



The Jersey..... SIERRA

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More than 22,000 Members in New Jersey

October–December 2017

Long Swamp a Hidden Gem

By Laura Tracey-Coll, Conservation Chair of our North Jersey Group
(LauraTraceyColl@hotmail.com)

There's a hidden wilderness, called Long Swamp, at the border between Fort Lee and Palisades Park (Bergen Co). Few know of its existence, and this is a key factor in why it is disappearing.

It's in the midst of traffic congestion, overdevelopment, and bad air quality¹. It's also in the shadow of the Palisades, where its lush greenery provides fresh air breezes, and food and shelter to wildlife in a metropolitan area. These 16 acres of steep-sloped, wooded, freshwater wetlands contain an "unnamed" and ignored tributary to Overpack Creek, which then empties into the Hackensack River.

I'm one of a group of area residents who are Sierra Club members and would hate to see it morph into "Aquaterra": a seventeen-floor luxury high-rise development atop six floors of parking. So we called on the Club's North Jersey Group to organize a campaign.

Joined by Group Chair Buddy Jenssen,

we soon discovered that the application for development was deficient: the traffic study was inadequate, the "Shared Services Sewer Agreement" questionable, the wetland buffer map is 24 years old, and Fort Lee's steep slope ordinance was ignored. The application lacked an Environmental Assessment for two endangered bird species and one turtle species. But, in true New Jersey fashion, we knew this application had a good chance of being approved.

Palisades Park is a very nice Borough. It has done a good job of rehabilitating older and senior housing to meet COAH (Council on Affordable Housing) obligations, but perhaps not enough. Years ago, Long Swamp was conceded, by a COAH lawsuit, to a developer named Rosenshein, who went bankrupt in 2011. That saved it - then.

Now comes a new developer named



Berkeley, who has hired local officials and contractors as professionals, and prepared a new development plan that would rip the area up by the roots and challenge almost every development guideline in Palisades Park. "Aquaterra" has zero setbacks and more than twice the allowed height. It would encroach on wetlands on three sides, the other side converting a paper street into a parking helix. It requires a (d)(1) use-variance, possibly a (d)(5) density-variance, a (d)

(continued on page 3)

SIERRA CLUB BALLOT

2017 Election of Officers of the New Jersey Chapter and its Groups

All Sierra Club members in the New Jersey Chapter are invited to vote for Club officers, both Chapter-wide and in our Groups. Club members have the **choice** of voting **electronically** or by **this paper ballot**.

The **Chapter's Executive Committee (ExCom)** meets monthly for discussion of State, regional and other environmental issues, to take policy positions (including initiation of legal actions), make political endorsements, hear reports from staff and volunteer officers, elect the Chapter Chair, socialize, and consider matters arising.

ExCom consists of nine at-large members serving three-year terms, three of whom are elected each year, plus one representative sent by each of our twelve active regional Groups, usually the Group Chair. Please vote for the three at-large ExCom members and for the leadership of your regional Group.

This year's five Chapter ExCom candidates were selected by a Nominating Committee consisting of Gina Carola, Bonnie Tillery and Jonathan Wall. (There was a mechanism for additional nominations by petition, but no such petitions were received this year.) Club rules require two more candidates than the number of openings; when an insufficient number of candidates is on offer, write-in slots are provided.

If the Sierra Club has your e-mail address in its records, you will receive in October a ballot by e-mail, and you may vote EITHER online, as described below, OR by this paper ballot. If you cast an online ballot, any paper ballot you mail in *will not be counted*. Online votes must be cast by December 1, 2017.

(continued on page 2)

The Most Important Action You Can Take For the Environment-VOTE!

By John Kashwick, Chapter Political Chair (jkashwick@gmail.com)

Recycling bottles, driving an electric car, and using a canvas bag at the grocery, feel good. You are doing something for the environment. Yes, these are nice and necessary, but the most important thing you can do takes only a few minutes each year- Vote!

We elect our decision-makers at the local, county, state, and federal levels. That has far greater impact on the environment than you alone could have. Their votes on town councils and freeholder boards, and in the NJ Legislature and Congress, affect the quality of land, water, and air far more than actions most of us could take as individuals.

While Donald Trump sends outrageous tweets that consume media coverage, Congress and his Administration are hard at work dismantling the Environmental Protection Agency and selling off our public lands, among other things. We need to do more than resist- we need to forge ahead and advocate for policies that make progressive change.

On the State level, we anticipate a renaissance! With Christie's eight years ending, we look forward to a new chapter in New Jersey's environment. This year, our Political Committee met with incumbents and wannabe state legislators, and found that many candidates see climate change and the environment as major issues. The vetted candidates listed in the box impressed us with their questionnaire responses and pro-environmental advocacy during their interviews.

They have described cogent plans to accomplish local climate change mitigation, public land stewardship, cleaner water and air, better public transportation, the opportunity for family planning, and the promotion of environmental justice. No candidate can be expected to agree with us on every issue, but for most of our concerns their pro-environmental commitments and demonstrated ability to get things done elevates them above their opponents. The Sierra Club is proud to endorse them.

Beyond voting, there are other steps you can take to get involved. Phil Murphy's Gubernatorial race, State legislative races, county and local level races all need your support. For more information, please contact your Group's Political Chair, listed in the Group News section of this newsletter, or you can contact me directly at jkashwick@gmail.com or 201-294-1092. We welcome your participation!

To find your district, please visit: <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp>

To register to vote, please visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/voting-information.html>

PS: The New Jersey Chapter also took the extraordinary step at its August meetings to early-endorse two Congressional heroes for reelection in 2018: Congresspersons Frank Pallone (D-6) and Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-12) both have perfect scores as judged by the League of Conservation Voters, and both have sponsored many pieces of outstanding environmental legislation.

Political Endorsements: State Races

For Governor/Lt. Governor: Phil Murphy/Sheila Oliver (D)

District For State Senate

- | | |
|----|------------------------------|
| 2 | |
| 6 | |
| 7 | |
| 8 | George B. Youngkin (D) |
| 10 | Jim Holzapfel (R) * |
| 11 | Vin Gopal (D) |
| 12 | |
| 13 | Sean F. Byrnes (D) |
| 14 | Linda R. Greenstein (D) * |
| 15 | Shirley K. Turner (D) * |
| 16 | Kip Bateman (R) * |
| 17 | Bob Smith (D) * |
| 18 | Patrick J. Diegnan Jr. (D) * |
| 19 | Joseph F. Vitale (D) * |
| 20 | |
| 21 | |
| 22 | |
| 23 | Christine Lui Chen (D) |
| 24 | |
| 26 | Elliot Isibor (D) |
| 27 | Richard Codey (D) * |
| 28 | |
| 33 | |
| 34 | |
| 36 | |
| 37 | Loretta Weinberg (D) * |
| 38 | Bob Gordon (D) * |
| 39 | Linda H. Schwager (D) |
| 40 | Thomas Duch (D) |

For General Assembly

- | |
|-------------------------------|
| Vince Mazzeo (D) * |
| Pamela R. Lampitt (D) * |
| Herb Conaway (D) * |
| Carol Murphy (D) |
| Joanne Schwartz (D) |
| Maryann Merlino (D) |
| Dave Wolfe (R) * |
| Eric Houghtaling (D) * |
| Joann Downey (D) * |
| Robert D. Clifton (R) * |
| Tom Giaimo (D) |
| Mariel Didato (D) |
| Daniel R. Benson (D) * |
| Reed Gusciora (D) * |
| Elizabeth Maher Muoio (D) * |
| Andrew Zwicker (D) * |
| Roy Freiman (D) |
| Joe Daniels (D) * |
| Nancy J. Pinkin (D) * |
| Robert J. Karabinchak (D) * |
| Craig J. Coughlin (D) * |
| Jamel C. Holley (D) * |
| Lacey Rzeszowski (D) |
| James J. Kennedy (D) * |
| Laura Shaw (D) |
| Charles Boddy (D) |
| Kate Matteson (D) |
| Gina Trish (D) |
| John F. McKeon (D) * |
| Mila M. Jasey (D) * |
| Ralph R. Caputo (D) * |
| Raj Mukherji (D) * |
| Thomas P. Giblin (D) * |
| Gary Schaer (D) * |
| Marlene Caride (D) * |
| Valerie Vainieri Huttie (D) * |
| Gordon M. Johnson (D) * |
| Tim Eustace (D) * |
| Joseph A. Lagana (D) * |
| Jannie Chung (D) |
| Annie Hausman (D) |
| Paul Vagianos (D) |
| Christine Ordway (D) |

* denotes incumbent. If district does not appear or left blank, no endorsement was made in the race.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Conservation Report: Electric Vehicles	2
Our Loss of Greg Auriemma.....	2
Chapter Chair: Importance of Voting	3
Editorial: Blue Blazes	3
ExCom's Summer Resolutions.....	3
<u>Reports from Members:</u> Gates Foundation, Clean Energy Progress, Biking through Polluted Air, Future of Bees.....	4-5
<u>Reports from Trenton:</u> Gateway Tunnel to Manhattan, Six Flags Lawsuit, Wetlands War, Climate Change Legislation	4-5
Group and Section News.....	6-10
Fall Outings	11-12
Leaders, Meetings, Membership Form	12

More in the Electronic Edition Only Reports from Members:

Bear's Ears (Utah), Carbon Pricing, Green Team History, Growth in Camden, Risk from Natural Gas Pipelines	13-14
Toni Granato's Tribute to Greg Auriemma..	14
<u>Conservation Report:</u> Mayors Agree to Renewables.....	15
<u>Report from Trenton:</u> Oil Train Safety.....	15
On the Trail in Cheesquake State Park ..	15
<u>Mixed Reports:</u> Protecting Water Supplies, Congress Opposition to Pres. Trump, NJ Gubernatorial Race, Map of Blue Blaze Route	16
<u>From Trenton:</u> Haz. Waste Facility, Highlands Septic Rule, RGGI, Coal Plants, Offshore Drilling, Climate, Pipelines.....	17-18

BALLOT

(Continued from page 1)

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

To vote online: click on the link in the e-mail you receive. If you have a joint membership, pairs of boxes are provided to enable each member to cast a separate vote. The ballot page will have links to the same candidate statements as are printed in this newsletter.

To vote by paper ballot: Please vote the ballot below; then clip the ENTIRE ballot on the heavy-dashed line, and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Dec 1, to **Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618**. PAIRS of boxes are to enable two members of family memberships to cast separate votes. **Note that a properly-clipped ballot will include the mailing label.** This is to verify your membership; it will be removed before ballots are counted.

Chapter ExCom Ballot: Candidates for three-year terms. Their portraits and 100-word statements are on this page. Name-order has been randomized. Please vote for UP TO THREE:

- ☐ Paul Sanderson
- ☐ Ken Johanson
- ☐ Laura Tracey-Coll
- ☐ Joe Testa
- ☐ Terry Stimpfel

Group Ballots

Group Ballots: Please vote your GROUP ExCom ballot, below.

Skylands Group: Candidates for six positions on the Group ExCom, who will serve for two years. Please vote for UP TO SIX:

- ☐ Susan Williams
- ☐ Jeri Doherty
- ☐ Mindy Geary
- ☐ Dave Alcock
- ☐ Joanne Morgan
- ☐ Write in: _____
- ☐ Write in: _____

South Highlands Group: Candidates for two positions on the Group ExCom, who will serve for two years. Please vote for UP TO TWO:

- ☐ Jonathan Wall
- ☐ Celeste Martin
- ☐ Write in: _____
- ☐ Write in: _____

Gateway Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO TWO:

- ☐ Suzanne Trimel
- ☐ Steven Yafet
- ☐ Write in: _____
- ☐ Write in: _____

Hudson County Group: Please vote for UP TO THREE candidates for two-year seats:

- ☐ Dave "Ace" Case
- ☐ Jon Perrelle
- ☐ Nancy Booth
- ☐ Write in: _____
- ☐ Write in: _____

Loantaka Group: Candidates for Group ExCom: Please vote for UP TO FIVE:

- ☐ Paul Sanderson
- ☐ Bruce Ostrow
- ☐ Len Fariello
- ☐ Write in: _____
- ☐ Write in: _____

Jersey Shore Group: Candidates for Group ExCom. Please vote for UP TO FIVE:

- ☐ Bob Sandberg
- ☐ Faith Teitelbaum
- ☐ George Moffatt
- ☐ Lara Zullo
- ☐ Stan Greberis
- ☐ Write in: _____
- ☐ Write in: _____

South Jersey Group: Candidates for two positions on the Group ExCom. 2-year terms. Please vote for UP TO TWO:

- ☐ Julie Akers
- ☐ Write in: _____
- ☐ Write in: _____

Conservation Chair's Report

Drive Electric!

By Greg Gorman (GGorman07419@embarqmail.com)



During National Drive Electric Week 2017 (Sept 9-17), events across the Nation provided families and policy makers the opportunity to discover the advantages of owning electric vehicles. (As I write this in August, events were planned in Atlantic City, Metuchen, Bridgewater, Morristown, and Vincentown.)

The price of electric and hybrid vehicles has dropped significantly and, with a projected increase in manufacturing rates and production improvements, the prices will continue to drop. Enticing carrots such as Federal tax breaks and New Jersey's sales tax exemption remain in place. With fewer moving parts, lower maintenance costs coupled with less expensive fuel result in continued cost benefits.

Health, environment, and climate impacts related to the extraction, processing, distribution, and consumption of fossil fuels are well documented. Electric vehicles (EVs), especially if they are powered by renewable energy, provide a means of fulfilling our moral imperative to "Do No Harm" to the environment.

From a policy perspective, EVs provide an opportunity to enhance societal benefits to accommodate a growing population and migration. Obviously, if you eliminate ozone and tailpipe emissions, construction material and paints designed to resist corrosion could be replaced by less-expensive materials. In the book "Climate of Hope" Michael

Bloomberg suggests that driverless EVs, and adopting a "ride-share" business model, would significantly reduce traffic congestion and enable conversion of parking garages to prettier and more productive land uses. The Woodbridge NJ "Climate Action Plan" includes a plan for "zipcars": a fleet of electric cars for shared use by residents and visitors. Imagine the opportunity for the economic disadvantaged when they have an affordable way to travel to market and workplace.

Worldwide, the trends clearly favor EVs. Norway plans to end sales of gas and diesel cars by 2025. India will sell only EVs by 2030. France and UK plan to do the same by 2040. Ireland is developing plans to decarbonize its transportation system by 2050. China presently has at least 600,000 EVs, is opening 100,000 public charging stations in 2017 alone, and is projected to sell 3 million EVs in 2020.

Sierra Club's Ready for 100% Clean Transportation initiative is a multifaceted program addressing issues of pedestrian mobility, biking, municipal fleets, zero emission bus transportation, Transit Oriented Development, electrification of the public transit system including our ports, and EV-charging installations in our cities and towns. Our New Jersey Chapter is a member of ChargeEVC, a coalition of business and environmental groups "to serve as a trusted resource for research and a singular voice for advocacy, leading to advanced EV markets development programs and policies."

So if you are shopping for a new vehicle, please consider buying an EV or rechargeable hybrid. It will be good for your pocketbook and for our planet's future.

Ballot Statements

(Name-order has been randomized)

Ken Johanson (Loantaka Group):

I served as chair of the New Jersey Chapter for eleven years and currently serve as a member of the executive committee, chair of the fundraising committee and a member of the finance and personnel committees. I was awarded the Chapter's Volunteer of the Year award in 2016, for which I am most thankful. I consider the New Jersey Chapter to be the most effective environmental organization in the State. I am proud to be a part of this effort and I look forward to continuing to work on advancing our agenda as a member of the executive committee.



Paul Sanderson (Loantaka Group):

I first joined the Sierra Club in the early 1990's and have served on the Loantaka Group ExCom as Membership Chair, Treasurer and Group Chair and Group Co-Chair during the following years. Also, I became the New Jersey Chapter Treasurer on January 1, 2017. I am an avid gardener and hiker, giving me an intense sense of caring about our environment. I credit my involvement and interest in politics to my activities with the Club, having participated in many candidate interviews and discussions to decide on political endorsements.



Terry Stimpfel (Central Jersey Group):

I joined Sierra in the 1990s. Ten years ago, I realized that I could contribute successfully to the Chapter environmental movement by becoming Central Group Chair and Political Chair. As an early opponent of fracking I became the first chapter Fracking Issues Coordinator. At



hearings, public meetings and rallies, in high school classrooms and with national action teams, I spread the message. Two years ago family illness forced me to step back from my roles but now I am eager to take up the environmental effort again as we fight an even greater challenge.

Joe Testa (Loantaka Group):

I'm currently serving as ExCom member, Chapter Secretary, Information Technology Chair, and our Chapter's delegate to the Club's national leader council. I'm our liaison with the coalition opposing the Pilgrim Pipeline in northern NJ. I've worked to redesign our web site and electronic election process, help local groups promote their events, and broaden the communication between our excellent Trenton staff, volunteers, members, and the public. An avid hiker, I joined the Sierra Club to participate in outings and to support a pro-environment agenda. I'd appreciate your vote so I can continue to put my experience to work for the Club.



Laura Tracey-Coll (North Jersey Group):

Four years Chapter ExCom, Chapter Chair two years; North Jersey Group ExCom 14 years, Conservation Chair two years, Political Committee ten years. Successful campaigns: in Elmwood Park: stopped Marcal Paper from emitting PCBs, hexavalent Chromium and Mercury; sued the federal government for better air-monitoring laws. In Newark: testified against the Newark Incinerator at all NJDEP hearings over 12 years; helped stop parking lot paving of the Ironbound. Attended Passaic River CAG meetings - backing up David Yennior. In Linden: active in Stop PurGen, a proposed carbon sequestration and fertilizer plant. Elizabeth: Lobbied Lisa Jackson (EPA) for school air-monitoring stations.



We are Saddened by the Loss of Greg Auriemma

Statement by NJ Sierra Club's Senior Chapter Director, Jeff Tittel, July 21st

They found Greg Auriemma's body in the Crawford Notch area of the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Greg had been missing for several weeks. He was the Chair of our Ocean County Group and a long-time active member of the Sierra Club. The search was conducted by NH Fish and Game and the NH Outdoors Council, aided by Greg's brother.

Greg was a good friend and a champion for the environment. Our hearts and prayers go out to his friends and family and to all who love him. Now is the time for remembering all the great things he did; his environmental work and activism will live on.

Greg founded our Ocean County Group about 20 years ago. As its Chair, he worked tirelessly on ocean issues while building the Group into one of our strongest. He tackled overdevelopment in Ocean County, protected Barnegat Bay, and led his Group members to the Climate March in D.C. A major project was to keep a road out of an open space preserve near Ocean County College. Whether it was organizing beach clean-ups, or stopping a sprawl development, you could always find Greg on the scene. He was the Chapter's Marine Issues

Coordinator and its Delegate to the Club's Atlantic Ecoregion task force, as well as an avid hiker.

He was one of our strongest voices on climate change, sea level rise, and rebuilding after Sandy. He was also active in politics and enjoyed getting involved in endorsement campaigns. He was integral in upgrading the Metedeconk River to a Category 1 waterway as well as protecting Trader's Cove in Brick. He opposed the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant and the gas pipeline attached to it. He was recognized by President Obama as a 'Champion of Change' for his efforts. He was also involved in fighting the Keystone XL pipeline.

Greg was my trusted friend and advisor.



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

Editorial

Blue Blazes

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

You have heard from me before about the Sierra Club's participation in the effort to produce a long-distance foot-path stretching the entire north-south length of New Jersey. We're calling it the "High Point to Cape May Point Hiking Trail and Greenway," and its length will be about 378 miles. Vermont has its "Long Trail," California its "John Muir Trail," and New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Rhode Island their systems of State-maintained long-distance trails, as presumably do many other states.

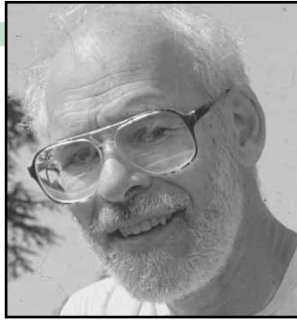
In New Jersey there's a High Point-Cape May Bike Route, and a Fort Lee-Trenton portion of the Maine-Florida East Coast Greenway, both mainly on paved roads, intended primarily for cyclists, managed by the Dept. of Transportation, and documented by glossy, spiral-bound brochures containing detailed maps and precise street-by-street instructions. And of course the Appalachian Trail cuts diagonally through Passaic, Sussex and Warren Counties. The NY-NJ Trail Conference maintains and publicizes many trails in northern NJ, and the Batona Trail connects three of our largest State Forests, but there's not yet a "system" of linked state trails.

So let's do it ourselves! Look for a new "Trail Guides" folder of our maps and descriptions on the Chapter website (www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/), under Reference Resources. Our leader is David Mattek, long the Chapter's Trails Issues Coordinator. Our co-leader, Frank Pearce, from the South Jersey Outdoor Club, has also worked hard out in the field, and contributes expertise with electronic map-making. Another significant contributor is Paul Sanderson, from our Loantaka Group. I'm delighted to report that the State Park and Fish & Wildlife officials we've met with have been fully supportive, as have many county officials.

Our task was easy north of Trenton (Riegelsville, to be exact), where the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, maintains a network of trails that needed merely to be stitched together: we're using portions of many existing trails, including the Appalachian, Waywayanda and Highlands Trails, and the D&R Canal towpath, which some of you will be surprised to learn parallels the Delaware River for almost 30 miles north of Trenton. The Trail Conference publishes several superb topographic maps with helpful guidance to points of interest and amenities.

Our original intention was to add our blue blazes to all the existing blaze color sets, but perhaps you won't be surprised by the "territoriality" of those who maintain the existing trails and protect them from "blaze contamination."

South of Trenton, the route through Ocean and Burlington Counties has been smooth going. But in Mercer, Monmouth, Atlantic, Cumberland and Cape May Counties, the public and other suitable parks and preserves are fewer and farther between, resulting in many disconnects, and on-road segments connecting the portions of wilderness. Rather than expecting rare individuals to hike continuously, our trail is probably more suitable for a series of separate day-hikes. These include (or will include) much of the Batona Trail, Amatol, Makepeace, Lake Lenape, Estell Manor and Tuckahoe sections of Atlantic County, a corner section of Cumberland Co., and the Belleplain and "east of Woodbine" sections of Cape May Co., south of which we'll use a new paved bikeway through middle and Lower Township that is a rail-trail conversion, and finally a newly constructed trail through the Higbee Wildlife



Management Area, just south of the Cape May Canal. Some of our initial route will be temporary, awaiting construction of bridges across streams and acquisition of connecting segments.

How can we entice hikers to try our routes? Long-time Club members will have noticed a decrease in hike-outings in recent decades, as fewer hike-leaders (and hikers) have felt the passion, perhaps as age has taken its toll on our stamina, perhaps as alternate enticements have whittled away at our available time, and perhaps as chigger and tick-borne dangers have increased. The lure of wilderness is an acquired taste, motivated best perhaps by the natural wonder of the landscape, including the quiet. I think it is most effectively instilled in childhood by mentors – including parents and camp counselors. Permit me to suggest the following opportunities to experience this peace, one in Atlantic County, and one in Sussex County:

Makepeace Wildlife Management Area (WMA) to Weymouth Furnace: Park at the State Shooting Range, on Elwood-Weymouth Rd (CR 623), just north of its overpass of the Atlantic City Expressway. Follow the blue blazes south along the roadside, for about 0.5 mile, until they lead you to jog left onto a parallel unpaved road on the dam holding back the east portion of Makepeace Lake. The next 0.7 mile southward offers continuous views of the main portion of Makepeace Lake, teeming with wildlife; listen for birds and frogs, look for butterflies and turtles; the final portion on the dam is freshly cleared trail, still rough with dips and twists. Turn left where the dam ends onto a dirt road that follows the southern edge of Makepeace Lake, always following the blue blazes. After 0.9 miles you leave the Lake and enter mixed woodland, containing clearings, spunges (water-holes that are sometimes dry) and tree-mixes that depend on elevation and dryness. At 1.7 miles on the dirt road the blazes take you to the right, onto a narrower sand road that eventually circles back to CR 623 near Weymouth Furnace. There's a missing bridge over "Big Ditch": the blazes end and the route peters out in cat-briar. The USGS topo-map shows where you can ford the ditch and continue for about another mile back to CR 623, but it takes skill, at least for now. Whichever way you return to CR 623, we recommend walking or driving south to Weymouth Furnace, an Atlantic County Park with an artesian spring, access to the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and well described remains of a water-powered 19th Century iron forge, two paper mills, mill pond, and a village for 20 families of workers. Should you require nourishment, we recommend the new "Backwoods" eatery: on the left about a mile west of Weymouth Furnace on US Rte 322, the Black Horse Pike.

Seven-mile circular walk in Waywayanda State Park, Sussex Co., forested and level, courtesy of Paul Sanderson. (Not yet blue-blazed!) The first two thirds is on the new long-distance route: Begin at the Park Office, taking the Hoefflerlin Trail north to its end on the Double Pond Trail; then follow the Double Pond Trail down to the Boat Launch parking lot. Cross the parking lot and take the Iron Mountain Trail back to the Appalachian Trail, then back to the Hoefflerlin Trail and back to the Park Office.

A map of the entire state-length trail is included on page 16 in the Electronic Supplement to this newsletter.

Chair's Message

Remember Greg by Registering to Vote

By Richard Isaac (risaacx@aol.com)



This past July the State of New Jersey, and all of us who care about the future of this planet, lost an environmental hero, Greg Auricemma, the Chair and a founding member of the Sierra Club's Ocean County Group.

His tragic loss will be felt not only by Greg's family, friends, and members of his Group, but throughout our Chapter.

I have known and considered Greg a close friend since I met him at the first meeting to organize the Ocean County Group: back in the Summer of 2005.

Greg had incredible drive, coupled with unbridled passion and commitment to protecting the environment, making him an extraordinary force for good.

His efforts made such a difference that on April 11th, 2013, the White House invited him down to declare him a "Champion of Change" for leading the efforts of his community in post-Sandy recovery, and for preparing for the consequences of climate disruption.

Greg will be sorely missed. But, knowing him, he would probably want us to do something to help the environment in his memory, rather than just feeling sorrow. So, in Greg's memory I offer this quotation from comments he presented this last May. I know he would approve whole-heartedly:

We should be sure our members are registered to vote. That's job # 1 for any political or quasi-political campaign.

Please remember that voting is a right of all U.S. citizens residing in our state who are at least 18 years old. To do so, you must be registered to vote at least 21 days in advance of an election. If you're reading this newsletter in early October, there's still time to vote in this year's important gubernatorial and state legislative elections. And if you're reading this too late to register for this year's November election, don't worry – I guarantee you that Greg would want you to register for next year's elections, which will also be critically important!

Greg would want you to know that, 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). You can download the postage-paid application form for your County from this link:

<http://www.nj.gov/state/elections/voting-information.html>.

So, this year and moving forward, please help keep Greg's spirit alive in a way he would approve of, and be sure that you are registered to vote – and make sure to vote for good environmental candidates!

Resolutions:

Passed by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in June, July and August, 2017

Additional Political Endorsements were made of candidates for seats in the State Legislature. See the complete list on p.1 (June, July and August).

In connection with a proposed high-rise development in a natural freshwater wetland called the Long Swamp, in Palisades Park and Fort Lee (Bergen Co), we voted our opposition to all such projects that would "encroach and disturb valuable freshwater wetlands and transitional wetlands buffer areas," especially those "natural areas which are most important to urban areas such as Palisades Park and Fort Lee" (July).

Hoping to influence National Sierra Club policy, we voted support for two resolutions that will be submitted to the annual (September) meeting of the Club's Council of Club Leaders (CCL). The CCL, which consists of delegates from each Chapter, may vote to forward them as recommendations to the Club's Board of Directors. One is that the entire Sierra Club endorse the U.N. Convention on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The other asks the Board to require newly-hired SC staff to attend at least one Chapter function so that they can become at least a little acquainted with the role of volunteers in the Club (July).

New Chapter Issue Coordinators were appointed: David Yennior for Recycling Issues, and Faith Teitelbaum for Watershed Issues (a change of title!). Also Ken Johanson as Legislative Coordinator, replacing the defunct Legislative Committee. Our Environmental Justice Committee was modified so as to have regional coordinators for North, Central and South Jersey (August).

LONG SWAMP

(Continued from page 1)

(6) height-variance and several (c) bulk-variances. To obtain some of those variances the applicant must prove "hardship." We struggle to see that hardship! The application flies in the face of good development planning: "Find a site, learn the environmental constraints, design within those confines."

With a steep slope in back, and only one residential access road, there's no room for emergency apparatus and traffic. The brunt of the impact would be on Fort Lee residents, yet no Fort Lee officials attended the hearings.

The project site lies below the ridge of the swamp, and encroaches on wetlands, so upland lots are being swapped to balance the loss. The wetland delineation maps are from 1989/1993, the topographic maps are from 2010, and I feel the boundaries are questionable. It is my opinion that the wetlands borders have

spread over the past 17 years and that the project's encroachment on wetlands is greater than indicated.

Mayor Sokolich of Fort Lee, and Mayor Rotonto of Palisades Park, were required to sign a Shared Services Agreement to provide police, fire, schools, utilities, etc. to this one "for profit" developer. Mayor Sokolich has shunned resident queries about the project. Fort Lee residents have collected more than 750 signatures on a petition urging their officials, including Council members, Planning Board members, and Environmental Committee-members, to attend the final hearing on Aug 21.

This is a David and Goliath battle. A way must be found for the State of New Jersey to acquire these wetlands and protect them permanently.

¹ <http://www.city-data.com/city/Fort-Lee-New-Jersey.html#ixzz4pMLCZwls>

Gender, Equity & Environment Issues Coordinator's Report

What Did You Do on Your Summer Vacation?

By Bonnie Tillery (Blt44blt@msn.com)

Remember that question from grade school? Well, thanks for asking. We visited some of our glorious National Parks in Oregon and Washington, where messages about climate change are still prominently displayed. “Recent studies suggest that future changes in global and regional climate may become both more intense and more frequent,” reads a sign at one of them. At another: “During millennia of warm and cold periods, plant and animal communities shifted. But now humans may be causing rapid climate change that even resilient species may be unable to cope with. Human emissions of greenhouse gases are driving warming temperatures and rising sea levels.” One can only wonder, in an age of “facts-are-not-facts,” how long these important messages will remain?

We recommend the majesty of Mt. Rainier (the most dangerous active volcano in the world), the cerulean beauty of Crater Lake, the breathtaking diversity and wildlife of the Olympic Peninsula, and the historic Columbia River Gorge. We also visited the Seattle headquarters of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

So here's a report on the work of this amazing Foundation: It is the world's largest private philanthropic organization, working to reduce poverty, promote health, advance education and create opportunity while promoting innovation to solve real-world problems such as toilets for sanitation.

Knowing that it supports family planning, I was surprised to learn that Melinda Gates was raised Catholic, attending an all-girls Catholic school. She notes that 96% of married Catholic women in the U.S. use contraceptives. And she carries with her in all her travels a message from a woman in Africa who said, while cradling her daughter, “I want every good thing for this child before I have another one.” Ms. Gates said that this is a universal truth that all moms share.

214,000,000 women around the world want access to voluntary family planning. The Gates Foundation has partnered with Pfizer, Inc., and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation to manufacture a subcutaneous, 3-month, injectable contraceptive called Sayana Press, to be made available at \$1 per dose through ministries of health in developing countries (particularly sub-Saharan Africa), through USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development) and through UNFPA (the United Nations Population Fund).

Inspiring messages were found throughout the Foundation's displays: “All lives have equal value”; “Every person should have the ability to live a healthy active life”; “For every 10% more that girls go to school, a country's GDP increases by an average of 3%”; and,

“When women are empowered, entire communities are lifted up.”

The Foundation works around the world, including in the U.S. Examples are provided of projects in various states, for example: a \$1,650,000 grant, in July 2010, to the New Jersey State Library for “improving access to high-quality computers and internet services in public libraries.”

Every traveler, at least those of us of a certain age, knows to take advantage of a bathroom when the opportunity arises. At the entrance to the Gates Foundation's public restrooms was a water fountain with the message: “Most

people in the U.S. can get clean water whenever they want it. Imagine you had to walk three miles every time you needed water to drink, to wash in or to cook. For millions of people, that's a reality.”

Inside the restroom, the doors to the stalls had almost life-size pictures of pit latrines and outhouses in countries such as India and in Africa. A message was scrawled on the outhouse: “When you want to defecate run to here on the toilet.” Inside the

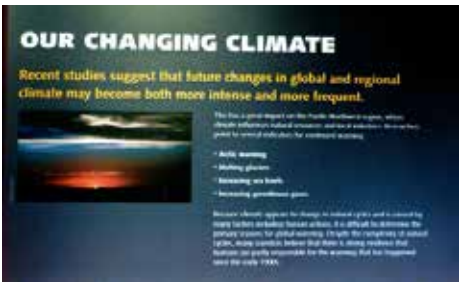
stall was another message, “A clean, safe bathroom. Aren't you relieved? A toilet that flushes into a working sewer is nothing to take for granted, especially when you hear that more than 2.5 billion people worldwide don't have toilets or latrines. They 'go to the bathroom' outdoors, which can contaminate their fields, water, and food. People need toilets – and a safe way to dispose of sewage – to live healthy lives.”

As much financial support as this Foundation and others are providing – the Gates Foundation is upping its contribution by \$375 million over the next four years – they will not fill the gap that is being left by the Trump-Pence-Republican Administration's zeroing out of upcoming budgets for reproductive health care at the State Department, USAID and UNFPA.

A 2017 report by Sneha Barot of the Guttmacher Institute, “The Benefits of Investing in International Family Planning and the Price of Slashing Funding,” concludes: “...population growth is one factor contributing to environmental degradation throughout the world and straining many countries' natural resources. Notably, shrinking opportunities for individuals and communities to access natural, economic and social resources – such as water, food, land, education and jobs – may lead to greater societal instability.”

While your \$10 or \$25 cannot replace the huge drop in U.S. funding for reproductive health care, please, if you are so inclined, consider a donation to Friends of UNFPA or to Planned Parenthood of Northern, Central or Southern New Jersey.

I conclude by adapting a saying from Greg Auriemma, late Chair of our Ocean County Group: “not addressing the growing human population is like trying to heat your home in the winter with all the windows open.” Thanks Greg, rest in peace.



Member's Report

A Decade of Clean Energy Campaigns – How Are We Doing?

By Steve Miller, Climate Issues Chair of our Jersey Shore Group (SteveMiller@comcast.net)

We are now a decade into the Sierra Club's “Cool Cities” campaign. Greenhouse Gas emissions are higher than ten years ago, and global temperatures continue to rise. In September of 2016, China and the US ratified the Paris Climate Agreement, joined by most other countries, committing to jointly reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions to “net zero” (meaning that forests, oceans and other natural processes will absorb all emissions produced by humans).

This year, the Trump Administration announced its desire for the US to withdraw from the Agreement. In response, many cities & states are offering to carry on with their shares under the Paris Goals. Hundreds of mayors, nine governors, hundreds of colleges and universities, and thousands of businesses and investors have signed the pledge. These include 37 of the 566 NJ mayors. See the list at <http://climate.smiller.org/clean-energy-city.xls>. You are fortunate if your mayor is on the list – if not, you have a job to do!

Volunteer to carry this forward in your municipality, through top-down and bottom-up actions (I personally am doing both):

Top-down: We ask you to meet with your mayor and other elected officials. We can supply you with literature from our “Mayors for Clean Energy,” “Ready for 100,” and “Ready for 100% Clean Transportation” campaigns. (See Greg Gorman's article, this issue, on the world-wide movement toward electric vehicles.)

Bottom-up: Sierra Club volunteers are encouraged to work with your local Green Team (if you have one) to help implement a Climate Action Plan or an Energy Plan for your municipality. It was the Sierra Clubs “Cool Cities” campaign, a decade ago, that spawned a Green Team operating in most NJ towns, townships and cities. Even if your mayor has not signed, you can help your Green Team implement many clean energy actions to enable residents, businesses, and the municipal government to save money, and create a sustainable future. 445 municipalities in NJ (the vast majority)

use a platform run by “Sustainable Jersey”.

To view your Green Team's status, point your browser to <http://www.sustainablejersey.com/actions-certification/participating-communities/>, then click “list view” and select your municipality. You'll find the present Green Team membership, including the Green Team leader. Volunteer to assist, and help your Green Team launch many new exciting “Actions.” There's a list of about 150 fully-defined “Actions” at <http://www.sustainablejersey.com/actions-certification/actions/>. There are “Actions” in Waste and Energy, which will specifically lower emissions to bring your municipality into line with the Paris Agreement.

If you examine your municipality's carbon footprint, you will likely find the greatest “Action” prize to be “Electrical Aggregation”. Aggregation allows a city or region to provide 100% renewable electricity to all its residents, businesses, and agencies of government. This saves money, while reducing emissions from your electric company's fossil fueled generators. Or, short of Aggregation, at the customer level, each NJ electricity consumer can quickly and easily switch an individual residence or business to a 100% renewable (primarily wind & solar) electricity supplier.

That's what I'm doing, along with many friends and relatives, and church congregation members. We enjoy savings of 10% or more. (Distribution & grid maintenance is still supplied and billed by your utility). See my website: <http://electric.smiller.org>. Each Sierra Club member can participate and spread the word. Better yet, ask your municipality to advertise this opportunity for cost-saving emission-reduction on its web page.

It will take ALL of us, working together, to realize a clean energy future. We are the last generation that will be able to dramatically curb rising global temperatures.

If you or your green team need help, please contact me. I'm a Middletown Green Team Volunteer, and a trained Climate Leader (one of 13,000) with <http://ClimateRealityProject.org>.

Let's Lobby for the Gateway Tunnel

From a press release issued on July 26th

The NJ Sierra Club needs its members' support for an expensive but essential piece of regional transportation infrastructure. Our rail network is in terrible shape, as we are reminded by frequent derailments, signal failures and other inconveniences. 20th Century suburbanization hasn't really moved us from trains to cars. Other macroeconomic forces are at work: more benefit from concentrating jobs in cities, and more people who need those jobs.

All that is why we need the Gateway Railroad Tunnel under the Hudson River between Manhattan and Secaucus/Newark: to get commuters to work and to get cars off the roads. Cars are now the biggest source of air pollution in New Jersey. One train can take 500 cars off the road.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Gateway Tunnel has been released, and we urge your support at three upcoming hearings. We support

this project, but want to make sure it limits its environmental impacts. We should insist that Amtrak (and NJTransit) power the new trains with renewable energy.

The new “Gateway” allows for more connectivity, promoting more long-distance trains between Washington D.C. and Boston – and other destinations, and regional through trains, such as between points in NJ and points in Connecticut and Long Island. It would supplement the antiquated Amtrak tunnels that service Penn Station. It might soften the pressure to rebuild the Port Authority Bus Terminal, and reduce its diesel bus emissions.

The project will promote Transit-Oriented Development along the regional rail routes, thus protecting open space. It will revitalize our Transit Villages (aka railroad suburbs): promoting walkability and reducing the need to drive to work.

Talk it up, please, and watch for a public hearing near you!

Clean Air Issues Coordinator's Report

Air Pollution, Bicycling, and Urban Heat Islands

By Paul Ehrlich (p.w.ehrlich@gmail.com)

In a previous Sierran article I pointed out that air pollution is very local. For example, living one hundred yards from a major road can make a difference in health risk. A new scientific report demonstrates that pollution is hyperlocal. Apte et al. (Environ. Sci. Technol., 51, 6999 [2017]) used specially-equipped Google Street View vehicles to repeatedly measure three important pollutants on the streets of Oakland CA. Within a single block, pollution could vary up to eight-fold.

How does this affect life-style choices - besides choosing a place to live? Environmentalists have long urged that commuting by bicycle would reduce a community's air pollution. But would the biker benefit? This is presently under study. Some good news regarding the hyperlocality of air pollution is that bicycle commuters can benefit by carefully choosing their routes, times of day, etc. Municipal officials (with the help of Google and others) could assist all who use city streets and sidewalks - by providing high-resolution maps of pollutants. They could also remediate the health consequences of pollution hot spots by tweaking traffic routes or rules. Separating bicycle lanes from motor vehicle traffic by traffic islands, especially islands with bushes and trees, should also help. Some organizations are already contributing to this effort: the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy promotes conversion of abandoned railroad lines to bicycle and walking trails, many of which are well separated from major roads.

The pollutants measured by the Google vehicles are the smog-formers: participants in temperature-dependent chemical reactions that produce ozone. Since urban areas are warmer than surrounding suburban and rural areas, pollution risk to bikers will be greater there, especially during the summer. A typical temperature difference is 5 deg F. So, if the temperature were lowered, not only would commuting by bike be more pleasant, it would also be healthier. And, of course, it would also help mitigate climate change. The ozone-forming chemical reactions are so complex that there is no easy way to estimate the ozone reduction, especially since it depends on knowing precisely the concentrations of the various pollutants. The expected increase in regional ozone concentrations due to global warming, called the "ozone-climate penalty" or the "climate penalty factor," has been estimated by climate scientists. The good news is that reduction of nitrogen oxide emissions has caused the climate penalty factor to decrease in the eastern U.S. (Rasmussen et al, Environ Sci Technol, 47, 14258 [2013]).

There are many ways that urban temperatures can be lowered: more trees, and switching to renewable energy and electric vehicles. Additional efforts include, for example, New York City's Cool Roofs Program: "a City initiative that provides local jobseekers with training and work experience installing energy-saving reflective rooftops." The Heat Island Group of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory recently released a report on "cool pavements" which showed that one method of increasing the solar reflectance of streets can significantly reduce global warming over a fifty year life cycle.

Member's Report

The Continuing Threat to Bees and Our Food Supply

By Gary Frederick, Chair of the Raritan Valley Group (gfredsierra@gmail.com)

The next time you bite into a crisp apple, or pop a few almonds into your mouth, or savor a refreshing cucumber, consider what fruits and vegetables would be left if bees and other pollinators disappeared. Not much. Honeybees, for example, pollinate nearly \$200 million of fruits and vegetables every year, including major New Jersey crops such as cranberries, blueberries and apples. When you add in other pollinating insects, the USDA estimated in 2014 that pollinators contributed more than \$24 billion to the US economy. Worldwide, it's estimated that pollinators make possible an astonishing 35% of global food production.

Alarmingly, bee populations have seen devastating declines since 2006, with many hives each year not surviving the winter. Estimated wintertime bee loss in New Jersey was 28.6% in 2010/11, 53.6% in 2015/16 and 41% in 2016/2017. Obviously, these declines are not sustainable, and they have been occurring worldwide.

Many culprits are suspected, but scientists have zeroed in on two big ones. The varroa mite has been ravaging bee colonies since 1986. These pinhead-sized parasites live inside hives, sucking the blood from bee larvae, which pupate into bees that are weak and die prematurely. The mites spread easily from hive to hive.

The second culprit is pesticides. Particularly deadly is a class known as neonicotinoids, which are 1000 times more toxic than DDT. These chemicals were developed to protect crops from harmful insects, but scientists have long suspected they also kill bees and other pollinators. Major producers, such as Bayer and Syngenta, have denied this, but two studies released in June of this year refute those assertions. One controlled field trial was performed by the Centre for Ecology and Hydology in the U.K.

The second study, conducted in Canada, showed that low levels of neonicotinoids remain in the environment for a long time, and that these levels were high enough to kill bees at a younger age than a control group. "I think it's reached a point now where no reasonable person would deny that these chemicals are impacting on bees one way or another," said University of Sussex bee biologist Dave Goulson, who was not involved in the research, but reviewed the data for The Scientist magazine.

The U.S. EPA has been studying the effect of neonicotinoids, but the study has been slow, and, with Trump and Pruitt strangling the EPA, there's no guarantee that any action will ensue. The good news is that, in May, a California federal court ruled that the EPA had violated the Endangered Species Act when it gave a 15-year conditional approval to 59 different pesticides between 2007 and 2012, despite the lack of safety reviews. The lawsuit was brought in 2013 by the Center for Food Safety, along with a coalition of beekeeping and environmental groups, including the Sierra Club. The coalition will now return to court as the judge decides what penalties to apply.

Other slim but encouraging news is that the USDA reported, on July 27, that U.S. honeybee populations increased 3% in the period April 2016-April 2017. But that was largely due to beekeepers adding new bees to their stocks from commercial sources.

(continued on page 10)

Reports from Trenton

Six Flags Court's Clear-Cut Decision

From a press release issued on June 23rd

Last year (July-Sept) we reported that the Planning Board in Jackson Twp (Ocean Co) had approved a proposal from Six Flags Great Adventure and Safari Park for the cutting of more than 18,000 trees, on 66 acres, for a solar farm. We and several other groups took them to court, arguing that parking lots and other sites would be environmentally preferable.

The Superior Court has ruled against us, rejecting alternatives that would not sacrifice wildlife habitat and add to stormwater runoff. We thank our lawyer, Michelle Donato, for her work to challenge this project, and are looking at grounds for a further appeal. The area to be cut includes nests for bald eagles and other endangered species, steep slopes, and the headwaters for two Category 1 (C1) tributaries of the Toms River. The project would thus contribute to the pollution of Barnegat Bay. We believe the Court's decision violated Jackson's Tree Ordinance (which we helped write) and the Municipal Land Use law.

Christie Declares War on Wetlands

From a Press Release issued on June 8th, edited by Maggie Yilmaz

With the New Jersey DEP's proposed new Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Rules, the Christie Administration is subverting the protections of the NJ Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act, passed in 1987. This will lead to the destruction of critical wetlands.

The proposed new rules violate the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act as follows:

- They allow permit-by-certification: a developer can simply certify that a project meets the standards or rules, with no oversight.
- They allow new general permits with conditions. General permits are supposed to have de minimus impact, and should not need conditions. Having conditions means they are trying to get around the law.
- The proposed rules allow 10-year permits for large projects such as quarries, pipelines, and highways, instead of the previous 5 years.
- The rules are not tied to Clean Water Act Certifications, such as Section 401. This means wetlands can be filled without first assessing water quality impacts.

The proposed new Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Rules also include the following changes that would weaken protections for wetlands:

- They would allow for "temporary disturbances." There's no such thing: the destruction of vegetative cover, soil, or anything in a wetland is not temporary, but will have long-lasting effects.
- They would allow for utility crossings and maintenance. This would make it easier for pipelines and powerlines to be built, destroying wetland habitat.
- They would allow wetlands to be turned into open waters, which would destroy the wetland. There are plenty of ponds and open waters already; wetlands are scarce and should not be converted.
- The rules would permit stream-cleaning activities in transition areas, even if these activities destroy wetlands.
- They would allow waivers for disturbance limits in buffers and transition areas.
- They would allow the general permits in the Wetlands Rules to be consistent with the weaker, more damaging, Flood Hazard Rule general permits. This includes GP2, which makes it easier to build pipelines through wetlands.

The proposed new Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Rules put our wetlands at risk, rather than protecting them. Wetlands must be conserved, because they play an important role in flood prevention and water quality protection, as well as providing an important natural habitat. One acre of wetlands can hold back more than a million gallons of water during a heavy rain.

Climate Change Resolutions Pass Assembly

From a press release issued on June 9th, edited by Maggie Yilmaz

The New Jersey General Assembly has voted to pass the following resolutions regarding New Jersey's participation in climate efforts nationally and worldwide:

AR263 (Kennedy), passed by a vote of 52-16-6, **condemns President Trump's decision to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Climate Accord.** The Paris Climate Accord, or Paris Agreement, was a landmark international agreement reached in 2015 between 195 countries within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Starting in 2020 the Agreement aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help countries deal with the effects of climate change. The Paris Climate Accord was considered a major environmental success after being signed by both the Obama Administration and the leadership of China. During his campaign for President, Donald Trump promised to remove the U.S. from the Accord.

AR264 (Zwicker), passed by a vote of 51-17-6, **urges NJ Governor Christie to join the U.S. Climate Alliance.** The Alliance is a bipartisan group of states that are committed to upholding the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change within their borders. 13 states have already joined - including New York and California, also Puerto Rico. New Jersey suffers from sea level rise and climate impacts more than most states. Places like the Meadowlands, Hoboken, and our barrier islands are already barely above sea level.

The Legislature thus calls on Gov. Christie to stand up for the people of New Jersey and do something about climate change. The people of New Jersey have been devastated by recent storms and flooding. We need to act statewide to fight climate change, and we can do so by joining the U.S. Climate Alliance. We must work to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gasses and make New Jersey a leader in green energy once again!



HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

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

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

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

Skylands Group

(Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

Web-site: <http://newjersey.sierraclub.org/skylands/>
Or click from the NJ Chapter's web-site.
FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/SkylandsNJSC>
E-mail: skylandsgroup@gmail.com **Phone:** 973-222-0274

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

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

OPEN POSITIONS AVAILABLE:
Member-at-Large (for a 2 year term), 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:	Cinny MacGonagle*	cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Amy Weeder*	aweeder@comcast.net
Treasurer:	Celeste Martin *	onecentral@mac.com
Political Chair:	Debbie Young*	debyoung31@comcast.net
Programs Chair:	Patricia Smith	katescat@gmail.com
Membership Chair:	Jim Fleming*	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.

Sept 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.

Oct 4 (Wed): North of the Arctic Circle: Jonathan Wall, South Highlands group chair, John Kashwick, New Jersey Chapter political chair, will talk on their outing to Gates of the Arctic and Kobuk Valley National Parks in northern Alaska. These are two of the most remote and least visited national parks in the park system.

Nov 1 (Wed): Hunterdon Land Trust: Stefani Spence, the Land Steward from the Hunterdon Land Trust will present on past, current and future efforts to protect the extraordinary natural beauty of Hunterdon County.

Dec 6 (Wed): Clinton Conservancy Gardens: Kathy Madden will discuss the local conservancy's efforts. Butterflies are in peril. Perennial flowers, herbs, bulbs, shrubs, and trees need to be planted as soon as possible on our public and private lands—including your front yard! To succeed in bringing back the butterflies, the conservancy plants to plant besides count our local population of birds and butterflies, using QR codes identification markers. Kathy Madden will discuss the Conservancy's efforts and how both you and I can turn our lawns into vital butterfly habitat, preparing planting plans and lists.

OTHER EVENTS:
Oct 21 (Sat): Butterfly Garden Planting at Water Street Park & Pot-Luck Lunch—9am (Potluck at Noon) The Sierra Club will assist the Clinton Conservancy Gardens plant a combination Monarch waystation and butterfly garden at the far end of Water Street Park. The conservancy received a \$10,000 grant from Sustainable Jersey to turn Water Street Park and the fitness trail in Hunts Mill Park into a natural habitat for birds, butterflies and other pollinators and have it serve as an outdoor classroom for all who visit. Please support this effort which we hope will be implemented in all our communities. For more information on Clinton Conservancy, contact Kathy Madden kemadden333@gmail.com. (To sign up for event contact Jim Fleming: jffleming18@comcast.net or sign up on Meetup.com)

Oct 17 (Tue): Phone Banking for Candidates at 7:30pm at the Law Office of Kristen Perry in Clinton. Join us as we reach out to fellow Sierra Club members in support of Phil Murphy for governor and District 23 Legislative Candidates: Christine Chen, Laura Shaw, and Charlies Boddy. Bring your cell phone! Please contact John Kashwick at jkashwick@gmail.com or sign up on Meetup.com. Location: 1 Leigh St., Clinton.

Nov 8 (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 contact jonwall@jonwall.com or sign-up on Meetup)

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 jefrap@optonline.net
Fundraising Chair: Francie Goldstein franciegoldstein@gmail.com
Membership Chair: Buddy Jenssen * buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Outings Co-Chair: Ellen Blumenkrantz eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com
Outings Co-Chair: Mary Walsh * blehlwalsh@hotmail.com
Programs Chair: Buddy Jenssen * buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Publicity Chair: Marty Cohen martincohen@verizon.net
Social Media Coord.: Ariana Schanzer arianaschanzer@gmail.com
Trail Maintenance: Marty Cohen martincohen@verizon.net
Webmaster/Listmaster: *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 973-509-8335 suzanne.trimel@gmail.com
Vice-Chair: David Yennior 973-844-1384 dyennior@gmail.com
Secretary: *Open Position!*
Treasurer: Anne Hirs 973-844-1121 annchirs83@gmail.com
Program Co-Chairs: Suzanne Trimel 973-509-8335 suzanne.trimel@gmail.com
ZaSah Khademi 201-618-8572 zasah@aol.com
and Steven Yafet 908-354-2537 syafet@gmail.com
Publicity Chair: *Open Position!*
Conservation Co-Chairs: ZaSah Khademi 201-618-8572 zasah@aol.com
and David Korfhage 973-932-0742 drkorfhage@gmail.com
Political Chair: *Open Position!*
Fundraising Chair: *Open Position!*
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: *Open Position!*
Group Executive Committee: 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* jonperelle@gmail.com
Secretary, Outings Chr: Patricia Hilliard* hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com
Treasurer: *Open position!*
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: *Open position!*
Programs/Events Chair: Janet Crowley* jtryx@yahoo.com
Ex-Com at-Large: Nancy Booth* boothnancy2011@hotmail.com
Outings Chair: Natalya DeRobertis-Theye natalyadt@gmail.com
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.

The Hudson Group has been up and running for over one year now. Much of our focus has been on education and outreach. Perhaps most exciting, in 2017 we began a series of outings and nature walks in our local parks. Who knew you could see bald eagles nesting in Kearny!?! We’ve hosted educational meetings on transportation as well as an environmental forum where we heard from allied groups that have been working locally. The Group also had several well-attended nature film screenings, including two documentaries by award-winning Jersey City filmmaker John Dunston—both shot entirely in Hudson County.

Initiatives and issues that the Hudson County Group is working on:
Conservation and Open Space: We are joining allied local groups to preserve our precious urban oasis from diversion for commercial or other uses. We have opposed efforts to divert or develop land in Liberty State Park, Braddock Park in North Bergen, and “The Embankment” in Jersey City.
Transportation: We are working to support the Gateway Rail Tunnel between New York and New Jersey. Hudson Sierra Club members are leaders in the effort to create alternative bike/hike routes that would link Hudson County with Essex County, and connect Hudson’s world-class urban parks. We are joining the fight to make local streets safe for pedestrians and cyclists.
Sustainability and Resiliency: We are pressing Hudson County mayors and candidates to join the National Sierra Club’s campaign to commit to 100 percent renewable energy by 2035. We are working to foster resiliency and sustainability in the face of climate change.
Clean Air and Clean Water: Hudson County residents have historically been particularly affected by pollution and toxins. We will continue to work to clean-up the Hudson and Hackensack watersheds and see that polluters are held responsible.

Our second annual picnic was held in July, and we plan on hosting our second holiday party in December. Please join us!

Please check our Facebook page and website for additional outings, nature walks, and opportunities for activism that might have been added to the calendar after the Jersey Sierran’s publication deadline.

Make a difference! We invite Hudson County members to join us and get involved. Have an idea? A way you can help? Drop us a line or join us at a monthly meeting.

Group Executive Committee Meetings: See our website, please.

General Meeting: Sunday, Sept 17, Noon-2pm. Hudson County Community College Library, 71 Sip Avenue, Jersey City. Here from and take a chance to meet with a representative of Phil Murphy, our endorsed candidate for governor. Visit our Facebook and web pages for more details.

Loantaka Group

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

WEBSITE: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>
Loantaka now has a FaceBook page. Please check it out and like it: <https://www.facebook.com/LoantakaGroupNJSC>

OFFICERS:
Group Chair (Acting): Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414 paulmsanderson@aol.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: *Open Position!*
Political Chair: Clea Carchia 908-892-7229 info@CleaCarchia.com
Programs: *Open Position!*
Fundraising Chair: Eric Hausker 732-669-0719 ericbiomass@gmail.com
Outings Chair: Wanda Knapik 908-432-2198 AdventuresWithWanda@gmail.com
Publicity Chair: Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442 johansons@comcast.net
Membership: Bruce Ostrow 973-625-0792 ostrowb@gmail.com
Webmaster: Wynn Johanson 908-464-0442 johansons@comcast.net

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

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

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

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

(Continued on page 8)

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

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.

Oct 11: Len Fariello and Blaine Rothauser will present a PowerPoint presentation on **moths and nocturnal flying insects in Troy Meadows**. Len is the Loantaka Morris County Conservation Chair and the Land Manager for Wildlife Preserves. Blaine is an excellent environmental photographer.

Nov 8: Dorothy Smullen, from Friends of the Great Swamp, will give a 45 minute presentation on the **Great Swamp**, which will include current challenges/issues affecting the Swamp.

Dec 13: Come to our **annual Holiday Party**. We have a gathering where we mingle and listen and try to find out what issues are important with our members. We ramp up the refreshments and hone our listening skills, so come out and enjoy some time with us.

ACTIVITIES:

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 Paul at 908-233-2414.

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. Please see the Outings List in this newsletter - or on Pineypaddlers.com.

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:	Steve Eisenberg		steveis@optimum.net
Programs:	Steven Eisenberg		Stevens@Optimum.net
Conservation Chair:	Kip Cherry		KipAtTheSierraClub@gmail.com
Recycling:	Scott Fulmer		Swfulmer@icloud.com
Trails:	Dave Mattek		MattekDC@aol.com
Webmaster:	Ken Lyle		Kenlyle@gmail.com
Education:	Jamie Witsen		jamiewitsen@gmail.com

Please join the Central Jersey Group of the NJ Sierra Club on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month, at 6pm, at Mercer County Community College, Administration Building, Room Ad234a (second floor). Pizza and snacks are provided before each presentation.

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.

We have much to talk about - current events, environmental policies, Climate Change, work with other community-based organizations to discuss our strategies - all to keep the momentum going to stop pipelines, polluting sources such as incinerators, generating plants, factories, LNG plants, landfills, power plants, airports, over-development, and pollution causing degradation to our air and water quality. We lobby for legislative changes to protect Mother Earth. We welcome your ideas and participation. Please RSVP to Kipatthesierraclub@gmail.com.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Sept 13 (Wed): "Stop! Don't Remove Our National Monuments." More than 100,000 acres preserved under the Antiquities Act on Federal land are under attack. Learn about Bears Ears, Utah, its historical and biological characteristics, and the local tribes who would help manage it - as well as the Patagonia CEO's threat to sue our President. Did you know that NJ has a National Monument?

Oct 11 (Wed): Presentation by **NRG Corporation**, a leading power company in the USA, built on the largest and most diverse generation portfolio and leading retail electric platform. Discuss how they move science to Fortune 200 Company jobs.

Nov 8 (Wed): Rutgers Professor A. Robock will present **Nuclear Winter**. The concept includes the firestorms ignited by nuclear explosions, ionizing radiation, sooty smoke released into the atmosphere, and effects on the whole world.

Dec 13 (Wed): Rutgers Professor Richard Buckley talks about **bugs** (plant pests, his diagnostic lab and Nematode Detection Services).

Jan 10 (Wed): Clean Ocean Action's Mae Henry, Marine Program Associate, has an M.A. in Marine Conservation and Policy from Stoney Brook University and a B.S. in Marine Biology and Conservation from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. She will discuss **watershed pollution prevention programs and marine protection actions for our beaches and the Delaware River**.

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

WEBSITE: <http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/Raritan-Valley/>
FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/RaritanGroupNJSC/>

OFFICERS:

Chair 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 Leviss		
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

Our monthly committee meetings are held on FOURTH WEDNESDAYS of each month, from 7pm to 8:30, in New Brunswick. Please check our website to confirm the location or contact Gary Frederick at gfredsierra@gmail.com.

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	nyucwnypbb@aol.com
Conservation Co-Chairs:	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445	faithtei@aol.com
and:	Bob Sandberg	732-241-7757	Sandberg00@gmail.com
Social Media Chair:	Yazmin Sourias		yazming915@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Pat Fuschetto	732-308-4588	fusche40@yahoo.com
Political Chair:	Lara Zillow		lzullov@optimum.net
Outings Chair:	John Luard	732-708-9221	John.Luard@gmail.com
Outings Leaders:	<i>Needed!</i>		
Membership Chair:	Bob Grize	732-892-0684	nyucwnypbb@aol.com
Program Chair:	George Moffatt	732-544-1726	gmoffattgt@aol.com
Climate Chair:	<i>Open position!</i>		
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:

Progress at Whale Pond Greenway - 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 Whale Pond Brook and create a greenway from the Long Branch shoreline to the uplands in Tinton Falls.

Ross Island Park, with its beautiful Sierra Club-funded butterfly garden (right), gets so many compliments we've been asked to be part of the Long Branch Historical Tour this summer.

We'll discuss the evolving park's 116-year old stone hut that we are restoring, funded with a grant from the Monmouth County Historical Commission and City of Long Branch. Volunteers also will be identifying and putting botanical labels on our native shrubs and plants, and displaying a map of the garden, which we'll also turn into posters to display at the hut and at tabling events.



We are planning to build a shelter like the one (left), with the help of the local Boy Scouts. Five dead trees also will be cut down to about 20 feet. Then we'll use the trunks for a carving contest to beautify the next part of the trail, which leads to the entrance of Monmouth University. Here's an example (below).

We're also holding a **rain barrel workshop** this summer with Boy Scout Troop 148 at the Long Branch Community Garden. Participants will build their own rain barrels to demonstrate that they can help alleviate flooding in their neighborhoods. Every little bit helps.

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 2018. 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 6:30pm.

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.

Oct 23: Mountain Climbing. Bruno Hamann will recount his adventures mountain climbing. In the best Sierra tradition, he is a professional photographer, specializing in outdoor sports, especially mountain climbing and surfing. He spent the past year photographing and climbing the mountains of the Western states.

Nov 27: Climate Change and Our Water Supplies. Dr. Dan Van Abs, Associate Research Professor at the Department of Human Ecology, Rutgers University, will discuss how climate change can impact potable water supplies. He also has developed a reporting program for high school and college students to identify environmental problems. He holds a B.S. in Environmental Studies from Cook College, Rutgers University, and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from SUNY-College of Environmental Science and Forestry in association with Syracuse University.

Dec 3: Holiday Party. Sierra’s traditional holiday party will be held at Dennis Anderson’s house at 6 Maple Ave - off of Middlesex Road, Matawan. Use MapQuest for directions, but beware: there are two Middlesex Roads in Matawan. If you get lost, call him at 732-970-4327. Everyone is asked to bring hors d’oeuvres, cakes or other hot and cold dishes, as well as soda, wine and beer. Please let Dennis know in advance at dennisaza@aol.com so we don’t wind up with five tofu dishes. If members of other Sierra Groups are in the neighborhood, please stop by and say hello.

Ocean County Group

WEBSITE: MEETUP.COM/SIERRA-CLUB-OCEAN-GROUP

OFFICERS:

Acting Chair, Vice-Chair

& Conserv Chair:	Margit Meissner-Jackson	sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	<i>Open position!</i>	
Outings Chair & Env’l Ed’n Coord:	Terrance Brown	terrybrown@comcast.net
Fund-Raising Chair:	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	ginaceee@verizon.net
Vice-Chair:	Frank Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Secretary:	Ellen Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Treasurer:	Trish Clements		patri3210@gmail.com
Publicity Chair:	Anne Caridi		annecaridi@yahoo.com
Political Chair:	Linda Rubiano		Linda_Maritza@yahoo.com
Pinelands Rep:	Lee Snyder		pinelands1@hotmail.com
Greenways Coord’s:	Frank and Ellen Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Conservation Chair:	Stacey Ayala		thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Delegate at Large:	Aida Ayala		thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
Membership Chair:	Mike Brown	856-547-9221	eyebrown@verizon.net
Fundraising Chair:	<i>Open position!</i> Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831		
Smart Growth Chair:	<i>Open position!</i> Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831		

Programs Chair:	<i>Open position!</i> Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831	
Outings Chair:	<i>Open position!</i> Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831	
Social Media		
Coord’s:	Evan Kostka	evan.kostka@gmail.com
and	Dayna Hovern	dayna.hovern@gmail.com

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

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

Oct 11: Protecting the Pinelands. Michael Hogan, South Jersey Land & Water Trust, Program Manager will tell us about efforts to stop the damage being done by ORVs in the Pinelands.

Nov 8: Spreading Hope One Flower Box at a Time – Jessica Franzini of Camden Lutheran Housing Inc will show us how the Block Supporter Initiative in Camden has transformed vacant lots from “blight to bright” and engaged hundreds of residents in keeping their neighborhoods clean and beautiful. This program was created by Camden resident Benigno Rodriguez.” In this month of Thanksgiving, please bring a non-perishable item for donation to the South Jersey Food Bank. Can of soup, fruit, vegetable. Box of cereal. Boxed meals such as Mac and Cheese. Bottles of juice, baby food.

Dec 13: Join us for our Year-End Wrap Up and holiday party. Bring a favorite munchie to share as we discuss our successes and ongoing efforts for 2017 and plan for 2018. Door prizes and great camaraderie.

South Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:

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

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

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

Some Possibly Relevant Meetings of Allied Organizations:

Oct 4, Nov 1 and Dec 5: (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.

Nov 28: (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.

Oct 25, Nov 22 and Dec 27 (fourth Wednesdays), 7pm: Atlantic Audubon Society is a lively member-organization with strong environmental programs and an excellent monthly on-line newsletter. Membership is free. Meetings are in the Galloway Twp Library, 306 E Jimmie Leeds Rd. www.AtlanticAudubon.org.

(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)

Oct 11 and Dec 13: (alternate second Wednesdays), 7pm: Bi-monthly meeting of **Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries** (another “Partnership River” under federal protection): Meeting place: George Luciano Center, Cumberland County College. Cumberland County development issues are commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Karla Rossini (CU) at 609-774-5853 or karla.rossini@cumauriceriver.org. Website: www.cumauriceriver.org.

Oct 18 and Dec 20: (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 College 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 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.

Autumn Hike in Harriman: Sat, Nov 18, 10am. Meeting Location TBD. 6-8 miles with some inclines. Check web site or Meet up page for details. Leader: John Kashwick: jkashwick@gmail.com. Severe weather cancels.

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

Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sierra Student Coalition

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

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

Introducing Children to the Outdoors Section

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

OFFICERS:

Chair: Marty Cohen mc46er@gmail.com

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. That’s right: only five – but they are great! We sure could use a couple of steering committee members to help expand this wonderful program.

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.

On the Trail

Editor’s note: A superb but long contribution to this column, with photographs, on trails in Cheesquake State Park, appears in the electronic edition of this newsletter on p. 15.



THREAT TO BEES

(Continued from page 5)

It is estimated that there are only 2.9 million bee colonies remaining in the U.S., down drastically from 4.5 million in 1980.

Sierra Club members have been alarmed and reactive about the bee crisis, convincing major retailers like Home Depot, Walmart and True Value to pull neonicotinoid-laced products from their shelves. The main holdout is Ace Hardware. Please let them know you are outraged by their continuing sale of these pesticides. Sign our petition at <https://www.addup.org/campaigns/tell-true-value-ace-stop-selling-bee-killing-pesticides>.

Also, please ask your Member of Congress to co-sponsor HR 3040 (Saving America’s Pollinator Act) to help protect bees and other pollinators by requiring the EPA to take swift action to prevent further mass bee die-offs by suspending the use of neonicotinoids. Bill Pascrell (D-9) is an original co-sponsor; Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-12) has since signed on. Now we need to convince the rest of the NJ delegation to join them!



Outings

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

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS (roughly north to south)

Skylands: Dave Alcock, dwhooob@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: John Luard, John.Luard@gmail.com
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

Outing Leaders: Please send January-March 2018 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 November 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 January-March 2018 trip write-ups by November 10.

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

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 Group 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	

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.mickscanoerental.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct 4 (Wed): Pinelands Month – Guided Hike at Double Trouble State Park/Village (Ocean Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. Originally a cranberry farm and packing plant, the former company town called Double Trouble is a window into past and current industries in the Pinelands. Andrew Anderson, Historic Resource Interpretive Specialist, will be our guide. Meet at Double Trouble State Park, Pinewald-Keswick and Double Trouble Rds. Leashed dogs are welcome! Bring lunch and beverage. Heavy rain cancels. Leona & George F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct 7 (Sat): Shark River Park (Mounmouth Co). 9:30 am. Enjoy an easy hike meandering with the babbling brook that's Shark River in this area. We will return upstream on primitive trails. 4 or 5 miles at an easy pace, some very short climbs, mostly flat. Beginners welcome, supportive footwear recommended, bring plenty or water. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com. (JS)

Oct 8 (Sun): Columbus Weekend Hike at the Thompson Park Conservation Area (Middlesex Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. Thompson Park stretches south from Schoolhouse Rd along the Gravel Hill. It is dominated by heavily wooded forests and lowland swamps along the Manalapan Brook. Parts of the area also continue to support local agriculture, with farmers growing corn and soybeans. The Park offers passive activities such as hiking, walking, bird watching and photography. We will meet at the Thompson Park Trailhead near the Off Leash Dog Area on Fir Drive, Monroe Twp. GPS Coordinates: N 40° 20' 3.753", W 74° 26' 8.556". Rain cancels. Option for late lunch at Fiddleheads Restaurant. Leashed dogs are welcome. Please RSVP. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

Oct 9 (Mon): Pinelands Month - Canoe/Kayak the Batsto River (Burlington Co). 9:30am. We'll enjoy a Fall Foliage Pinelands paddle from Quaker Bridge to Batsto Lake. Pinelands Preservation Alliance has launched Pinelands Adventures and rental boats are available as well as private boat shuttling. 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)

Oct 11 (Wed): Hike at Perrineville Lake Park (Monmouth Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. Beautiful woodlands, natural fields and a picturesque lake meet here in the heart of quiet Millstone. Bring snack and water. Meet at 23 Agress Rd, Millstone, parking lot. Check website www.monmouthcountyparks.com/page.aspx?Id=2550. Leashed dogs are welcome. Option, late lunch at Albivi Restaurant. Rain cancels. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Oct 14 (Sat): Wawayanda State Park, Hewett (Sussex & Passaic Cos). 10am. <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/wawayanda.html> The hike will cover 7 miles in 4 hours in somewhat hilly terrain. Features: Views of Wawayanda Lake. Difficulty: Moderately strenuous. Facilities: Restroom Building: Pit toilets but has sinks with running water. Caveats: 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 email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak, the_hikist@mac.com.

Oct. 14 (Sat): Tallman Mountain State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 11:15am 7-mile-hike. We will hike through the park and view the berms and salt marsh. We will then walk along the mile long Piermont pier halfway across the Hudson! Trails include the Long Path. Bring lunch and water. This is part of the Hudson Valley Ramble. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural on the corner of Tate & Piermont Aves.) in Piermont, NY. Park down Gair St in parking lot. Leader: John P. Jurasek: 845-519-4247 (no calls after 10pm) or jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

Oct 15 (Sun): Bicycle Ride on the Columbia Trail (Hunterdon Co). 10am. 12+ miles, 5 - 8mph pace. Fall foliage will be spectacular as we bike the Ken Lockwood Gorge from High Bridge to Califon. Meet at High Bridge Municipal Lot, Main St, High Bridge. Bicycle helmets are required. Bring water and snacks. Option, late lunch at Casa Maya restaurant in High Bridge. Please contact leaders to confirm outing; rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Oct 18 (Wed): Pinelands Month - Hike the Franklin Parker Preserve (Burlington Co). 10am. 5-6 miles, easy pace on the Yellow Trail. The acquisition of the Franklin Parker Preserve in 2003 by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation was a momentous occasion in conservation. This 9400 acre preserve is a keystone piece of land, linking the expanses of Brendan Byrne, Wharton, and Penn State Forests and creating a more contiguous Pinelands National Reserve. Meet at Speedwell entrance off Rte 563, Woodland Twp. Leashed dogs are welcome. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Heavy rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct. 21 (Sat): Turtleback Rock, South Mountain Reservation hike (Essex Co). 10am We will start at Turtleback Rock trailhead. For directions, see the Essex County Parks Commission web site: <https://www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/south-mountain-reservation>. 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. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@Yahoo.com.

Oct 21 (Sat): Pinelands Month - Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River (Burlington Co). 10am. Celebrate Pinelands Month with an 8-mile trip on the "Jewel of the Pinelands". Meet at Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego Rd. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Mick's Pine Barrens Canoe and Kayak Rental: 609-726-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct 25 (Wed): Fall Foliage Hike at Monmouth Battlefield State Park (Monmouth Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. Monmouth Battlefield State Park is the site of one of the largest battles fought during the Revolutionary War on June 28, 1778. Meet at the Visitors Center, 16 Business Rte 33, Manalapan. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Leashed dogs are welcome! Rain cancels. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Oct 28 (Sat): Hike Princeton Battlefield State Park and Institute Woods (Mercer Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. On January 3, 1777, the peaceful winter fields and woods of Princeton Battlefield were transformed into the site of what is considered to be the fiercest fight of its size during the American Revolution. The famous Mercer Oak once stood in the middle of the battlefield, not far from the spot where General Hugh Mercer fell during the Battle of Princeton. The Clarke House, built by Thomas Clarke in 1772, witnessed the fierce fighting and served as sanctuary for Gen. Mercer, who died there nine days later. We'll meet at the Thomas Clarke House, 500 Mercer Rd, Princeton. Kip Cherry, Princeton Battlefield Society vice president, will provide an overview of the battle at the beginning of our hike. Leashed dogs are welcome. Rain cancels. Bring water and snacks. Please RSVP to Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com, or Joanne P: jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (C)

Oct 29 (Sun): Pre-Halloween Canoe/Kayak Trip on the Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co). 9:30am. Wear your "finest" Halloween outfit and join us in your canoe or kayak. The section we paddle will depend on river conditions. Contact leaders to confirm trip and meeting details: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Oct 31 (Tues): Halloween Hike at the Jamesburg Park Conservation Area (Middlesex Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. The Jamesburg Park Conservation Area was some of the first lands that Middlesex County acquired using Green Acres funding for open space protection in the early 1970's. It protects both the underground resources of the Old Bridge Sands aquifer, and a unique Pinelands habitat in Middlesex County. Meet at Helme Mill Park on Maple St in Helmetta. Rain cancels. Option for late lunch at "The Diner." Leashed dogs are welcome. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

NOVEMBER

Nov 4 (Sat): Hike Turkey Swamp Park, Freehold (Monmouth Co). 9:30 am. Lake and forest will greet us. 4 or 5 miles, easy pace, some ups and downs, bring plenty of water, beginners welcome, supportive footwear recommended. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com. (JS)

Nov 5 (Sun): "Fall Back" Bicycle Ride at Duke Farms (Somerset Co). 10am. Approx. 5-6 miles; leisurely day with stops along the way. Duke Farms serves as a model of environmental stewardship in the 21st century. Meet at the Farm Barn Orientation Center. Bring lunch and beverage on the ride. Bicycle helmets are required and must be worn. Bicycles can be rented with helmets! Directions: www.dukefarms.org/. Rain cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

Nov 8 (Wed): Hike for Veterans Day at Hamilton Township Veterans Park (Mercer Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. Leashed dogs are welcome! Meet by the tank and helicopter in the parking lot off Yardville-Hamilton Square Rd. Paved trail meanders through woods along Pond Run. Bring snack and drink. Tables and rest rooms are available. Lunch at Fame Restaurant, 1071 White Horse Ave. Rain cancels. Please RSVP and put "Sierra" in the subject: Joanne Pannone: 609-443-6992 or jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (C)

Nov 11 (Sat): Jockey Hollow Leader's Choice (Morris Co). 10am. Leader's choice of trails depending on conditions at Jockey Hollow National Park in Morristown. See <http://www.nps.gov/morr/planyourvisit/directions.htm> for directions and information. Bring lots of water, a snack, and wear hiking boots. Meet at the visitors' center. Heavy/steady rain cancels. No pets please. Leader: Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Nov 11 (Sat): Splitrock Reservoir in Farny State Park, Rockaway Township (Morris Co). 10am. <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/farny.html>. 7 miles in 4 hours in hilly terrain. Features: Views of the Reservoir from the shore and from hills above. Difficulty: Moderately Strenuous. Facilities: There is a port-a-potty near the parking lot. Caveats: 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 email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: The_Hikist@mac.com.

Nov 11 (Sat): Veterans Day Hike at Duke Island Park (Somerset Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. Veterans Day began as a public holiday commemorating the end of World War I, designated by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919. Duke Island Park includes trails, which are part of the Raritan River Greenway. We'll meet at the Visitors Center which is located near the main parking area, and houses the Park Ranger office and the rest room facilities - Old York Rd., Bridgewater. Rain cancels. Bring snacks, water and lunch. Leashed dogs are welcome. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

Nov 15 (Wed): Hike the Pole Farm (Mercer Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. The Pole Farm is a Mercer County Park in Pennington with meadows and great botany. Once used as the nerve center for AT&T's overseas radiotelephone transmissions, this abandoned 800-acre site is now part of the Mercer County Park System. Check out this website for directions and more information about the Pole Farm: <http://lthtrail.org/trail-guide/trail-sections/mercercounty-park-northwest-former-pole-farm/> Meet in the parking lot at the corner of Keefe and Cold Soil Rds. Wear walking shoes and bring water and snacks. Leashed dogs welcome. Option for lunch at Chuckles Pizza and Pasta 160 Lawrenceville-Pennington Rd or Michael's Restaurant and Diner on Rte 1. Rain cancels. Please RSVP and put "Sierra" in the subject. Joanne Pannone: 609-443-6992 or jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (C)

Nov 26 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the D&R Canal from Bulls Island to Prallsville Mills (Hunterdon Co). 11am. Work off those Thanksgiving calories on this 3-mile paddle. Bring lunch and hot beverage. Too cold, then we'll hike the towpath! Contact leaders to confirm participation and logistics. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Dec 3 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. The section we paddle will depend on weather and river conditions. Rentals are not available. Experienced cold weather paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

DECEMBER

Dec 3 (Sun): Hike Cheesequake State Park, Old Bridge (Middlesex Co). 9:30am. We'll explore the extensive marsh on a boardwalk, as well as the adjoining woods. 4 or 5 miles, easy pace, some ups and downs, bring plenty of water, beginners welcome, supportive footwear recommended. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com. (JS)

Dec 6 (Wed): Hike at Jakes Branch County Park (Ocean Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. Jakes Branch has a nature center with hands-on exhibits and an observation deck that offers a 360 deg. view of the Pinelands. Leashed dogs are welcome. Meet at Jakes Branch Park, 1100 Double Trouble Rd, Beechwood. Option for late lunch at Shady Rest Restaurant. Inclement weather cancels. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

(continued on page 12)

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



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Open Position!

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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)

Dec 9 (Sat): Scherman Hoffman Sanctuary, Bernardsville (Somerset Co). 10am. <http://www.njaudubon.org/SectionCenters/SectionScherman/TheSanctuary.aspx>. 7 miles in 4 hours in moderately rugged terrain. Features the Passaic River origin as a brook. Difficulty: Moderately Strenuous. Facilities: There is a restroom at the Ecology Center in Scherman Hoffman. There is a restroom building at Jockey Hollow during the hike. 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 email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak: the_hikist@mac.com.

Dec 10 (Sun): Whitesbog Village Fall Hike (Burlington Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace on sandy trails. Last December the Tundra Swans were on the bogs. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet in the parking lot across from the Whitesbog General Store. Handmade Arts & Crafts exhibitors will be spread throughout the village, kid crafts in the art gallery, a candy cane hunt and a special visit from you know who! Leashed dogs are welcome. Directions and information: www.whitesbog.org. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 15 (Fri): Hike Historic Smithville and Tour Smithville Mansion (Burlington Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. After the hike we'll tour the Mansion decorated for a Victorian Holiday (small fee). Meet at Smith's Woods at Historic Smithville Park, East Railroad Ave, Easthampton. Leashed dogs are welcome. Bring water and snacks. Option, late lunch at the Vincentown Diner. George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 17 (Sun): Celebrate the Winter Solstice Early – Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. The trip section depends on weather conditions. Experienced cold weather Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Dec 21 (Thurs): D&R Canal Hike on the First Day of Winter (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. It's the first day of winter - let's take a walk on the towpath from Bordentown to Trenton. Leashed dogs are welcome! Meet at the RiverLine parking lot in Bordentown City. Option for late lunch at Heart of Bordentown (HOB) Tavern. Inclement weather cancels. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Dec 26 – Dec 31: Patriots Week in Trenton - History of the American Revolution in NJ (Mercer Co). Learn about the American Revolution during Patriots Week. Every day of the week offers fun and history for the entire family. See the First and Second Battles of Trenton Reenactments and participate in Walking Tours of the Trenton Battlefields. Check website for events: www.patriotsweek.com. Contact us to meet for various events: Leona F: leona@pineypaddlers.com, or Joanne P: jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (C)

JANUARY

Jan 1 (Mon): New Year's Day Paddle on the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. Ring in the New Year with the NJ Sierra Club. The section we paddle will depend on river conditions. Enjoy a tailgate get together after the trip. Bring something to share. Experienced cold weather paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and details: 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.

October 14 and November 11

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

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue!
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Member Reports

What Bear's Ears Means to People in New Jersey

By Kip Cherry, Conservation Chair of our Central Jersey Group
(KipAtTheSierraClub@gmail.com)

First what is it, or they? It's a magnificent place, a National Monument in Utah that the American people own, on a par with Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks, and that is in need of protection and management. It contains minerals, so the Trump Administration wants to reduce its boundaries and remove protective restrictions. Once these lands are fracked, strip-mined and polluted, once the ecologically delicate soil crust is torn apart, allowing the red sand to be blown onto neighboring snow caps (causing premature melting and flooding), and once the ancient native artifacts and remains have been desecrated, the uniqueness, magnificence and spirituality of the land of Bear's Ears can never be restored. It's a Humpty Dumpty story!

(Map location: 50 miles NW of the Four Corners, and adjacent to Canyonlands National Park.) When National Monument status was conferred by President Obama, existing mining activities within Bear's Ears were allowed to continue. Now, the new pressure is from those who hope to produce shale oil.

The original boundaries were established through decades of lobbying by many concerned individuals and organizations, who witnessed increasing destruction of the Bear's Ears area. A section called Red Canyon was exempted from the boundaries because of ongoing uranium mining, as were other areas where additional uranium mining has been planned, and as was the Paradox Basin area just to the north, which has long-term potential for shale-oil production.

In 2012 a study was begun to evaluate the area's potential for U.S. energy security. We think that need is obviated by advances in both gas fracking and the reduced cost of solar and wind renewable energy. I.e. the long-term need for shale-oil is dissipating. Geological maps show that the heart of the potential shale oil area is at the center of the Monument. There is no way to reduce the boundaries, or carve out an area for significant potential shale oil production, without destroying the whole Monument.

The negative impacts of reducing the boundaries of Bear's Ears would include not only the loss of protection for features inside the Monument, but also loss of the buffer that sustains its ecology, and the ability to monitor and take action to prevent and mitigate impacts from mineral operations located just outside of the existing borders.

The equation should also include the long-term benefits of job-intensive tourism – that must be well-managed to protect the beauty and complexity of the area. (While there has been a great deal of looting, there has also been damage from well-meaning visitors taking a memento of a wonderful vacation. Campers have unknowingly destroyed remnants of an historic Native American hut in their search for firewood.

A ring of 24 organized thieves was arrested in a sting operation in which 256 artifacts were displayed in court, out of 40,000 artifacts that were seized.) So, in addition to maintaining the current boundaries, we have to hope that the operating budget will be sufficient to protect the Monument. Currently, five tribal groups partner with the BLM in staffing Bear's Ears.

New Jerseyans might find relevant a consideration of the preservation and care owed to New Jersey-New York's shared National Monument: Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. Just as they should be of concern to all Americans, so should Bear's Ears, another treasure. Even if oil is found underneath!



Carbon Pricing

By Hogan Dwyer, Political Intern (Hjdwyer@gmail.com)

This Summer I had the pleasure of interning with the political program of the NJ Sierra Club, assisting with the endorsement process for state legislative candidates, and communicating with the Phil Murphy gubernatorial campaign. I also joined a national carbon pricing campaign, called #PutAPriceOnIt, as a Summer Fellow. I was tasked with spreading the word on the local level about carbon pricing, with the ultimate goal of influencing legislators to approve policy. Unfortunately, a statewide carbon tax has little current momentum in New Jersey, partly due to the legal complications of existing laws that require gasoline taxes to go to highway infrastructure. So my Fellowship was geared toward national policy, specifically a proposal known as Carbon Fee and Dividend.

If you are concerned about climate change, you likely have heard of the idea of putting a price on carbon pollution. The idea goes back decades; in fact, the largest organization advocating solely for Carbon Fee and Dividend, Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), celebrates its tenth anniversary this October. Carbon pricing harnesses the power of capitalism to shift us from a carbon-addicted society to a renewable-based one. The details of the policy can vary widely, but all share the common idea that people and institutions should be charged for how much they pollute using fossil fuels. Just as we pay to have our trash taken away, those who pollute our atmosphere ought to pay. The money generated from this can be used by the government to balance the budget or decrease taxes, or be distributed (as a dividend) to all citizens. If the net revenues are entirely distributed to citizens, the policy is referred to as a "fee" rather than a "tax."

My preferred national carbon pricing policy is Carbon Fee and Dividend. As with other proposals, CF&D charges the fee as far "upstream" as possible: at the source of extraction (i.e. the oil well or coal mine). The government simply estimates the ultimate CO2 emissions of the fuel being extracted (in tons of CO2) and levies the fee/tax at an established rate (e.g. \$50 per ton). Carbon Fee and Dividend requires that all net revenues (the gross revenue minus minor administrative costs) be distributed as a dividend to citizens of the United States. This leaves the majority of U.S. families with more money in their pocket than before the policy was implemented, despite the rising cost of fuels and goods manufactured using them. Lastly, the policy includes a border adjustment tax: a fee on imports from countries without an equivalent price on carbon, and a refund of the fee for exports. This piece of the carbon pricing scheme keeps U.S. businesses competitive with the rest of the world while encouraging other countries to adopt the same policy (so that their businesses don't get charged for exporting to the U.S.).

Carbon pricing is not to be confused with cap-and-trade, a policy that trended and then quickly died on the national stage in the early days of the Obama presidency. Both harness the economy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions without a particular technological solution. However, cap-and-trade sets an overall limit on emissions and lets the market determine the actual price to pollute, while a carbon fee or tax sets the price directly and lets that determine the emissions. Both schemes have the potential to accomplish massive reductions in national carbon emissions, or create so low a price that nobody even notices (as with cap-and-trade in the E.U.). The advantages of a carbon fee or tax are that they are simple to implement and that they place a predictable pressure on the market. A carbon fee can go up a set amount (say \$10 per ton of CO2 per year) and the market can prepare and react accordingly.

Carbon pricing has much promise, even in the current political climate, because of its support from a range of ideologies. The Sierra Club supports a fair price on carbon, as seen in the pressure from the Massachusetts Chapter for a state carbon pricing bill. More striking is the support from solidly conservative groups like the Climate Leadership Council, which in February of this year proposed a carbon dividend that is nearly identical to CCL's Carbon Fee and Dividend. That proposal has received public support from the likes of Exxon Mobil and Royal Dutch Shell. Carbon pricing offers hope for combating climate change under an anti-environment national administration.

To gain attention and support for carbon pricing at the national level, the Sierra Club is asking for municipal resolutions. Town governments speak for all their residents, thus making a more powerful statement than individual citizens. Because such resolutions go through a public hearing process, they allow for open discussion and debate about carbon pricing on the local level, making for grassroots politics rather than top-down.

In late June, I made a Powerpoint presentation on this very topic to my town's Board of Trustees. The Trustees welcomed another way to affirm their commitment to a sustainable future, so they recommended the drafting of a resolution in direct support of Carbon Fee and Dividend. I then met with the town's Environmental Commission to draft the resolution, and followed it through the public hearing process until it was approved unanimously by City Council on July 10, 2017.

I am certain that many other municipal governments in New Jersey would be willing to consider and pass a resolution in support of carbon pricing. We simply need more residents from more towns educating the public and the government about the power of endorsing carbon pricing. With the combined voices of citizens, towns, and cities, we can make sure that carbon pricing remains in the public conversation until it is a reality.

If you think your town would be open to an endorsement of carbon pricing, or if you'd simply like more information about it, or about CF&D, or about the #PutAPriceOnIt campaign, please contact me (Hogan Dwyer) at hjdwyer@gmail.com, or by mail: SMC #770, 23 Romoda Drive, St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY, 13617.

On Wednesday, Sept 13, the Central Jersey Group's program is Stop! Don't Reduce the Boundaries of our National Monuments. The lead speaker will be Deb Young, a Sierra Club leader focused on saving Bear's Ears. 6pm for pizza and snacks, 6:30pm for the program. Mercer County Community College, Administration Building, Room Ad234a (second floor). Use Hughes Drive Entrance - park in Student Center (Welcome Center) Parking Lot close to building - entrance arm will be up. Short walk through Student Center, following Sierra Club signs, and cross small Quad to Administration Building. RSVP to: Kipatthesierraclub@gmail.com. Students welcome! Free.

A Decade of Cool Cities & Green Team History

By Steve Miller, Climate Issues Chair of our Jersey Shore Group (SteveMiller@comcast.net)

I continue to be amazed at parallels between a decade ago, and now. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted unanimously in 1997; it entered into force on 16 February 2005. The Bush Administration rejected the Kyoto Protocol. In response, 180 (eventually 192) US Mayors signed a pledge to cut global warming pollution to 7% less than 1990 levels by 2012. The Sierra Club dubbed those 192 "Cool Cities", created tabling events to write letters to mayors, and launched a 2006 campaign of "Cool Cities" innovative energy solutions. Corzine issued Executive Order 54 in Feb. 2007, and then in July signed, the "Global Warming Response Act" legislation. These both strived to stabilize and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below 2006 levels by 2050.

Faith Teitelbaum, as NJ Chapter "Cool Cities" Issue coordinator, led New Jersey's Cool Cities campaign. With a National grant in hand, Faith hired Professor Patrick Hossay + student assistant at Stockton State, to generate documentation and organize towns and Environmental Commissions using Cool Cities infrastructure. Within the Jersey Shore

Group, Faith, as Conservation Chair, and member of "Monmouth County Cool Cities Partnership", helped to organize county-wide trainings to get Green Teams running. When National Sierra Club ceased supporting the "Cool Cities" campaign, those Cool City Green Teams (the Environmental Commissions in some cities) were brought under the umbrella of a non-profit, "Sustainable Jersey", which has supported Green Teams to date.

A decade later, in 2017, the US has dropped out of the Paris agreement. In response, numerous mayors/cities have pledged to continue moving to clean energy. Sustainable Jersey announced "Gold Star in Energy". Marketing reads: "Want to Adopt Policies in Line with the Paris Climate Agreement? ...Lead on Climate Action Now, and We Have a Road Map". Gold Star projects focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and other projects to encourage solar panels and electric vehicles, etc. At time of this writing, NJ Green Teams are just being introduced to these Actions.

The NJ future looks promising for wide-spread reductions of Greenhouse Gases.

Member Reports

Something’s Growing In Camden

By Gina Carola (ginaceee@verizon.net), Chair of our West Jersey Group

Take a walk through the Waterfront South neighborhood of Camden, NJ, and you will be sure to marvel at the surprises that you will find. Besides being home to well-maintained row-houses on tree-lined streets, churches, parks and even a community theater, you will find lovingly tended orchards, vegetable gardens, a greenhouse, rain gardens and even bee hives. On Wednesday afternoons in the summer you can get your produce at the Youth-run Farmers’ Market on Ferry Avenue. You can also buy locally-produced honey from the urban bees, seedlings for your vegetable garden, and the Center’s specialty product ‘Kapow! Hot Sauce.’ It comes in two varieties: Hot and Very Hot! (See photo.) The money raised goes right back into the programs in Camden.



It wasn’t always like this. The transformation came about through the hard work of the residents and staff at the Center for Environmental Transformation (CFET). CFET’s vision is this: “In partnership with our neighbors, we seek to educate people into a more environmentally responsible way of living on our planet and sponsor local solutions to environmental challenges.”

Currently, the CFET staff, which include Camden youth hired as EcoInterns, grow over 2,000 pounds of fresh chemical-free fruits and vegetables in several lots in the neighborhood – totaling about 1 acre. A 200-square foot greenhouse is used to nurture seedlings both for the gardens and for sale to residents for their home gardens. The greenhouse also functions as a classroom, and the outdoor gardens and orchards also function as community gathering spaces, outdoor classrooms, and an urban connection to the natural world.

The Emerald Street Garden, which spans four city lots, holds many surprises besides the greenhouse. Passing a border of native plants, you walk into the garden to find a compost pile, a chicken coop and a cob bread oven. Here is where volunteers and neighborhood children come for lessons, games and a sense of community. In a city park at the foot of Jasper St, check out the CFET garden full of tomatoes, hot and sweet peppers, eggplants, potatoes, salad greens, bush and dry beans, collards, broccoli, cabbage, onions, garlic and okra. All of this great, chemical-free and fresh produce can be purchased at the Wednesday market.

Head over to Winslow and Ancona Sts to see an orchard that contains a mulberry tree that was planted twenty years ago by a resident. It is surrounded by apple, pear, peach and cherry trees that will soon bear fruit. Neighbors can plant their own vegetable beds here, too. Growing in another young orchard on Ferry Ave are apricots, pears, plums, cherries, asian pears, elderberries, figs, persimmons and plumcots (hybrid plum-apricots). Also conveniently located here are three hives full of very busy bees.

Last year, our West Jersey Group used money raised by selling calendars and community park cleanups to proudly support CFET: providing funds to build a raised vegetable bed. The bed is now home to pepper plants and herbs. (See photo, showing Group members Ellen Zinni, Camden native Frank Zinni, Linda Rubiano, Mike Brown, Trish Sebastiano, Bill Labb and me.) Camden native and West Jersey Group Vice-Chair Frank Zinni has also been very active in supporting this transformation in Camden by working with the New Jersey Tree Foundation to plant the street trees that shade this newly-transformed neighborhood. If you would like to volunteer some time helping to continue the magic, visit the CFET website’s volunteer page at <http://www.cfet.org/get-involved/volunteer/> or stop by CFET on first Saturdays from 9:45 am until 12:45 pm to help with projects in the gardens (check our website and Facebook). For more details or to let CFET know you’re coming, feel free to email ddirector@cfet.org or farmer@cfet.org. Happy Gardening!

Remembering Gregory Auriemma

By Toni Granato, Administrative Assistant in our Trenton Office

Greg Auriemma, Chair of our Ocean County Group, member of the New Jersey Chapter’s Executive Committee and longtime volunteer who contributed much to the Sierra Club and its mission, died unexpectedly in early July while hiking in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Greg’s death is a terrible blow to me and to all who knew him.

I will leave it to others to list Greg’s many accomplishments. But I would like to share my personal memories and thoughts about a man who greatly influenced my life and was a mentor.

I first met him in 2014 while looking for jobs after graduate school and was introduced to the Ocean County Group of the Sierra Club. Greg knew I wanted to help recruit for the People’s Climate March and that I was passionate about climate change issues, since our community was devastated by Hurricane Sandy. Working together, I experienced his passion about getting as many people to the march as possible, which increased my motivation.

Together we led more than 100 people onto the train from Point Pleasant to New York City. We easily managed then getting folks onto public transit and to the march – to some it would be stressful, but to us it was like Christmas morning. We then formed our people into two groups – those who could walk longer and those who could not. Afterwards, when we met up, both of our faces were ecstatic when we learned there were over 400,000 marchers there. This was a huge accomplishment and I was happy to have shared it with Greg and his Group.

While still a Sierra Club volunteer I attended Greg’s Group meetings in Toms River, my hometown. He always made me feel welcome and even special. He gave me a formal introduction to everyone at the meeting, and told them my educational background and that I helped plan the People’s Climate March. He also joked that I was

Evaluating Risks Associated with Natural Gas Pipelines

By Kip Cherry, Conservation Chair of our Central Jersey Group (KipAtTheSierraClub@gmail.com)

The Sierra Club’s Central Jersey Group recently hosted a well-attended lecture on safety risks from natural gas pipelines – by Michael J. Brogan, PhD, a professor at Rider University. In the context of New Jersey’s current frenzy of gas pipeline construction, the lecture, entitled “Evaluating Risk and Natural Gas Pipeline Safety,” examined public perceptions of risk.

Also present was State Senator Kip Bateman (R-16), member of the Senate Environmental Committee, who announced that he had sent a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, asking it to avoid making a determination on the Penn East Pipeline until the Draft Environmental Statement has been completed. He also indicated his commitment to restoring New Jersey’s membership in the northeastern states’ Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and his belief that some Republican legislators are shifting their views toward the importance of environmental regulation and actions to control climate change.

Dr. Brogan studied individual perceptions of natural gas pipeline incidents and the expansion of pipeline infrastructure in the United States, utilizing Kahnman and Tversky’s Prospect Theory. The U.S. natural gas pipeline network has been expanding massively since 2010, as fracking has substantially reduced the price of gas relative to other fossil fuels. Brogan’s research is providing policymakers with a better understanding of how the public perceives risks and benefits associated with pipeline expansion.



Overall, he found that when individuals balance the benefits and risks of pipeline expansion, a majority of all respondents (53.4%) chose safety as more important than lower price. In other words: when aware of pipeline risk, individuals value safety over monetary benefits.

Natural gas pipeline accidents are rare events, but disastrous when they happen, making the risk difficult to estimate. Dr. Brogan and his colleagues found that public awareness of risks associated with natural gas tends to be abstract, and not based on accident data. Using three groups, including a control group, his subjects were presented with two accident scenarios. Not surprisingly, he concluded that when the public is presented with information on an actual pipeline incident, there is a decline in support for a gas pipeline project.

For the period 2010-2014, nation-wide, 10,620 individuals were evacuated in gas pipeline incidents. 62% of the incidents involved gas ignition. And 21% of all reported gas pipeline incidents involved injuries. The total cost of gas pipeline incidents was \$163.6 million. This data was obtained by Dr. Brogan from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

- Dr. Brogan’s survey included the following additional results:
- 61% of respondents thought that natural gas utility bills should indicate how much of a consumer’s bill is spent on safety inspections and regulation.
 - 72% thought consumers should be made aware of the number of citations for pipeline violations issued to each gas pipeline operator.

The full study is scheduled to be published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Politics & Policy in August of this year.

Trump Trumps New Jersey

From Wikipedia’s entry on Trump National Golf Club, Bedminster NJ (10 Aug 2017)

“For tax purposes, The Trump Organization secured a classification of the Bedminster course and the Trump course in Colt’s Neck Twp, NJ, as farmland. For that purpose, part of the acreage at Bedminster is used for growing hay and raising eight goats. The Wall Street Journal estimates that the use of the property tax exemption for farmland reduced the tax bill on the two golf courses from \$80,000 to less than \$1,000. The Director of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club said that Trump was ‘hiding behind a farmland assessment to get a massive break on a golf course.’”

the youngest person attending the meetings, something that he was always “working on” so that young people could get more involved. Greg was a wealth of knowledge and loved to educate people. Over the years he supervised college student interns from Ocean County College, often speaking there. He would typically provide an environmental policy update before each Group meeting’s main speaker and loved taking questions from his Group members.

Later, as a Sierra Club staff member, I was invited to speak at an Ocean County Sierra Club meeting – about the pipelines in the Pinelands. Greg congratulated me on the presentation and passed on each individual comment from his Group members. He always wanted to make sure I felt appreciated for a job well done.

As a staff member, Greg took a lead role in mentoring me. We spent hours on the phone, talking about outreach and activism as well as environmental issues in Ocean County and nationally. I was lucky to be able to share my frustrations with over-development, Barnegat Bay and Oyster Creek. Then we would decide how to deal with these issues and make a difference!

Most of my conversations with Greg left me feeling smarter. And he was always impressed with the knowledge I gained under Jeff Tittel’s guidance.

Greg was one of my biggest cheerleaders and I will always be thankful for the role he played in my life. We worked together on the People’s Climate March on April 29th of this year. There was the same passion as on the march three years previously. The time Greg spent organizing and recruiting people was truly remarkable, producing three full buses heading to Washington, D.C.

We lived only about 10 minutes from each other, so I often pass by his law office, each time being reminded of our work to protect and cherish the special places we called home.

Member Reports

NJ Mayors Commit to Renewables

By Greg Gorman (GGorman07419@embarqmail.com)

In April, the Sierra Club began a “Mayors for 100% Clean Energy” campaign for community-based transitions to 100% renewable energy: to reduce carbon emissions, clean the air, strengthen the economy, and improve lives. NJ’s Sierra Club Groups wish to thank Mayors Brian P. Stack (Union City), Frank Bivona (Franklin Lakes), Peter Rustin (Tenafly), Phillip D. Kramer (Franklin Township), and Bert H. Steinmann (Ewing Township) for their pledges. The pledges helped secure approval of a resolution at the U.S. Climate Mayors Conference, in June, held in Miami. This resolution establishes “a community-wide target of powering their communities with 100 percent clean, renewable energy by 2035.”

In June, “We Are Still In,” an open letter to the international community, was signed by mayors, governors, college and university leaders, businesses, and investors to join forces and continue to support climate action to meet the Paris Climate Agreement. This letter was coordinated by the Sierra Club and 19 other organizations: The American Sustainable Business Council, B Team, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Center for American Progress, Ceres, CDP, Climate Mayors, Climate Nexus, C40, C2ES, Environmental Defense Fund, Environmental Entrepreneurs, Georgetown Climate Center, ICLEI, National League of Cities, Rocky Mountain Institute, Second Nature, The Climate Group, We Mean Business, and World Wildlife Fund. We thank, in addition to those mentioned in the paragraph

above, Mayors Gayle Brill Mittler (Highland Park), Frank Huttler III (Englewood), Dawn Zimmer (Hoboken), Steven M. Fulop (Jersey City), Liz Lempert (Princeton), and Mohammed Hameeduddin (Teaneck); also Bruce Bergen, Freeholder Chairman for the County of Union. We also thank all the NJ businesses and investors who signed the letter. (See “wearestillin.com”).

Also in June, 364 U.S. Mayors, representing 66 million Americans, signed a similar letter to adopt, honor, and uphold their commitments to the goals enshrined in the Paris Agreement. For this additional commitment we thank Mayors Robert Moffatt (Cape May Point), Chuck Cahn (Cherry Hill), Colleen Mahr (Fanwood), Bruce J. Packer (Glenn Rock), Gayle Brill Mittler (Highland Park), Dawn Zimmer (Hoboken), Steven M. Fulop (Jersey City), Adam Schneider (Long Branch), Timothy Dougherty (Morristown), Ras J. Baraka (Newark), Francis M. Womack (North Brunswick), Peter Cantu (Plainsboro), Liz Lempert (Princeton), Michael J. Gonnelli (Secaucus), Sheena Collum (South Orange), Thomas Fromm (Swedesboro), Eric E. Jackson (Trenton), Felix E. Roque (West New York), and once again Brian Stack (Union City).

Note: there are 566 mayors in New Jersey but only 28 listed above. So there is work for us to do! These petitions remain open for signature. I ask my fellow Sierrans to encourage your local government officials to support a Clean Energy Agenda, and to contact me if I can help.

Report from Trenton

Governor Vetoes Oil Train Safety Bill

From a press release issued on July 14th, edited by Irene Gnarra

On July 14, Governor Christie conditionally vetoed a bill (S806 - Weinberg) that sought to make oil trains in the state safer. The bill would require rail companies that transport hazardous materials, such as Bakken crude oil, to have discharge response, cleanup, and contingency plans.

We think Christie’s veto is reckless and unconscionable. The bill had widespread support (26-10 in a Senate containing 24Ds and 16Rs; 54-16-4 in an Assembly containing 50 Ds and 30 Rs). We hope the Legislature will override the veto, but it had not done so as of Aug 10th.

The derailment of a train carrying Bakken crude oil in a populated area, or an environmentally sensitive area, would create a major disaster. Hundreds of such trains travel through our state each year, and federal regulations governing their movements are lax. They pass major supplies of drinking water, such as the Oradell Reservoir and the Delaware River. Each tanker car carries 34,500 gallons of oil; one quart can contaminate one million gallons of water. Previous Bakken train derailments, involving thousands of gallons of crude oil, have caused destruction of homes and neighborhoods, evacuation of towns, and loss of water supplies, not to mention many deaths.

In 2013, 80 tanker cars carrying crude oil in Lac Megantic, Quebec, killed 47 people. Three other accidents happened in 2013, when tank cars either derailed or crashed into another train. In March of this year a train carrying crude oil derailed in Galena, Illinois, catching fire: flames could be seen for miles. More recently, trains have derailed in Aliceville, Alabama; Plainfield, Illinois; and Bedford County, 100 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, PA. Clearly these trains pose a threat to our safety, land, and drinking water.

There are 2,400 miles of freight tracks in New Jersey, carrying 30 trains a week, and cutting through major metropolitan areas such as Somerville, Camden, West Trenton and Newark. In Teaneck, for example, Sierra Club members watch as the trains traverse their town. Each train carries dozens of tank cars that transport one of the most flammable types of oil-Bakken crude.

It’s interesting that railroad tank cars are forbidden from carrying gasoline – because of the danger of explosion. Yet North Dakota Bakken Shale Oil contains volatiles that are far more explosive. It’s a corporate loophole that you can drive a train through! In the Club’s testimony in support of S806, Jeff Tittel argued that, “Until we can ban these cars altogether, we need this legislation to plan for accidents they may cause.”

Better, we need to eliminate these dangerous tank cars by moving to a clean energy future. Currently, the Sierra Club is suing the NJ Department of Transportation to enact a moratorium on these trains until they are made safer.

On the Trail

A Day in Cheesequake State Park

By Arline Zatz, Chair of our Senior/Fifty-plus Section (AZatz@FunTravels.com; Arline has privately copyrighted this report and its photographs, which she took, 2017.)

Cheesequake, located in eastern-most Middlesex County, fills the role of several parks. You can hike, bike, paddle a canoe or kayak, swim, camp, fly a kite, bird-watch, photograph, picnic, play outdoor games, relax on the sandy beach or toss a ball. During winter months there’s sledding down a hill, cross-country skiing, or snowshoeing through the park. Like fishing? Try the six-acre freshwater lake for a tasty trout or sunfish, or go crabbing at the Crabbing Bridge. Year-round, you can also participate in naturalist Jim Faczak’s many hikes, talks and boat trips, while learning about the Park’s wonders along the way.

There are lots of theories on how this treasure – situated between New Jersey’s northern and southern vegetation zones with unique plant and animal life over a diversity of terrain – got its name. Some believe it originates from the Indian word ‘chichequaas,’ meaning ‘upland village.’ But because the Park lies on a fault where tectonic movement has been recorded as recently as 1979, others think it was named because the earth trembles like cheese! When you explore the quaking bogs in the marshes, you may agree with this version.

Want to stretch your legs? After leaving the tollbooth at the Park entrance (nominal fee charged from Memorial Day to Labor Day), park on your left. A map shows the four trails with their individual color-blaze codes. Some trails merge with others, so always look for the specific trail color you opted for.

The shortest, easiest hike is the 0.75-mile loop Yellow Trail that starts down steps and boardwalks, and veers uphill again on the way to a long staircase. Nearby, Hook’s Creek Lake can be seen; then the salt marsh filled with reeds called Phragmites – that sway in the slightest breeze. Skunk cabbage, with its rank odor and attractive green, stalk-like leaf, makes an appearance in the marshy areas. If you hear a tap-tap-tap sound, look for woodpeckers. Just before the end of the trail, walk downhill to the excellent Nature Center where naturalist Jim Faczak will introduce you to the park’s local critters: fish, turtles and more. The exhibits are fascinating and well maintained.

Full of energy? Then consider the moderate 2.0-mile-loop Blue Trail. With some hills, steps, and boardwalks, it leads to a mixed hardwood forest with chipmunks busy under the oak trees. Where it’s elevated, you’ll spot the salt marsh before going down lots of steps to a small bridge over a freshwater wetland area. You may hear frogs singing during spring. If you smell the aroma of pine, it’s the pitch pine area just ahead, followed by tall white pine trees and eventually a bird blind overlooking a pond where wildlife hang out.

The 1.3-mile loop Red Trail passes Interval Pond where the tiny spring-peepers serenade hikers in high-pitched voices – to attract females. Walk quietly and you may see deer. Soon you’ll be walking through a Pine Barrens ecosystem where pitch pines are dominant, but oaks and mountain laurel abound. Now and then you’ll notice sphagnum moss that absorbs water like a sponge. If stepped on, you’ll bounce up and down! At the campground road, follow the trail under the wooden trail arch where the Green and Red Trails merge, and where the Gordon Field Group Campgrounds are to the right.

The longest 3.0-mile Green Trail has some hills and steps, close-up views of pine barrens similar to those in the southern part of the state – complete with sand beneath your feet; a fresh water swamp with outstanding specimens of Atlantic white cedar, sweet bay magnolia, red maple; a mature hardwood forest with American beech, black birch, and white and red oak. This area is a paradise for birdwatchers – more than 186 species of birds have been sighted in these woods, as well as many mammals including red foxes, white-tailed deer, and chipmunks. In spring you’ll see skunk cabbage while crossing a boardwalk over a wet area, also sphagnum moss, resembling a rich, bright green carpet.

Camping at Cheesequake is a wonderful experience. During the day, campers can stroll, hike, swim in the lake and have dinner around a campfire – a great combination of exercise and relaxation. Sites are large with fire rings and picnic tables, plus a building with flush toilets and shower facilities.

Cheesequake is definitely a park for all ages, and no matter which season you visit or activity you choose, you’ll surely want to return again and again.

Location: The Park is accessible from exit 120 off the Garden State Parkway and from Rte 34, well signposted on those highways.

Hours for day use: Daily 8am to one hour before sunset. Office phone: 732-566-2161.

Nature Center – Summer: 7 days a week, 8am-4pm. (Closed lunch-hour). Other seasons: Wed-Sun, 8am to 4pm.

Large yellow plastic bags are available, free, for the park’s Carry-In/Carry-Out Program.

Toilets are next to the park office, at the lake area and in the group camp area off the Red Trail.

Bring water, a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent; wear sneakers or walking shoes (no flip flops). Stay on the trails to avoid prime tick habitat, wear light-colored clothing, tuck long pants into socks and check for ticks frequently and after returning home.



Member Reports

It’s Our Water, Let’s Protect It

By Greg Gorman (ggorman07419@embarqmail.com)

The Newton (Sussex Co) Water and Sewer Utility sent out a notice on July 26 advising residents that the water it supplies exceeds state standards for carcinogenic total trihalomethanes, or TTHM. (These include chloroform as well as various fluorine-containing compounds.) The state standard for TTHM is 80 parts per billion. The reason for the notification was explained as follows: “The level of TTHMs averaged at one of our system’s locations for 7/1/2016 –6/30/2017 was 81 parts per billion.”

In past years, Newton’s levels of TTHMs averaged less than 55ppb, with occasional readings approaching 80ppb in the summer months. Since the early 1900’s the Lake Morris reservoir, located between two ridges on Sparta Mountain, has provided water to the community. TTHMs are produced when chlorine reacts with organic matter in water, both during the chlorination of drinking water (to kill bacteria) and during treatment of sewage-plant effluent. The current high levels of TTHM are attributed to the 2016 drought, when water levels dropped to 51 inches below the reservoir spill-way, thereby elevating biomass concentrations. To remediate the problem, Newton flushed the water lines.

Nearby Lake Hopatcong, the State’s largest lake, has experienced the worst-ever year for weeds.

Excessive amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus, coupled with invasive plant species, have produced serious algal blooms and oxygen-depletion, resulting in diminished use of the Lake for fishing, swimming, and boating. A study performed by Princeton Hydro in 2006 attributed 52% of the lake’s phosphorus contamination to septic systems and 33% to surface runoff, which includes lawn fertilizer and animal droppings.

Lakes Hopatcong and Morris are located on the western edge of the Highlands Water Protection Region, meaning that its water flows eastward into the rest of the Highlands, and thus into the reservoirs that supply drinking water to much of northern New Jersey. If these “upstream” water users are threatened, what does that mean for those downstream? Water quality is very sensitive to changes, whether natural or human-induced. Fracking in the Delaware River Basin, rollback of Federal clean water rules, construction of pipelines through the Pine Barrens and virtually everywhere else in New Jersey, expanded development in the Highlands, wetland encroachment, offshore drilling, and a host of other actions threaten our health, economy, and environment. It’s our water, let’s protect it.

Reports from Trenton

Congress Must Stand With Us against Trump

From a press release issued on June 9th, edited by Joe Testa

The NJ Sierra Club held rallies in June at the offices of Congressmen Lance, MacArthur, Smith and Frelinghuysen, urging them to stand up to President Trump’s attack on the environment. President Trump has announced his intent to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement that requires participating nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Future generations will suffer the consequences of this irresponsible decision. Withdrawal would not only hurt the environment, but threaten our economy costing us millions of green jobs.

New Jersey has been devastated by climate change, but the Trump Administration has proposed to cut the Environmental Protection Agency budget by a third, the biggest cut to any agency. These cuts would disrupt water quality testing, while eliminating programs to clean up our water supply, promote clean energy and deal with climate change. It would also cut 3,800 jobs from the EPA, leaving no staff to enforce laws to protect our air and water. There would be major cuts to the Superfund programs that help clean up contamination.

What Trump is doing is a long-term sell-out of the environment and public health to take care of corporate polluters. While another Hurricane Sandy event is increasingly more likely to happen again, he is making our coast risk increased sea levels and more severe storms. Places like the Meadowlands, Hoboken, and the Barrier Islands are already going under water.

We are calling on our members of Congress to fight back to ensure we tackle climate change, stop offshore drilling, and protect our communities. We want Congress to hold Trump accountable for his environmentally destructive agenda and demand that the U.S. stay in the Paris Agreement, and to reject the President’s proposed EPA budget cuts.

By denying climate change, Trump is denying reality for our environment, our economic growth, and our future. Instead of benefiting from clean energy and clean jobs, Trump is turning his back on economic progress. While other countries benefit from the booming clean energy economy, Trump is sending our country backwards. China will be a leader in manufacturing solar panels and Germany will be making windmills, while our country is left in the wind.

Trump has even moved forward with plans for offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean, which would threaten our \$38 billion coastal economy if there was a spill. We are asking Congress to stand up against the President pushing forward with seismic testing and ultimately, offshore drilling, in the Atlantic Ocean. Drilling anywhere in the Mid-Atlantic would directly put our coasts at risk. Even a spill off of Virginia would find its way to our shores. One quart of oil pollutes a million gallons of water. This is really shortsighted because of the potential for a little bit of oil could jeopardize our coast, our multi-billion-dollar fishing industry, and our tourism industry.

We have asked our Congressmen to join the Climate Solutions Caucus, a bipartisan group in the U.S. House of Representatives which explores policy options that address the impacts, causes, and challenges of our changing climate.

At our rallies, we told our Congressmen that they represent us, not special interests, not Steve Bannon, and not Donald Trump. We need our representatives to stand up to all of the attacks by the Trump Administration and become leaders in the battle to fight climate change. If our Congressmen won’t represent us, then we will get someone who will. We need our representatives to stand up for the environment and the future of our planet.

Blue Blazes Map

(supplementing the Editorial on p.3)

Prepared by Frank Pearce, South Jersey Outdoor Club



Phil Murphy Poised to Win the Statehouse

From a press release issued on June 7th, edited by Irene Gnarra

The Sierra Club congratulates Ambassador Phil Murphy: winner of the June primary election and now Democratic candidate for Governor. We proudly supported him as the candidate most likely to protect the environment and fight climate change. We believe that he will bring new vigor and energy to the Statehouse. Now we must redouble our support to ensure that he is elected on November 7th.

Murphy is leading a battle for the future of New Jersey. Not only does he plan to reverse Gov. Chris Christie’s rollbacks on air and water protections; he also hopes to enact additional environmental protections, responsibly apply environmental settlement funds, and develop jobs in clean-energy fields.

Murphy would like to transition New Jersey to a green economy by promoting renewable energy over fossil fuels. He is opposed to fracking and the dumping of fracking waste in New Jersey. He recognizes the importance of wind turbine technology, and wants to make New Jersey a leader in wind and solar power. He has committed to 3500 megawatts of offshore wind, and he advocates a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2050. To help accomplish this, he will return our state to the northeastern states’ Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. His efforts will protect our state from future storm events.

Ambassador Murphy has been an outspoken critic of Christie’s failure to protect our drinking water. He plans to update aging water infrastructure, stopping the current diversion of money intended to replace lead pipes in old homes and other buildings. Christie has stacked many important councils and commissions with people who represent the gas and oil industries and other special interest groups; we expect Murphy to appoint people who will work to protect our environment, including the Highlands and Pinelands. Murphy has denounced proposals for natural gas pipelines threatening New Jersey, such as the PennEast and Pilgrim. The Sierra Club supports Murphy’s opposition to offshore drilling and expansion of the use of fossil fuels.

Phil Murphy promises to be a champion for our environment. We support him during this campaign, and, upon his victory, we look forward to working with him to improve the environment for the people of New Jersey. Let’s take back the Governor’s mansion.

Reports from Trenton

Pennsylvania DEP Rejects Elcon’s Application for Hazardous Waste Facility

From a press release issued on May 31st

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has rejected an application to build a hazardous waste treatment facility in Falls Twp, on the Delaware River opposite New Jersey, due to its “administrative incompleteness.” The rejection letter noted six deficiencies in land use planning, including the lack of an analysis of how the plant would affect the underground environment. The proposal by Elcon is for a 70,000 square-foot toxic waste treatment facility in the Keystone Industrial Park, that would convert industrial liquid waste from chemical and pharmaceutical companies into “clean water.” We worry that the 600 dangerous chemicals treated would pollute our air and water. The Delaware River supplies water to six million people, with major withdrawals for New Jerseyans at Trenton and Delran.

The Elcon Recycling Company operates a similar facility at Haifa Bay, Israel, which has consistently exceeded limits on various toxic pollutants in its discharged water and air emissions. We are concerned that a facility here would fail similarly, polluting the Delaware River and our region’s air.

Risk of accidental spills in the transportation and storage of hazardous materials should be enough to deny this application. 17-25 trucks will be moving in and out of the site each day, containing toxic chemicals to be incinerated or toxic ash to be landfilled. Just one spill could have a disastrous impact on the neighborhood and water resources in the area. The Philadelphia Water Co. has said that any spill would be “catastrophic.”

Last year, leakage of stored waste chemicals in West Virginia resulted in disastrous pollution of a major river. We’ll keep you informed.

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Senate Challenges Christie on Highlands Population Density

Modified from a press release issued on May 25th

On May 25th the State Senate challenged Gov. Christie by passing a resolution, ACR192 (McKeon)/SCR148 (Smith), to oppose his attempt to increase residential density in the NJ Highlands. The Senate’s 22-14 vote was followed by Assembly concurrence, 54-24, on June 8. The resolution “determines that DEP’s proposal to amend septic system density standards in Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Rules is inconsistent with legislative intent.”

At issue is the degree to which residential septic tanks can be expected to rejuvenate the groundwater used by private homes. Excess housing density results in polluted groundwater. In addition, surface runoff from the roofs and pavements of excess housing density can result in down-gradient flooding and pollution of reservoirs. The Rules base their permitted housing densities on models for nitrate concentrations in groundwater. An older set of rules was held up in Court; now DEP wants to allow four times more nitrates in the Forest Preservation Area. The model is based on data taken from mostly developed areas of the Highlands around lakes that have shallow aquifers – in areas outside the Preservation Area.

Our own water quality expert, Peter Demicco, PG, conducted a study that refutes the DEP’s model because the DEP used a shallow aquifer rather than a deep aquifer, and one that is outside of the Forest Preservation Area.

These DEP Rules would allow at least 61 more housing units in Bethlehem and Byram Townships, which will double when affordable housing requirements (COAH) are considered.

Highlands water carries a non-degradation standard, which means no additional pollution can be added. The law requires the most protective standard everywhere. But one finagle in the new DEP Rule is to base its standards on an average throughout the Highlands. Tricky!

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Another Environmental Bill Vetoed by the Governor

State Senate Stood Up to Christie on RGGI and Climate Change

Based on a press release issued on May 25th

On May 25th the Senate passed A4701 (Eustace)/S3059 (Sweeney) by a vote of 23-15, it having previously succeeded in the Assembly 47-26-7. Gov. Christie vetoed it on July 13th. The bill would have restored the State’s full participation in the north-eastern states’ Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Governor Christie had withdrawn New Jersey’s membership in RGGI by Executive Order in August, 2015.

RGGI is a ten-state regional compact to reduce climate change and air pollution, and fund clean energy projects – by a small surcharge on electricity bills. Exiting the program has cost New Jersey jobs, increased pollution, and failure to combat climate change. The Governor certainly exceeded legislative intent by the withdrawal and several subsequent vetoes.

Before our withdrawal, RGGI had reduced greenhouse gas emissions by almost 20 million tons and created 1,800 green jobs in New Jersey. The money had been used to expand renewable energy and help middle class families save money on their electric bills.

We think Christie’s withdrawal was a corporate giveaway to polluters, allowing them to contaminate our air – resulting in public health consequences. Right after the Executive Order, Christie had lunch with the Koch brothers.

Victory for Clean Air and Climate Change: PSE&G Coal Plants Have Closed

From a press release issued by Jeff Tittel on May 30th

Public Service Electric and Gas, New Jersey’s largest electricity supplier, has closed its two remaining coal plants in New Jersey: in Hudson and Mercer Counties. For the last two years, neither had been economically viable, requiring expensive, low-sulfur Indonesian coal to satisfy smokestack emission standards.

The Sierra Club has been fighting these plants for 20 years – with lawsuits and demonstrations. New Jersey has some of the worst air pollution in the nation, largely as a consequence of the gases and soot emitted from the two plants. Their pollution also extended to the Delaware River and Hudson River estuaries that received their heated cooling water. For example, the Mercer plant, in Hamilton Twp, has been killing up to 70 million fish and fish larvae per year including more than 30 species of fish.

Another benefit is a reduced cost of electricity, since newer power plants, using cheaper fuels, are now available, including plants using renewable energy sources: hydro and solar. Yet another is the reduced emission of greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide and methane, that contribute to global warming and climate change. We also expect to see short- and long-term health benefits from cleaner air: a reduction in hospitalizations of children with asthma, and a lower incidence of many forms of cancer.

The closing of the Hudson plant will have Environmental Justice benefits, since it has been the largest source of air pollution for the ethnic communities of Jersey City and the surrounding area.

We thank PSE&G President Ralph Izzo for his leadership in closing these plants. He is fighting climate change with clean energy. We look forward to working with him and PSE&G on energy efficiency, renewable energy and other ways to get us to a carbon-free future. Given PSE&G’s size and other facilities, we also would like to help assure just transitions for the employees of these plants, who will need new jobs.

Cities across the country are turning former coal-plants to new uses. Alexandria VA is converting its plant into a mixed-use development, and Philadelphia is transitioning one to a big entertainment center.

Another outcome of the closures is to demonstrate to the Trump Administration the folly of its pro-coal agenda. He has rolled back protections and opened public lands for coal mining, allowing coal ash to be dumped into our waterways. The Sierra Club has helped close 253 coal plants nationwide. We’re also working to stop natural gas power plants and pipelines and instead promote renewable energy.

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Trump Offshore Drilling Plan Set in Motion; Sierra Club Fights Back

From a press release issued on July 3rd, and edited by Joe Testa

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) has taken the first step toward allowing expanded offshore drilling for oil and natural gas. Areas to be drilled in the Outer Continental Shelf include parts of the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Arctic Ocean north of Alaska.

While President Obama made efforts to protect our oceans, the Trump Administration is pushing forward with seismic testing and ultimately, offshore drilling. The 45-day comment period in July and August was the first step in the lengthy, years-long process of revising the program. The procedure involves assessing the economic and environmental impact of drilling, and the effects it would have on ocean features, wildlife and local communities.

The President is selling out our coast and risking our economy to Big Oil and Gas interests. Now is the time for the people to stand up and speak out against this disastrous plan. This plan clearly threatens our \$38 billion coastal economy, wrecking our ecosystem and fisheries to take care of corporate polluters. Our state will not only be at risk from a spill or explosion, but we will see more climate impacts threatening people and property.

Offshore drilling would lead to increased climate impacts, while polluting our air and waterways. Even worse, the oil and gas being drilled for could be shipped abroad. That means the only oil we will see is the oil that will wash up on our beaches from a spill.

Sierra Club’s “Don’t Rig Our Coastal Economy” report found that New Jersey’s coastal tourism industry supports nearly 500,000 jobs, and one out of every six of the state’s jobs are linked in some form to its shoreline. Visits to the area 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 off significantly and the area directly lost at least \$1 billion in revenue. An oil spill off the coast of New Jersey could trigger an even more dramatic decline in tourism.

Sierra Club and others are going to court to preserve the Obama Administration’s protections of about 4 million acres last year. Obama, acting under his authority designated by Section 12a of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, protected 115 million acres of the Arctic Ocean, excluding only 2.9 million acres which have previously been leased near Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. In the Atlantic Ocean, Obama protected 3.8 million acres, stretching from Massachusetts to Maryland.

The lawsuit could decide how much authority presidents have to dictate when and where offshore drilling should take place, as the first test of a 64-year-old statute empowering presidents to rule out the activity “from time to time.” Sierra Club will show that drilling anywhere in the Mid-Atlantic would directly put our coast at risk. The oil would be taken to refineries in our area, further putting us at risk.

We must stand up to Trump and the fossil fools in Washington. The same ‘Drill Baby, Drill’ crowd are now the ‘Spill Baby, Spill’ crowd. We need to stand up to continue to protect our coasts because one quart of oil pollutes a million gallons of water so this is a serious threat. We have to explore new technologies for wind and wave power and remove obstacles that stand in the way of clean energy. We should be focusing on promoting safe and renewable energy like wind power and not opening up the Atlantic to drilling.

Reports from Trenton

Sierra Club Joins Rep. Pallone to Oppose Trump’s Withdrawal from Paris Climate Agreement

From a press release issued on June 2nd, edited by Joe Testa

The New Jersey Sierra Club joined Rep. Frank Pallone (NJ-06) to oppose President Trump pulling the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Agreement. This agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change deals with greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance starting in the year 2020. 190 countries signed on originally. The Paris Agreement was considered a major environmental success after being signed by both the Obama Administration as well as the leadership of China.

Our President has sided with Big Oil instead of protecting the people, our communities, and the environment. Future generations will suffer the consequences of this deliberate and irresponsible decision. We stand with Congressman Pallone against Trump’s recklessness and demand that the U.S. stay in the Paris Agreement. We must work together to resist the President’s dangerous anti-environmental agenda to protect our planet for future generations.

In one of his most irresponsible and dangerous moves as President so far, Trump has put the interests of the Koch Brothers above those of the American people. By denying climate change he is risking our environment, our economic growth, and our future. New Jersey will suffer from sea-level rise and climate impacts more than most states. Another Sandy-like event is increasingly likely to happen again. Places like the Meadowlands, Hoboken, and the barrier islands are already going under water. Our cities are inundated with air pollution and toxic sites that only get worse with the addition of more greenhouse gasses and refusal to deal with climate change. All of Trump’s actions will have serious consequences because we see more flooding and devastation from severe storms and sea-level rise. Since New Jersey will receive the brunt of these consequences more than most states, we must take the lead against Trump.

This President is selling out the future of our country. Our removal from the Paris Accord will hurt both the environment and the economy. Instead of benefiting from clean energy and clean jobs, Trump is turning his back on economic progress. While other countries benefit from the booming clean energy economy, Trump is sending our country backwards. China will be a leader in manufacturing solar panels and Germany will be making windmills, while our country is left in the wind. It will also increase dangerous pipelines crossing our water supplies and dirty infrastructure in our communities. While other countries have clean air, we will see more dirty air. We cannot allow Trump to take hostage the health of our families and the environment to cater to corporate polluters and special interests.

Trump is threatening our safety and security to benefit his short-term political goals. We’re already seeing health impacts of climate change, such as more high-ozone days, increased Lyme disease, intense flu seasons and the Zika virus. Even the Department of Defense has named it a threat to our country’s security. They consider it a special threat because climate disruption will cause wars over sea-level rise and other climate change issues. In Syria, one of the major effects of the civil war is a long-term drought exacerbated by climate change. Many of our naval bases such Portsmouth and Pearl Harbor could go underwater.

The two remaining coal power plants in New Jersey recently closed, and people are increasingly demanding renewable energy. Even though Trump may try to stop us, we are still making progress. We will continue to stand up nationwide to demand it and resist Trump’s actions. We will see local governments take the lead on promoting environmental regulations. Cities will move towards 100% renewable energy. States will implement programs to fight climate change. New Jersey will have a new Governor soon, who will hopefully rejoin RGGI and commit to 100% clean energy. The entire country is gearing up for resistance against Trump and his agenda. We’re going to keep fighting to Make Our Planet Great Again.

SRL Pipeline Detrimentially Impacts Environment

From a press release issued on July 26th, edited by Irene Gnarra

In testimony before the NJ Pinelands Commission, Jeff Tittel, Sierra Club Chapter Director, advised the Commission to, “do its job and reject the Southern Reliability Link (SRL) Pipeline! This project violates the Commission’s Comprehensive Management Plan and is a direct threat to the Pinelands.”

The 28-mile natural gas pipeline would pass through Burlington, Ocean, and Monmouth Counties. Hundreds of people have attended forums, hearings, and protests to denounce it and its attached infrastructure, which would destroy environmentally sensitive land, threaten our water supply, and cut a scar through the Pinelands.

The Club is currently suing the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and the Pinelands Commission on their approval of the pipeline. We argue that Nancy Wittenberg, Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission, exceeded her authority by unilaterally determining that the pipeline was consistent with the Comprehensive Management Plan. Her decision circumvented a public hearing and a vote by the Pinelands Commission, thereby violating the Pinelands Protection Act.

A public meeting took place on July 26 at the Pine Belt Arena, Toms River North High School. It was a sham. The Commission sided with the natural gas companies over the interests of the public.

The SRL pipeline is part of a bigger picture, which would bring fracked gas from Pennsylvania to the New Jersey coast for development. Also included are the Garden State Expansion compressor station, and the PennEast Pipeline. The NJ Natural Gas Company is a 20% partner in PennEast, which would supply it with natural gas at the Transco substation in Ewing. That gas would then flow to a compressor station in Chesterfield, and then into the SRL pipeline. Because it would work together as one system, the permitting process should include a comprehensive evaluation rather than the piecemeal permits that are being sought.

The Christie Administration has removed Pinelands Commissioners who voted against pipelines, stacking the Commission with its replacements. The Commission’s pipeline approvals ignore regulations as well as the public.

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