### 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 store 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. This has far greater impact on the environment than you or I 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 the 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 merely vote. We need to forge ahead and advocate for policies that make progressive change.

On the State level, we anticipate a renaissance! With Christie’s departure, there is an opportunity to change the landscape and the climate. The retail candidates listed in the box impressed us with their questionnaire responses and pro-environmental advocacy during their interview process. 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 most of our concerns and conservation efforts will be addressed.

On the State level, the antiglobalization and anti-immigration movements of the Trump era are declining in popularity. The world needs science, technology, and international cooperation in order to overcome climate change, pollution, and other challenges.

Beyond voting, there are other steps you can take to get involved. Visit the website of the Environmental Defense Fund and the Sierra Club and sign up for their e-trailers. That’s a good start. Tip: Read the fine print on the forms and applications. Be sure to read the fine print on the forms and applications.

### The Jersey SIERRA CLUB BALLOT

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

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This year’s five active ExCom candidates were selected by a Nominating Committee consisting of Gina Carola, Bonnie Tiffeny and John Kashwick (JK). (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 offered, write-in slots are provided.

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The Sierra Club also takes applications for state offices.

For Governor/LT Governor:

- **Phil Murphy/Shelia Oliver (D)**

For State Senate:

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- 39 Linda H. Schwager (D) Jannie Chung (D)
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- 35 Joni Caragul (D) * Andrew Zwicker (D) *
- 34 Brian A. Aiman (D) * Joseph Lagana (D) *
- 33 Raj Mukherji (D) *
- 32man (D)

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- **Buddy Jenssen (D)**

For Group Secretary:

- **Buddy Jenssen (D)**

For Section Chair:

- **Buddy Jenssen (D)**

For Group Treasurer:

- **Buddy Jenssen (D)**

### Long Swamp a Hidden Gem

By Laura Tracey-Coll, Conservation Chair of our North Jersey Group

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 quality. 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 Overpeck Creek, which then empties into Hackensack River.

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

Our marsh is a hidden gem, a natural resource for local people to enjoy, which can provide education, recreation, and the promotion of environmental justice. No candidate can be expected to agree with us on every issue, but for most of our concerns and conservation efforts, Aquatera has zero setbacks and more than double the allowed height. It would encroach on wetlands on three sides, the other side by converting a parking area into a parking helix. It requires a (d)(1) use-variance, possibly a (d)(5) density-variance, a (d)(7) rezoning.

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. “Aquatera” has zero setbacks and more than double the allowed height.

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**Ballots Statement (Name-order has been randomized)**

**Ken Johnson (Sierra Club):** 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 joined the Sierra Club in the early 1990’s and worked on the Loantaka Group ExCom as Membership Chair and Group Treasurer and Group Chair and Group Co-Chair during the following years. Also, during the time I served as the New Jersey Chapter Treasurer on January 1, 2017. I am an avid Gardner and hiker, giving me an intense sense of caring about our environment. I credit my involvement and interest in political activities with the Club. Having participated in many candidate interviews and discussions to decide on political endorsements.

**Terry Stimpfel (Jersey Shore Group):** I joined the Sierra Club in 1998, in the early 1990’s and currently serve as a member of the Group ExCom, two-year terms. Is there an environmental issue that we’re MISSING? If so, please call or write to Club officers.

**Is there an environmental issue that we’re missing? If so, please call or write to Club officers.**
You have heard from me before about the project to extend the Appalachian Trail to connect two segments of Higbee Wildlife Management Area, just south of the Cape May Canal. Some of our initial route will be on a former canal embankment, with bridges across streams and acquisition of connecting segments.

The decided path is not merely to stitch together: we’re aiming to produce a long-distance footpath network of workers. Should you require any further information, please contact Paul Sanderson, from the South Jersey Fish & Wildlife officials we’ve met with have been fully supportive, as have many county officials.

Our task was easy north of Trenton (Briegelwie, to be exact), where the New Jersey Sierra Club maintains a network of trails that needed merely to be stitched together: we’re using a variety of agencies and community groups, including the Appalachian, Waywayanda State Park in Wayne and Woodside Trails. And the boundaries are questionable. It is my judgment that the maps are from 1989/1993, the topographic maps, still provide the best means of understanding and assessing what’s going on.

Chair’s Message

Remember Greg by Registering to Vote

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 Auriemma, the Chair and a founding member of the Sierra Club’s Ocean County Group.

Greg will be sorely missed. But, know that Greg would want you to do something to help the environment in his memory, rather than just feeling sorry for the loss. Greg would want you to know that you may be able to approve wholeheartedly:

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 noted our opposition to all such projects that would “enroach 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).

Greg was an active member of the Sierra Club’s Political Endorsements Committee, and all of us who care about the future of this planet, lost an environmental hero, Greg Auriemma, the Chair and a founding member of the Sierra Club’s Ocean County Group.

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Greg’s participation in the project site lies below the ridge of the Black Horse Pike. This is a David and Goliath battle. A project of this size and scale would likely never see the light of day were it not for the work of the Sierra Club’s Environmental Committee, members, to attend the final hearing on Aug 21.

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What Did You Do on Your Summer Vacation?

By Bonnie Tileby (Bl44blt@msn.com)

Remember that question from grade school? Well, thanks for asking. We visited some of our nation’s 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-not-facts, how these important messages will remain.”

We recommend the many books (the most dangerous active volcano in the world, the beauty of Crater Lake, the breathtaking diversity of the wildlife of the Olympic Peninsula, and the historic Olympic National Park). We also visited the Seattle headquarters of the 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, we visited the Network’s headquarters in Seattle. As part of her Multi-State Catholic Campaigns in the U.S. the network supports contraceptives. And she carries with her in all her travels a message that she carries with her in all her travels: “When you want it, imagine you had almost life-size pictures of public latrines and outhouses in countries such as India and in Africa. A message that says: “When you want it, imagine you had to defecate run to here on the toilet.” 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 that says: “When you want it, imagine you had to defecate run to here on the toilet.”

As much financial support as this Foundation and others are providing – the Gates Foundation and others are providing – is the work of 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.

We are now a decade into the Sierra Club’s “Cool Cities” campaign. We 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.

We conclude by adapting a saying from Greg Autierma, Chief of our Ocean County Group: “not addressing the growing human population is like heating 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)

The project will promote Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), reducing the time and 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. TOD is all about creating a healthy active life. “For every 10% more girls go to school, a country’s GDP grows by $1 per dose through ministries of Health. “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-not-facts, how these important messages will remain.”

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The Continuing Threat to Bees and Our Food Supply

By Gary Frederick, Chair of the Raritan Valley Group (gfredrick.sierraclub@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 like tomatoes and peppers. Additionally, 60% of wild 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.

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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 inside hives, sucking the blood from bee larvae, which pupate into bees that are weak and die prematurely. The mines spread easily from hive to hive.

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In a previous Sierran article I pointed out that air pollution is very local. For example, a new scientific report demonstrates that pollution is highly localized. A joint study by Environ and the Sierra Club found that even a huge release of pollutants could reduce a community’s air quality by only a few percent. The study showed that a new coal-fired power plant could increase local air pollution by 150%. A new scientific report demonstrates that pollution is highly localized. A joint study by Environ and the Sierra Club found that even a huge release of pollutants could reduce a community’s air quality by only a few percent. The study showed that a new coal-fired power plant could increase local air pollution by 150%.

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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 Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Rules 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 proposed new Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Rules 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 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 proposed rules do not allow for water quality impacts. In other words, 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.

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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: Hudson County Group: Hudson
Loantaka Group: Morris & Union
Central Valley Group: Hunterdon
Raritan Valley Group: Somerset & Middlesex
Jet 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

Web-site: http://www.nj.sierraclub.org/skylands/
Or click from the NJ Chapter’s web-site.
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SkylandsNJS
E-mail: skylandsjg@gmail.com Phone: 973-222-0274

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Officers:</th>
<th>Term exp:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair:</td>
<td>12/31/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Williams</td>
<td><a href="mailto:SkylandsGroup@gmail.com">SkylandsGroup@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Vice Chair:</td>
<td>12/31/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mindy Geary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mwilliams@yahoo.com">mwilliams@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>Secretary:</td>
<td>12/31/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norene Huberisi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:haberisi@yahoo.com">haberisi@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>Treasurer:</td>
<td>12/31/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeri Doherty</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bdj974@gmail.com">bdj974@gmail.com</a></td>
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Board Members:

| Member-at-Large: | 12/31/18 |
| Greg Gorman | ggorman07419@embarqmail.com |
| Member-at-Large: | 12/31/18 |
| Dave Alcock | dw hobson@hotmail.com |
| Member-at-Large: | 12/31/18 |
| Marvin Feil | mfeil@writecom.com |
| Member-at-Large: | 12/31/18 |
| Nicole Guarrieri | sosonyicole@gmail.com |

Conservation Chair: N/A

| Conservation Chair: | 12/31/18 |
| Greg Gorman | ggorman07419@embarqmail.com |

Outing Coordinator: N/A

| Outing Coordinator: | 12/31/18 |
| Dave Alcock | dw hobson@hotmail.com |

Political Co-Chairs: N/A

| Political Co-Chairs: | 12/31/18 |
| Nicole Guarrieri | sosonyicole@gmail.com |

and: Susan Williams | SkylandsGroup@gmail.com |

Acting Publicity Chair: N/A

| Acting Publicity Chair: | 12/31/17 |
| Jeri Doherty | bdj974@gmail.com |

Webmaster/listmaster: N/A

| Webmaster/listmaster: | 12/31/17 |
| Nicole Guarrieri | sosonyicole@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 meetings. There’s an electronic bi-weekly Chapter Alert Service. Sign up at www.scnj.convio.net.

In addition to regular meetings, we hold field trips and hikes in the area. We have a Trail Steward Program that allows members to volunteer on the trails in their area. We also have a Volunteer Steward Program that allows members to volunteer on the trails in their area.

The Skylands Group is a member of the North Jersey Sierra Club network, which includes 14 chapters throughout the state. We work together on issues that affect the whole region.

There are no programs in July and August.

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There are no programs in July and August.
GROUP NEWS

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.sierragroup.org/new-jersey/joanatak/

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

Oct 11: Len Fariello and Blaine Rothauer 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 Smalkes, 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 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://sierragroup.org/new-jersey/joanatak/) for more information.

Central Jersey Group
(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

Please see the Outings Listings in this newsletter – or on Pinypoondellers.com.

OFFICERS (tentative):

Group Chair: Joanne Pannone 609-443-6992 Jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
Group Vice Chair: Xiping Du xiping.du@yahoo.com
Secretary: Leona Fluck leona@pinypoondellers.com
Outings Coordinators: Leona and George Fluck leona@pinypoondellers.com
Treasurer: Steve Eisenberg steveo@optimum.net
Programs: Steven Eisenberg StevenEs@Optimum.net
Conservation Chair: KiP Cherry Kip@TheSierraClub@gmail.com
Outings: Recyling: Scott Fulmer scott@fulmericknow.com
Trails: Dave Mattek MattekDC@aol.com
Webmaster: Ken Lyle Kenlyle@gmail.com
Education: Jamie Wisen jamiewisen@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.

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, runoff 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 action 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.” Did you know that NJ has a National Monument? We will discuss the Bears Ears monument, 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 protection. 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 protection. 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 protection.

Oct 11 (Wed): Presentation by Dr. Beth Sullins, 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 his M.A. in Marine Conservation and Policy from Stony Brook University and a B.S. in Marine Biology and Conservation from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. He 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://sierragroup.org/new-jersey/raritanvalley/
FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/RaritanGroupNJS/

OFFICERS:

Chair and Conservation Chair: Gary Frederick 609-203-5382 gfredsierra@gmail.com
Membership: Gordan Horner 678/920-8620 ghornor@yahoo.com
Climate Chair: Daphne Speck-Barnsley 732-590-5511 speckbarnsley@comcast.net
Publicity Chair: Dani Levis danilevis@gmail.com
Secretary: Patti Amor p.w.ehrlicht@gmail.com
Treasurer: Sandy Pasiecha sandy_pasiecha@nycap.net
Webmaster: Paul Ehrlich p.w.ehrlich@gmail.com
Outings/Events Chair: Open position!
College Liaison: Open position!
Bee affairs: Brenda Bradley
Ex-Com at Large: Rooni Nusrat

Our monthly committee meetings are held on FOURTH WEDNESAYS 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:

   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: www.sierragroup.org/new-jersey/jersey-shore/

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Dennis Anderson 732-970-5327 dennisaiz@aol.com
Vice-Chair & Secretary: Rob Grize 732-507-6347 mcywpgny@btuad.com
Conservation Co-Chairs: Feith Teitelbaum 732-513-5445 faithie@iol.com
and: Bob Sandberg 732-241-7757 Sandberg000@gmail.com
Social Media Chair: Yannim Sournias 732-508-4588 fusche40@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Lisa Zillow 732-778-0221 lizillow@optimum.net
Outings Leaders: John Laar 732-778-0221 john.laar@american.com
Outings Leaders: Needed!
Membership Chair: Bob Grize 732-792-0684 mcywpgny@btuad.com
Program Chair: George Molfatt 732-544-1726 gmolfatt@aol.com
Chiarman: Open position!
Fund-raising Co-Chairs: Lisa Zillow 732-513-5445 lbthaik@optonline.net
Publicity Chair: Lisa Zillow lbthaik@optonline.net
High School Coordinator: Liza Zillow lbthaik@optonline.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 giveaway 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 beauty 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 lbagwell@viasanctuary.com. Laura focuses on the Red Bank area water sheds. 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

Please share this newsletter with a non-member friend, inviting use of the coupon on p. 12.
(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 as "BCC-SC "Science Mondays," 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. Patrick Billington, Chair, Environmental 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 US 9 north to 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 Student Center. The meeting will be held in the Student Center Conference Room.

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 and then turn left onto Rte 41 (Kings Hwy). Cross over Rte 70 and you will be briefly on Rte 141 (Brac Rd). Make the next right turn at lunch and then go a couple of miles towards the new Rte 72. After about 1 mi, you will cross Grove Rd (Indian King Tavern is on the right corner). Across Grove Rd, go two more blocks and turn right on to Franklin St. Go one full block, turn left in to parking lot. A campus map is at http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP_04_08.pdf.

Oct 23: Mountain Climbing, Bruno Hamann will recounts 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 the mountain ranges 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 5: Holiday Party, Sierra’s traditional holiday party will be held at Dennis Avenue Baptist Church, 1031 Dennis Ave., Millville, 7:30-9:30pm. Everyone is asked to bring hors d’oeuvres, cakes or other hot and cold refreshments. The Social Committee will have a raffle and will serve refreshments. Members of other Sierra branches are in the neighborhood, please stop by and say hello.

Ocean County Group

OFFICERS:
Acting Chair, Vice-Chair & Conserv Chair: Margit Meiser-Jackson syvil193@10yahoo.com
Treasurer: Open position!
Outings Chair & Env’l Ed’n Coord: Nancy Brown terrybrown@comcast.net
Fund-Raising Chair: Joyce M. Isaza realmyster@aol.com
Recording Secretary: Margaret-Mary Piccolo gogodjerry1@yahoo.com
Group ExCom Members: Frank Zinni efzin4@aol.com
Group ExCom Members: Laura Stone laura36@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair/Outings Chair: Open position
Pol. Chair, Calendar: Dick Colby dick.colby@stockton.edu
Membership Chair: Open position
Secretary/Treasurer: Jeff Reddick reddick36@gmail.com

GENERAL MEETINGS:
Open position!

GENERAL MEETINGS:
Open position!

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 of the state-wide. 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 the mountain ranges of the Western States.

MEETUP.COM/SIERRA-CLUB-OCEAN-GROUP
WEBSITE:
https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseyGroupNJSC Log on and Like Us
WEBSITE: West Jersey Group
WEBSITE: http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP_04_08.pdf.

II. Use parking lot 7. As you walk towards the building complex, Warner will be down the slope on your left. Frank and Ellen Zinni 856-457-9221 eyebrown@verizon.net

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

Call Gina to volunteer. 856-488-8851

South Jersey Group

OFFICERS:
Group Chair: Tom Boghosian 609-625-6087 boghosian1@verizon.net
Vice-Chair: Open Position!
Conservation Chair: Open position
Pol. Chair, Calendar: Dick Colby 609-965-4453 dick.colby@stockton.edu
Membership Chair: Open position
Secretary/Treasurer: Jeff Acker 609-432-3280 julieakers65@gmail.com

The central conservation issue, for which the South Jersey Group was founded in the late 1970s, is the protection of the Pinelands. The SJG continues to be the primary voice for protecting the Pinelands ecosystem and to ensure that the Pinelands are managed as a natural and productive ecosystem. 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 the mountain ranges of the Western States.

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Jersey sierran: October–December 2017
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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 Network project’). 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 (C.U.) at 609.771.5855 or karla.rossini@cumiaurtizver.org. Website: www.cumiaurtizver.org.

Oct 18 and Dec 20: (alternate third Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Conservation River Council: Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss river management strategies. Open to the public. WFNC. Contact Julie Akes, 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 (Bie 575) opposite the Stockton college campus in Galloway Twp. Atlantic Co. Contact Glenn Klotz: glennk1949@gmail.com, or Ron Hutchison Hutchin1@Stockton.edu.

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

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

EXCOM
Chair: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com
Co-Chair: John Zatz * jzatz@gmail.com
Secretary: Marty Cohen mc46er@gmail.com
Treasurer: Marty Cohen mc46er@gmail.com

OFFICERS:
Interim Chair: Ron Pate ronpate31@verizon.net
Outings Chair: Joyce Haddad jkhaddad@juno.com
Conservation Chair: Position Open. Contact us! We need you!
Treasurer: Joe Prebishi Joe.Prebishi@kraft.com
Social Chair: Jeff Sovelove Hike_Dood@yahoo.com
Programs:
Public: Position Open. Contact us! We need you!
Membership: Position Open. Contact us! We need you!
Newsletter: None

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 dinner. 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 Outings calendar. See the Outings section of this newsletter for more Singles outings. Check the Singles listserv for announcements of more Singles outings.

Sierra Silver Singles is a subgroup that organizes hikes and other social events to appeal to Sierra Club members aged 50 and over. Our next event will be scheduled following a monthly 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.

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

OFFICERS:
Co-Chair: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com
Co-Chair: Robert Zatz * jzatz@gmail.com
Secretary: Marty Cohen mc46er@gmail.com
Outings Chair: John Pate ronpate31@verizon.net
Outings Chair: Robert Zatz * jzatz@gmail.com
Newsletter: John Kashwick * jkashwick@gmail.com
Ex-Com Member: Open Position - contact John or Robert if interested

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:
Meet Up Check: Meetup.com/tnjsierralgbt 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.

Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section
(Another chapter-wide special interest section which offers a weekly to monthly calendar of activities and events, including hikes, lks, social gatherings, dinner get-togethers and other functions intended for those members over fifty)

Senior Section 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.

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 Cheesecake 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-tru-valuace-stop-selling-bee-killing-pesticides.

Also, please ask your Member of Congress to co-sponsor HR 3040 (Saving America’s Pollinators 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!
At their discretion, leaders may permit pets on outings if outings sponsored by the Sierra Club. Please check with the public. ALL participants must sign liability waivers on ALL outings for Club members, guests and anyone interested in outings.

Blumenkrantz, the Chapter Outings Chair) before November 20.(roughly north to south)

Jersey Shore: John Lion, John.Luo@sierraclub.org
Ocean County: Terrance Brown, 866-333-7337 and Monic@blumenkrantz@hotmail.com
West Jersey: Vacuum
South Jersey: Tom Boghosh, 609-625-078 (N) 4794 Andorea Drive, Mays Landing, 08330

Boghosian1@verizon.net

OGROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS (roughly north to south)

Skylands: Dave Alcock, dwhotmail.com
South Highlands: Jonathan Wail (908) 773-7374
North Jersey: Ellen Blumenkrantz ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417

David Grace, 973-226-0787 (H) 540 River Road, #19, East Hanover, 07936
Hudson Co: Beth Lubin, blubin@gmail.com
Loctaite: Waran Knapfl, 908-432-2198
Atlantic County: Joe Lazzaro, Joe.Lazzaro@gmail.com
Central Jersey: Leona & George Fluck Leona@pineypaddlers.com
Raritan Valley: Alan Wilkinson
Jersey Shore: John Lion, John.Luo@sierraclub.org
Ocean County: Terrance Brown, 866-333-7337 and Monic@blumenkrantz@hotmail.com
West Jersey: Vacuum
South Jersey: Tom Boghosh, 609-625-078 (N) 4794 Andorea Drive, Mays Landing, 08330

Boghosian1@verizon.net

NORTH JERSEY OUTING LEADERS

Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Jersey Shore: John Lion, John.Luo@sierraclub.org
Ocean County: Terrance Brown, 866-333-7337 and Monic@blumenkrantz@hotmail.com
West Jersey: Vacuum
South Jersey: Tom Boghosh, 609-625-078 (N) 4794 Andorea Drive, Mays Landing, 08330

Boghosian1@verizon.net

(continued on page 12)

Care for more Club involvement? You can sample (and subscribe to) several special Club national electronic newsletters by logging to:

sierraclub.org/currents, sierraclub.org/population, and www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming.

(continued on page 12)
The Chapter website, http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/, has been upgraded to provide much useful information.

Dec 9 (Sat): Scherman Hoffman Sanctuary, Bernardsville (Somerset Co). 10am. http://www.njaudubon.org/section/somerset/schermanh/index.html. 4 miles in moderately rugged terrain. Features the Passaic River origen as a brook. Difficulty: 4. Moderately strenuous. Facilities There is a restroom at the Ecology Center in Scherman Hoffmann. There is a restroom facility at the Dawk Hollow during the hike. No pets. Hiking boots and a dry pack with snacks and water. Bring a lunch. Registration required via web http://www.jersey.sierran.org/calendar.aspx. If you haven't linked with the leader before, please 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: Jim Olds talk@the_lukemac.com.

Dec 10 (Sun): Whitebridge Village Hike. 4 miles, mostly on sandy trails. Last December the Tundra Swans were on the road. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet at the parking lot across the street from the Whitebridge General Store. These tours and others with John C. Will exhibit will be spread throughout the village. kids crafts in the art gallery, a candy cane hunt and a special visit from you know who! Led by Jim Olds talk@the_lukemac.com. Directions to the meeting point:

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. Experienced cold weather paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and details for George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Jan 18 (Mon): D&R Canal Hike on the First Day of Winter (Burlington/Mercer Co). 10am. Martin Luther King Jr Day. A hike along the D&R Canal in Delaware Park. Bring lunch and drinks. Meet at the Park Free Zone parking lot. Contact leaders to confirm trip and details for Laura and John C. Will exhibit will be spread throughout the village. kids crafts in the art gallery, a candy cane hunt and a special visit from you know who! Led by Jim Olds talk@the_lukemac.com. Directions to the meeting point:

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue! This newsletter is produced mainly by volunteers.
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 February 16, 2005. The EZ06 conference was a national Sierra Club event; the US Mayors signed a pledge to cut global warming pollution to 7% less than 1990 levels by 2012. The Sierra Club helped then-Gov. Jon Corzine introduce legislation in New Jersey in January 2006. Green Teams were just being introduced to these Actions.

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 A260 (second floor). Use the main entry and take the lift or stairs to the third floor. RSVP to: Kipatthesierraclub@gmail.com. Students welcome! Free.

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 A260 (second floor). Use the main entry and take the lift or stairs to the third floor. RSVP to: Kipatthesierraclub@gmail.com. Students welcome! Free.

A Decade of Cool Cities & Green Team History

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

First is it, or they? It's a magnificent place, a National Monument in Utah that the American people own, on a plateau not far from the Four Corners, and the winds are from every direction in need of protection and management. It contains minerals, so the Trump Administration wants to reduce its boundaries and remove protection from the land. The Bears have been folk legend for millennia, and the area is rich in fossils, as well as being a place of spiritual significance to Native Americans who believe the Bears designates the area for significant potential shale oil production, without destroying the whole area for significant potential shale oil production. The Bears have been folk legend for millennia, and the area is rich in fossils, as well as being a place of spiritual significance to Native Americans who believe the Bears must be well-managed to protect the beauty and complexity of the area. The Bears have been folk legend for millennia, and the area is rich in fossils, as well as being a place of spiritual significance to Native Americans who believe the Bears must be well-managed to protect the beauty and complexity of the area.

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Evaluating Risks Associated with Natural Gas Pipelines

By Kip Cherry, Conservation Chair of our Central Jersey Group
(garcherry@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 event, entitled "Evaluating Risks Associated with Natural Gas Pipelines" examined public perceptions of risk.

The former state Senator was present at the event, and he introduced the Nightly News speaker, the Center for Environmental Transformation (CFET) and its mission. The group is a non-profit organization that works to educate people into a sense of community and that I helped plan the People’s Climate March. He also joked that I was a wealth of knowledge

Greg Auriemma, Chair of our Ocean County Group, member of the New Jersey Statewide Committee and long-time 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 my work in the group.

I first met him in 2014 while looking for jobs after graduate school and was introduced to the Ocean County Group by Greg Auriemma. Greg knew him. And he was always passionate about climate change issues, since our community was devastated by Hurricane Sandy. Working together, we established the Ocean County “Kapow! Hot Sauce.” It comes in two varieties: Hot and Very Hot! (See photo.)

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In April, the Sierra Club began a "Move to 100: Clean Energy" campaign for community-based transitions to 100% renewable energy: to reduce carbon footprint, increase local economic growth, and improve lives. NJ’s Sierra Club Groups wish to thank Mayors Bruce Baicher of Union; James Woodruff of Franklin Lakes; Peter Rustin (Tenafly), Phillip D. Kramer (Franklin Township), and Herb Paul (Hillside). For their pledges, the pledges helped secure approval of a resolution at the US 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 2050.

In June, "We Are Still In." Even without the endorsement of major universities, leaders, businesses, and investors to join forces and continue to support climate change action, the United States will continue to be one of the most influential players in the international climate negotiations.

This letter was co-founded by 17 regional organizations: The American Sustainable Business Council, B Team, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Campaign for America’s Future, 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 Herrnick III (Englewood), Dawn Zimmer (Hoboken), Steven M. Fulop (Jersey City), Liz Lempert (Princeton), and Mohamed Hademuiddede (Teaneck); also Bruce Bergen, Freeholder Chairman for the Sussex County Freeholders, and businesses and investors who signed the letter (wearestillin.com). Also in June, 36 US 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 M. Cuffe (Mayo 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 W. Womack (North Brunswick), Peter Cantù (Plainsboro), Liz Lempert (Princeton), Michael J. Gonnelli (Secaucus), Sheena Collum (South Orange), Thomas Fromm (Swedesboro), Eric F. Jackson (Trenton), Felix E. Roque (West New York), and again Brian Stack (Union County).

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 Action Agenda, and to contact me if I can help.

Cheesequake, located in easternmost Middlesex County, sits along the highways of several parks. You can hike, bike, paddle a canoe or kayak, swim, camp, fly a kite, bird-watch, picnic, photograph, pic- nic, 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 snow- shoeing through the park. Like fish- ing? Try the six-acre freshwater lake for a tasty trout or sunfish, or go crab- hunting the Crabbing Bridge. Year- round, you can also participate in naturalist Jim Fazack’s many hikes, talks and boat tours, 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 tec- tone activity 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 make, 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 Hiking 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 swayed in the slightest breeze. Skimming the bay, with its run and attractive green, stalk-like leaf, makes an appearance in the marshy area. 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 Fazack 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 chimneyhams busy under the oak trees. Where it’s ele- vated, you’ll spot the salt marsh before going down lots of steps to a small bridge over a freshwater wet- land area. You may hear frogs sing- ing during spring. If you smell the aroma of pine, it’s the pine area just ahead, followed by tall pine trees and eventually a bird blind overlooking a pond where wildlife bang out.

The 1.5-mile loop Red Trail passes 100-year-old oak trees, while learning about the Green and Red Trails merge, and where the Gordon Field Group Campgrounds are to the right.

The Forest Service manages 100,000 acres of public lands and waterways in NJ, including the Pinelands National Reserve, to commemorate the diverse 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 you stepped on it, you’d bounce up and down! At the campground, you’ll see the tree trunk that the Green and Red Trails merge, and where the Gordon Field Group Campgrounds are to the right.

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The longest 3.0-mile Green Trail has some hills and steep steps, crossing unique pine barrens similar to those in the south ern 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 build- ing 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 I-95, well marked and easy to find.

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 sea- sons: Wed-Sun, 8am to 4pm.

Large yellow plastic bags are available, free, for the park’s Carry-In/Carry-Out Program. Provide your own bags if you can’t manage to reduce waste.

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

Bring a hat, water, 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.

The Jersey Sierran: October–December 2017

By Arline Zatz, Chair of our Senior/Fifty-plus Section (AZatz@FunTravels.com; Arline has a degree in biology), a long-time Cheesequake goer.

State Park

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 even more explosive. It’s a corporate loophole that you can drive a train through! In 2013, the Sierra Club is suing the NJ Department of Transportation to ban the transportation of this oil in tank cars. Currently, the Sierra Club is suing the NJ Department of Transportation to enact a moratorium on these trains until they are made safe.

On the Trail

A Day in Cheesequake State Park

By Arline Zatz, Chair of our Senior/Fifty-plus Section (AZatz@FunTravels.com; Arline has a degree in biology), a long-time Cheesequake goer.
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 TTHM 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 TTHM averaged less than 5 ppb, with occasional readings approaching 10 ppb in the summer months. Since the 1970s, the Lake Morris reservoir, located between two spurs on Sparta Mountain, has provided water to the community. TTHM 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 spillway, 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 blue blazes Map.

Report from Trenton
Congress Must Stand With Us against Trump

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

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 jobs.

New Jersey has been devastated by climate change, but the Trump Administration has proposed to cut the Environmental Protection Agency’s budget by a third. This budget 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 $8.4 billion from the EPA, leaving no money to enforce laws to protect our air and water. There would be major cuts to the Superfund program to 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 pro-oil companies. A 30A bill 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 water to much of northern New Jersey. If these “upstream” water users are threatened, what does that mean for downstream? Water quality in New Jersey is very sensitive to change, whether it’s 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.

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 double 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 offshore wind 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, on its “adversely to public health and safety.” The rejection letter noted 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 compressed gas. Pennsylvania DEP’s proposal to amend Section 12a of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, protected 115 million acres, including the areas to be drilled by the Outer Continental Shelf include parts of the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Arctic Ocean north of Alaska. The President’s administration 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, complex process of opening the polar regions to oil and gas development. The economic and environmental impact of drilling, and the effects it would have on ocean ecosystems 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.

Another Environmental Bill Vetoes 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 (Erasto)/S5059 (Sweeney) by a vote of 25-15, it having previously succeeded in the Assembly 47-26. Gov. Christie vetoed it on July 15th. The bill would have restored the State’s full participation in the northeast 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 climate change adaptation, through its “administrative incompentence.” The rejection letter noted 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 compressed gas. Pennsylvania DEP’s proposal to amend Section 12a of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, protected 115 million acres, including the areas to be drilled by the Outer Continental Shelf include parts of the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Arctic Ocean north of Alaska. The President’s administration 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, complex process of opening the polar regions to oil and gas development. The economic and environmental impact of drilling, and the effects it would have on ocean ecosystems 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 in the oil that will reach 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 $1.66 billion in wages and add $5.5 billion to the state’s tax coffers. During the summer of 1988, when oil prices 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 other 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, including the areas to be drilled by the Outer Continental Shelf include parts of the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Arctic Ocean north of Alaska. The President is selling 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 disas- trous plan. This plan clearly threatens our $58 billion coastal economy, wrecking our ecosystems 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. 

Sierra Club President Bruce Madigan said: “New Jersey has been the largest source of air pollution for the ethnic communities of Jersey City and Newark.” As the United States has begun to reduce the climate pollution we are responsible for, the other countries are increasing theirs. In 2015, China emitted more than the entire United States and Europe combined. Our global emissions are still rising.

The closing of the Hudson plant will have Environmental Justice benefits, since it is converting its plant into a mixed-use development, and Philadelphia is transitioning one to a big entertainment center. 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 Environmental Bill Vetoes by the Governor
Withdrawal from Paris
Pallone to Oppose Trump’s
Sierra Club Joins rep.
Going to keep fighting to Make Our Planet Great Again.

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Governor soon, who will hopefully rejoin RGGI and commit to 100% clean energy.
environmental regulations. Cities will move towards 100% renewable energy. States
resist Trump’s actions. We will see local governments take the lead on promoting
increasingly demanding renewable energy. Even though Trump may try to stop us, we
cannot allow Trump to take hostage the health of our families and the environment to
our communities. While other countries have clean air, we will see more dirty air. We
Germany will be making windmills, while our country is left in the wind. It will also
other countries benefit from the booming clean energy economy, Trump is sending

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 security and safety by benefitting 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 as 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 Detrimentally Impacts Environment

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.