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Vol. 47, No. 1 More than 22,000 Members in New Jersey January-March 2018

Utah Wilderness Issues Coordinator's Report

Why are OUR National Monuments and Public Lands at Risk?

By Debbie Young (debyoung31@comcast.net)

That is an easy question to answer: follow the money!

On November 9th the House Committee on Natural Resources passed one of the most egregious dirty energy bills that President Trump's Congress has yet attempted! The so-called "SECURE ACT" prioritizes fracking above all other energy options, decimates rules that regulate drilling, and guts the public involvement and input mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act. Even worse: it gives the states permitting and oversight authority over energy development on FEDERAL LANDS!

It means that ALL of our Public Lands are open game for energy development.

It means we can say good bye to Bears Ears National Monument, designated in December of 2016 by President Obama, granting a new layer of protection to some of the most spectacular places in



Comb Ridge - Bears Ears National Monument

southern Utah. Utah may be far from New Jersey, but for many of us it is close to our hearts. It contains Cedar Mesa, with incredible canyons running down to the San Juan River. There's White Canyon to the west of Natural Bridges. There are the Bears Ears themselves, and the high ponderosa forests of Elk Ridge. To the north there's Beef Basin and Indian Creek. The new Monument status withdrew the Lockhart Basin, adjacent to Canyonlands National Park, from future energy leasing. Nearly 100,000 archaeological and cultural sites were covered by the proclamation, including House on Fire and Moon House ruins.

Equally if not more important, the proclamation elevated the voices of the Native American tribes who have ancestral ties to the region. The Bears Ears proposal was led by five Tribes—the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute, and Ute

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Political Report

2017 Election Outcomes

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

The 2017 election was a good one for the environment. Pro-environmental candidates won across Virginia. In a special election in Washington State, the Sierra Club-endorsed candidate won and gave control of the state senate to pro-environmental Democrats. And, here in New Jersey, our endorsed candidate for Governor, Phil Murphy, won by a wide margin. Public Question #2, dedicating state legal settlements from environmental lawsuits toward restoring and protecting natural resources, passed. 42 of our endorsed candidates won legislative races.

I would like to comment about some races where our endorsed candidates did not win: in District 23, which covers parts of Hunterdon, Warren, and Somerset Counties. This is my new home district, which no Democrat has represented since 1979. Endorsement questionnaires were sent to all candidates in the race. The local South Highlands Group was particularly impressed with three Democratic candidates--Christine Chen, Charles Boddy, and Laura Shaw--and the pro-environment, pro-science stance they were taking. With their fundraising prowess, experience and energy, they were the first challengers to be endorsed by the Chapter this election cycle.

The Group Political Committee interviewed these individuals and recommended them for endorsement. We then hosted a Meet and Greet, conducted a postcard-writing campaign, and made phone calls to our members to get out the vote. We met countless like-minded people and brought in new members, some of whom now serve on the Group Executive Committee. But the big winner is the environment.

Campaigns in districts like these may seem like a waste of time, but they do two main things: They force incumbents in "safe" districts out of complacency,

making them campaign and pay attention to voters--and, occasionally, these candidates do win. More importantly, they plant the seeds for issues like farmland preservation, filter out ideological nonsense such as climate change denial, and put air and water quality up front. And they position us for the 2018 mid-term Congressional elections and beyond.



Yes, down the street and across the state we have some disappointed candidates. After all the door-knocking and hand-shaking, some voters are too stuck to realize that our path leads to a brighter future for our communities, our children and the environment. No matter how much we appeal to them, some people just cannot be swayed. But now, by helping these candidates, we have raised the issues and mobilized an army of volunteers.

To keep the momentum going, largely through the efforts of Chapter Treasurer Paul Sanderson, we have re-established the NJ Sierra Club Political Action Committee. So we can now start collecting contributions for the 2019 Legislative campaigns and beyond--to help pro-environment candidates get elected to state office. To donate, please draw a check payable to the "NJ Sierra Club PAC," and address the envelope to: New Jersey Sierra Club, Post Office Box 269, Garwood, New Jersey 07027-0269.

While I congratulate all our endorsed candidates on their victories this year, I want to give a special shout-out to those pro-environment candidates who ran and did not win. I thank them all for the time sacrificed over the many months of campaigning, and for making the environment a key campaign issue.

A Wish List for Gov. Murphy

From New Jersey's rejoining the Northeastern States' Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, to restoration of Family Planning services and the DEP's Science Advisory Council, here's how some of our Issue Coordinators (and a few other officers, including your editor) hope that Gov.-Elect Phil Murphy will return environmental responsibility to the Department of Environmental Protection, other State agencies, and to the Governor's role in needling the Legislature:

Air Quality and Clean Air (Paul Ehrlich): Rejoin RGGI.

Alaska (Amy Weeder): A letter to each uncommitted NJ Member of Congress urging protection of Alaska's North Slope.

Asbestos and Toxic Dust (Francie Goldstein): Get the lead out! Test all old homes.

Community Solar (Dick Colby): BPU appointees sympathetic to Community Solar.

Delaware River (Gina Carola): DRBC appointees who would oppose Elcon's toxic waste treatment plant near Trenton (see article on p.2).

Delaware Water Gap (Ashley Baldwin): Support for National Park status.

Environmental Education (Jamie Witsen): "If future generations are to remember us more with gratitude than sorrow, we must achieve more than the miracles of technology. We must show them a glimpse of the world as it was created, not just as it looked when we got through with it" - Lyndon Johnson.

Environmental Health (Howard Steinberg): Real environmental justice is

protecting every child.

GMOs (Joanne Pannone): Legislation requiring labeling!

Marine Issues (Bob Sandberg): Opposition to offshore drilling; Promotion of offshore wind; Sustainable catch-limits.

Natural Gas & Fracking (Greg Gorman): Urge the Delaware River Basin Commission to permanently ban fracking and disposal of fracking waste in the Basin; urge NJ Legislature and Governor to commit to 100% renewable energy by 2035.

Our Hudson County Group (Ace Case): Create Meadowlands State Park.

Pinelands (Lee Snyder): Appointees to the Pinelands Commission who will oppose pipelines.

Gender/Equity (Christine Sadovy): Restoration of Family Planning services.

Recycling (David Yennior): Support for a Bottle Bill.

Risk Assessment (Bill Murphy): Restoration of the DEP's Science Advisory Council.

Toxicology (Hugh Evans): Enforce strict standards for clean air & water; Action on Superfund sites.

Transportation Committee: The Gateway and #7 Subway Rail Tunnels to Manhattan.

Trails (David Mattek): Blue blazes all the way up and down New Jersey!

Utah (Debbie Young): A letter to each uncommitted NJ Member of Congress urging protection of Bears Ears!

Wetlands (Lenny Fariello): Action on Barnegat Bay.

Wildlands (John Kashwick): Pursuit of Green Acres and Blue Acres.

Turning Old Train Lines into Recreational Rail Trails

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

New Jersey has 320 miles of recreational rail trails, according to Rails-to-Trails, a nonprofit advocacy group dedicated to turning former rail lines into bikeable and walkable recreational opportunities. With about 183 miles of abandoned rail routes in New Jersey still to be developed, that's a good but not great record. As we look to

reduce air pollution and encourage people to spend more time outside exercising and enjoying nature, converting more of these routes makes a lot of sense. (See the article on p. 4 of this issue by Emily Eley.)

Across the country, rail trails are immensely popular. New Jersey boasts

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Member's Report

Advocacy for Our Urban Environment

By Hugh Evans, of our Hudson County Group (HLEvans.Sierra@gmail.com)

The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club advocates not only for wilderness and wildlife, but also for environmental issues unique to our urban centers. We are helping community organizations to address immigration, housing and flooding. Our Hudson Group recently sponsored a conference on "Love, Hope and Dignity: a Summit on Immigrant Justice, Advocacy and Solidarity" – at St. Peter's University in Jersey City.

At the conference, there was a sense of anxiety among participants in various categories of non-citizenship, who are struggling with linguistic and cultural obstacles to asserting their rights. Speakers addressed how to cope with the new, stricter, Federal immigration policies.

They learned that the Sierra Club firmly supports the rights of ALL people for clean air, water, safe homes, and a green environment. We will be teaming up with St. Peter's for another conference on racism, sexism and classism in April 2018.

Another conference – on affordable housing – was hosted by New Jersey City University and Jersey City Together, a coalition of more than a dozen congregations of Protestants, Catholics, Muslims and Jews. A large auditorium filled with 1,129 spirited people who want to see affordable housing built at three Superfund sites - 300 acres of new space in Jersey City and Kearney. The sites have



An action in Hoboken to resist climate change; Club member Hugh Evans joined volunteers to maintain rain gardens which reduce flooding from rainwater runoff.

been remediated, thanks to an interfaith community action group formed in 1987 with help from the Sierra Club and other national groups. We are concerned that the re-developer will build only luxury housing and retail, and thus drive up the cost of housing for current residents. At the conference, the two candidates for mayor of Jersey City pledged to increase affordable housing and to vigorously enforce violations of housing and rent-control rules.

To participate in these Sierra Club activities, send your name and email address to:

Hudson County Group activities: hudsonsierraclub@gmail.com

Environmental Justice NJ Chapter discussion list: howz1648@hotmail.com

Nature outings for urban kids: martincohen@verizon.net

Conservation Report from our N. Jersey Group

Rifle Camp Park Reprived!

By Mary Blehl Walsh, North Jersey Group Conservation Co-Chair

The Passaic County freeholders recently announced a 3-month stay on destroying Rifle Camp Park for a disk golf course – while they study an alternative site. Disk golf would require removal of most of the trees and underbrush, so that players could walk easily from one basket to another to toss in frisbee-like objects.

The proposal for disk golf is an example of government catering to a small group at the expense of many others, not to mention the environment. Currently the park has some lovely walking trails and is home to many species of birds, a beautiful pond, and many types of trees. Located near Paterson in a congested suburban area, it is the last small parcel of land pristine enough to make you feel like you are in real woods. And there's no entry fee.

Here's the history: Last April a group of local citizens approached our North Jersey Group for help. They also formed a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, the Rifle Camp Park Coalition, to raise funds for a potential lawsuit. With money from the Friends of Garrett Mountain, we placed lawn signs on the main road that abuts the park. What a pleasure it was to see all those signs!

We helped them find legal representation through NJ Appleseed. Although that organization is not *pro bono*, its director is experienced in uncovering governmental activities that violate state laws and rules. We also spoke or appeared at every

freeholder meeting for six months, along with the Coalition people. They counted trees, measured acreages, took photographs of other disk golf courses, and got more than 1500 signatures on a petition to save the park.

But the freeholders were a tough bunch. Despite two letters informing them that they were violating state statutes that regulated the change in use of the park, when the Passaic County counsel was asked, "is this use-change legal?" the reply was "yes." It wasn't.

The *pièce de resistance* was our friend Jan Barry's idea to call a press conference in the park. Jan was the investigative reporter for *The Bergen Record* (a newspaper) who had discovered the Ford Motor Company's dumping of paint sludge in the Ramapo Mountains over a 25 year period.

We planned the conference carefully, proposing another site in Passaic County that is more appropriate for disk golf, and underutilized: the Preakness Golf Course. Another 501(c)(3) corporation, Friends of Passaic County Parks, had been authorized by the freeholders to study and advise on the disk golf course. We learned that a friend of one of that group's members likes to play disk golf. We'll see if their study really takes place. In the meantime, the birds and the people who enjoy the park have had a little reprieve. It's amazing what seven people, determined to help, can do together.

Congratulations in Order

Jeff Tittel, our Chapter Director, has made it onto the InsiderNJ's 100 Power List of 2017, ranked #57. He's the only environmental group representative on the list. Here's what they say about him:

"The veteran Director of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club is damned effective at what he does. There is not a single issue impacting New Jersey's fragile environment that Tittel doesn't have a well-considered opinion on, and which he hasn't first issued a deep impact press release on – most of the time long before it reaches a Situation-Red condition. He's the political advocate on the environment against whom all others should be judged. Originally from Hillside, he's also a politics junkie, going back to when he volunteered on the 1968 Eugene McCarthy Campaign."

Reports from Trenton

Atlantic Sturgeon Designation Will Protect Our Rivers

From a press release issued on Aug 17, edited by Irene Gnarra

The National Marine Fisheries Service (aka NOAA Fisheries) has two new habitat designations for the endangered Atlantic sturgeon – that will help protect their migration, spawning, and juvenile growth in 15 rivers from Maine to Virginia. An extremely sensitive species, sturgeon will now be protected in both our Hudson and Delaware Rivers. The habitat designation in the Delaware will extend from the US Rte 1 toll bridge in Trenton, downstream for 137 river kilometers to the point where the river becomes Delaware Bay.

It is important that the NMFS help prevent fish-kills, which also means improving the quality of our drinking water. For far too long, industrial facilities along our rivers have killed millions of fish, including sturgeon, whose numbers have dropped almost to extinction. At one

time, the Atlantic sturgeon was so plentiful in the Delaware River that their roe, aka caviar, was shipped to as far away as Russia. As few as 300 spawning adults remain today.

NJ-DEP has ignored the Clean Water Act for the past forty years, by failing to require industrial facilities to have closed-loop systems such as cooling towers. It has permitted the Salem Nuclear Power Plant to thermally pollute the Delaware Bay and River. This plant also emits toxic chemicals, including metals, fungicides, and anti-corrosives. In 1990 it was required by the DEP to install cooling towers, but the DEP never enforced its mandate. Sadly, that's how politics works. So now we welcome the federal government's help in protecting our rivers – to restore a healthy supply of Atlantic sturgeon.

Elcon Again Applies for Hazardous Waste Facility in Falls Twp, Pennsylvania

From a press release issued on Oct 24

Elcon Recycling Services LLC has revived its application, to the Pennsylvania DEP, to build a toxic waste treatment plant in Falls Twp, on the Delaware River just south of Trenton – to process industrial liquid waste containing almost 600 dangerous chemicals, from chemical and pharmaceutical companies, and other sources. The process involves "thermal oxidation."

Last May, Penn-DEP rejected the application as "administratively incomplete," noting six deficiencies including the lack of an analysis of how the plant would affect the underground environment. The DEP has 90 days to determine whether Elcon's application is now complete.

Any air and water pollution from this operation will cross the River into New Jersey's communities. Any spill into the Delaware River will reach water supply intakes both at Trenton and at Delran.

Complicating the danger, the Delaware River Basin Commission is proposing to allow fracking waste to be dumped in the Delaware Basin. Such wastes include the volatile organic chemicals benzene, methyl benzene, formaldehyde, and others that are also carcinogenic. Also pres-

ent in fracking wastes are arsenic and mercury.

Elcon owns another facility just like this one – located on Haifa Bay in Israel. It has consistently exceeded limits on various toxic pollutants in its discharged water and air emissions. Expect a repeat performance if the Pennsylvania operation is approved.

Trucks would make 17-25 deliveries a day, and remove toxic ash to a landfill. Just one spill could have a disastrous impact on the neighborhood, and on water resources in the area. The Philadelphia Water Co. has said that any spill would be "catastrophic."

A disaster resulting from stored chemicals in West Virginia last year shows the threat to water supply intakes. Toxic ash and dangerous particles from the thousands of pounds of waste to be burnt every day at this proposed facility could threaten communities' air quality and public health.

Prevailing winds would blow toxic smokestack emissions into New Jersey, impacting our air more than Pennsylvania's. New Jersey already has some of the worst air quality in the nation: we rank in the top 20 worst areas.

BEARS EARS

(Continued from page 1)

Indian Tribes. For the first time in American history, these Tribes would have a say in the management of their culturally important lands.

Now here is where we follow the money: Congressman Bishop of Utah heads the Natural Resources Committee. He sees Bears Ears and our Public Lands as a piggy bank to fund his state.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is another target of President Trump's April 26th Executive Order that required the Department of Interior to assess whether Bears Ears and 26 other National Monuments should be de-designated or reduced in size. Utah's delegation is urging the President to eliminate huge areas of Grand Staircase-Escalante to

permit coal mining. Interior Secty. Zinke has been meeting with the developers – and not with the Native Americans or the local business people at either Grand Staircase-Escalante or Bears Ears.

More than 2 million people wrote to the Department of the Interior, almost all urging the retention of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante.

The Sierra Club urges that we retain our most spectacular places, and that we push for clean energy now and for our future. PLEASE let your voice be heard. WE can NOT let our Public Lands become the very place dirty energy is funded.

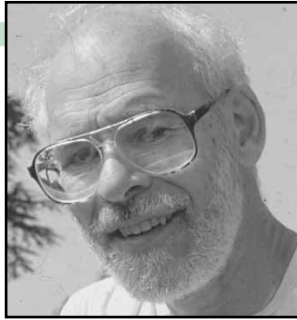
Please let your Congressional Representative know that we want the energy grabbers to KEEP THEIR HANDS OFF OUR NATIONAL MONUMENTS!

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

Editorial

Benefits of Street Trees

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



I have written before (in April-June, 2017) about the consequence, in my municipality, of federal regulations (“MS4”) requiring installation of secondary storm sewers to catch home rooftop runoff: our street trees are gradually being removed, to permit the new storm sewers to be laid under the sidewalks. All the inquiries I’ve made since, about how other communities are complying with those regulations, have resulted somewhere between unawareness and disbelief. But I’m left with the need to re-educate the politicians and other officials in my Atlantic County community.

So I was pleased to learn, at the October annual meeting of the NJ Shade Tree Federation, of a recently improved feature of a website for Shade Tree Commissioners and their allies. If you google <I-Tree> you’ll discover a free resource maintained by the US Forest Service that enables you to determine that three shade trees in front of a typical New Jersey house will absorb as much storm-water annually as runs off the roof of that house! I.e. street trees accomplish the same thing as secondary storm sewers, and at far less cost!

The new feature on the website is called “Design.” You have to supply a street address, and then specify the location(s), species and size(s) of the shade tree(s). The program then calculates the annual water uptake, as well as other benefits: ozone, particulates and carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere, and savings on the cost of air conditioning due to shading.

Of course there are other beneficial uses for roof runoff: rain-barrels under the downspouts – tapped to water gardens and lawns. And there are other benefits of shade trees: monetary, environmental and purely aesthetic.

I asked the presenters at the Shade Tree Conference for advice on dealing

with municipal officials who, when I mention shade trees, see only an intolerable expense and the damage they do to sidewalks and curbs. Yes, I was told, two or three municipalities in New Jersey have adopted ordinances disclaiming any municipal responsibility for planting and maintaining street trees. They suggested the alternative of asking the local Green Team to make arrangements for homeowners to obtain shade trees for their front yards, outside the standard 10-foot municipal easement back from the curb.

Fifty years was bandied as the expected useful lifetime of a street tree. Surely that should depend on the species, with many going much longer. That’s also about the life-expectancy of street-pavements, curbs and sidewalks. I’m always amazed to be told by my professional colleagues that there’s no single “best” species of tree; each has its good and bad characteristics: sidewalk damage, messiness, structural weakness, interference with overhead wires, canopy function, odor, wind resistance, soil and moisture requirements, tendency to drop branches, native vs. non-native species, color, times of leafing and leaf-fall, clearance for pedestrians, etc.

There was interesting discussion about species diversity: concern that monocultures promote catastrophic loss from insect infestations. But also acceptance that in any single street-block the planting of a single species produces a dramatic visual effect. The compromise is a different common species in each street-block. It was also urged that tree replacements be made incrementally, so that each street-block will always have a preponderance of mature trees.

Please consider this editorial a suggestion that Club members be active on their municipal shade tree commissions, or at least grateful if their communities look favorably on street trees.

Chair’s Message

Chapters Welcomes More New Volunteers!

By Richard Isaac (risaacx@aol.com)



Our Chapter extends a warm welcome to the following new volunteers just appointed to these Chapter-level positions:

- **Laura Sliker, Chapter Environmental Impact Analyst**

Laura is an environmental consultant working in the engineering industry: specializing in environmental studies and regulatory compliance, and conducting legal research and policy analysis. She has more than ten years’ experience preparing all levels and stages of environmental documentation for state and federal projects under NEPA and state environmental laws. She has worked throughout the country on transportation projects for FHWA, FTA and FRA, and on facilities projects for the DOJ and DOD. Her experience includes siting high speed and superconducting magnetic levitation railways in the U.S.

- **Christine Sadovy, Chapter Gender, Equity & Environmental Issues Coordinator**

Christine is the Legislative and Political Director for the Planned Parenthood Action Fund of NJ. She’s an activist, a mom, and a proud New Jerseyan. She has been a staunch advocate for social justice for nearly a decade.

Her background includes two years at Planned Parenthood, advancing health care access and women’s rights issues including funding for family planning services and equal pay. She previously worked for the Sierra Club, helping stop fossil fuel pollution from contaminating the air and water of the Garden State.

- **Evangelina Pena, Chapter Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst**

An environmental scientist using GIS at a professional engineering firm, Evangelina hopes to provide data and maps that will help the Sierra Club publicize critical environmental issues throughout the state. She is a graduate of Rutgers’ School of Environmental and Biological Sciences with a major in Biological Oceanography and a minor in Environmental Policy, Institutions and Behavior. While at Rutgers, she was the editor of the Environmental Policy, Institutions and Behavior Trail Newsletter.

- **Abdel Alfahham, Chapter Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst**

Abdel graduated from Rutgers Univ. as a G.H. Cook scholar with a BS in Environmental Science, and is now a graduate student at U. Penn. His interests include the working of state and federal environmental regulations, including the use of geospatial interpolation (GIS), complex data analysis, AutoCAD drafting, and computer modeling of contaminant behavior.

- **Dylan Frost, Chapter Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst**

Dylan is a recent Masters graduate in Environmental Engineering, focusing on Water Resources. He previously worked on water quality and roadway flooding for the NJ-DOT. He now works for a New Jersey-based engineering firm – on environmental remediation and technology.

Report from Trenton

Superfund Tour Cancelled — Where’s Rodney?

From a press release issued on Sept 15, edited by Joe Testa

Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-11th CD) cancelled his annual tour of EPA Superfund sites in Morris, Essex, and Sussex Counties after receiving backlash from the Sierra Club and others about his anti-environmental record. This is an example of the Congressman’s living in a bubble, failing to meet with his constituents (especially those living near Superfund sites) or host a town hall.

While he has taken these tours every year, he voted against legislation to reinstate the Superfund tax – which expired in the 1990s. That tax, paid by oil and chemical companies, was used to remediate the contaminated sites they created. This is unfortunate, because as House Appropriations Chair he could easily lead an effort to fund Superfund cleanups. Since that funding was discontinued, ordinary taxpayers have been paying for cleanups rather than the polluters.

Frelinghuysen voted to roll back key environmental protections such as the Waters of the United States and the Antiquities Acts, blocked the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases, and voted against other clean air and water protections. This is part of his anti-environment agenda which protects polluters over the people.

One of the reasons the EPA takes so long to clean up contaminated sites, and does so incompletely, is its lack of funding. Frelinghuysen’s current EPA budget includes a severe 7 percent cut, but it could get worse. Even though this budget has passed the House, we don’t know its future in the Senate, because Trump wants EPA funding cut by a third! With the loss of EPA funding, more pollution will threaten communities. We need Frelinghuysen to stand up to any budget cuts and stop voting to roll back environmental protections.

Congressman Pallone (D, 6th CD) and others have re-introduced legislation that would reinstate the Superfund tax to fund clean ups. Frelinghuysen was one of the legislators who voted against the original legislation; he has not signed on to support the new version.

In his 20 years in Congress, Frelinghuysen has failed to support real cleanups of Superfund sites. New Jersey has more of them (118) than any other state, and we also have thousands of other contaminated sites waiting to be listed. Their toxic chemicals are seeping into ground water and residential neighborhoods, appearing in streams, reservoirs and drinking water, and even in the atmosphere that we breathe.

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

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

Resolutions:

Approved by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in September, October and November, 2017

Additional (volunteer) officers were appointed:

Bob Sandberg as Chapter Marine Issues Coordinator, and Denise Garner as GIS Advisor, a change of title. (Sept); Laura Sliker as Chapter Environmental Impact Advisor, Christine Sadovy as Chapter Gender, Equity and Environmental Issues Coordinator, and the following Geographic Information System Analysts: Evangelina Pena, Abdel Alfahham and Dylan Frost. (Oct), Steve Lax as Transportation Issues Advisor. (Nov).

Colin Bell was endorsed for State Senate in LD2. (Sept)

We resurrected the formal status, under NJ Election law, of our Political Action Committee, which gathers and spends money to support candidates for public office. (Oct)

The process for making early political endorsements for 2018 was begun for Congresspersons Norcross (CD1), Sires (CD8), Pascrell (CD9) and Payne (CD10), and some final endorsements for 2017 were announced: Fullop for Mayor of Jersey City, and O’Dea for Freeholder in Hudson County. Also, in LD25, Lisa Bhimani for State Senate and Thomas Moran and Richard Corcoran for Assembly. (Oct)

Guest Column on Transportation Issues

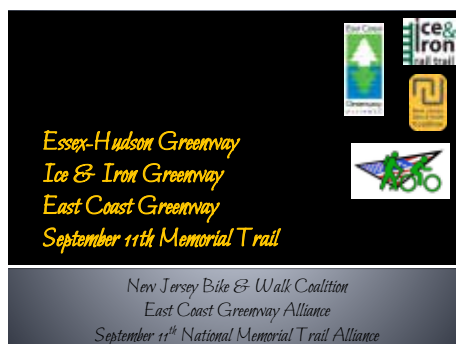
The Essex Hudson Greenway - Connecting New Jersey's communities from Montclair to Jersey City

By Emily Eley, Outreach Coordinator for the New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition (emily.m.eley@gmail.com)

In 2002, NJTransit's Mid-town Direct train service came to Montclair, leaving in its wake an 11-mile stretch of unused railroad property called the Old Boonton Line. This segment of out-of-service railroad presents an exceptional opportunity to build a greenway for the residents of Essex and Hudson Counties. The potential greenway, to be known as both the "Essex-Hudson Greenway" and the "Ice and Iron Trail," would offer safe, off-road recreation - walking and bike riding - for residents of the seven adjacent towns: Montclair, Glen Ridge, Bloomfield, Belleville, Newark, Kearny and Jersey City. The greenway would ultimately provide access to Manhattan via PATH trains and ferries, as well as to areas in northern New Jersey via Hudson-Bergen Light Rail service.

Greenways connect neighborhoods with local businesses, parks, nearby communities and other destinations, offering safe off-road options for commuting, shopping and recreation. They also take cars off of congested highways.

Organizations like the New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition, and the Friends of the Ice and Rail Trail, are working to promote awareness of this greenway proposal. The proposal has caught the attention of both the East Coast Greenway Alliance - a long-distance, urban, shared-use trail linking cities from Maine to Florida - as well as the September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance - a trail built to honor the victims of that horrible day in 2001 by connecting the three crash sites and memorials. Both of these trail organizations wish to incorporate the Essex-



Hudson Greenway into their routes.

The Old Boonton Line is currently owned by Norfolk Southern; it has not been used since 2003, and in 2005 was designated "out of service" by the Surface Transportation Board. The property now shows signs of neglect and decay, with garbage accumulating as well as evidence of drug use and other crime, no doubt affecting nearby property values.

The Greenway would operate as a linear park, accessible to all citizens, free of motor vehicles. New Jersey ranks high in number of pedestrian and bicycle fatalities as a percentage of all road deaths: in 2015 and 2016, more than 30% of all road fatalities happened to pedestrians and bicyclists; the national average was half that, at 14-16%.

The Essex-Hudson Greenway would profoundly benefit the seven towns from Montclair to Jersey City, several of which suffer environmental injustice in the sense that many residents cannot afford to own cars. (Please see also the article on rail trails by Gary Frederick, in this issue.)

Air Quality/Clean Air Report

The Smaller, the Worse

By Paul Ehrlich, our Issue Coordinator for "Air" (p.w.ehrlich@gmail.com)

My title, above, could be that of a study recently published in the journal *Lancet Planetary Health*. Small particles are known to produce adverse health effects, especially those with diameters of 2.5 micrometers or less (known as PM-2.5). The PM-2.5 mixture is composed mostly of particles formed by combustion, in contrast to the larger PM-10 (particles of 10 micrometers' diameter or less) which are formed mostly by mechanical abrasion, such as the action of wind and sea water on rocks or industrial dust.

Over the last decade or so, evidence has been building that the smaller-diameter fraction of PM-2.5, particles with diameters less than 1 micrometer, are the most problematic. This fits with several characteristics of the PM-1 mix. They can be inhaled deep into the lungs, where they enter the blood stream and are transported throughout the body, including the brain. In addition, since small particles have a large surface-to-volume ratio, a relatively small mass of them can adsorb large

amounts of the toxic chemicals found in polluted air; these surface toxins are thus readily supplied to the biological molecules on cells and other body structures.

The study noted above, by Chen et al., provides the medical evidence for "the smaller, the worse." They studied emergency room admissions in 26 Chinese cities: these increase in the first two days after a PM-1 or a PM-2.5 rise of 10 micrograms/cubic meter or more. Since the PM-1 effect is almost equal to the PM-2.5 effect, the smaller particles in the mixture are doing most of the harm.

More research is needed before this finding can be incorporated into air pollution regulations. There is evidence that the smaller particles in the PM-1 mixture are the most harmful. These very small particles are known to bind a variety of toxic chemicals in varying amounts. It will take more research to determine exactly which particles most affect human health as well as which contribute to specific diseases.

Reports from Trenton

DEP Goes Forward by Rolling Back Highlands Water Protections

From a press release issued on Aug 15th, edited by Joe Testa

An atrocity of the Christie Administration is a DEP revision to its Highlands Septic Rule. The rule protects the Highlands Forest Preservation Area (FPA) from groundwater contamination by faulty septic tanks, and thus protects the drinking water used by roughly six million people in New Jersey. The FPA includes pristine trout streams as well as water-supply reservoirs.

The revision has been challenged by legislation: ACR 192 (McKeon)/ SCR148 (Smith) determined that the DEP's rule revisions went against legislative intent. The DEP was supposed to respond within thirty days. The fact that it has not done so shows that the DEP is moving forward with the rule revision.

The Septic Rule regulates groundwater quality by specifying the permitted loading of nitrates, a major waste product of septic tanks. The DEP's revision would allow more nitrates and 4 times more pollution. That leaves the Legislature with the need to pass its resolution again, in order to take the new rules to court, or to void them.

In allowing more pollution from septic tanks, the DEP has targeted the most environmentally sensitive areas of the Highlands. So we call upon the Assembly and the Senate to stand up again for the environment and against the Governor's rollbacks.

Another feature of the rule-revision is a provision for exempted lots that were grandfathered under the Highlands Act, to be connected to new lots. The rule-revision would also make it cost-effective to build roads and subdivisions up to the most environmentally-sensitive tops of forested mountains.

This rule-revision clearly violates legislative intent because, instead of using data from deep aquifer recharge that the Highlands Act requires, data is taken from mostly developed areas of the Highlands, near lakes that have shallow aquifers and that are in areas outside the FPA. The DEP uses data from the USGS that was taken after the Highlands Act went to effect in 2004, which violates the Act. The Highlands Act requires non-degradation but the proposed rule-revisions allow more pollution. The DEP is playing games with the facts.

This change will allow at least 61 more housing units in Bethlehem and Byram Township, which doubles under COAH considerations. These changes will also double the density of preserved farms and promote growth on environmentally sensitive Hamburg and Wawayanda Mountains.

We call upon the Legislature to stand up for the Highlands and protect our drinking water all over again.

RAIL TRAILS

(Continued from page 1)

some of the most beautiful: the Columbia Trail winds for 15 miles through farmland and historic sites in Hunterdon and Morris counties, and the Henry Hudson Trail extends for 24 miles through wetlands, streams and forest along the Atlantic Highlands coast, between Marlboro and Freehold. The D&R Canal Trail follows a towpath that was built in the early 1830s for commerce between Philadelphia and New York. The Sussex Branch Trail is a 20-mile ride along the route of the former narrow-gauge, mule-drawn Sussex Mine Railroad -- that brought iron ore to the Morris Canal.

Our Sierra Club Chapter wants to see more trails developed. In Middlesex County, the popular Middlesex Greenway runs for 3.5 miles along a portion of the old Lehigh Valley Railroad corridor that transported coal from the Lehigh Valley to Perth Amboy. On October 1 a rally, attended by Congressman Frank Pallone, other politicians and about 200 residents, was held at the trailhead in Middlesex County -- to drum up support for an extension of the trail along an abandoned section that runs toward the Dismal Swamp in South Plainfield. Conrail owns

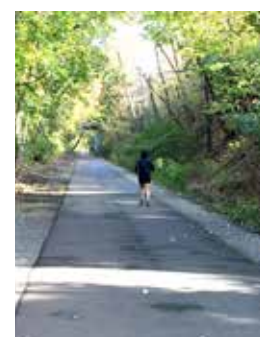
the right-of-way, refusing to release it on the claim that it may someday want to develop it.

The Essex-Hudson Greenway, along the Old Boonton Line between Montclair to Jersey City, is another potential rail trail, described in Emily Eley's article elsewhere in this issue.

In Cape May County, the Pennsylvania-Reading-Seashore railbed between Woodbine and Cape May Zoo, out of service since 1973, has been acquired by the County for a 12-mile extension of a bike path that starts near the southern tip of New Jersey.

From Tenafly to Ramsey (Bergen Co), local municipalities are discussing ways to convert old rail lines into recreational uses. Allocation of open space funds, tough negotiations with rail owners like Conrail and CSX, and petitions from outdoor enthusiasts could turn these ambitions into reality. Let's transform the remaining 183 miles of New Jersey's unused and abandoned train corridors into bicycle and mixed-used corridors to be enjoyed by all.

Photos by Gary Frederick



(Top Left) Middlesex Greenway Trail, trailhead on Middlesex Avenue, Metuchen.

(Above) On the Middlesex Greenway Trail, Metuchen, NJ.



(Lower Left) Conrail-owned former Lehigh Valley Railroad right of way and site of proposed Middlesex Greenway Trail expansion.

Annual Reorganization Meeting: January 6

All Sierra Club members are welcome to attend the January meeting of our Executive Committee (and, indeed, ALL of its monthly meetings), to be held, tentatively, at 1pm at the Hamilton Twp (Mercer Co) Public Library: 1 Justice Samuel Alito Jr. Way. We will elect our Chapter Chair, and make other officer appointments, as well as decide on campaign priorities for 2018. Jeff Tittel, our Chapter Director, will report on happenings in State government.

Reports from Trenton

PennEast Applies for Army Corps Permits

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

On September 14, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers gave the public thirty days to comment on PennEast's application for permits. PennEast is a 110-mile pipeline that would bring natural gas from the Marcellus Region of Pennsylvania through Hunterdon and Mercer counties in New Jersey. It would cut through many communities, preserved open space, and farmland. PennEast has applied for approval pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), even though it has not yet earned full state and federal approval. As the Corps knows well, the New Jersey DEP rejected PennEast's permit application because it lacked 65% of the required information.

PennEast has not yet received permission to enter multiple tracts along the right-of-way – to prepare surveys and the delineation of waters and wetlands.

Therefore, it still does not have that information. The Corps cannot issue a permit without coordination with other resource agencies, and until PennEast is in full compliance with all laws and statutes.

Last spring, the Army Corps denounced PennEast for its lack of information, approvals and permits. Since they are still lacking, the Army Corps should continue to refuse approvals. An unfortunate new development is that the Trump Administration has rolled back the Waters of the United States Rule. We will now see if the Army Corps bends to this new pressure, rather than standing with all who have denounced this dangerous and expensive pipeline project. According to the Ratepayer Advocate, the PennEast Pipeline would be an unnecessary expense for ratepayers.

(A previous report on PennEast appeared on p. 4 of the Jersey Sierran for July-Sept, 2017.)

Our Response to DEP's Attack on Coastal Areas

From a press release issued on Sept 14, and edited by Irene Gnarra

The New Jersey Sierra Club has voiced its opposition to proposed changes to the Coastal Zone Management Rules that would threaten people, property, and the environment. The proposed amendments deal with shellfish aquaculture, the filled water's edge, dune walkovers, other beach and dune development, trails, CAFRA findings, V-zones, scenic resources, high-rise structures, building access in flood-hazard areas, permits to apply herbicide, permit application requirements, and rule rationales. The new rules would permit commercial development in flood-prone areas of both the Hudson River waterfront and Atlantic City, and would threaten environmentally sensitive dunes, wetlands, and coastal areas.

The Christie Administration's proposed rules would authorize paving over environmentally sensitive areas, making it easier for developers to access coastal areas to construct commercial and residential projects. These could include hotels, recreation centers, and other commercial projects in areas that flood, putting people at risk for storm surges and climate impact. We also denounce other rules that would threaten the environment: e.g. those permitting herbicide spraying and offshore drilling.

The new rules would permit commercial development in coastal high hazard areas, if located in Atlantic City or within a special urban zone along the Hudson River waterfront. They would allow more fill, and authorize the moving of dunes during construction, and the siting of bike paths beneath manufactured dunes. We prefer moving people away from flood prone areas, and developing a comprehensive approach for improving resilience, as well as coastal planning that would include buyouts, elevating homes, and mitigation.

The DEP proposes a new permit-by-rule 23 to "authorize the installation of at-grade dune walkovers, such as stabilization mats, at residential, commercial, or public developments other than single-family homes and duplexes." The DEP argues that elevated dune walkovers would facilitate public access.

The DEP wishes to eliminate the requirement that solid boardwalk-type walkovers be elevated at least one foot above dunes. They also propose a general permit to authorize multiple-use paths. These could be paved to carry light vehicles, such as bicycles and golf carts. This amendment also allows for the placement of certain tourism developments on beaches.

The proposals roll back protections in the building of boardwalks, changing the Wetlands rule to allow paths and trails for small motorized vehicles like golf carts and lawn tractors, without looking at potential environmental impacts. They would sanction more walkovers along bridges and environmentally sensitive dunes, and the construction of piers in flood zones. The Christie Administration has attempted to regulate beach access, and the proposed rules would prioritize access to private homes and developments. There is no concern for protecting ecosystems and endangered species.

A general permit would authorize routine beach maintenance activities, emergency post-storm beach restoration, and dune creation, even though some projects, such as moving beach sand from one place to another, might put people at risk in future storms.

General permit 28 would authorize "the application of herbicides within freshwater wetlands and transition areas to control invasive plant species," and general permit 64 would allow spraying in riparian zones. The DEP fails to avow that herbicides would destroy sensitive vegetation and habitats for important species.

A new rule would retain "former standards for Outer Continental Shelf Development to concentrate industrial development in the coastal zone should any exploratory drilling be successful in the future." Offshore oil drilling should be blocked!

It's no surprise that, in the last few months of the Christie Administration, the DEP continues to obliterate environmental protections. For the past eight years, this pro-business Administration has supported increased development, without respect for environmentally sensitive wetlands, stream buffers, and flood-prone areas.

A copy of the proposal is at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/proposals/20170717a.pdf>

Christie's Hurricane Sandy Denial Tour

From a Press Release issued on Oct 25th

For the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Sandy, Gov. Christie spent a week traveling and promoting his cleanup efforts. In actuality, he promoted his failure to help the victims of Sandy, and his failure to prepare New Jersey for future storm events.

A recent poll found that more than half the storm's victims are still dissatisfied with the recovery efforts. Christie has done nothing to curb the overdevelopment and sprawl that made and still make residents vulnerable to flooding from storm surges. He has also failed to address the climate change that makes storms more severe. Instead of moving people away from flood zones, his Administration has proposed to weaken the rules that protect us from flooding. Thousands of residents still live in flood-prone areas, and are at risk for future storms. Christie is like the captain of the Titanic taking a victory lap of the ship before it sinks.

The Governor has ended DEP's Coastal Program for Climate Mitigation and Adaptation, an award-winning office that worked on climate change and adaptation along the Delaware Bayshore and in Tuckerton. He won't let the DEP use updated flood maps based on sea level rise, or even mention the term. The Administration does not have a buy-out system to get people out of harm's way. Barnegat Bay and Mystic Island are being over-developed.

The Administration's rollbacks on NJ's Flood Hazard Rules include removing important protects for headwaters, increasing permit-by-rules, and letting a permit-by-certification process increase development in flood-prone areas. Most of the stormwater-control systems we have are broken or do not work, contributing to flooding and pollution. Instead of improving these systems the Governor has vetoed legislation to finance the retrofit of detention basins.

The purpose of the original Flood Hazard Rules was to motivate development in urban areas where already existing sewers are in place. In contrast, the new Rules allow for building along the Hudson River piers and in flood-prone V-Zones. They also remove important stream buffers.

Christie's DEP has also imposed new Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA) rules, which allow for development without consideration of sea-level rise or climate change, and put more people in harm's way. CAFRA-designated centers call for high-intensity growth in low-lying areas – such as the Lacey Town Center and in Tuckerton, Lakewood, and Manchester.

We have not elevated homes to safe levels, and are not basing our flood maps on science. NOAA and Rutgers have released flood maps based on Sandy data and anticipated future sea-level rise, but we haven't used them. The population of flood-prone areas could grow by 20% in the next 20 years, putting another half-million people in the flood-zone. Examples are giant condominium complexes in Long Branch, Asbury Park, and Atlantic City.

Failure of the dune system during Hurricane Joaquin shows that the Christie Administration has done little to protect us from the next storm. In the Long Beach Island section of Holgate, much of the newly finished beach access ramp and dune system, built by the Army Corps of Engineers, was destroyed. Dunes will not solve all our problems, but, properly designed, they are a step in the right direction. In some places, the DEP has not even required them in their beach replenishment projects. That's a waste of money.

The coastal areas of New Jersey are the fastest-growing parts of our state, with exponential population increases. Since the Water Quality Management Planning (WQMP) Rules have been weakened, 16,000 environmentally-sensitive acres in Ocean County have been opened for sewer service, adding close to 500,000 people. The DEP's new Freshwater Wetlands Rules would open our wetlands to even more development, and increase water pollution in our environment, not to mention flooding. And now they have proposed a new WQMP Rule that would increase development in the Pinelands and Highlands.

Hurricane Sandy was originally said to be a 1-in-100-year storm; that prediction has been revised to 1-in-every-25 years because of sea-level rise. Sea level will rise 1 foot by 2050, but really that's 1-3 feet with ebb and flow. Let's hope our next Governor has more sense.



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)

(Continued on page 6)

Skylands Group

(Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

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

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

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

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

Executive Committee:

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

Officers:	Term exp:		
Chair:	12/31/17	Susan Williams	SkylandsGroup@gmail.com
Vice Chair:	12/31/17	Mindy Geary	mwillimas@yahoo.com
Secretary:	12/31/18	Norene Haberski	habersn@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	12/31/17	Jeri Doherty	bjd8974@gmail.com
Board Members:			
Member-at-Large	12/31/18	Greg Gorman	ggorman07419@embarqmail.com
Member-at-Large	12/31/17	Dave Alcock	dwhoob@hotmail.com
Member-at-Large	12/31/18	Marvin Feil	mfeil@write.me
Member-at-Large	12/31/18	Nicole Guerrieri	sosaysnicole@gmail.com
Conservation Chair:	N/A	Greg Gorman	ggorman07419@embarqmail.com
Outings Chair:	N/A	Dave Alcock	dwhoob@hotmail.com
Political Co-Chairs:	N/A	Nicole Guerrieri	sosaysnicole@gmail.com
and:		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, 1 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 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
Treasurer:	Celeste Martin *	onecentral@mac.com
Secretary:	Amy Weeder *	aweeder@comcast.net
Political Chair:	Debbie Young *	debyoung31@comcast.net
Conservation Chair:	Cinny MacGonagle	cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Children's Program Coor:	Kimberly Borin	storiesofourown@mac.com
Natural Resource Coor:	Angela De Sapio	angela.desapio@gmail.com
Outings Coordinator:	Jonathan Wall *	jonwall@jonwall.com
Webmaster/Listmaster:	John Kashwick	jkashwick@gmail.com
Excom Member at Large:	Karen Becker *	karbecker@gmail.com

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. (* Group Executive Committee Member)

GENERAL MEETINGS: All our general meetings are held at the North County Library, 65 Halstead St, Clinton, 08809, on the first Wednesday of each month. Meet and Greet at 7pm followed by program at 7:15 pm. Meetings are free but donations are gladly accepted. There are no programs in July and August.

Jan 3 (Wed): Stop the PennEast Pipeline Movement. Jeff Tittel, Executive Director of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club will present on the challenges and efforts to stop the encroachment of the PennEast gas pipeline into New Jersey as well as discuss some of our chapter's initiatives under the governor-elect Phil Murphy's Administration.

Feb 7 (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.

Mar 7 (Wed): Helping Children Find Peace in the Natural World. Kimberly Borin, EdD, will share her research on the importance of a child's ability to connect to nature. In her book, *The Sense of Wonder*, Rachel Carson asks the question, "Is the exploration of the natural world just a pleasant way to pass the golden hours of childhood or is there something deeper? I am sure there is something much deeper, something lasting and significant." In response, Dr. Borin will talk about the benefits of allowing children to explore in the natural world and to share their experiences and reflections. We'll take a look at our own stories about nature and how those moments influenced our lives. Practical suggestions for helping children enjoy the natural world will also be given.

(Save the Date: Join Kimberly as she offers, *Yoga for Spreading Your Wings*, located in the Clinton Conservancy Butterfly Garden on Sat, May 19. Details soon!)

OTHER EVENTS:

Jan 1 (Mon): New Year's Recovery Hike and Potluck. 1-5pm. Join us as we welcome in the New Year with an easy walk through downtown Clinton and the Landsdown Trail followed by a potluck appetizer party! Meet at Municipal Parking Lot (corner of Halstead and Water Sts) in Clinton. Inclement weather may cancel the hike portion of the event. (Contact Jonathan Wall at jonwall@jonwall.com for details or sign up on Meetup.com.)

Jan 24 (Wed): Executive Committee/Planning Meeting. 7:30pm. At the offices of Dr. Jonathan D. Wall, 21 Water St, 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.)

Feb 18 (Sun): Great Swamp Road Walk. 1pm. Celebrate Winter with a walk starting at the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Inclement weather cancels. (Please contact Celeste Martin onecentral@mac.com for details and sign up on Meetup.com.)

ISSUES: For too long developers have been using the so-called "builder's remedy" as an excuse to bulldoze farms and woodlands in the name of affordable housing. While the Sierra Club supports affordable housing, there is a right way to do it that does not strain our infrastructure and transportation systems and contribute to sprawl. The issue is particularly relevant in Hunterdon and Warren Counties where there is still extensive open space. If interested in getting more involved in this issue, please contact John Kashwick at jkashwick@gmail.com.

North Jersey Group

(Bergen and Passaic Counties)

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

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

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

Officers:

Chair:	Buddy Jenssen *	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Vice Chair:		
Treasurer:	Buddy Jenssen *	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Secretary:		
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 Coor:	Ariana Schanzer	arianaschanzer@gmail.com
Trail Maintenance:	Marty Cohen	martincohen@verizon.net
Webmaster/Listmaster:		<i>Open position!</i>

(* Group Executive Committee Member)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Unless otherwise noted, meetings and outings are free and open to general public. Please check our Meetup page, Facebook page, or web site for meeting dates, times, and topics (see above for URLs). . You can also email us at northjersseysierraclub@gmail.com.

Trail Maintenance. To get on our trail maintenance militia email list, just send an email of interest to pe13141@gmail.com Despite this Fall's heat spell, Bill D, Ira R, Wanda D, and Marty C, managed to do some serious clipping and lopping, stemming the tide (somewhat) of the Mother [applause, applause]. Next Spring, of course, the Mother will resuscitate her onslaught, but our hardy group will redouble its efforts in keeping her in check. Come on out and join the fun.

P.S. See the NY Times article of 10/26/17 to learn why Volunteering is linked to health benefits.

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://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/Gateway/>. (also accessible from the NJ Chapter website)

Please also join the Gateway Group on **Facebook** at <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:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Treasurer:	Anne Hirs	973-844-1121	annehirs83@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>.

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

E-mail: hudsonsierraclub@gmail.com

OFFICERS: (*=ExCom)

Chair:	David 'Ace' Case*	accase88@gmail.com
Vice-Chair:	<i>Open position! Email Ace to volunteer!</i>	
Secretary	Patricia Hilliard*	hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	<i>Open position! Email Ace to volunteer!</i>	
Political Chair:	Seth Lubin*	sthlubin@gmail.com
Conservation Chair:	Jon Perrelle*	jonperelle@gmail.com
Delegate to ExCom:	Hugh Evans*	HLEvans.Sierra@gmail.com
Publicity Chair	John Ottomanelli*	otto.pittsburgh@gmail.com
Membership Chair:	Patricia Hilliard*	hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com
Programs/Events Chair:	<i>Open position! Email Ace to volunteer!</i>	
Outings Co-Chairs:	<i>Open Position</i>	
ExCom-at-Large:	Nancy Booth*	boothnancy2011@hotmail.com
Webmaster:	John Ottomanelli*	otto.pittsburgh@gmail.com
Art Design:	Ann Marshall	ann.marshall@gmail.com

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 website for details (see above for URLs and email).

Group Executive Committee Meeting: Sunday, Jan 21, 2-4pm. Hudson County Community College Library, 71 Sip Av, Jersey City. The public may attend; only officers may vote.

General Meeting on Climate Change: Sunday, Jan 21, 2-4pm. Hudson County Community College Library, 71 Sip Av, Jersey City. Presentation by Climate Reality Project.

Group Executive Committee Meeting: Sunday, Feb 18, 2-4pm. Hudson County Community College Library, 71 Sip Av, Jersey City. The public may attend; only officers may vote.

Group Executive Committee Meeting: Sunday, Mar 18, Noon-2pm. Hudson County Community College Library, 71 Sip Av, Jersey City. The public may attend; only officers may vote.

CURRENT ISSUES

Outings: Our volunteer leaders led several popular outings to unanticipated wild places in Hudson County including wild areas of Liberty State Park, Bayonne's waterfront, Lincoln Park, and the Jersey City Reservoir. We hope to get more people out into the natural world in 2018. If you have an idea for an outing let us know!

Conservation: We continue to fight privatization and/or diversion of our precious parks. As the Sierran goes to press Liberty State Park is once again menaced by a last-minute back-room deal by Christie to close-off the southern portion of the park and turn it into a members-only marina for the very wealthy. To take action please check our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/HudsonCountySierraClub/> and Friends of Liberty State Park at <https://www.facebook.com/HudsonCountySierraClub/> <https://www.facebook.com/friendsoflibertystatepark/>. We are also supporting efforts to undo an illegal diversion of Green Acres funded parkland in North Bergen's Braddock Park.

Department of Dreams and Wishes: In our meeting with the Phil Murphy Campaign we pushed our desire to create a "Meadowlands State Park."

Transportation: We are working with allied organizations to create safe pedestrian and bike friendly streets. We are promoting a network of dedicated bike/pedestrians corridors interconnecting Hudson and Essex County parks. The network would also connect Hudson with Essex Counties with the East Coast Greenway. Imagine a way to get out into nature without a car!

Sustainability/Climate Change: Creating a model for livable, prosperous, sustainable urban communities. We continue to lobby and promote sustainability and resiliency in the face of climate change. We are pushing for municipalities to commit to a 100% fossil fuel free future.

Political: Our newly active political committee sent a questionnaire to candidates in several local races, introducing environmental issues into the races and giving a political voice to our Sierra Club members. For the first time in many years Sierra endorsed a candidate in Jersey City's mayoral race as well as other local races.

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 Chairs:			
Morris County:	Len Fariello		len@wildlifepreserves.org
Union County:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Political Chair:	Clea Carchia	908-892-7229	info@cleacarchia.com
Programs:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Fundraising Chair:	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
Outings Chair:	<i>Open Position!</i>		
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://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.

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://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>.

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

ACTIVITIES:

The Loantaka Group needs volunteers to join the Executive Committee and help guide our Group in these difficult times. We have an urgent need for a Program Chair, whose function is to invite speakers and organizations to make presentations at our general meetings. The meetings are intended to be educational and entertaining, while raising environmental consciousness. If you are interested, please call Paul Sanderson at 908-233-2414. Previous Program Chair Eric Hausker will be glad to provide a list of topics and speakers for past meetings.

(Continued on page 8)

If you would like to make a "tax-deductible" donation to the New Jersey Chapter, please contact our Treasurer, Paul Sanderson: paulmsanderson@aol.com

GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

Loantaka had its 13th annual auction last Fall and raised \$630

To our list of donors we are delighted to add:

Arminio's Pizza (Chatham)	Perroti's Quality Meats (Cranford)
Divine Nail Salon (Chatham)	Williams Nursery (Westfield)
Vogue Nails (Chatham)	Towne Delicatessan (Summit)

Among our many repeat donors we mention:

Dreyers Farms and The Cranford Canoe Club (Cranford)
Chatham Sandwich Shop & Chatham Sports Club
Quartet Boutique & Athena Beauty Salon (Chatham)

If you have an opportunity to patronize any of the above, please do so!

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:

Group Chair:	Joanne Pannone 609-443-6992	jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
Group Vice Chair:	Xiaoping Du	xiaping_du@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Leona Fluck	leona@pineypaddlers.com
Outings Coord:	George and Leona Fluck	leona@pineypaddlers.com
Treasurer:	Steve Eisenberg	steveis@optimum.net
Programs:	Joanne Pannone	jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
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. 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:

Jan 10 (Wed): 6pm: 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/>

For current outings, please see the Outings List in this newsletter - or on Pineypaddlers.com.

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 Levis		
Secretary:	Patti Amor		
Treasurer:	S.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		

Our **monthly committee meetings** are held on FOURTH WEDNESDAY of each month, from 7pm to 8:30, in New Brunswick. Meetings are free and open to the public. We discuss the environmental news important to New Jersey and the Raritan Valley, plus discuss upcoming events, speakers, volunteer efforts, etc. To confirm the location of the meeting, please contact Gary Frederick at gfredsierra@gmail.com.

The issues of interest to our communities include but are not limited to:

1. **Opposition to gas and oil pipelines** that threaten our communities' air and water.
2. Conservation and protection of the **Raritan River basin** area.
3. Passage of and responsible enforcement of environmentally friendly **zoning and development ordinances**.
4. **Prevention of conserved land** from commercial or other development. We are for

preservation of open space and preventing diversion of land from the state's Green Acres program to commercial development.

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 let us know 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	nyucwnyppb@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	nyucwnyppb@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 Coor:	Lara Zullo		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, gets so many compliments we were asked to be part of the Long Branch Historical Tour this past summer. We've also developed a pictorial guide to the watershed, which we will soon post on our Sierra web page and other social media.

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.

Jan 22: Dismembering the EPA. The Sierra Chapter's Director, Jeff Tittel, will discuss the efforts by the Trump administration to undermine environmental regulations at the behest of corporate polluters and other despoilers, including appointing as its director Scott Pruitt, who claims climate change doesn't exist.

Feb 26: The Truth About Climate Research. Steve and Pat Miller, who took part in Al Gore's 3-day "Climate Reality" training program in Denver last year, will discuss the problems that climate change is creating, and what the future holds, as average temperatures around the globe continue to rise because of fossil fuel pollutants. Their presentation will be an antidote to the massive misinformation program funded by the fossil fuel industry and other polluters to confuse citizens about the scientific basis of climate research.

Mar 26: Supporting Environmental Science. Mrs. Claire Antonucci, Executive Director and Director of Education at the NJ Sea Grant Consortium, Sandy Hook, will discuss how her organization provides science teachers with facts, figures, and lesson plans on science topics, including the scientific research that supports the reality of climate change.

Ocean County Group

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

OFFICERS:

Acting Chair & Conservation Chair:	Margit Meissner-Jackson	sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair & Treasurer:	Laura Stone	laura36@yahoo.com
Outings & Envl Ed'n:	Terrance Brown	terrybrown@comcast.net
Fund-Raising Chair:	Joyce M. Isaza	realtymstr@aol.com

Secretary: Nancy Brown nancybrown624@comcast.net
Social Media Coor: Annie
Group ExCom Member: Margaret-Mary Piccolo gogreenp1@yahoo.com
Group ExCom Member: William Rodgers

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 held 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 ginacee@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: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Smart Growth Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Programs Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Outings Chair: *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831
Social Media
Coord's: Evan Kostka evan.kostka@gmail.com
 and Dayna Hovern dayna.hovern@gmail.com

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

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

Jan 10: Community Gardening - George Schroeder will tell us about the Collingswood Community Garden project. Learn how you can start a community garden in your town.

Feb 14: Planting trees in 2017 and beyond with the NJ Tree Foundation – Meredith Brown will update us on Foundation's work in Camden.

Mar 14: Cathedral Kitchen - Alexandra "Alex" Wills, Community Relations Director at Cathedral Kitchen in Camden will enlighten us on how excess food from a variety of sources gets donated to feed the poor and homeless in Camden

South Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:

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

The central conservation issue, adopted just after the 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, from the early 1980s 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.

Tom Boghosian is an avid kayaker, both ocean-going and in fresh waters, possibly willing to lead trips.

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 lawsuit pending by us and Environment New Jersey. (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) We're finalizing - clearing and blazing - the route, through Atlantic, Cumberland and Cape May Counties, of a **long-distance (state-length) footpath**. Help could be used! (5, 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** (photo-voltaic) 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 Activities of Allied Organizations:

Jan 3, Feb 7 and Mar 7: (first Wednesdays), 6:30pm: **Atlantic County Friends of the Parks:** Monthly meetings of Friends of the Parks, a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Park System. All are welcome. Warren Fox Nature Center (WFNC*), Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor, Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 3½ miles south of Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

Jan 23 and Mar 27: (alternate fourth Tuesdays) 6:30pm: **Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association:** get yourself onto the electronic mailing list by contacting Lynn Maun, 856-649-2792 or email lynnkmaun@comcast.net.

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

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

Feb 21: (alternate third Wednesdays), 6:30pm: **Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council:** Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss river management strategies. Open to the public. WFNC*. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

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: 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: *Position Open - 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: *Position Open - Contact us! We need you!*
Publicity: *Position Open - Contact us! We need you!*

(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)

Membership: *Position Open - Contact us! We need you!*
Nominations: Nancy Sullivan nancysullivan@comcast.net

2015 Executive Committee members: Rozanna Fanelli, 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 as needed at various locations. All welcome. Contact any officer for information.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS:

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

Our 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:	Robert Zitzman *	robertmz@att.net
Co-Chair:	John Kashwick *	jkashwick@gmail.com
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--contact John or Robert if interested</i>	

(* Section Executive Committee Member)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

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

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 pe4191@gmail.com

Once again we took 38 students from Paterson's Clemente Middle School on a hike in Harriman State Park. As we had enough leaders and assistants, we could break the group in two and do two separate hikes, a lot more enjoyable for all involved than an H. M. Stanley expedition. The weather cooperated so, despite the challenging trails and hills, there were smiles all around.

NJICO 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 Awaken Your Senses at Rutgers Gardens



By Arline Zatz, Chair of our Senior/50+ Section. The photos are hers.

Garden buffs and nature lovers - and those who simply like to stroll in lovely surroundings - will enjoy the color and serenity to be found at Rutgers Gardens. Here, where Rutgers University students learn about plant breeding, genetics, and horticulture techniques, visitors are welcome year-round at no charge.

Founded in 1916, Rutgers Gardens include a variety of large and small plots distributed over 200 acres. At the entrance on Ryder's Lane there's a large board map with parking locations. If it's a Friday, there may be a Farmers Market for fresh produce grown by Rutgers students and South Jersey farmers.

For a unique experience, park in back of Holly House (Garden Club of NJ headquarters) and walk to the impressive Bamboo Grove. The darkness beneath the tall bamboo can feel a bit scary, but delightfully cool on hot summer days. On windy days, the bamboo poles bash each other with melodious sounds. The easy trails lead to a scenic pond with flowing water.

As you drive or walk along Log Cabin Road, check out the mature hollies on your left, and the Donald B. Lacey Display Garden a bit further on the right. The flower beds are an array of brilliant colors. This is the perfect place to admire the dazzling flowers and to gather ideas for your own gardens. Children love running through this area to net butterflies. Stop to admire the small pond located in the center of the garden, a key attraction. Be entertained by the many bellowing bullfrogs among the cattails and other striking plants. The area is a delight from early summer through October, thanks to the efforts of students, volunteers and staff.

Nearby, you'll come to a huge depression opposite the Gift Shop. Believed to have been a soil quarry, the depression is now a beautiful lawn - perfect for picnics or strolling out between the surrounding fir, spruce, pine, false cypress

species and cedar trees. Known as the Roy H. DeBoer Evergreen Garden, it's named to honor the faculty member who installed it in 1960.

During spring the nearby Rhododendron Garden and Cherry trees will be in bloom, visible from the shaded Gazebo next to the Evergreen Garden. In winter snow, the evergreens await Christmas card photographers!

Another sensual treat is the Rain Garden, with its small waterfall, bench and many flat stones on which to sit and sigh. Since it's difficult to find, you may be alone. (Walk along the right side of the Gift Shop, a bit uphill). On the route back to the main road, explore the Pollinator Garden, and plan on having fun at Otkens' Garden - a gift from Marie and Richard Gons to honor Marie's parents. They planned it as a family room with two oversized Adirondack chairs that are irresistible, especially to children. The hope was that the chairs would make everyone feel like a child: upon entering this special garden, surrounded with colorful plantings, one cannot suppress laughter. The Adirondack Chair was chosen for its association with health: in the late 1800s, doctors prescribed the fresh air of the Adirondack Mountains, along with good food and rest, as a cure for Tuberculosis. The chair was developed to sustain many hours of comfortable resting, while a person's health was restored. There's enough to sustain many return visits - the Rutgers Gardens are open year-round, and each season is a joy to behold.

Location: 112 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick. Open daily from 8am to dusk.

Farmers Market - Every Friday: May to Thanksgiving, and once a month during winter.

Gift Shop - Open April through October on weekends: 10am - 6 pm.

Dogs are allowed on leash. Wear sneakers or good walking shoes; if appropriate bring a hat, sunscreen, water and insect repellent. Definitely a camera! Enjoy!



Visitors can't resist sitting in the two oversized Adirondack chairs, part of the Otkens Garden. Visitors and children love to climb up and sit on 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: Co-Chairs: Ellen Blumenkrantz ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, 201-784-8417 and Mary Walsh: blehlwalsh@hotmail.com
Gateway: Vacant
Hudson Co: Natalya DeRobertis-Theye natalyadt@gmail.com
Loantaka: Vacant
Central Jersey: Leona & George Fluck Leona@pineypaddlers.com
Raritan Valley: Vacant
Jersey Shore: John Luard: John.Luard@gmail.com
Ocean County: Terrance Brown: 848-333-7331 terrybrown@comcast.net
West Jersey: Vacant
South Jersey: Tom Boghosian, 609-625-0878 (H) 4794 Andorea Drive, Mays Landing, 08330 boghosian1@verizon.net
Singles Section: Joyce Haddad, jkhaddad@juno.com
LGBT Section: Jonathan Wall: dojdwall@gmail.com, and Robert Zitzman: robertmz@att.net
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, 201-784-84177

Outing Leaders: Please send April-June 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 Feb 5. If you are planning to lead an outing close to the beginning of one of our quarterly publication periods, please submit it also 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 April-June 2018 trip write-ups by Feb 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, 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 |

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)

Jan 7 (Sun): Hike at 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. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Please RSVP and put "Sierra" in the subject line: Joanne Pannone: 609-443-6992; jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (C)

Jan 7 (Sun): Hike Huber Woods Park, Middletown (Monmouth Co). 10am. We will walk the hickory and oak forest with occasional distant views of the Navesink River. About 4 miles at an easy pace, some ups and downs. Beginners welcome, supportive footwear recommended, bring plenty of water. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com. (JS)

Jan 13 (Sat): D&R Canal Hike (Burlington Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. We'll hike over the Lock 1 "swinging bridge" as we walk along the towpath; perhaps see the resident Bald Eagles. Meet at the RiverLINE parking lot in Bordentown City. Option for late lunch at Heart of Bordentown (HOB) Tavern. **Leashed dogs are welcome.** Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Contact leaders to confirm hike: Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Jan 13 (Sat): Watchung Reservation Hike, Berkeley Heights (Union Co). 10am. <http://ucnj.org/parks-recreation/paths-trails-greenways/watchung-reservation/> The hike will cover 8 miles in 4 hours in moderate-to-easy terrain. Total ascent 800 ft. **Features:** Moderate terrain, visit to historic village, Lake Surprise, vistas. **Facilities:** heated restrooms with running water near the parking lot and one during the hike. **Requirements:** No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch. Winter traction devices are required if there is ice or snow on the ground. **Registration required via Web:** http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey#home_calendar. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. **Leader:** Jimi Oleksiak: The_Hikist@mac.com.

Jan 17 (Wed): Hike in Mercer County Park. 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. We'll enjoy a scenic walk along Lake Mercer and the lovely wooded trails throughout the park and check out the Disc Golf Course too. Meet at the Grandparents Grove at Mercer County Park. The address is 334 S. Post Rd, West Windsor. Co-Leaders: Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com, and Joanne P: jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (C)

Jan 20 (Sat): Jockey Hollow (Morris Co). 10am, 6-mile hike. Leader's choice of trails, depending on conditions at Jockey Hollow National Historic Park near Morristown. See <http://www.nps.gov/morr/planyourvisit/directions.htm> for directions and information. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Meet at the Visitors' Center. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footwear required (stabilizers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. No pets please. **Leader:** Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Jan 20 (Sat): Harriman State Park hike (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. Scenic, moderately-paced hike of 6-7 miles to one or two of the beautiful lakes in this park. Weather/trail conditions will determine exact loop we do. If temperature is below 25 degrees, or rain/snow, hike will be cancelled. Group limit:12. Participants must preregister via email and directions will then be given to meeting place. **Leader:** Ellen Blumenkrantz: ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

Jan 27 (Sat): Tallman Mountain State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 11:15 am. 7 miles. We will hike through the Park and view the berms and salt marsh. We will then walk the mile-long Piermont pier half way across the Hudson! Trails include the Long Path. Bring lunch and water. Adverse conditions will alter the route. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural, on the corner of Tate & Piermont Aves.) in Piermont NY. Park across the street in parking lot D. **Leader:** John P. Jurasek: 845-519- 4247 (no calls after 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

Jan 28 (Sun): 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 Township. **Leashed dogs are welcome.** Bring lunch and water. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Contact leaders to confirm hike: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

FEBRUARY

Feb 2 (Fri): Groundhog Day Canoe/Kayak the Wading River (Burlington Co). The section we paddle will depend on river conditions. Experienced cold weather paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and details: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Feb 3 (Sat): Patriots Path Stroll (Morris Co). 10am. Come take an easy stroll on Patriots Path in Morristown. This 3.5 mile stroll will start from the Speedwell Lake parking lot, across the street from Historic Speedwell. See the Morris County Parks website (<http://www.morrisparks.org/>) for directions. The path is wide, partly paved, partly crushed stabilized gravel, with very little in the way of elevation gains. We will be strolling at a very moderate pace. Please bring plenty of water and a light snack. Great for beginners. No pets please. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footwear required (stabilizers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. Optional lunch afterwards. **Leader:** Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

Feb 10 (Sat): High Point State Park Cross Country Ski, (Sussex Co). 10am. <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/highpoint.html> There's a full-service cross country ski center at the park with ski and snowshoe rentals. <http://www.xcskihighpoint.com/>. We expect to take 4-5 hours for fun in the snow. E-mail the leader for the up-to-the-minute details. **Facilities:** ski lodge with a fireplace, and a snack counter with light refreshments, hot soup and drinks. There are restrooms in the ski center and there is a second heated restroom building nearby. **Requirements:** No pets. XC skis and boots and a day-pack with water required. Bring a lunch. **Registration required via Web:** http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey#home_calendar. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via e-mail to members who register. **Leader:** Jimi Oleksiak: The_Hikist@mac.com.

Feb 11 (Sun): Whitesbog Village Winter Hike (Burlington Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. Whitesbog is a NJ historic site and was a village built to house workers in the local cranberry bogs. Perhaps we'll see wintering Tundra Swans as we hike around the bogs. Click here for directions: www.whitesbog.org. Bring beverage and lunch. Leashed dogs are welcome. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Contact leaders to confirm hike: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Feb 14 (Wed): Valentine's Day Hike at Smithville Park (Burlington Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace at Historic Smithville Park in Vincentown. The Park features a diverse collection of habitats and terrain and views of Rancocas Creek. Meet at the Smith's Woods access parking lot, East Railroad Ave. Option for late lunch at the Vincentown Diner. **Leashed dogs are welcome.** Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. **Leaders:** George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Feb 17 (Sat): Hike Allaire State Park, Wall (Monmouth Co). 9:30 am. A mostly pine 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)

Feb 17 (Sat): Harriman State Park (Rockland Co, NY). 10am. Scenic, moderately-paced hike of 6-7 miles to one or two of the beautiful lakes in this park. Weather/trail conditions will determine exact loop we do. If temperature is below 25 degrees, or rain/snow, hike will be cancelled. Group limit:12. Participants must preregister via e-mail and directions will then be given to meeting place. **Leader:** Ellen Blumenkrantz: ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

Feb 19 (Mon): Presidents Day Hike at Jakes Branch County Park (Ocean Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. Jakes Branch has a nature center with interesting hands-on exhibits and an observation deck that offers a 360' view of the Pinelands. Meet at Jakes Branch Park, 1100 Double Trouble Rd, Beechwood. Option for late lunch at Shady Rest Restaurant. **Leashed dogs are welcome.** Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Contact leaders to confirm hike: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Feb 24 (Sat): Hike at the Jamesburg Park Conservation Area (Middlesex Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. The Area was an early Green Acres acquisition by Middlesex County: the early 1970's. It is the Spotswood Outlier of the New Jersey Pinelands - as you'll see as we hike through mixed hardwood and Pitch Pine forests. Meet at Helme Mill Park on Maple St in Helmetta; we'll car-pool to the trailhead. Bring water and snacks. Option for late lunch at "The Diner". **Leashed dogs are welcome.** Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Contact leaders to confirm hike: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

Feb 24 (Sat): Clausland Mountain (Rockland Co, NY). 11:15 am. 6 miles. We will climb 700 ft through historic Rockland Cemetery to an old Nike missile base. Bring hiking boots, lunch, 2 quarts of water. Adverse conditions will alter the route. Meet in front of 450 Piermont Ave. (building with mural, on the corner of Tate & Piermont Aves.) in Piermont NY. Park across the street in parking lot D. **Leader:** John P. Jurasek: 845-519-4247 (no calls after 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

MARCH

Mar 1 (Thurs): National Peanut Butter Lovers' Day Hike at Perrineville Lake Park (Monmouth Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. Beautiful woodlands, natural fields and a picturesque lake meet here in the heart of quiet Millstone. Bring water; leaders will have Peanut Butter snacks and Mr. Peanut may make an appearance! Meet at 23 Agress Rd, Millstone, parking lot. Leashed dogs are welcome. Option: lunch at Albivi's Restaurant. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Contact leaders to confirm hike: Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

Mar 4 (Sun): Hike at Heathcote Meadows Preserve (Middlesex Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. In 1998, the Heathcote Meadows Preserve was one of the earliest parcels acquired under the Middlesex County Space Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Act. Nestled just outside the small village of Kingston, it offers a glimpse into the rich farming history of the area and provides wonderful opportunities for hiking, walking and wildlife viewing. **Leashed dogs are welcome.** Option for late lunch at Osteria Procaccini in Kingston. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Contact leaders to confirm hike and meeting location: Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (RV)

Mar 10 (Sat): Explore the Unique History, Ecology and Culture of the Pinelands (Atlantic Co). Join me for a daylong event at Stockton University's 29th Annual Pinelands Short Course. There will be options for a guided van tour of the Mullica River Watershed, "virtual field trips" of the Barnegat Bay and Maurice River, and many new presentations, as well as popular ones from past years. For further information and registration, etc. please contact Joanne P: jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (C)

March 10 (Sat): Hike Shark River Park, Wall (Monmouth Co). 9:30am. After a circuit through the outer reaches of the park, we will enjoy the babbling brook that's Shark River. About 5 miles at an easy pace, some short climbs, mostly flat. Beginners welcome, supportive footwear recommended, bring plenty of water. Contact leader to register and learn meeting place: John.Luard@gmail.com.

March 10 (Sat): Tourne County Park Hike, Denville (Morris Co). 10am. The hike will cover 6 miles in 3.5 hours in moderately hilly terrain. **Facilities:** There is a Port-A-John near the parking lot. <http://m66.siteground.biz/~morrispa/index.php/parks/tourne-county-park>. Winter traction devices are required if there is ice or snow on the ground. No pets. Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch required. **Registration required via Web:** http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey#home_calendar. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via e-mail to members who register. **Leader:** Jimi Oleksiak: The_Hikist@mac.com.

Mar 11 (Sun): DST Hike at Turkey Swamp Park (Monmouth Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. This is our 8th annual Daylight Savings Time hike at Turkey Swamp Park. Park information and directions: www.monmouthcountyparks.com/. Turn into the Main Entrance - 200 Georgia Rd, Freehold - drive to the Oak Point picnic area parking lot. Bring lunch and beverage. Leashed dogs are welcome! Bring lunch, water and snacks. Inclement weather/icy conditions cancel. Contact leaders to confirm hike: Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

Mar 14 (Wed): Ramapo Reservation Hike (Bergen Co). 10am. Moderately-paced 6-7 mile hike to scenic views of the park and Manhattan skyline. Some of the trails are rocky, and include ascents/descents of a few hundred feet. Trail conditions will determine exact route. If temperature is below 25 degrees, or rain/snow, hike will be cancelled. Group limit:12. Participants must preregister via e-mail and directions will then be given to meeting place. **Leader:** Ellen Blumenkrantz: ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. (N)

Mar 17 (Sat): Lewis Morris Park Hike (Morris Co). 10am. 7 mile hike. We will start at Sunrise Lake, then hike to the parking upper lot and back down to the lake using a combination of the Yellow and Red trails. The pace will be a moderate to slow one. See the Morris County Parks Commission website (<http://www.morrisparks.org/aspparks/lmdir.asp>) for directions. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Meet in parking lot. Inclement weather cancels. Proper footwear required (stabilizers, crampons or snowshoes) if appropriate for the conditions. No pets please. **Leader:** Jeffrey Sovelove: Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com. Joint ADK/Sierra Club hike.

(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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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)

Mar 17 (Sat): St. Patrick's Day Hike at the NJAS Plainsboro Preserve (Middlesex Co). 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. The Preserve has wildlife exhibits, a reference library and the Nature Store is a great source for field guides, optics, etc. Bring water and snacks. Meet at the Nature Center, 80 Scotts Corner Rd, Cranbury. Option for late lunch at Romeo's Restaurant. Directions: www.njaudubon.org/Centers/Plainsboro/. Inclement weather cancels. **Dogs are not permitted.** Co-Leaders: Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pincypaddlers.com, and Joanne P: jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (RV)

Mar 22 (Thurs): World Day for Water: Canoe/Kayak Lake Oswego (Burlington Co). 10am. Join us as we enjoy a day on Lake Oswego and explore the upstream reaches too. World Water Day is held annually on March 22 as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater, and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. New Jersey's 17-trillion-gallon Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer is a vast reservoir of fresh water that underlies South Jersey and all of the Pinelands. On October 27, 2017, the NJ Sierra Club filed its second challenge to a controversial plan for a 30-mile pipeline, known as the SRL, through the ecologically sensitive Pinelands Reserve region. Along with us, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and other environmental groups have raised concerns that the project will impact clean water and contribute to climate change and urban sprawl. Bring lunch and beverage and snacks. Please contact leaders to confirm the trip and participation. Experienced cold-weather paddlers only. Rental boats are not available. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincypaddlers.com. (W)

Mar 24 (Sat): Hook Mountain Hike (Rockland Co, NY). 10:30 am. 7 miles, with excellent views of the Hudson River and Croton Point. Meet in the Rockland Lake South Parking Lot near the entrance booth. Rockland Lake is in Congers, NY, off Rte 9W. Bring lunch, hiking boots, and water. Adverse conditions will alter the route. Leader: John P. Jurasek: 845-519-4247 (no calls after 10pm) or Jurasek@optonline.net. (ACOC)

Mar 25 (Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Delaware and Raritan Canal (Somerset Co): 10am. Spring is here and our 7-mile round trip will be on the Griggstown - Blackwells Mills section of the canal. Bring lunch and hot beverage. Inclement weather cancels. Rental boats are not available; participants must have their own canoe or kayak. Contact leaders to confirm participation and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pincypaddlers.com. (RV))

Mar 30 (Fri): Hike at Maurice River Bluffs Preserve (Cumberland Co). 10am. 5 miles, easy pace, some trails have moderate elevations. The Nature Conservancy prides itself on protecting great places like the Maurice River Bluffs, a majestic preserve overlooking the river. Directions: Take Rte 55 south to Rte 49 exit. Turn right onto Rte 49 West. After you cross the Maurice River in Millville, turn left onto Cedar St/Rte 555 for 0.2 miles. Then bear left onto Rte 627/Silver Run Rd, and continue for 1.7 miles. Look for The Nature Conservancy sign on the left side of the road. /www.njhiking.com/maurice-river-bluffs/ Bring binoculars, water and snacks. **Dogs are not permitted in the Preserve.** Option for late lunch at the Maurice River Diner. Inclement weather cancels. Contact leaders to confirm hike: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincypaddlers.com. (W)

APRIL

Apr 4 (Wed): Bicycle the Edgar Felix Bikeway (Monmouth Co). 10am. 10-12 miles, easy pace. The Edgar Felix Bikeway is on a rail trail between Manasquan and Allaire State Park; once the Farmingdale & Squan Village Railroad, and the Freehold & Jamesburg Agricultural Railroad. **Bicycle helmets must be worn.** Bring water and snacks. Lunch break at the Allenwood General Store - buy or bring lunch. Contact leaders to confirm the ride and meeting location: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pincypaddlers.com. (C)

Upcoming ExCom Meetings:

All members are welcome to attend these monthly statewide policy deliberations, held on FIRST 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; Environmental Justice Committee at noon. Lunch is otherwise shared at noon. The main meeting starts at 1pm.

January 6, February 3 and March 3

All at the Hamilton Township (Mercer Co.) Public Library, 1 Justice Samuel Alito Jr. Way



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

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

Pipeline Update - Citizens Mobilize Against the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project

By Barry Kutch, Central Jersey Safer Energy Coalition and Sierra Club member

The rush to build gas pipelines in New Jersey continues. Williams/Transco, a pipeline transport company, wants to build an additional 32 miles of pipeline to tap into existing lines to transport natural gas from York County, PA to Rockaway, NY. This pipeline would travel through Somerset and Middlesex counties and then tunnel under the Raritan Bay where it would provide additional gas to New York City residents.

Called the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE), the project will also include a new 32,000 horsepower Compressor Station 206 to be built in Franklin Township, NJ. The compressor station would include two natural gas-powered, turbine-driven compressors whose purpose is to maintain enormous pressures on the gas as it travels through the pipeline. These compressor stations have been shown to leak methane and other pollutants. A few have even exploded in gigantic fireballs.

Residents in Franklin Township and the adjacent South Brunswick Township

quickly came to the realization that this project would have a serious and long-lasting negative effect on their health, safety, well-being and the environment. Citizen action groups opposing NESE were formed.

Activities to inform and educate the public, recruit volunteers, engage with political leaders, express concerns to FERC and to formulate a strategy to stop this project commenced. To date citizens have filed thousands of comments with FERC opposing NESE. More than 1,500 individuals have filed as Intervenors with FERC after Williams filed its application in March 2017. Intervenors are given legal standing with FERC in matters regarding NESE.

The councils of Franklin Township, Montgomery Township, Princeton and South Brunswick Township have passed resolutions opposing NESE. Local, county, and state elected officials and members of Congress are now engaged in opposition. These political leaders are engaging on our behalf with FERC and the New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). The NJDEP has a role in the project approval process as it issues the Clean Air and Clean Water permits.

Central Jersey Safe Energy Coalition (CJSEC), a citizen's action group, was formed last year to oppose NESE. Starting with residents from three communities within South Brunswick Township, its members now represent numerous other communities in South Brunswick, Franklin Township and other adjacent towns. CJSEC has partnered with a number of environmental groups in the fight, including the Sierra Club, NY/NJ Baykeepers and Food and Water Watch.

Recent activities included a public awareness seminar held in South Brunswick Township in September. More than 200 people attended. Jeff Tittel, director of the New Jersey Sierra Club, spoke and captured the audience. One of the calls to actions at this seminar was for people to register as Intervenors and comment with FERC. A flurry of registrations followed.

The learning curve to develop and implement a strategy to oppose a pipeline project for average citizens is steep. Recognizing this, the Eastern Environmental Law Center (EELC) has been retained by a number of groups to represent them in the fight. This non-profit law firm, located in Newark, NJ, has a history of fighting pipelines and has been successful in its efforts to protect people and the environment.

So the fight goes on. NESE is scheduled to be in operation in the winter of 2019/2020. Sounds like a long way off, but intense effort is being applied now to try and stop FERC's approval for construction. As often happens, a small group of citizens has taken on the majority of work to protect thousands. Support is always appreciated.

Find out how to help by going to www.safer-nj.org/.

For further information, contact: Gary Frederick (Chair of the Raritan Valley Group at gfredsierra@gmail.com) or Jamie Zaccaria (jamie.zaccaria@sierraclub.org).

Reports from Trenton

Moving forward with EVs, Despite Christie/Trump

From a Press Release issued by our Trenton staff on August 14th

There are now more than 10,000 electric plug-in vehicles on the road in New Jersey. In the last year sales have grown by 79%, according to a report by Charge EVC. This is important for clean air.

But we lag in electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, with fewer than 1000 public charging stations. We're also behind schedule: There should be 30,000 EVs now to reach our 2050 goal of 500,000 – to meet California's Clean Car Standards. Zero emission vehicles are essential to the transition to a cleaner transportation future, along with improvements to mass transit.

Our slow start is perhaps understandable: New Jersey has lagged in effective incentive programs, education, and the installation of charging stations. Despite the rolling back, by Gov. Christie and Pres. Trump, of programs to promote these vehicles, people are demanding clean, zero-emission vehicles, and we are all benefiting from cleaner air and fewer climate impacts.

Each year American passenger vehicles spew three trillion tons of carbon pollution into the air –by burning about 121 billion gallons of gasoline. An EV requires no gasoline, and no dirty oil changes, and has no internal combustion engine. Thanks to rebates and tax credits, decreasing prices in EV technology, and the much cheaper price of electricity vs. gasoline, the cost of owning and operating an EV is now lower than that of many conventional vehicles. More than 20 fully electric and plug-in hybrid models are available at US dealerships.

Tesla has developed a new battery that charges from solar panel electricity, or at times of the day when utility rates are low.

As we enter the next gubernatorial Administration, we need to stop the holdup with respect to EVs. New Jersey is in a favored position to utilize them, since our electricity is already nearly carbon-free. The reduced need for gasoline and diesel fuel will also reduce needs for future offshore drilling, pipelines, and oil-bomb trains. EVs will also drive our economy forward by creating more green jobs.

Trump and Christie Oppose DRBC Fracking Ban

From a press release issued on Sept 13, edited by Irene Gnarra

At a meeting on September 13 at the Bucks County Community College, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) passed a fracking ban resolution, by a vote of 3-1-1. President Trump voted no, and Governor Christie abstained. (I.e. that's how their representatives on the Commission voted.) The next step for the resolution is rule-making, which will take at least six months. While we support a ban on fracking, we oppose this resolution. Although it prohibits fracking in two Pennsylvania counties, it endorses the use of Basin water for fracking, and it allows the dumping of toxic, treated fracking waste in the region. We urge the DRBC to protect the Basin by banning all dangerous fracking activities.

Leaders of the New Jersey Sierra Club, joined by governor-elect Philip Murphy, urge a ban on fracking in the Delaware Valley. We wish to protect the people, their drinking water, and their environment. In contrast, Christie and Trump oppose such a ban because they support the work of fossil fuel companies.

We oppose the resolution on procedural grounds as well. The DRBC voted before examining public comment. They received 65,000 letters voicing opposition to fracking.

The DRBC must recognize that fracking waste has harmful effects on health and the environment. Fracking waste contains as many as 100 different fracking chemicals,

DRBC Flow Agreement Back in Place

From a press release issued by our Chapter Office on Oct 17, edited by Joe Testa

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) has announced the continuation of its Flexible Flow Management Program (FFMP). The agreement had lapsed between May and October. This agreement allows Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, as well as the City of New York, to work together to balance water supply needs. Other benefits include the protection aquatic life, flood mitigation, and management for droughts. For example: before a major storm, water can be released from New York's reservoirs to give them capacity to hold flood-water. They can also release specific cold-water sections to protect valuable trout fisheries.

We applaud this measure that supports an adequate water supply and protects the ecological integrity of the River. Quite specifically, it protects the drinking water supply for more than 15 million people.

The agreement helps organize the releases of water from New York City's Neversink, Pepacton, and Cannonsville reservoirs, and flow objectives in the main stem of the Delaware River, and out-of-basin diversions by New York City and New Jersey.

Without the agreement, New York would be able to take as much water as it wants from the upstream reservoirs. By holding back too much water, there would be a drop in Delaware-River flow, and the water would be dirtier because there would not be enough to dilute non-point and point source pollution.

New Jersey has recently experienced record-breaking droughts; our low reservoir levels have led to an increased threat of saltwater intrusion, threatening drinking water for South Jersey and Philadelphia. Salty tidal water from the Delaware Bay, surging upstream, has been getting dangerously close to water intake points in Delran. New Jersey's drought is not only a result of low rainfall, but also due to an increase of pollution, poor water quality, and the DEP's failure to clean-up our waterways.

While this is an important program to balance water supply, we still have some concerns with it. We do not believe that allowing voids in reservoirs in New York is a good idea. If there is a drought, and the reservoirs are low, there may not be enough water to keep the flow going and the saltwater from intruding. We need increased flows into the Delaware River to help maintain the ecology and quality that benefits our water, tourism industry, and fisheries. Without cooperation between states, especially New York, New Jersey would suffer dirtier water, lower reservoir levels, and increased flooding. The Delaware River belongs to all of us, and this management program is an important way to make sure people from the entire Basin get clean, adequate drinking water.

including many known to be carcinogens and endocrine disrupters. Additionally, it contains naturally-occurring contaminants that are extracted from the fracked shale, including radioactive elements.

Other reasons for opposing the DRBC's resolution include the fact that there are no treatment plants in New Jersey that can handle fracking waste and treat radioactivity. These pollutants are difficult and expensive to remove, and many of them remain unidentified because of an exemption granted by the Safe Drinking Water Act. In addition, as we know from incidents in Pennsylvania, accidental spills occur during the transport of toxic waste to treatment plants, thereby contaminating communities. Finally, fracking in the Delaware River Basin would destroy forests, open space, and wildlife habitat, and would pollute our waterways and threaten the drinking water used by 17 million people.

In 2010 the DRBC stopped issuing permits for natural gas extraction in the Delaware River Basin – in order to study its potential impact on water resources. That is a de-facto moratorium that should not allow fracking permits to be issued. Since 2010, the scientific evidence and on-the-ground experience is against fracking. It is simply not safe. The Sierra Club will continue to fight for a permanent ban.