in the social science of corruption and campaign finance. See Howard's self-biography at the end of his article on p.2

• **Anna Esposito, Political Intern:** Attending the University of Connecticut, Anna is majoring in Agricultural and Resource Economics with a concentration in International Development and Environmental Policy. In previous volunteering, Anna has served as a liaison between the University of Connecticut Dining Services, Residential Life, EcoHouse Learning Community and First Year Programs, the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, the Office of Environmental Policy, and the Office of Public Engagement-Service Learning.

• **Hogan Dwyer, Political Intern:** Pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies-Philosophy at St. Lawrence Univ. (Canton NY), with a minor in Outdoor Studies, Hogan operat-

ed a landscaping business for five years, interned with the South Mountain Conservancy, tutored grade school students through St. Lawrence's Math and Reading Tutors, had a paid internship at St. Lawrence's Ecologically Sustainable Landscape Farm, and has studied abroad in Kenya.

• **Max Zwicker, Political Intern:** A Political Science major and an Environmental Studies minor, Max has studied in Cambodia, working on conservation and ecology, and is passionate about gaining experience in the environmental sector.

In addition, Chapter ExCom has now approved an Environmental Justice Committee, with the following Chair and members:

• **Howard Steinberg, Chair:** Howard was in public health for 34 years, where he dealt with environmental issues and had experience organizing groups to deal with those issues. He started the Morris County Office of Health Management and was responsible for the implementation of the CEHA program.

Environmental Justice Committee members:

• **Hugh Evans, Ph.D. - Chapter Toxics Advisor,** Hudson Co. Group Representative

• **Jermaine Spence, Esq. - Lead-based paint,** North Jersey Group Political Chair

• **Suzanne Trimel - Gateway Group Chair**

• **Gary Frederick - Raritan Valley Group Chair,** Natl. Campaigns Coordinator

• **Paul Ehrlich, Ph.D. - Clean Air Issues,** Raritan Valley Group Webmaster

• **John Ottomaneli, Ph.D. - Urban Planning,** Hudson Co. Group Publicity Chair

• **Maria Santiago-Valentin, M.A., LDTC - Active in her community,** and actually organized a climate event, and started a climate coalition

• **Kimi Wei - A community activist**

• **Ivan Jorge Wei - A community activist.** Both Kimi and Ivan will work on getting the churches more involved in climate activities and involved in the climate justice coalition

• **Renee Pollard - Program development** at Camden Community College

• **Jim Andreano - Working with the Green Faith program**

• **Barbara Greenfield, Esq. - former EPA attorney,** Superfund sites



Resolutions:

Passed by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in March, April and May, 2017

New officers: Howard Steinberg as Chair of the Environmental Justice (EJ) Committee (April); Gary Franklin as National Campaigns Coordinator, Harold Zullo as Campaign Finance Reform Issues Coordinator, Anna Esposito, Hogan Dwyer and Max Zwicker as Political Interns (May). Also in May, members of the EJ Committee were approved: see p.12 and the Chair's Message on this page.

Political Endorsements: Phil Murphy (D) for Governor; see article on p.1 (March); 21 candidates for State Assembly and Senate - names to be announced at a later time (April).

Name change: Our Environmental Justice Caucus rises to the status of an Environmental Justice Committee (March).

PAC: The Chapter's Political Action Committee has been resurrected as a legal entity under NJ Election Law, to provide campaign-support to endorsed candidates. Members include Gary Frederick, Susan Williams, Suzanne Trimmel, Howard Steinberg, Jonathan Wall, John Kashwick, Daphne Speck-Barynski and Rich Isaac. (March)

Candidates Sought for Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom)

The next (Oct-Dec) issue of this Newsletter will include our annual ballot for electing three members to our Chapter governing body (ExCom), as well as the ExComs of each of our active Groups, and some Sections. (ExCom members whose three-year terms are ending are Ken Johanson, Joe Testa, and Laura Tracey-Coll) To nominate yourself, or someone else, please contact Gina Carola (ginaceee@verizon.net) by August 10.



Environment and Labor: Common Ground

By Daniel Aronson, of our Raritan Valley Group (Daniel.Aronson@RaritanVal.edu)

Given the vitriolic state of current public discourse, it's noteworthy that leaders representing business, the environment, and labor engaged in a productive discussion on April 21st, at a conference co-sponsored by our Club, and hosted by Raritan Valley Community College. Titled "Beyond Reconciliation: The Potential for Common Ground on the Environment and Labor", the conference addressed mutual interests on energy efficiency and work-time reduction.

The keynote speaker was University of Iowa Prof. Benjamin Hunnicutt, a prominent advocate of shorter work hours. For most of US history there have been gradual reductions in work-time; resuming that trend would give Americans more time for family, education, and recreation.

In response to Hunnicutt's presentation, Laura Cummins, representing the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce, recalled working for a company that gave all its employees a vacation between Christmas and New Year's Day. Not only were they recharged upon resuming work, they were happy to go the extra mile during a crunch, given the company's consideration. Mike Kerwin, President of the Somerset County Business Partnership, mentioned the plans of a major Somerset County employer to provide extended vacations, in exchange for expecting peak performance when employees are at work.

The expectation that shorter hours will lead to improved performance is consistent with the evidence. University of Iceland researcher Thorvaldur Gylfason, in a study published in the January 2007 issue of *Challenge Magazine*, found that, over time and across countries, shorter hours correlated strongly with increased productivity.

Labor leaders at the conference offered innovative ideas of their own. It was noted that 20 educators from three colleges – including three former union presidents – endorsed the idea of paying for parking in return for gains from management. The current president of the faculty union of Raritan Valley Community College added: "If the terms are right, paying for parking in return for gains is an idea worthy of consideration by teachers unions."

Paying for parking on a daily basis, since it creates an incentive for carpooling and other low-cost alternatives, is a concession that is also an investment.

Furthermore, reducing the demand for parking makes it possible to build employee housing on superfluous parking lots. For example, San Mateo Community College, located in California's Silicon Valley, was unable to pay salaries that would allow employees to afford sky-high real estate prices. So the college built rental employee housing on a former parking lot. The residents are thus spared the cost of land and property taxes, enjoying upscale housing at below-market rent. The walk to work is convenient, and they save on automobile costs. And since the construction is energy-efficient, the employees enjoy complete comfort at negligible cost.

Newark's Teachers Village, which also offers premium housing at below-market rent, was built on a former parking lot!

Over time, if this high-quality, low-cost lifestyle becomes prevalent (not an unrealistic scenario, given the growing market for this type of lifestyle) contract negotiations will focus on the gains from cost savings: a win-win scenario.

Interestingly, the idea that workers could benefit by reducing costly consumption has roots in the early labor movement. Hunnicutt, the conference keynote speaker, quoted labor leaders in the 1830s urging workers to reduce consumption in order to make time for education and other valuable pursuits. These days, promoting efficient lifestyles would allow us to reduce consumption while increasing material well-being.

Pursuing these proposals would highlight the fact that increased user fees for driving would create a market for, and fund, transit alternatives, enabling the general public to overcome the costly burden of total automobile dependence. Effective transit alternatives would free up parking lots for housing, thereby lowering housing prices for future buyers via the increase in supply. Finally, this market-based, low-cost scenario can offer the ultimate convenience: lower household costs reduce the amount of necessary work time.

(Dan is Prof. of Economics at Raritan Valley Community College.)

Report from Trenton

Tesla Opens First South Jersey Store - in Cherry Hill

From a Trenton-issued Press Release, March 8th

Tesla Motors Inc. has received local planning board approval for a 28,000 square-foot facility in Cherry Hill. The company will both sell and service its electric vehicles (EV's). There are already three Tesla dealerships in northern NJ: in Short Hills, Paramus and Springfield. Tesla's electric vehicles come with tax credits and incentives and they do not emit exhaust fumes or crankcase oil.

Much of New Jersey's pollution comes from automobiles. Electric vehicles will save people money on gas and reduce air pollution, while promoting jobs and a green economy. Another reason to move forward with zero emission vehicles is that Pres. Trump is rolling back fuel efficiency standards.

The Christie Administration has also been driving in the wrong direction when it comes to EV's. In a state filled with commuting cars, we have only 2,500 electric vehicles. People want to drive electric, but Christie hasn't encouraged the public to do so. We also need many more charging stations on highways and in communities. Christie has tried to ban the sale of Teslas, refused to join the EV compact, and failed to pass legislation to promote EVs and their infrastructure. Luckily, this hasn't stopped Tesla.

In May, the Christie Administration's Motor Vehicle Commission will no longer test tailpipe emissions. This will eliminate the best mechanism for getting clunkers (smoky old cars and pick-up trucks, of which there are at least 50,000) off our roads. The Sierra Club opposed this decision.

The Club has produced an Electric Vehicle Guide to help consumers make the best decision for the car of their choice. Our goal in New Jersey is to have 503,732 by 2025.

(See Dennis Anderson's praise for his Tesla in recent issues of this Newsletter: April-June 2017 (electronic edition) and April-June, 2016.)

Issue Coordinator's Report

New Jersey Can't Do It Alone

By Paul Ehrlich (Clean Air Issues – phehrlich-nj@outlook.com) and Hugh Evans (Toxicology – HLEvans.Sierra@gmail.com)

That is, we can't clean our air without cooperation from other states. This is the situation in most states, according to a recent article in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives* (Penn et al, vol. 1251, p. 324; March 2017). While this should not surprise most Sierra Club members, the quantification provided in this study reveals just how much pollution moves into and out of each state, and suggests what the priorities should be for removing their sources. Emissions from residential heating furnaces and electric power stations were calculated for two important pollutants: ozone and fine particulate matter (PM2.5). This is a significant contribution to our understanding of pollution – despite the absence in the study of the contributions of mobile sources (cars and trucks) which is so important in New Jersey.

The numbers in the article agree with our intuition. For example, in California 96% of the premature deaths due to electric power plants, and 93% of those due to residential combustion, were attributed to in-state pollution sources. Given the prevailing westerly winds and the fact that there isn't any land for thousands of miles west of California, this makes sense. On the other hand, in New Jersey only 20% of the premature deaths caused by both pollutants were sourced in-state. The other 80% were from the heavily industrialized states to our west.

The article's quantitative analysis is especially interesting and important for an understanding of health effects in regions with cities and towns surrounded by vast sparsely-populated areas. In many cases these regions are considered to have clean air most of the time. Penn et al. point out that Western states tend to have fewer adverse health effects from

particulates formed directly in combustion processes such as burning coal (referred to as primary PM2.5) than from particulates formed when gaseous pollutants, such as sulfur dioxide, have time to undergo chemical reactions in the atmosphere (secondary PM2.5). Thus, during the winter Utah, which most Sierrans probably think of as having crystal clear air on ski slopes, has a significant problem with secondary PM2.5 pollution in some valleys where gaseous pollutants are trapped by local weather patterns.

The authors of this study used sophisticated computational tools developed recently by many research organizations, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the North Carolina Supercomputing Center, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Their data included the geographic distribution of pollutant emissions, weather patterns that determine where people are exposed to them, chemical reactions that occur in the atmosphere, and health effects of various pollutants at various concentrations determined from epidemiological studies.

The main lessons of this study are: (1) Quantitative analysis of the movement of air pollution reveals important information on where toxic emissions are generated, (2) Government regulatory agencies and local activists can be more effective by targeting facilities known to be significant contributors to health effects, (3) Cooperation between regulatory agencies in nearby states is a useful adjunct to a national system of air pollution control, and (4) NJ needs to get back into the Northeastern States' Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

If you have questions or comments please contact us.

Report from Trenton

DEP Rejects PennEast Pipeline Application

From a Press Release issued in Trenton on Apr 26th, edited by Irene Gnarra

The DEP has rejected PennEast Pipeline's application for water and wetlands permits, explaining that they lacked sufficient information for evaluation of land use permits. The DEP permits are required; therefore, PennEast will not be able to move forward.

PennEast is a 110-mile pipeline that would bring natural gas from the Marcellus Region of Pennsylvania through Hunterdon and Mercer counties in New Jersey. It would cut through communities, preserved open space, and farmland. The DEP requires surveys of the proposed route, which were not provided. The Department also listed other conditions that PennEast must comply with.

This is welcoming news for New Jersey. The rejection will delay approval by the Christie Administration, hopefully enabling the next Governor to kill the project. We estimate that it could take up to a year for the missing requirements to be obtained. PennEast's ineptitude has jeopardized its likelihood of success with the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) as well. DEP's letter of deficiency shows also that FERC (see p. 6) should never have released its final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The DEP noted that 65 percent of the route has not yet been surveyed. This is in part thanks to the Sierra Club's efforts to block PennEast from conducting the survey. Before applying for a wetlands permit, PennEast must produce an accurate map of the stream corridors (including eight major streams and 40 tributaries), wetlands, and wetlands buffers, and it must indicate the extent to which the area will be impacted. The map is required for issuance of a Water Quality Certificate and for Flood Hazard permits. More importantly, PennEast must estimate possible effects on water quality. Furthermore, it must determine whether any threatened and endangered species will be affected.

Applying for permits without the required information reflects PennEast's arrogance. It never walked the pipeline route, and it failed to make the proper surveys. DEP joins a long list of governmental agencies that have issues with this pipeline, including the Army Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and DRBC. The Ratepayer Advocate believes that PennEast would impose an unnecessary cost to ratepayers.

Equally important, the PennEast Pipeline would violate the Clean Water Act. The DRBC controls the Delaware River basin, managing water quality, withdrawals, droughts, floods, and conservation. The surface water withdrawal and discharge permit requested from the DRBC would allow PennEast to conduct hydrostatic testing and horizontal directional drilling, a method of boring to install pipe beneath environmentally sensitive areas. Hopefully, the DRBC will deny PennEast a docket because their EIS is incomplete.

Reports from Trenton

Victory for Norvin Green State Forest: DEP Drops Privatization Plan

From a Press Release issued on March 31st

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has dropped their plans to turn an 800-acre portion of the former Warner Bros. safari park Jungle Habitat into a pay mountain bike park. This area was acquired and preserved by the state in 1988. Their original idea included privatizing Green Acres open space by leasing out part of Norvin Green State Forest for a mountain bike park in West Milford. This park is important because it helps protect headwater areas in an environmentally sensitive Highlands Forest.

We are happy to see the DEP drop those plans; now it can be restored to its natural state. This is critical for the habitat and ecology of the region, especially the streams that will no longer be disturbed. This victory shows us that public outcry works. The DEP listened to the people and pulled out of their plan. We opposed this because we knew it was bad for the environment and a misuse of public land. We worked 25 years ago to save this property and we're glad to see the DEP back away from this proposal.

Parks have been the one thing that government has done right and that people have enjoyed for years by being above politics and commercialization. Any new vendors should keep the mission of the park, be affordable to the public and not interfere with the park or limit public access.

Mountain biking would have been a threat to the environmentally sensitive area. The property would have been subject to more erosion and run-off that would impact the Highlands. It has been close to 40 years since Jungle Habitat closed. The fields that were clear-cut can now restore themselves into young forests. The surrounding category-one trout streams like Burnt Meadow Brook and Hewitt Brook can remain undisturbed. The threatened and endangered species such as trout, Swamp Pink and Timber Rattlesnake will no longer be threatened by mountain biking and other recreational disturbance.

We are still concerned with the state giving away our parks like Norvin Green State Forest to private owners. This is the same type of proposal we have seen with Liberty State Park, Sparta Mountain, and Traders Cove in Brick. We believe this is unfair to New Jersey taxpayers because privatization often means higher costs for less service.

While we are happy at this victory, we are still concerned that the Christie Administration is trying to break the public trust and give away our public lands to private corporations and developers. Privatization leads to higher rates, worse quality for services, payments for access that was once free, and the proliferation of pay-to-play contracts. Privatization would also mean that user fees could be used for non-park purposes.

Now that the DEP has dropped this plan for a mountain bike park, they should consider creating Golden Winged Warbler habitat here instead of on Sparta Mountain. It may make more sense to create the habitat here because the trees are younger and there are already more areas clear-cut. Instead of harming an environmentally sensitive forest in the Highlands, it makes more sense to create bird habitat near parking lots and already disturbed areas.

NJ Sierra Club Joins Reps. Pascrell and Gottheimer Against Trump

From a Press Release issued by Jeff Tittel, our Senior Chapter Director, on April 11th

On April 11th, Congressmen Bill Pascrell (D-9) and Josh Gottheimer (D-5) appeared with many New Jersey environmentalists to oppose President Trump's budget that slashes funding for remediating Superfund sites. The Trump Administration proposes to weaken the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), especially its programs to clean-up toxic sites.

The event took place on the bank of the Passaic River, one of the nation's most seriously contaminated bodies of water - near the Garfield Superfund Site, where 3,640 gallons of chromic acid has spilled from an underground tank at the now defunct E.C. Electroplating Plant. Trump proposes to cut funding for Superfund Sites by 30 percent, slash funding for hundreds of other toxic sites by 43 percent, and eliminate 30 percent of funding to address lead.

New Jersey has 118 Superfund sites, more than any other state, and more than 1000 other sites waiting to be listed. For years, polluters have used our state as a dumping ground; most people in New Jersey live within 10 miles of a Superfund site.

Under Trump's proposal, the NJ-DEP will lose roughly \$85 million, but it could be more. The DEP would have to cut the staff who are responsible for implementing the Clean Water Act. We could also lose more than \$100 million in funding for storm-water pipes, and replacement of lead pipes that supply drinking water. The EPA's revolving fund for water and sewer projects could be cut as well.

In New Jersey, the EPA is responsible for responding to chemical spills, monitoring and combatting ocean pollution, and ensuring that our drinking water is safe and our air is clean. It operates a major water laboratory in Edison that would lose 450 jobs.



Offshore Drilling Back in Vogue

From a Press Release issued by our Trenton staff on April 28th

On April 28th, President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order that allows exploratory drilling, for oil and gas, in new areas of the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. The order instructs the Department of the Interior to review the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Oil and Gas Leasing Program, a process that will take two years.

Trump has also ordered a review of National Marine Monuments that protect sea-bottom habitat, with a view toward permitting additional offshore drilling. The Obama Administration had tried to protect 115 million acres of the Arctic Ocean, adjacent to the 2.9 million acres near Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, from which oil now flows south through the Alaska Pipeline. Obama also protected 3.8 million acres of the Atlantic Ocean, stretching from Massachusetts to Maryland. All of this could be reversed under Trump's Order.

Trump's order endangers a \$38 billion coastal economy that includes fisheries and coastal recreation. It also eliminates safety rules that protect us from oil spills. And of course any new oil and gas will have climate impacts, as well as polluting our air and waterways. The oil would be taken to refineries in our area, further putting us at risk.

The Sierra Club's "Don't Rig Our Coastal Economy Report" found that New Jersey's coastal tourism industry supports nearly 500,000 jobs, and that one out of every six of the state's jobs is linked in some way to its shoreline. Tourist visits generate \$16.6 billion in wages and add \$5.5 billion to the state's tax coffers. During the summer of 1988, when medical waste washed up onto a 50-mile stretch of New Jersey's shore, tourism dropped significantly, with the loss of at least \$1 billion in revenue. An offshore oil spill could trigger an even more dramatic decline in tourism.

There is also the issue of energy alternatives. The areas proposed for drilling are optimal for wind energy, recoverable as electricity generated by wind turbines, and increasingly used by electric vehicles. Surely that should be a preferred alternative. The Obama Administration leased parcels off New Jersey's coast for this purpose. Those developers will now be threatened by offshore drilling.

New Jersey's Senator Robert Menendez is formulating legislation that would order the Department of the Interior to desist from offshore drilling. Senator Cory Booker and Congressman Frank Pallone also support efforts to block offshore drilling. Now we need all of our Representatives to join them. That's one reason why we bussed hundreds of people from New Jersey to the April 29th People's Climate March, in Washington DC, to demand clean air, clean water, and clean energy over dirty fossil fuels. Our Coastal Economy Trumps Drilling!

Senate Looks to Override DEP's Terrible Highlands Rules

From a Press Release issued by our Chapter staff on May 1st, and edited by Joe Testa

The Christie Administration has signed off on amendments to septic density standards in the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act rules. These changes threaten the drinking water in the Highlands. The Senate Environment and Energy Committee released a resolution, ACRI92 (McKeon)/SCR148 (Smith) that determines these changes are against legislative intent. If this resolution is passed twice in both houses of the legislature, it will overturn these dirty water rules. The Assembly has passed a first version of the resolution.

The DEP's proposed Highlands Forest Preservation Area is a major source of drinking water for up to 6 million people that includes pristine trout streams and reservoirs. With these changes, development could increase by 400%. These rules will not only threaten our water supply, but are based on arbitrary science that targets open space and will increase flooding. Even though the original rules were held up in court, DEP is making a change to the basic nitrate model that would allow more nitrates and 4 times more pollution in the Forest Preservation Area, threatening our drinking water.

The rule changes violate legislative intent because the Highlands Act requires a nitrate model from 'deep aquifer re-charge', i.e. areas that have not been impacted by development. Instead, the DEP is using data from mostly developed areas of the Highlands around lakes that have shallow aquifers in areas outside the Preservation Area, and is trying to apply the developed-area measurements to undeveloped areas. These lake communities with shallow aquifers have higher nitrate levels than the rest of the Highlands.

This change will allow at least 61 more units in Bethlehem and Byram Township, but it will actually double the requirement when you consider affordable-housing requirements. If the town builds an additional 61 units, it will require at least 12 new affordable housing units. If towns don't comply, they can get sued with "builder remedy" lawsuits, with the likely result that for every affordable unit of housing developers build, they would get four market units bringing the total to 60, leading to an additional 121 units.

These changes would also promote growth on environmentally sensitive Hamburg and Wawayanda Mountains.

We believe the rule changes violate the Highlands Act because the law says that existing water quality in the Highlands must be maintained based on the day it was passed, in 2004. That means any reference data from after that date cannot be used. The USGS study that the rule was based on should be thrown out and these rules should be overturned. The Governor is once again proposing rules based on political science instead of real science, not following the right procedure, and not following the law. That is why the legislature must step in to stop these dirty water rules.

Reports from Trenton

Division of Fish and Wildlife: 125 Years Old, Stuck in the Past

From a Press Release issued on March 8th, edited by Joe Testa

The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife (NJDFW) is celebrating its 125th year, but its management has hardly changed over that time. NJDFW has been underfunded and unable to modernize. Instead of having its mission move forward with the times and deal with issues such as managing ecosystems, biodiversity, invasive species, and climate change, its primary concern is still hunting. It still manages lands to encourage higher deer populations despite deer overpopulation. The world has changed in the past 125 years, but the Division has not.

The Christie Administration's cuts to DEP funding have crippled NJDFW's ability to do its job. Christie has gone after the DEP's budget with a 'death by a thousand cuts' tactic. Before he came into office, DEP's budget was close to \$400 million; now it is \$274 million. The NJDFW can't properly function or provide adequate enforcement without enough staff. Under this governor, DEP staff is down by 40 percent and enforcement is down 60 percent, and our parks are suffering from inadequate resources.

In the funding it does have, the DEP has included land stewardship, defined as "an activity that goes beyond routine maintenance to restore and enhance lands for recreational and conservation purposes". These stewardship activities will actually consist of logging and other actions that undermine the protection of natural resources in our parks. For example, NJDFW cut down trees to create grass habitat. They proposed clear-cutting in the Pinelands to create quail hunting habitat. All this has done is open the area up for deer and invasive species overpopulation.

We're seeing this come into play as the Division works with NJ Audubon to allow logging of the environmentally important Sparta Mountain. The DEP has been trying to de-list the site in order to move forward with their Forest Stewardship Plan that will turn the mountain into a field for bird habitat. They are just using the Golden Warbler habitat as an excuse to clear-cut an environmentally sensitive forest in the Highlands.

The Division's Fish and Game Council is making dangerous and anti-environmental rules. Their regulation to allow leg-hold traps in New Jersey violates the law and legislative intent. We need to manage our lands in a holistic way; leghold traps are irresponsible and dangerous. The Fish and Game Council is supposed to be a steward of the land, and leghold traps are not stewardship. Stewardship is an ethic that embodies the responsible planning and management of resources.

NJDFW keeps increasing bear hunt numbers, times, dates and weapons to kill more bears. Instead of more hunting, we need a real management plan, one that includes strong education and uses warning signs in the region, education materials at trail heads, enforcing rules to not feed bears, and garbage management. Hunting bears is doing nothing to reduce these incidents. The state needs to put in place a real management plan with education. We know that increased education works better to decrease bear incidents than increased hunts, but the Division is too stuck in its ways.

The job of NJDFW is to manage the wildlife in our state by balancing recreation and conservation protection. However, the Division has had neither the funding nor the leadership to do this. Instead, they continuously sell out to polluters, developers, and hunters. We hope that under a new Governor, the Division can be restored. Then they can once again work to protect our wildlife, manage our wild places, and keep New Jersey green for generations to come.

Trump Nominates Fossil Fools to FERC

From a Press Release issued on May 9th

Donald Trump has nominated two Republicans, Neil Chatterjee and Robert Powelson, to serve on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). They must first be confirmed by the Senate. FERC approval is required for the hundreds of dangerous fossil fuel projects across the country. It consists of five members, of which only three can be from any one political party. Because of resignations, FERC currently has only one member; three are required for a quorum. Neil Chatterjee is an energy policy advisor to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, working to block action on climate change and clean air. He has been a lobbyist for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, an important user of coal-fueled power plants.

Chatterjee is a climate-change denier and will be another puppet for the coal industry.

Robert Powelson served on the Public Utility Commission of Pennsylvania since 2008 and was its chairman from 2011 to 2015. He is also the current President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. He has a very pro-pipeline history with obvious bias towards the gas industry. Many projects in New Jersey require FERC approval, most prominently the PennEast Pipeline - that would threaten the Delaware River Valley including 91 acres of wetlands and over 44 miles of forest. The Pipeline currently lacks permits required from NJDEP. We think it would violate the Clean Water Act because of the number of high quality streams, wetlands, and rivers it would disturb. Its route would cut through areas with steep slopes, impacting streams with siltation and runoff.

Is Your Email Address Up-To-Date?

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



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:

Chair:	Term exp:		
12/31/17	Susan Williams	SkylandsGroup@gmail.com	
12/31/17	Mindy Geary	mwillimas@yahoo.com	
12/31/18	Norene Haberski	habersn@yahoo.com	
12/31/17	Jeri Doherty	bjd8974@gmail.com	

Board Members:

12/31/18	Greg Gorman	ggorman07419@embarqmail.com
12/31/17	Dave Alcock	dwhoob@hotmail.com
12/31/18	Marvin Feil	mfeil@writeme.com
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N/A	Greg Gorman	ggorman07419@embarqmail.com
N/A	Dave Alcock	dwhoob@hotmail.com
N/A	Nicole Guerrieri	sosaysnicole@gmail.com
N/A	Susan Williams	SkylandsGroup@gmail.com
N/A	Jeri Doherty	bjd8974@gmail.com
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*	jonwall@jonwall.com
Vice Chair:	Celeste Martin*	onecentral@mac.com
Conservation Chair:	Ginny 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*	jffleming18@comcast.net
Outings Coordinator:	Jonathan Wall*	jonwall@jonwall.com
Webmaster/Listmaster:	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. There are no programs in July and August.

Sep 6 (Wed): The Raptor Trust. The Raptor Trust is one of the premier wild bird rehabilitation centers in the United States. A stalwart advocate for birds of prey for three decades, it is now recognized as a national leader in the fields of raptor conservation and avian rehabilitation. Chris Soucy, Director of the Trust, will speak about the Trust's work and ways you can help.

OTHER EVENTS:

July 19 (Wed): Executive Committee/Planning Meeting. 7:30pm, At the offices of Dr. Jonathan D. Wall, 21 Water Street, Clinton. 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.

July TBD (Sat): Potluck Social. 3 pm. Join your fellow Sierrans for potluck social picnic. This is a great way to meet other activists and Club volunteers in an informal social setting. Bring a favorite dish. RSVP required on Meetup or my emailing Jonathan at jonwall@jonwall.com.

North Jersey Group

(Bergen and Passaic Counties)

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

Officers:

Chair:	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	jeffrap@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:	Open Position!	

(*Group Executive Committee Member)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

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

Trail Maintenance. To get on our trail maintenance militia email list, just send an email of interest to martincohen@verizon.net. We've had several outings this spring, breaking our record for the number of bushes, blowdowns, etc, cleared from our trails. Thanks so much for the terrific work done by: Bill D., Carl H., Ricky D., Ilene G., Christine Z., and Steve F.

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:	Suzanne Trimel, David Yennior, Bill Chappel, and ZaSah Khademi		

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

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

OFFICERS: (*=ExCom)

Chair:	David "Ace" Case*	acecase88@gmail.com
Vice-Chair:	Open position!	
Conservation Chair:	Jon Perrelle*	jonperrelle@gmail.com
Secretary, Outings Chr:	Patricia Hilliard*	hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	<i>Open position!</i>	
Delegate to ExCom:	Hugh Evans	HLEvans.Sierra@gmail.com
Political Chair:	Seth Lubin*	sthlubin@gmail.com
Publicity Chr/Webmaster:	John Ottomanelli*	otto.pittsburgh@gmail.com
Membership Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>	
Programs/Events Chair:	Janet Crowley*	jtryx@yahoo.com
Ex-Com at-Large:	Nancy Booth*	boothnancy2011@hotmail.com
Officer at-Large:	Natalya DeRobertis-Theye	
Art Design:	Ann Marshall	

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

General Meetings take place on THIRD SUNDAYS in ALTERNATE MONTHS and are free and open to the general public. Please check our Facebook page, or web site for details (see above for URLs and email).

Group Executive Committee Meeting: Sunday, June 18, Noon-2pm. Zeppelin Hall Beer Garden, 88 Liberty View Dr, Jersey City. The public may attend; only officers may vote.

Second Annual Summer Picnic at Liberty State Park. Sunday, July 16, 11am-4pm. All Hudson County Sierra Club members are invited, with a special shout out to the Bayonne Nature Club and any nature enthusiasts or groups in the Hudson County area. Bring your favorite dish with enough to share, or bring a purchased item: cookies, pie, watermelon or bag of chips etc. So that we don't end up with 100 bags of potato chips, email us and let us know what you plan to bring: HUDSONSIERRACLUB@gmail.com. Please bring your own utensils to reduce waste. Liberty State Park at the picnic area behind the Admin. Bldg. located at 200 Morris Pesin Dr. Look for the GREEN tables and the "Pat and Mike Pot Luck Picnic" sign.

(Continued on page 8)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

Group Executive Committee Meeting: Sunday, Aug 20, Noon-2pm. Zeppelin Hall Beer Garden, 88 Liberty View Dr, Jersey City. The public may attend; only officers may vote.

General Meeting on Water. Sunday, Sept 17, Noon-2pm. Hudson County Community College Library, 71 Sip Avenue, Jersey City. Visit our Facebook and web pages for more details.

Loantaka Group

(Morris and Union Counties (except for Elizabeth and Hillside), plus Livingston, Milburn 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>

GOOD NEWS

On May 18, the Union County freeholders voted to maintain a ban on mountain biking in the fragile terrain of the 2000-acre Watchung Reservation. We helped a local organization, Save Watchung Reservation, in their lobbying efforts.

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

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

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

MEETING SCHEDULE: Please see our website and/or Facebook site.

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		Stevens@Optimum.net
Conservation Chair:	Kip Cherry		Kcherry10@gmail.com
Recycling:	Scott Fulmer		Sfulmer@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.

Schedule: Please see our website.

Our Outings coordinators have put together a list of activities for the summer 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
Membership:	Gurdon Hornor	678-920-8620	ghornor@yahoo.com
Political Chair:	Daphne Speck-Barynski	732-390-5311	speckbartyn@comcast.net
Publicity Chair:	Dani Levis		
Secretary:	Patti Amor		
Treasurer:	Sindhu Pasricha		
Webmaster:	Paul Ehrlich		p.w.ehrlich@gmail.com
Outings/Events Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
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 Gary Frederick at gfredsierra@gmail.com. We are also interested in any environmental news or events affecting Middlesex and Somerset counties and invite you to submit those items, as well.

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		lzullov@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	gmoffattg@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		lzullov@optimum.net
High School Coordinator:	Lara Zullov		lzullov@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.

July 9: Group Picnic. Noon to 3pm. Our annual summer pot-luck picnic will be held on Sunday, July 9 at Turkey Swamp Park, 200 Georgia Tavern Rd, Freehold. From Rte 9, take Rte 524 west to Georgia Road (Rte 53), turn left (south) on Georgia and follow the signs to the park. From I-95, at Exit 22 take Jackson Mills Rd north to Georgia Rd, turn left (west) on Georgia and follow the signs. Meet in the picnic area behind the main building. No speakers, just relax and enjoy the food and conversation. Check with Dennis Anderson (Dennisaza@aol.com) on what to bring and to get other details.

Aug: No meeting. Enjoy the summer.

Sept 25: The Future of the Great Barrier Reef. Dr. Marian Glenn of Rutgers University has a deep interest in global environmental sustainability and will relate her research on sustainability in NJ's marine environment to the bleaching epidemic on Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Dr. Glenn teaches courses at Rutgers in the Department of Biological Sciences: Ecology, Microbial Ecology, and General Biology, and in the Humanities Honors Program. She is also involved in the University Core Curriculum and the Environmental Studies program. Her current research is in integrative science and bridging the gap between the sciences and humanities. She also is active in civic environmental education and is a member of the NJ Sierra Club, Loantoka Group.

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 sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com
Outings Chair & Env'l Ed'n Coord: Terrance Brown terrybrown@comcast.net
Fund-Raising Chr: Joyce M. Isaza realtymstr@aol.com
Recording Secretary: Margaret-Mary Piccolo gogreenp1@yahoo.com
Group ExCom Member: Nancy Brown nancybrown624@comcast.net
Group ExCom Member: William Rodgers
Group ExCom Members: Laura Stone laura36@yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Held bi-monthly on the SECOND MONDAY of the month at CAPONE's.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: Held bi-monthly at the "SKYWALK CAFE" in Toms River, except July and August. In July, we hold our annual BBQ FUND-RAISER. August is an "outings month."

ACTIVITIES & ISSUES: With all of the environmental challenges we face at the local, state and national levels our group is focused on a number of critical issues. Locally and state-wide we're fighting a myriad of over-development issues and our Group with our allies is working hard to save BARNEGAT BAY and the PINELANDS, two natural gems in Ocean County.

With Pres. Trump's seemingly limitless assault on our environment, we're also engaged in several national issues. Over 140 people from OCEAN attended the PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH in April. And we work closely with the ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE, the SOUTHERN UTAH WILDERNESS ALLIANCE and APPALACHIAN VOICES to protect those respective sacred areas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on our activities and upcoming events contact our group Chair or visit our web site.

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 ginacece@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.

July and August - no meetings. Please check the outings page and join us on a hike or paddle adventure.

Sept 13: Movie Night: Food, Inc. Learn how our nation's food supply is now controlled by a handful of corporations that often put profit ahead of consumer health, the livelihood of the American farmer and the safety of workers and our own environment.

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 rain-forest wood for rebuilding oceanfront boardwalks, in Ocean City and Wildwood, seem quiescent at present. Club officers and staff have been following several studies seeking to determine sustainable water supply levels for southeastern New Jersey, with the hope that findings will be used by planners (such as those employed by the Pinelands Commission) who permit development. On damage being done to sand trails by ORVs in Wharton State Forest, the DEP has sided with the vehicle enthusiasts by rejecting a Motorized Access Map prepared by the Park staff. The next move will be the DEP's. Also a campaign to promote Community Solar (photovoltaic) installations (especially in each municipality in Atlantic County), support for legislation that would end the free distribution of plastic bags at supermarkets (as Longport in Atlantic County has done), and support for a New Jersey Bottle Bill, known as the Smart Container Act.

Some Possibly Relevant Meetings of Allied Organizations:

July 5, Aug 2 and Sept 6 (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.

July 25 and Sept 26 (alternate fourth Tuesdays) 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association: on one of these dates an annual picnic will be held in a park. Contact Lynn Maun, 856-649-2792 or email lynnkmaun@comcast.net.

July 26, Aug 23 and Sept 27 (fourth Wednesdays), 7pm: Atlantic Audubon Society

(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)

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.

Aug 9 (alternate second Wednesdays), 7pm: Bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries (another "Partnership River" under federal protection): Meeting place: George Luciano Center, Cumberland County College. Cumberland County development issues are commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Karla Rossini (CU) at 609-774-5853 or karla.rossini@cumaucriver.org. Website: www.cumaucriver.org.

Aug 16 (alternate third Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss river management strategies. Open to the public. WFNC*. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

350.org South Jersey is an 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 Univ. campus in Galloway Twp, Atlantic Co. Contact Glenn Klotz: glennk1949@gmail.com, or Ron Hutchison: HutchisR@Stockton.edu.

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
Secretary:	Corbett Klein *	corbettklein@outlook.com
Outings Co-Chair:	Jonathan Wall *	dojdwall@gmail.com
Outings Co-Chair:	Robert Zitzman *	robertmz@att.net
Webmaster/		
Listmaster:	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@gmail.com
Ex-Com Member:	<i>Open Position</i> - contact John or Robert if interested	

(* Section Executive Committee Member)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

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

July 15 (Sat): Cushetunk Mountain Preserve and Round Valley Hike, 10am, Lebanon, NJ. We'll hike for about 8 miles with some inclines and rocky sections through mainly hardwood forest with some views of the Round Valley reservoir. Exact route will depend on heat. Bring at least 2 litres of water, lunch, and snack. Wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. Meeting location provided after registration. Participants must register on Meetup or by emailing leader. Leader: Robert Zitzman robertmz@att.net. Rain or extreme heat cancels. Contact leader if in doubt.

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

Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

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

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

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

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

Arline Zatz is the editor 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 me an e-mail.

Trail Maintenance. We've had several outings this spring, breaking our record for the number of bushes, blowdowns, etc. cleared from our trails. Thanks so much for the terrific work done by: Bill D., Carl H., Ricky D., Ilene G., Christine Z., and Steve F.

To get on our trail maintenance militia email list, just send me an e-mail of interest.

On the Trail

Editor's note: Alas no local member contribution to this issue of the Newsletter. But I received an interesting and long report from national Club staff on the ethnicity of hiking. Please find it online in the electronic edition of this newsletter.





Outings

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

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS (roughly north to south)

- Skylands:** Dave Alcock, dwhoob@hotmail.com
South Highlands: Jonathan Wall
psychologist@jonwall.com
North Jersey: Ellen Blumenkrantz
ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417
Gateway: David Ogens, 973-226-0748 (H)
 64 Elm Rd, Caldwell 07003
Hudson Co: Seth Lubin, SthLubin@gmail.com
Loantaka: Wanda Knapik, 980-432-2198
AdventuresWithWanda@gmail.com
Central Jersey: Leona & George Fluck
Leona@pineypaddlers.com
Raritan Valley: Alison Wilkes
Jersey Shore: Mike Verange, mjverange@aol.com
 908-732-8364 (H), 1497 W Front St, Lincroft 07738
Ocean County: Terrance Brown, 848-333-7331 and
 Monical Zabroski, MonicaZabroski@yahoo.com
West Jersey: Vacant
South Jersey: Tom Boghosian, 609-625-0878 (H)
 4794 Andorea Drive, Mays Landing, 08330
boghosian1@verizon.net
Singles: Joyce Haddad, jkhaddad@juno.com
ICO: Anne Dyjak 732-560-0953 (H)
 NJ-ICO, 17 Mt. Horeb Rd, Warren, 07059
River Touring: Fred Tocce, 908-453-2205 (H)
 RD-1, Box 277, Washington, 07882
Chapter Outings Chair: Ellen Blumenkrantz
ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your October-December 2017 trip write-ups by August 9.

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

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

croppings/viewpoints, totaling almost 2,000 ft. elevation gain/loss Rain or 90+ deg. weather will cancel hike. Lunch and at least 2 liters of water required. Group limited to 12 participants who must preregister. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

Jul 16 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Hunterdon Co). 9am. We're paddling 10 miles from Riegelsville to Kingwood Access. The proposed route of the PennEast Pipeline for "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)

Jul 19 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 10:30am. The river section we'll paddle depends on river-trail conditions. Option: early breakfast at the Vincentown Diner. Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jul 21 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Mullica River (Burlington Co). 8:30am. The aquatic flowering plants of the NJ Pinelands will still be in bloom. This is a 12-mile trip for experienced Pines paddlers; expect downfalls and portages. Pinelands Preservation Alliance has launched Pinelands Adventures, which we'll use for our shuttle: <http://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)

Jul 27 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 10am. We'll paddle 10+ miles from Penny Pot to Weymouth. Meet at the Harley Dawn Diner: <http://www.harleydawn diner.com> - arrive early for breakfast. Palace Outfitters will shuttle our group. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

AUGUST

Aug 3 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am. We'll paddle 7 miles from Ore Pond to Dudley Park. Rental boats are available from Cedar Creek Campground: <http://www.cedarcreeknj.com/kayak-canoe>. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Aug 5 (Sat): Patriots Path Stroll (Morris Co). 10am. Come take an easy stroll on Patriots Path in Morristown. This 5-mile stroll will start out from the Speedwell Lake parking lot: across the street from Historic Speedwell. See the Morris County Parks website (<http://www.morrisparks.org>) for directions, or put the following address into your preferred map engine: "300 Speedwell Ave, Morristown NJ 07960." Please bring plenty of water and a light snack. Great for beginners. Heavy/steady rain cancels. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@Yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Aug 6 (Sun): Hike Hartshorne Woods, Middletown and Highlands (Monmouth Co). 9am. Enjoy river and ocean views, as well as mature woods. 4 or 5 miles, easy pace, some ups and downs, bring plenty of water, beginners welcome, supportive footwear recommended, a maximum of 12 adults. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com. (JS)

Aug 8 (Tues): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 9am. It's 48 years - forget the "optical goods"! We're paddling 10 miles from Hawkin Bridge to Beaver Branch. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental: 609-726-1380 or www.mickscanorental.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Aug 12 (Sat): Sterling Forest Hike and Splash, Tuxedo NY (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/74/>. This hike will be 7 miles in 4 hours in hilly terrain. If the weather is hot enough we will dip our feet in the water. Features: Bare Rock Lookout and the shore of Sterling Lake. Difficulty: moderately strenuous Facilities: there is a port-a-potty near the parking lot. There are restrooms at the visitor center. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. Registration required via web: http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp. If you haven't hiked with the leader before, include a brief description of your hiking experience with your registration. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via e-mail to members who register. Leader: [<The_Hikist@mac.com>](mailto:Jimi Oleksiak).

Aug 13 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Hunterdon Co). 9am. We're paddling 15 miles from Kingwood Access to Lambertville; lunch break at the Hot Dog Man's River "Restaurant"; bring or buy lunch. Paddling helmets required for all participants; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. 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)

Aug 16 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak the Crosswicks Creek (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 8:30am. Join us for an early morning tidal trip - no shuttle. Meet at Bordentown Beach - end of Park St. Participants must have their own boats; rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Aug 18 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River from Bordentown to Burlington - A Tale of Two River Cities! (Burlington Co). 10:30am. This is a 10-mile tidal trip and only for experienced paddlers. Expect power boat traffic and boat wakes. Kayaks must be 12 ft or over; spray skirts recommended. Bring lunch and water. Rental boats 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)

Aug 19 (Sat): Scenic hike in Ramapo Reservation (Bergen Co). Discuss becoming a Sierra Club hike leader. 10am. 8-9-mile easy-moderate loop passing several lakes and some beautiful viewpoints. Exact loop/length of hike will be determined by temperature. Anyone who may be interested in becoming a hike leader for the Sierra Club can learn about qualifications required, map reading skills, and routing/planning a hike. Rain will cancel. Lunch and 2 liters of water required. Group limited to 10 participants who must preregister. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, Outings Director, NJ Sierra Club: ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

Aug 20 (Sun): Norvin Green State Forest hike (Passaic Co). 10am. 8-mile circular hike at a moderate pace, but with two steep rocky ascents to beautiful outcroppings/viewpoints. Several streams provide opportunities to dip our feet and cool off. Rain or 90+ degree heat will cancel. Lunch and 2 liters of water required. Group limited to 12 participants who must preregister. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz: ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

Aug 24 (Thur): Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co). 10am. We'll paddle 10+ miles from Penny Pot to Weymouth. Meet at the Harley Dawn Diner: <http://www.harleydawn diner.com> - arrive early for breakfast. Palace Outfitters will shuttle our group. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Aug 27 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River Water Gap (Warren Co). 10am. The Delaware is the longest undammed river in the East. Learn about "fracking" and what you can do as a Sierra Club Activist to protect the Watershed. Paddling helmets required for all paddlers; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Rentals are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders for further information: Leona & George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Aug 31 (Thur): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Hunterdon Co). 10am. We're paddling 8 miles from Kingwood Access to Bulls Island; lunch break at the Hot Dog Man's River "Restaurant"; bring or buy lunch. Paddling helmets required for all participants; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. 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)

SEPTEMBER

Sept 4 (Mon): Mercer Park - Land and Water Cleanup - Sierra Club Water Sentinels and Princeton University SVC (Mercer Co). 10am to 1pm. Lake Mercer was formed by Assunpink Dam #20 and is part of the Delaware River Watershed. Join the NJ Sierra Club and the Princeton University Student Volunteers Council for their 8th Annual Cleanup at Mercer County Park. Help us pick up litter and trash as we enjoy a scenic walk along Lake Mercer and the lovely wooded trails. Or you can bring your kayak/canoe to collect trash on the lake (life jackets must be worn). Bring lunch and water. Bring gloves; trash bags will be provided. Contact leaders to confirm the cleanup: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Sept 7 (Thur): D&R Canal Land and Water Cleanup - Sierra Club Water Sentinels and Princeton University SVC (Mercer Co). 10am-1pm. The Princeton University Student Volunteers Council and the NJ Sierra Club are partnering for their 8th Annual Land and Water Cleanup of the D&R Canal as part of the Sierra Club Water Sentinels Program for the Delaware River Watershed. Walk along the canal to pick up litter or bring your canoe/kayak to collect trash in the water. Our cleanup will take place in the Lawrenceville section of the canal; meet at Cherry Tree Lane. Bring lunch and water. Trash bags will be provided. Contact George & Leona F. to confirm time: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Sept 9 (Sat): Ramapo Valley Reservation, Mahwah (Bergen/Passaic Cos). 10am. <http://www.co.bergen.nj.us/843/Ramapo-Valley-County-Reservation>. The hike will cover 7 miles in 4 hours in moderately rugged terrain. Features: Cascades, McMillan Reservoir, Bear Swamp Lake. Difficulty: moderately strenuous Facilities: there is a restroom building near the parking lot. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-

(continued on page 12)



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Regional Issues Coordinator
* Joan Denzer (JDenzer73@yahoo.com)

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Personnel Committee
Rich Isaac**, Joan & George Denzer, John Kashwick, Ken Johanson, Paul Sanderson

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

Litigation Oversight Committee
Greg Auriemma**, Ken Johanson

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

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

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

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Issue Coordinators

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Asbestos and Toxic Dust Issues
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Gina Carola (see left column)

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Open Position!

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Bonnie Tillery (see left column)

Recycling Issues
Open Position!

Risk Assessment Analyst
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Jeff.Tittel@SierraClub.org

Administrative Assistant: Toni Granato
Toni.Granato@SierraClub.org

Communications and Legislative Coordinator: Jamie Zaccaria
Jamie.Zaccaria@SierraClub.org

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.

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

OUTINGS

(Continued from page 11)

pack with water required. Bring a lunch. Registration required via web: http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/nj_calendar.asp. If you haven't hiked with the leader before, include a brief description of your hiking experience with your registration. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via e-mail to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: <the_hikist@mac.com>.

Sept 10 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am. We'll paddle 8 miles from Lake Oswego to Harrisville Lake. Meet at Lake Oswego. Boats can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe/Kayak Rental: 609-726-1380 or www.mickscanoe.com/. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Sept 13 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek (Ocean Co). 9am. It's the Virgos b'day paddle!! We'll eat cake and paddle 7 miles from Ore Pond to Dudley Park. Cedar Creek is one of the prettiest Pines streams. Boats can be rented from Cedar Creek Campgrounds: www.cedarcreeknj.com/ or 732-269-1413. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Sept 17 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Hunterdon Co). 9am. The trip is 18 miles from Rieglesville to Bulls Island. Paddling helmets required for all participants; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Kayaks must be 12ft+ for this trip. Bring lunch and beverage. Rentals are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip, meeting location and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Sept 22 (Fri): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware River (Hunterdon Co). 10am. It's the First Day of Autumn! We'll paddle 7 miles from Bulls Island to Lambertville. Paddling helmets required for all participants; spray skirts recommended for kayakers. Bring lunch and beverage. Rentals are not available. Current Sierra Club membership required. Contact leaders to confirm trip, meeting location and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Sept 23 (Sat): Turtleback Rock, South Mountain Reservation (Essex Co). 10am. We will start at Turtleback Rock trailhead. See the Essex County Parks Commission website: <http://www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/south-mountain-reservation> for directions, or Google "turtle back rock picnic area". Bring lots of water, and wear hiking boots. We will take the orange trail down to Hemlock Falls and also see the famous Turtleback Rock. Heavy/steady rain cancels. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@Yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Sept 24 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware and Raritan Canal on World Rivers Day (Somerset Co). 9:30am. World Rivers Day is a global celebration of the world's waterways, observed every last Sunday in September. The D&R Canal is a drinking water resource for almost 2 million residents of NJ. Our 7-mile round trip will be on the Griggstown - Blackwells Mills section of the canal. Rentals are available from Griggstown Canoe and Kayak Rental. Bring lunch and water. Please register with leaders for details and to confirm the trip: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

OCTOBER

Oct 1 (Sun): Pinelands Month - Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. We're paddling 10 miles from Hawkin Bridge to Beaver Branch. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental: 609-726-1380 or www.mickscanoe.com. 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.

July 8, August 12 and September 9

All at the Reformed Church of Highland Park, 19-21 S. Second Ave., about a mile north of the New Brunswick Train Station



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Thank you to all who contributed to this issue!
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Reports from Trenton

New Water Supply Master Plan Puts Our Drinking Water at Risk

By Senior Chapter Director Jeff Tittel (Jeff.Tittel@Sierraclub.org)

After two decades of inaction, the DEP has come out with an extremely flawed Water Supply Master Plan. The 2017 revisions to the NJSWSP (State Water Supply Plan) are intended to improve the management and protection of New Jersey's water supplies, and is one of the most important strategic documents produced by the DEP. It is supposed to be based on the best available science and data. It considers both the threats and the options to ensure that New Jersey has abundant clean water for future generations. The plan has three serious flaws: failure to consider groundwater contamination from toxic sites, sea level rise, which promotes salt water intrusion into rivers and coastal aquifers, and climate change, which is responsible for changing weather patterns.



The plan over-estimates the amount of water available and hides water deficits, by the expedient of averaging data over large watershed units (HUC 11s; "Hydrologic Unit Codes") instead of considering the higher level of detail that really matters (known as HUC 14s). For example, by looking at the entire watershed that includes Wanauque Reservoir, including the water supply intakes above the Reservoir, water supply above the Pompton intake, and Little Falls on the Passaic River, they are able to say that there is enough clean water for all the communities that withdraw it from the Passaic River. The problem is that no one drinks that water because of non-point source pollution and sewer discharge. Thus they hide real deficits in our water supply. Another example: 90 percent of the HUC 14s in the Highlands are in deficit, but you won't learn it from this Plan.

Even with all the deception, this Plan still shows that New Jersey will soon consume more than the available water supply. There is no proper characterization of each sub-watershed, which could identify existing and future problems as well as ways to address them. The plan doesn't identify which parts of New Jersey will soon become depleted, or provide alternatives to protect watersheds from going into water supply deficit. Many areas in New Jersey could run out of water, including Bergen and Passaic Counties, Union and Middlesex Counties, and South Jersey.

There is nothing in the update about changing weather patterns, resulting in longer growing seasons that cause plants and people to use more water, as well as changing rainfall patterns whereby some parts of the state will get less and some will get more. Our low reservoir levels have led to an increased threat of salt water intrusion. The Delaware River is becoming salty dangerously close to water intake points in Delran, not to mention the concerns of the City of Philadelphia.

The Plan's time-horizon extends only until 2025, which is incompatible with Water Allocation Permits that are good for 10 years. We urge a 20 or 30 year horizon to understand the need in each region. The Plan mentions South Jersey's Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer study that was first recommended by the Sierra Club, which helped pass legislation in 2000 to get it done. While it still isn't done (the completion date was to have been 2005), South Jersey is pumping away, which has hurt the coastal plain and the Pinelands.

The Plan fails to provide data for how much water we have in our rivers and streams. That's because they have not redone the Q710, which is the standard for water withdrawal. Based on a 7-day low flow period of a ten year drought, water allocations are not supposed to exceed that number. However, Q710s haven't been recalculated in 30 years, which means that we may be removing water that could cause serious reductions in stream flow. For example, the Ramapo River has been in a 10-year drought every other year!

DEP is looking the other way with regard to impervious cover. Because surface water has been diverted into storm-water outfalls into streams, we now have groundwater levels dropping throughout the state. This is also caused by upstream development robbing areas of water and discharge from sewer plants. In 1996 approximately 15 percent of streams were considered pristine. Today only one stream system in the state, the Flat Brook, meets all the criteria of the Clean Water Act. The sprawl line or the line of water monitors showed water impairments move 10 miles inland toward the headwaters of many stream systems. Also, only 5% of our waterways are fishable or swimmable.

Six New Jersey reservoirs have closed in the last 20 years because of pollution, and thousands of wells have closed because of contamination. This Plan doesn't consider this loss of water supply. The Passaic and Raritan Rivers are running between 75 and 90 percent of normal flow. This makes droughts worse because we don't have enough back-up supply in our reservoirs. In 1999, northern New Jersey almost ran out of water. If it wasn't for Hurricane Floyd, we would have.

The plan, with its five appendices, can be found here:
<http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/wsp.html>

Three public hearings will be held:

- North - Millburn Public Library, Millburn, Wed, July 12, 2017 3pm.
- Central - 401 East State St, Trenton Tues, July 11, 2017 1pm.
- South - Stockton University, Board of Trustees Room, Campus Center, Thurs, July 13, 1pm.

Trump's 100 Days: A Disaster for Environment and Climate

From a press release issued by our Chapter Staff on April 28: Jeff Tittel, Jamie Zaccaria and Toni Granato; edited by Irene Gnarra

On taking office in January, President Donald Trump declared immediate war on the environment. His actions during his first 100 Days have exacerbated the problems of climate change, clean air and water, and public health. By supporting the use of fossil fuels and rolling back air and water protections, he is making our country and our planet dirtier and more dangerous. He has begun rolling back the 47 years of rules and regulations (counting from Earth Day, 1970) that keep our communities healthy and our wild places wild. We must continue to denounce his attacks on our environment and our climate. To date, we give him 'F' for Frightening.



Jamie Zaccaria (L) and Toni Granato (R)

Climate: Instead of understanding climate change as one of the biggest threats to our country, Trump believes that it is a hoax invented in China. With the support of his cabinet appointees, and climate-deniers tied to oil and gas industries, Trump has proposed that the United States withdraw from the worldwide Paris Accords.

All agencies in Trump's administration have been prohibited from including climate change considerations in their rules and regulations. A broad executive order forbids federal action on climate change and promotes fossil fuels over renewable energy, suspending more than a half-dozen measures adopted by the Obama Administration to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Trump intends to eliminate Obama's Clean Power Plan, which will increase the limits on methane leaks. His plans include rescinding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) - that directs agencies to account for the climate crisis, and he will eliminate review of emissions standards for new oil and gas operations.

He has rolled back the tailpipe regulations under the Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) standards set by the Obama Administration, which apply to about a third of the total greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. He has also cut programs for home heating and weatherization. He wants to eliminate research on renewable energy, such as wind and solar. He has supported natural gas and oil pipelines, overturning President Obama's rejection of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access Pipelines. He signed a series of executive orders on offshore drilling, opening new areas of the Atlantic and Arctic oceans. These actions will increase the rise in sea level and flooding, affecting people who live along the coasts.

Budget: Trump proposes to cut the EPA budget by 31 percent. This includes a 45 percent drop in funding for the states, a 23 percent drop in enforcement, and a 30 percent cut for Superfund Site cleanups. The EPA will lose its Office of Environmental Justice, with programs to remediate lead poisoning in our water supply. New Jersey's DEP gets half of its money from the EPA, including \$100 million/year for stormwater systems and replacing lead pipes.

Other governmental agencies and programs would also suffer cuts. NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) has programs to combat climate change that would lose 70 percent of funding. The New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium would lose \$1.8 million. Coastal water quality monitoring would be cut, including New Starts, an infrastructure grant program intended to support the Hudson River Gateway project.

Land: Trump would cut the Department of Interior's budget by 12 percent, and open public lands to fracking. He would like to privatize our National Parks. He supports repealing the Antiquities Act, which enables the designation of National Monuments. He has ordered the Interior Department to review the size and scope of National Monuments larger than 100,000 acres, with the intention of de-listing them. He has also lifted a moratorium on coal leasing on federal lands. He has directed the Bureau of Land Management to rescind the 2015 rule updating controls on hydraulic fracturing (fracking) on federal and tribal lands. His environmental disdain extends to overturning protections for hibernation of bears and wolves in Alaska and eliminating grants for research on the dangerous pesticide chlorpyrifos.

Air: Trump is promoting coal-fired power plants, one of the largest sources of pollution in the country. He has rolled back rules for ozone, which affects people with respiratory problems, including children with asthma. He has rolled back the Mercury and Air Toxic Rules.

Water: The President's attack on water regulations is an attack on our health and safety. He wants to repeal the Waters of the United States Rule, which protects wetlands and prevents flooding, and has cut funding for Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes cleaning. He has repealed protections against the dumping of coal waste into streams. Such pollution compromises our drinking water.

Appointments: Trump's Secretary of State, Exxon CEO Rex Tillerson, represents the interests of Big Oil over the people of the United States. Scott Pruitt, the new EPA Administrator, now heads an agency that he has worked against for his entire political career. Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior, is a supporter of coal mining and oil and gas exploration. Rick Perry, heading the Department of Energy, is pro-mining, pro-fracking, and pro-destruction of public lands. Neil Gorsuch, his choice for the U.S. Supreme Court, comes with a pro-corporate, anti-environmental record.

So it is with good reason that 61 percent of Americans think that President Trump is doing a bad job on the environment. And that the Sierra Club joined thousands of other groups at the People's Climate March in Washington, DC, after Trump's 100th day. (See article on p. 1)

*On the Trail - Guest Column***The Unbearable Whiteness of Hiking and How to Solve It**

By Lornett Vestal and Matthew Nichols

It's fitting that America's most famous wilderness guide, Sacajawea of the Lemhi Shoshone tribe, was a woman of color. But it's also tragic that throughout American history, ethnic minorities have so often been underrepresented or intentionally excluded from the outdoors.

Today, research from industry groups like the Outdoor Foundation bears out the conclusion that minority groups simply don't go outside. Consider this data point: in any given year, less than half of African American adolescents age 13 to 17 will participate in even one outdoor recreation activity.

The issue isn't that people of color in America don't care about nature or environmental issues. In fact, surveys of racial minorities consistently show they are more concerned than whites about climate change and more supportive of policies to fix it.

So what is keeping people of color from participating in outdoor recreation and enjoying its benefits? As activist and author Glenn Nelson writes, "Because the outdoors remains a largely white domain, it is up to white America to invite communities of color in, to enlist us as allies."

Here are a few proven strategies for outings leaders (and well-meaning white folks) who want to be part of the solution:

Let's Talk About Race

Dialogue is the first step toward promoting true inclusion and diversity at a much deeper level. We must address the issue of race head on and understand that we live in a society that offers one group of people advantages based on the color of their skin, while systematically oppressing other groups.

For example, while the National Park system has been justly lauded as "America's best idea," we must acknowledge that the parks originally excluded people of color. Given that history, it becomes easier to understand why minorities may continue to feel unwelcome in the outdoors.

Educating ourselves about environmental racism, or the disproportionate burden of pollution born by people of color from poor urban blacks to Latino farmer workers, is also crucial. An appreciation of environmental justice allows us to offer programming that speaks to these communities' concerns.

Lower Barriers, Not Standards

Outdoor sports can present daunting barriers to entry, in terms of equipment

and skills. Options like carpooling or sharing gear can go a long way toward reducing the costs of participation. But there's a fine line between lowering barriers and offering less worthwhile programming.

To learn how to better do that, we turned to an unlikely source for advice: the United States Army. In recent years, the military has made a concerted push to promote diversity and inclusion, despite significant pushback from some conservative pundits.

In 2015, the first female soldiers graduated Ranger School, a notoriously difficult course that nearly 60% of soldiers fail to complete. David Fivecoat, an Army colonel who oversaw the Ranger training program during the gender integration, says the key to getting buy-in was "uniformity and transparency."

"All students were held to and met the same standards regardless of gender," Fivecoat says. The goal on recreational outings isn't to create a bootcamp-like atmosphere, but we should expect mutual respect and accountability among everyone we take outdoors.

In fact, across all demographic groups, "developing my self-confidence" was a major reason to engage in outdoor recreation, according to the Outdoor Foundation study.

Use Plain but Precise Language

When promoting outings, avoid jargon in your marketing materials, opting instead for clear, objective terms, such as distances and elevations, as well as qualifiers like "moderate" or "strenuous" that classify terrain, not people. Phrases like "for beginners" may be well-intended but risk infantilizing participants.

Promoting diversity does not mean neglecting to discuss the area's ecology or "Leave No Trace" practices. According to Dr. L. Michelle Baker, a writing expert who trains environmental scientists to communicate better with the public, the key is to "state your message simply without simplifying it."

She cautions that "scientists have become so accustomed to speaking with one another that they can have difficulty distinguishing between scientific lingo and commonly understood terms." As outdoors leaders, we can be guilty of this same tendency.

The solution? By showing people from diverse backgrounds what is "so cool, so beautiful, and so worthwhile" about a particular natural area, she says, outings leaders create an ideal opportunity to

"make your information relevant without being melodramatic."

Imagery Matters, So Lead by Reflection

Strive to cultivate a diverse group of leaders within your organization. For would-be participants from under-represented groups, seeing people like them in leadership roles will inspire confidence that this organization understands and welcomes them.

For better or worse, perception of outdoor recreation is tied up with the advertising used to sell outdoor gear. When people see catalogues filled with images of overwhelmingly fit, young, white people, it sends a subconscious signal that the outdoors is meant for people who look like that.

To quote Jose Gonzalez, founder of the advocacy group Latino Outdoors, "'Estamos aqui' is the message. It's a declaration Latinos are making, more and more, while stepping off yellow buses and other modes of transport onto slopes, beaches and peaks across the country."

Just the act of being present and recognized matters. As inclusive leaders, we can promote a sense of belonging and ownership through the imagery we project in marketing materials, on our websites and in the leaders we mentor and develop within our organizations.

Codify the Commitment

Putting pen to paper can help ensure progressive policies live on after turnover in leadership or membership. Announcing a commitment to diversity on your outing club's website sends a clear message and helps create a welcoming environment for all.

"It just wasn't even remotely in anybody's consciousness that someone might object to LGBTQ lifestyles. That was a tremendous testament to the character of the conference," says Joe Kopena, former director of the Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference.

However, recognizing there were transgender students who wanted to race bikes but were unsure of the rules governing their participation, the conference organizers "set about to codify that spirit of equality" with a formal policy, Kopena says.

The same principles apply for outings leaders looking to boost diversity and inclusion: be proactive, research other organizations' policies, and use your group's website, leader manual or

code of conduct to codify your club's commitment.

Step Up, Step Back

Simply incorporating a social dimension in your outings can promote diversity. According to the study by the Outdoor Foundation, "talking to new/varied people" was a greater motivation for Hispanics, African Americans and Asian Americans to participate in outdoor activities than it was for whites.

Organizing an optional group meal immediately after a whitewater run or crag session is a great way to structure a more inclusive outing. Sitting around a table together provides an opportunity to contribute for people who may have felt out of their comfort zone when dangling on top-rope, for example.

As Glenn Nelson notes, "Race matters for reasons that really are only skin deep, that cannot be discussed any other way, and that cannot be wished away. Race matters because of the slights, the snickers, the silent judgments that reinforce that most crippling of thoughts: I do not belong here."

Sitting down together to break bread can help counter that subconscious feeling of alienation and ensure that everyone comes back for subsequent outings feeling welcomed and affirmed.

Everyone Outside

Building broad coalitions that are representative of the communities in which we live is critical to the success of any movement. The theory of change is simple and well-tested: people who hike, bike, climb, kayak or ski tend to make lifestyle choices and take political actions that promote conservation.

People of color are already leaders in the fight to stop climate change. In this era of seemingly unsurmountable ideological divisions, coming together as communities to experience nature is perhaps one of the most profound political statements we can make.

To quote Glenn Nelson, "It's not a cure for this ailing world. It may not even be a saving grace. But it's something — something that makes me believe it doesn't matter if I'm not white. I still count, and I will have my say."

Lornett Vestal is the Southeastern Military and Veteran Coordinator at the Sierra Club. Matt Nichols is an environmental consultant, currently on contract to the U.S. Army. This piece represents their shared views, not those of their respective employers.