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Don't Give Up! We Need You Desperately!

By Judy Minot • Chapter Secretary

Raghav Akula has a message for New Jersey's youth who are interested in climate issues: "We need you desperately!" Raghav, 17, is the school liaison for the Sierra Club's NJ Chapter. He says young people often feel that climate change is so overwhelming, one person can't make a difference. "It's easy to think there are people smarter, more knowledgeable, and better connected than you. We see dire warnings from the International Panel on Climate Change and think, 'What can I possibly do from my bedroom or dorm room?'" Raghav says there's a lot young people can do.



Raghav Akula plants a tree in Neshaminy State Park, Pennsylvania.

Raghav has seen the strength that young people have as environmental advocates. "Teens and young adults are outsiders. When we're in the same room as a government official, we don't feel the same limitations. We have the liberty to propose bold new ideas without fear of getting fired or the need to protect a voter base."

Now finishing up his junior year at Moorestown High School, Raghav has been working with the Sierra Club since his sophomore year. He got up to speed quickly, reaching out to the NJ Student Sustainability Coalition to coordinate efforts with other student climate activists. He also worked with the chapter's Transportation Committee to promote legislation (A1971/S1819) for an electric school bus pilot program. He has worked hard to get students active on this bill because electric buses are healthier for them.

"Working with the Sierra Club has been very educational. It has showed me what goes on in the background in the work of activism for a good cause," says Raghav. Usually, he says, people see only the final product: a bill that's passed, the offshore wind program

starting up off our coast, a moratorium on fracking in the Delaware River Basin. He is learning the details that go into making environmental progress a reality. He says the Sierra Club was like a springboard for him. "Working with the Sierra Club gave me more confidence. I never thought I could join a body that was primarily run by adults and still fit in. I got involved in township government, joined an international environmental organization, and even created a podcast."

Indeed, as the teen member of the Recreation Advisory Committee in Moorestown, Raghav is working to incorporate sustainable energy into the town's parks and recreation facilities. With the humanitarian group Sewa International, he has been planting trees as riparian buffers and working with a small organic farm. These experiences

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POLITICAL CHAIR'S REPORT

Sierra Club Announces Congressional Picks

By Karen Becker • political.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org



As the 2022 election cycle swings into full gear, the Political Committee has been busy once again. Several more congressional endorsements have been made, and only a few remain to be considered before the November 8 General Election. We specifically endorsed candidates who have the climate, environment, social justice, and sustainable energy as major components of their platform. We urge you to support and vote for the candidates who best represent Sierra Club values. Our official endorsements are in the accompanying box.

Environmental Town Hall With Congressman Malinowski

The Hunterdon Warren Group hosted a one-on-one with Rep. Tom Malinowski on April 21. Sierra Club Director Anjuli Ramos-Busot asked the tough questions, and we got thorough, well-thought-out responses to the environmental concerns that plague not just District 7, but also the nation and world.

Some of the key issues Malinowski touched on were advocating for clean energy jobs, choosing the right sustainable energy sources, and not granting oil companies drilling rights in New Jersey or the Arctic. He also supports a "carbon border tax," which would make exporting countries such as China, India, and Vietnam produce products with improved emissions standards. The border tax would benefit workers and incentivize industries to change their practices.

The following candidates have been endorsed for reelection to the US House of Representatives.

- (Dist. 1) Donald Norcross
- (Dist. 3) Andy Kim
- (Dist. 5) Josh Gottheimer
- (Dist. 6) Frank Pallone
- (Dist. 7) Tom Malinowski
- (Dist. 9) Bill Pascrell
- (Dist. 10) Donald Payne Jr.
- (Dist. 11) Mikie Sherrill
- (Dist. 12) Bonnie Watson Coleman

As a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Malinowski has advocated for the House Budget Committee to fund Northeast Corridor rail improvement ([the Gateway Program](#)) and the US Army Corps of Engineers' Flood-Risk Management Program. Malinowski and Reps. Mikie Sherrill and Andy Kim were recognized in 2021 by the Sierra Club's national office for their early vote on the budget reconciliation that addressed funding for environmental issues.

There's an interactive **CALENDAR** for outings and group events on our website (sc.org/njcalendar)

Major Win: Court Settlement Disrupts Gibbstown LNG Port Constuction

By Judy Minot • Chapter Secretary

Environmental groups scored a major win in March when the Sierra Club, Delaware PennFuture, and the Clean Air Council obtained a settlement halting construction of a proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant in Wyalusing Township, Pa. The builder, Bradford County Real Estate Partners (BCREP), agreed to let its air-quality permit expire in July 2022 rather than seek an extension, which environmental groups opposed. It must obtain a new air-quality permit based on current standards should it wish to continue with the project.

The proposed facility is part of an interstate LNG export project that would take fracked gas from Pennsylvania

and compress it into LNG at the Wyalusing plant. It would then be transported via truck or train to a proposed terminal in Gibbstown, NJ where it would be shipped to overseas markets.

This settlement has major implications for New Jersey. The Sierra Club has worked to stop this project since its inception, as it would involve the production of climate-warming natural gas by fracking and expose residents along the route to the risk of climate warming gas leaks and catastrophic explosions from derailments and highway accidents, while subjecting residents near the terminal to round-the-clock truck and train traffic. "The LNG would be shipped overseas, pro-

viding zero benefits to New Jersey and Pennsylvania," said Sierra Club NJ Chapter Director Anjuli Ramos-Busot. "Building more dangerous fossil fuel infrastructure is not the solution to our climate and energy crises."

If built, the Wyalusing plant alone would have had permission to emit more than a million tons of greenhouse gases every year, plus hundreds of tons of noxious air pollutants. The potential train or truck routes to Gibbstown pass through heavily populated and already



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Here Is the Legislation Our Chapter Supports and Opposes

By John Kashwick • john.kashwick@newjersey.sierraclub.org

The 2022–2023 session of the NJ Legislature began in January. The NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club has so far taken positions on 24 pending bills and resolutions.

Chapter members are encouraged to ask their assembly members and state senators to **support** the following legislation:

ACR72/SCR15—Would amend the NJ Constitution (aka The Green Amendment) to make the state trustee of public natural resources and guarantee the people certain environmental rights.

A1282/S759—Would require the NJ Department of Environmental Protection to implement an electric school bus program, supported by grant funding of \$15 million in each of the first three years, subject to availability.

A2065/S2363—Would exempt food banks and food pantries from restrictions on providing plastic and paper carryout bags.

S336—Would establish the Office of Clean Energy Equity in the Board of Public Utilities (BPU).

A1733/S416—Would require state pension and annuity funds to divest from 200 largest publicly traded fossil fuel companies and prohibit further such investments.

S417—Would require environmental sustainability plan for State House Complex.

SR67—Would urge Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to continue prohibiting harvest of female horseshoe crabs.

A1438/S2196—Maximum penalty for certain asbestos hazard abatement violations would be increased and the extra money would be allocated to asbestos programs.

A1439—Would mandate that each solid waste management district develop a strategy to reduce food waste.

A1447/S429—Corporation business tax and gross income tax credits would be earmarked for purchase and installation of electric vehicle charging stations and for commercial zero emission vehicle fleet conversions.

A2235/S2187—Certain retailers would be prohibited from use of shipping boxes greater than two times volume of product being shipped.

A659/S1005—Would allow common law public nuisance suits regarding lead paint under state law and exempt attorney general from certain aspects of public nuisance claims when pursuing lead paint actions.

S199—DEP would establish a “private wildlife habitat certification program” and create an affirmative

defense against municipal nuisance ordinances for properties certified under the program.

S431—Would direct BPU to update interconnection standards for Class I renewable energy sources and develop a fixed fee structure for interconnection costs.

S437—Sale and use of gas-powered leaf blowers in New Jersey would be prohibited.

A3149/S438—Would change entity responsible for management of NJ School of Conservation to nonprofit organization and direct state Department of Energy to request funding for center annually.

S1602—Regulation of greenhouse gas emissions would be authorized under Air Pollution Control Act (1954) and Global Warming Response Act.

A1957/S907—Liberty State Park Protection Act (See letter to editor in electronic supplement.)

S1530—Would require state and county hazard mitigation plans to include climate change-related threat assessments and hazard prevention and mitigation strategies.

A3677/S2186—Sale, distribution, or propagation of certain invasive plant species without permit from Department of Agriculture would be prohibited.

The NJ Chapter **opposes** the following bills and encourages members to ask their assembly members and state senators to vote down this legislation:

A642/S1369—Concerns use of steel slag as an aggregate.

A2234—Would allow business tax credits for certain deliveries of low carbon concrete and for costs of conducting environmental analyses of the low carbon concrete delivered.

S1683—The “Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act” would be suspended until the state establishes dedicated funding for land preservation, among other provisions.

S2371—This would allow certain large food waste generators to send food waste to sanitary landfill facilities for purpose of generating Class I renewable energy.

To find your legislator please visit <https://bit.ly/3wq3Vvc>. For Chapter updates on bills, please visit www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/political-action

For questions on Chapter positions on various bills, please contact Legislative Committee Chair John Kashwick at john.kashwick@newjersey.sierraclub.org



Stop the Newark Bay Turnpike Widening

By Matthew Bewley • 14bewley@gmail.com

The NJ Turnpike Authority (NJTA) has proposed a destructive widening of the Newark Bay Extension, which runs through Newark, Bayonne, and Jersey City. The widening is expensive, socially inequitable, and environmentally devastating. This is an update on the impacts of the project and what Sierra Club members can do to oppose it.

Built in 1956, the extension has two lanes in each direction and carries car and truck traffic between the Turnpike, the Holland Tunnel, and points in between. The NJTA will spend at least \$4.7 billion and 10 years widening the extension to as many as four lanes in each direction. The stated goal of this exorbitant project is to reduce traffic congestion and delays, ignoring evidence that highway widenings typically increase traffic.

With increased traffic comes increased harm to communities in Newark, Bayonne, and Jersey City, which have borne the impacts of the extension for decades. Highway traffic not only worsens regional air pollution, but also directly sickens those who live closest to highways. Schools and parks line the extension, and thousands of people live close enough to breathe in vehicle pollutants that cause asthma and cardiovascular disease. Natural gas pipelines running along portions of the extension could be disturbed by the expansion work. The NJTA does not even propose to study these impacts.

Finally, the widening is directly at odds with the state’s “80 by 50” goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent of 2006 levels by 2050. Achieving that goal is essential to minimizing additional warming in coming decades, and transportation emissions make up 42 percent of New Jersey’s greenhouse gas emissions. The extension widening will only encourage more truck and

passenger car traffic, leading us in exactly the wrong direction.

The Empower NJ coalition, which includes this Chapter, is coordinating a response with representatives of the New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition, Safe Streets Jersey City, Bike JC, the Chapter’s Transportation Committee, and other groups. Empower NJ is filing petitions with the NJTA alleging a failure to comply with several of Gov. Phil Murphy’s executive orders, which require compliance with the 80 by 50 goal and require consideration of environmental justice in all agency decision-making. However, the NJTA has already approved contracts for design work on portions of the extension past Interchange 14A in Bayonne—there is no time to lose in pressuring the NJTA to take our objections seriously.

What you can do:

Look out for an action notice this summer. Empower NJ is coordinating letters and calls to officials for maximum effect.

Contact Transportation Outreach Coordinator Matt Bewley, (14bewley@gmail.com) if you’re interested in being more involved. Residents of Hudson County who would be willing to contact elected officials or speak at public meetings are especially encouraged to reach out.

Resources

Project fact sheet: <https://bit.ly/3y-Hu2Ri>

Traffic study: <https://bit.ly/3Pi6Lv3>

Transportation emissions: <https://bit.ly/3wxRjZk>

Jersey City opposition: <https://bit.ly/3Pm2yqb>

Induced demand explainer: <https://bit.ly/3whf1qo>

Lead contamination from Turnpike cleaning: <https://bit.ly/3lcD4xw>



This 10- to 15-year project to upgrade the Newark Bay Extension would add new bridges, additional lanes, and highway shoulders to the 8.1 mile roadway. Source: NJ Turnpike Authority

DON'T GIVE UP

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are teaching him how large-scale environmental initiatives can play out at the local level.

They’ve also taught him you don’t need to be an expert to get your foot in the door. “Everyone who knows even a little about climate change knows that we need everyone possible in this fight. No one is going to resist you trying to join and make a difference.

“People think, ‘But everyone else knows what they’re talking about,’ but that is just not true. There are a lot of

times when you don’t feel like you understand, but the reality is, there are a lot of people in the room who don’t understand. This includes legislators. They don’t have the time or energy to be the expert in every field of knowledge.” He says legislators really need to hear the voices of young people, who will be living in the future that we all create today.

Raghav would like to see young people more strongly represented in the NJ Chapter. He has a vision of creating a division of youth leaders who can speak

at committee hearings on behalf of the Sierra Club.

As for his own future? Raghav is interested in the policy process and in how environmental ideas are incorporated into law. He’s considering a college major in economics, law, government, or international relations. He feels that his work with the Sierra Club has introduced him to many new career ideas. “If we’re going to reach net zero emissions by 2050, there will be many steps to take before it becomes a reality. I’d like to be part of that.”

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Tony Hagen, at
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Put an Environmental Classic on Your Reading List

By Tony Hagen • editor@newjersey.sierraclub.org



It was a relief to see swarms of midges, dung flies, and slugs in my local park this spring. Ordinarily there would be no reason for such a reaction, but I had just finished Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring." This landmark book about the challenges that pesticides represent to all life on the planet will have its 60th anniversary of publication in September of this year.

Carson was a biologist and highly gifted writer whose book provided a sobering picture of how gross misuse of pesticides was upsetting the balance of nature, destroying wildlife populations, and causing people to fall terribly ill.

Not enough consideration was given to the domino-like effect that intensive use of pesticides would have on the whole bio chain. At the time, hydrocarbons, such as DDT, and organophosphates were being sprayed on crops, water systems, and residential areas with the sensitivity of "a cave man's club," she wrote.

"Can anyone believe it is possible to lay down a barrage of poisons on the surface of the Earth without making it unfit for all life?" she asked.

Carson was not the first to raise the alarm. There were numerous reports of large-scale ecological poisonings from Florida to the Pacific Northwest. Fish and bird populations were wiped out, and pesticide residue was turning up in human tissue everywhere except in Inuit communities. Carson's contribution was to stitch all these events together in a reader-friendly book that jolted the public out of its love affair with chemical pest control.

In an account of its founding, the Environmental Protection Agency says it was created "in the shadow" of Carson.

Carson taught us many important lessons about the dangers of these contaminants. For example, pesticides will eventually find their way everywhere, including groundwater. A bird may survive one spraying only to be felled by subsisting on a diet of sprayed insects. And pesticides can destroy whatever defenses the human body initially has against these agents.

In her day, Carson counted 60 insect species that had become resistant to one or more pesticides (there are cur-

rently >500). Often, spraying would destroy most wildlife except the target insect, which would rebound strongly, having no further predators to worry about.

She argued that introducing predators or parasites that go after problem insects had in some cases achieved wondrous results. Dutch elm disease, spread by beetles, was eventually controlled not by spraying but by trimming and destroying diseased trees and tree limbs. These alternatives deserve further investigation, Carson wrote.

In 1962, more was being done to find a cure for cancer than to solve a root of the problem—pesticides in our food, water, and air. "A very determined effort should be made to eliminate these carcinogens," she wrote.

Reading Carson's book, it is astounding to realize we're still fighting many of these issues on virtually the same scrimmage line. The American Bird Conservancy and other authorities estimate we've lost a quarter of our bird population since 1970.

Malathion was a common pesticide in Carson's day and still is a household name. Neonicotinoids, first used in 1990, are among the dominant pesticides currently in use. These are disastrous for birds and pollinators. "In New Jersey, beekeepers have lost more than 40 percent of their bee colonies nearly every year for the last decade," according to the Natural Resources Defense Council.

There is a ray of hope in the Garden State. In January, New Jersey passed a law prohibiting most outdoor non-agricultural uses of neonicotinoids. If she were alive today, Carson would likely tell us to get more of these products off the store shelves and enlist more of the combatants that nature has already given us.

In my town at least, it has not been a silent spring. I am grateful for the songbirds that hop along the fence or sit on the branches outside my windows, and I am somewhat pleased to see insects, too (although don't get me started about mosquito season).

We should all read "Silent Spring" to re-sensitize ourselves to these wondrous creatures.

Farewell, Welcome Back, and Congratulations!

By Richard Isaac • Richard.Isaac@Sierraclub.org

A Fond Farewell

Sadly, one of our staff members, Megan Steele, has resigned to take a new job at a higher level. The good news is she's staying with the Sierra Club.

While I'm happy for Megan and her next adventure, I will definitely miss her—she was one of the best staff persons we've had since our Chapter began hiring staff over 30 years ago. Megan was really good at communications—everything from effectively utilizing social media and a variety of software packages (including geographic information systems mapping software) to simply and effectively speaking with others. In particular, Megan was an incredibly good writer, and we were very lucky to have her.

Megan has been promoted *within* the Sierra Club and is now working at the national level as an online organizer within the Digital Strategies Department, where she has been assigned to work on the Our Wild America (OWA) Campaign. Her job will be to develop digital engagement strategies and help the campaign achieve its set priorities and goals, including planning, strategizing, and implementing online education and mobilization efforts.

I'm convinced that because of where Megan is now working, the Sierra Club nationally is even better staffed than it was previously! Good luck, Megan!



Welcome Back

In an interesting development, Jamie Zaccaria, one of our former staff members, is now back in the area and is working with us as a volunteer!



While working for our Chapter, Jamie was our communications and legislative coordinator. In that capacity, Jamie researched, wrote, and edited articles for our Chapter's electronic newsletter and did social media, action alerts, flyers, fact sheets, etc., and helped grow our social presence. In addition, she promoted our chapter's legislative and regulatory agenda to constituents via action alerts and in the media.

After leaving, Jamie spent three years at Panthera, an organization focused on the conservation of the world's 40 wild cat species and their ecosystems. It partners with local and international nongovernmental organizations, scientific institutions, local communities, governments around the globe, and citizens who want to help ensure a future for wild cats and the vast landscapes on which they depend.

Currently, Jamie works for the Ocean Exploration Trust (OET), a nonprofit

organization dedicated to exploring the ocean and seeking out new discoveries in several fields including geology, chemistry, and biology, while pushing the boundaries of engineering, technology, education, and communications. The OET has a 68-meter research vessel (the *EV Nautilus*), which travels around the globe and most recently has been doing deep ocean research in the vicinity of Hawaii. Jamie, as an employee, was on it!

Utilizing her strong wildlife conservation background, Jamie is now chairing our Chapter's new Wild and Endangered Species Committee. She and her committee are working with a pro bono attorney to strengthen legislative language that would make it impossible to get around restrictions on leg-hold traps.

In addition, Jamie has also signed up and registered as a representative for the Club with the NJ Forest Stewardship Task Force, which will be working to support our state's forests. With her background, Jamie should be able to help the Forest Stewardship Task Force a lot. Welcome back, Jamie!



Congratulations

Congratulations are in order for Taylor McFarland for her recent promotion to Chapter **Conservation Program Manager!**



Taylor is now working with Chapter Director Anjuli Ramos-Busot to organize and implement Chapter conservation programs, campaigns, and initiatives according to priorities set by our Chapter Executive Committee, such as public lands protection, transportation planning, renewable energy expansion, and energy equity. In addition, Taylor will work with Anjuli to develop organizing strategies and priorities for our Chapter's various campaigns.

Taylor has a BS in business administration, concentrating in environmental studies, and an MS in sustainability science, concentrating in applied sustainability, a program where individuals learn to monitor, analyze, predict, and find ways to respond to environmental change. With her additional job experience as a legislative aide *and* in the environmental field—including over four years working for our Chapter (several months of which she thankfully stepped in as our acting director)—Taylor is clearly prepared and fully capable of doing an outstanding job in this new capacity.

As is Anjuli, I'm glad we have Taylor in this new position and look forward to her success with our Chapter moving forward! Congratulations, Taylor!

Support Your Passion for a Just and Sustainable World

Create a legacy that protects and restores the natural world for future generations by naming Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter in your will or trust. Or, name Sierra Club Foundation as a beneficiary of your retirement plan for the benefit of your local New Jersey Chapter and leave less highly taxed assets to your loved ones.



To learn more about the advantages of making a planned gift and to become a member of the Rachel Carson Society, please contact us.



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The NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club is working to stop dangerous gas pipeline construction, halt other growth of fossil fuel infrastructure, and promote renewable energy development, such as solar and offshore wind. We're also working to protect residents in environmental justice communities from flooding and air pollution. Find out more about what we do: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/our-work

Our Delaware River Battles Have Paid Off

By Patricia Hilliard • Conservation Chair, Hudson County Group

In recent years the Sierra Club has participated in numerous battles to protect the Delaware River and its watershed. Protection was needed from destruction of native fish species by power plants, pipeline construction, gas industry drilling, and sewage discharge. Changes in the energy market are now forcing a continuation of the struggle. Here is what's happened and what's next.

In 2013, a coalition of environmental groups including the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club took legal action to defend the Delaware River from two power plants operating with expired permits: Salem Nuclear Power Plant and Delaware City Refinery. The [Mercer Generating Station](#), also with an expired permit, was put on watch.

Each year, billions of fish and fish larvae were destroyed by the water intake cooling systems of these power plants. The Clean Air and Water Act requires that these plants limit their destructive impacts on wildlife, but under Gov. Chris Christie, there was little enforcement of the law. A legal battle followed and to this day, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has not pressured the Salem plant, the worst offender, to use advanced technology to protect endangered fish species. Hopefully, renewable energy will soon make nuclear power obsolete.

In 2014, a consortium of fossil-fuel companies proposed building the PennEast Pipeline across 114 miles from Wilkes-Barre, Pa., to Mercer County, NJ. This would mean piping "fracked" gas across the

Delaware River. Gas pipelines can leak and explode, and investing in gas takes away financing from renewable energy solutions. The pipeline would have threatened over 88 waterways, 44 wetlands, 30 parks, and other conservation areas. On June 18, 2016, two dozen Sierra Club kayakers paddled down the river to protest the potential destruction and bring this issue to public attention.

By February 2021, under the pressure of activists, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) voted to permanently outlaw all fracking in the Delaware watershed. Although

this ban would not affect the PennEast Pipeline project, Jeff Tittel, former director of the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club, described this historic vote as "a big victory" for fracking opponents. It would protect billions of gallons of drinking water and thousands of acres of forest from fracking wells.

New Jersey sought to stop PennEast from condemning land it needed for the pipeline, but the company took its case all the way to the US Supreme Court, which ruled in its favor. Worse yet, President Biden took the side of PennEast, indicating that the federal government has the right to use eminent domain to assist private companies working on projects considered to be in the public interest. The battle continued. Finally, on September 27, 2021, Reuters carried the [headline](#): "PennEast becomes the latest to scuttle a natural gas pipeline project."



"PennEast had failed to obtain all the permits it needed for construction. A victory for the river!"



A cleaner Delaware River has made many activities safer and healthier.
Photo Credit: Taylor McFarland

PennEast had failed to obtain all the permits it needed for construction. A victory for the river!

The fracking ban is not complete without a DRBC prohibition on transfers of fracking wastewater within the river basin, and on February 28, 2022, the DRBC began its review of public comments on a proposal to ban imports of fracking wastewater. That proposal, however, would allow some types of wastewater importation based on thresholds of evaluation. These decisions are still pending.

Another challenge came from Delaware River Partners and later New Fortress Energy, two corporations dreaming of the riches they could make selling liquid natural gas (LNG) to Europe. They proposed building a deep water port at an old DuPont facility, already polluted beyond anyone's worst nightmares. The Gibbstown Logistics Center would create jobs, but at what risk? Various communities in New Jersey voted in opposition and called on Murphy to oppose the building of the LNG plant. In March 2022, a legal settlement was obtained that halted construction on the LNG plant in Wyalusing Township, Pa. To continue that project, the

gas company will have to obtain new emissions permits.

Further downriver, in 2020, numerous environmental groups filed a petition with the DRBC seeking to improve the water quality to the level of "fishable and swimmable" in a 27-mile stretch encompassing the Philadelphia, Pa., and Camden, NJ, waterfronts. Major industries have discharged contaminants into the river for decades. In 2015, the NJ DEP issued permits requiring cities to upgrade their combined sewer overflow systems to reduce sewage in the water. Work on these infrastructure upgrades is still in progress and demands continued pressure from the public.

Unfortunately, in 2022 war broke out in Ukraine, a setback in efforts to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. The war created an excuse to wipe away the victories that were scored by environmentalists to protect the Earth. Oil and gas companies see the potential of huge profits in shipping dangerous LNG to Europe. The NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club, with our new director, Anjuli Ramos-Busot, vows to fight like a bulldog to protect the Delaware River basin in the future. Your help is needed. Join Sierra Club now.

ExCom Meeting Highlights

March: Jamie Zaccaria was appointed to the Elections Committee and Denise Brush was appointed offshore wind issues coordinator. The chapter voted unanimously to recommend Rep. Donald Norcross (NJ 1) and Rep. Donald Payne (NJ 10) for US Congress. The chapter also approved a revision of the standing rules for the Legislative Committee to allow a staff member to vote on the committee as designated by the chapter director. An ad hoc committee was created to discuss the issue of which committees report to the Executive Committee (ExCom) and which report to the Conservation Committee (ConsCom). Finally, a motion was approved to endorse the preservation of Drew Forest.

April: ExCom voted to endorse Rep. Josh Gottheimer (NJ 5) for Congress. The following resolutions were approved: authorizing ExCom to determine which committees are eligible for representation on ConsCom, and allowing a representative of a conservation-related committee to have a vote, so long as there is no existing issue coordinator for that issue; supporting offshore wind farms in New Jersey; and opposing the Colts Neck Manor development. The committee voted on two resolutions to be sent to the Council of Club Leaders (National Sierra Club). One, written by our Elections Committee, would support establishing a more secure and reliable electronic ballot system for holding chapter and group elections. The second would declare per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as hazardous airborne pollutants and would support federal legislation directing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to lower the allowed limits of these chemicals. The Sierra Club and the EPA have focused on these hazardous chemicals primarily as water pollutants.

May: Dennis Anderson and Howard Stein were appointed to the Offshore Wind Committee and Gary Frederick was appointed to the Communications Committee. The motto for *The Jersey Sierran* was changed from "Approximately 21,000 Members in New Jersey" to "Fighting for a cleaner and healthier New Jersey for all!" ExCom voted unanimously to ask the Council of Club Leaders to encourage the Sierra Club Board of Directors to support the redesignation of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area as a National Park and Preserve. Hunting groups oppose the change. ExCom approved limiting news content from individual groups to 440 words in the print edition of the *Sierran*, although more material can be submitted for inclusion in the electronic edition. Groups may contact *Sierran* Editor Tony Hagen if they desire exceptions.

Your Skills Can Save the Planet!



The NJ Chapter is looking for volunteers. We need **graphic designers** to help with infographics, fact sheets, and presentations to illustrate and clarify our messages. **Video volunteers** are sought to create shareable videos on subjects from outings to events to news and issue "explainers." Good ideas, self-motivation, and willingness to learn are more important than experience here. **Social media help** is also welcome. *The Jersey Sierran* is looking for a volunteer with **marketing expertise** to help us sell ads in the newsletter.

To get involved, reach out to Chapter Chair Rich Isaac at risaacx@aol

Candidates Sought for Chapter Executive Committee

The next (October-December) issue of this newsletter will include our annual ballot for electing three members to the Chapter governing body (Executive Committee, ExCom), as well as the executive committees of each of our regional groups and some of our sections. ExCom members whose three-year terms are ending are Rich Isaac, John Kashwick, and Paul Sanderson. ExCom members attend monthly ExCom meetings, held on second Saturdays, by Zoom (currently) or at locations roughly between Trenton and New Brunswick. To nominate yourself or someone else, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Renée Pollard (rpollard16@comcast.net), by August 10.

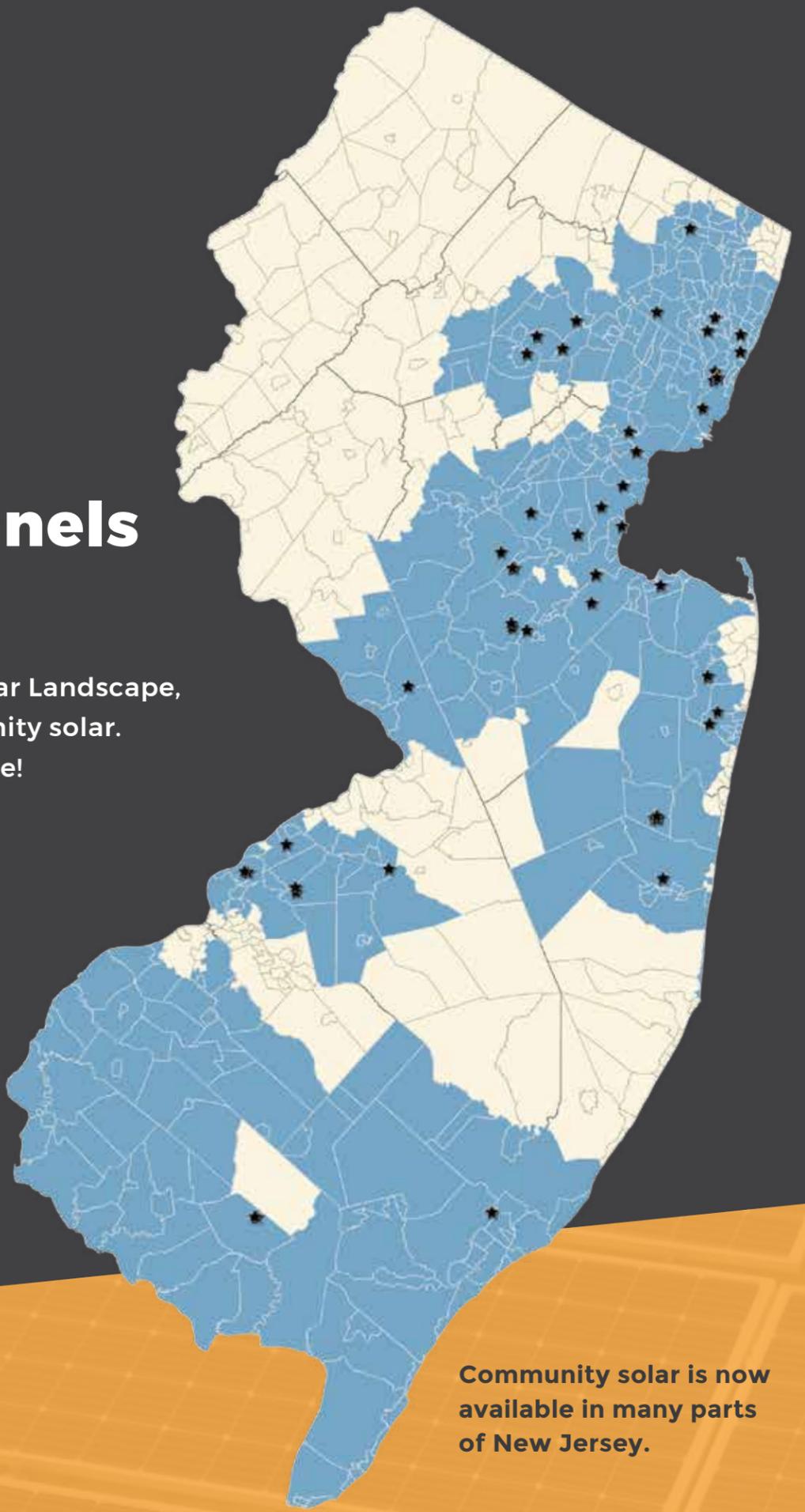


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Costly Energy Failures Must End

By Sylvia Kay • Zero Waste Coordinator

In April 2022, Anjuli Ramos-Busot, director of the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club, testified before the NJ Senate Environment and Energy Committee and provided proactive goals intended to reverse New Jersey's costly failure to meet climate reform targets. Ramos-Busot noted that New Jersey has failed to meet climate reforms established in the Energy Master Plan and that the cost of skyrocketing climate catastrophes burdens ratepayers. She stressed the need to stop building fossil fuel infrastructure and to replace this with an increased investment in renewables.

The price of doing nothing is huge and burdens NJ taxpayers with disaster cleanup. Ramos-Busot also noted that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recently reported the overall cost to New Jersey for last year's weather and climate-related disaster events was \$10 billion, including \$5 billion in property damage.

The NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Empower NJ coalition, of which the Chapter is a member, strongly urge a series of actions to meet Executive Order 274's emissions reduction goal by 2030:

1. Terminate the seven fossil fuel projects proposed for the state.
2. The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Department of Community Affairs, Board of Public Utilities, NJ Transportation Authority, and Department of Transportation must complete climate road maps.
3. Renewable natural gas (RNG) is a misnomer. Replace it with truly green energy sources.
4. Support cost-effective building electrification.
5. Support the DEP with increased staff and funding—the DEP has experienced a 40 percent cut in funds and a 30 percent cut in staff in recent years.
6. Empower and incentivize markets to enable a green energy transition. Restoration of the \$83 million taken from the NJ Clean Energy Fund is also desirable.
7. Most important, the legislature must act quickly and wisely to avert future costly climate crises. Proactive actions and regulations are a more economical strategy than pricey reactive cleanups.

New Jersey needs to quickly ramp up genuinely clean, renewable energy sources because there is no accept-

able transition role for fossil fuels as the industry claims.

In her testimony, Ramos-Busot strongly criticized any determination to build new infrastructure for RNG. As defined in state legislation introduced in 2021, RNG is (1) a form of methane, the most potent greenhouse gas (GHG), (2) upgraded biogas, which is a mixture of carbon and methane, or (3) hydrogen gas.

It is important to note that the technology for efficiently producing "green" hydrogen from renewable electricity is not currently scalable. Estimates suggest a 10-year timeline before it is economically viable and market ready. Of additional concern is the proposition that the extant natural gas infrastructure can be used for hydrogen transmission. Combusting and/or mixing natural gas or RNG with hydrogen gas can result in releasing potent pollutants: black carbon and nitrous oxides (NOx). NOx and volatile organic compounds are responsible for accumulated ground-level ozone—a recognized potent toxin associated with a variety of health issues.

Ramos-Busot explained that the energy generation rules currently being debated in the NJ legislature will not sufficiently reduce GHG and will not meet established climate change deadlines. The state's Energy Master Plan took longer to develop than expected and there have been further delays in DEP rulemaking. Except for one, all Protecting Against Climate Threats (PACT) rulemaking deadlines have been missed. PACT is intended to mitigate climate change threats. Further, none of the benchmarks for decreased GHG emissions established in the Global Warming Response Act and signed into law by Gov. Phil Murphy in 2019 and 2020 have been met.

Finally, Murphy's Executive Order 274, which is intended to cut all GHG emissions by 50 percent below 2006 levels by 2030, will also not be met. Discussing policy shortcomings, Ramos-Busot noted that a set of draft regulations applies only to the electricity generation sector, and this is only about 20 percent of the state's total GHG emissions, according to recent DEP data. New preventive, proactive regulations must be adopted.



“The price of doing nothing is huge and burdens NJ taxpayers...”

MAJOR WIN

continued from page 1

environmentally overburdened communities, including Allentown, Pa., Philadelphia, and Camden.

The Wyalusing and Gibbstown facilities are part of a logistically and financially connected LNG export process contemplated by New Fortress Energy.

PennFuture and the Sierra Club have also objected to a filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that would bifurcate this scheme, thereby evading FERC oversight.

In challenging the air quality permit extension, the groups objected on the grounds that BCREP, a subsidiary of New Fortress Energy, had not commenced construction at the Wyalusing

facility as required by law, making the Pa. Department of Environmental Protection's (PADEP's) extension unjustified. The groups also objected on grounds that a second extension would authorize the use of an outdated and inappropriate pollution control technology, that PADEP set air pollution limits too high, and that several other deficiencies, spelled out in the notice of appeal, existed.

The project has not been abandoned by New Fortress Energy, which told FERC that it plans to ship LNG to Gibbstown either from the proposed Wyalusing plant (presumably with a new permit) or from "third party liquefaction facilities."

Federal Funds Earmarked for Electric School Buses

By Bill Beren • Beren1@verizon.net

President Biden's BiPartisan Infrastructure Bill includes \$5 billion dollars over 5 years to help subsidize the purchase of electric and low pollution school buses. The first-year funding will be in the form of rebates, but subsequent funding in years two through five is expected to be in the form of grants. School districts or private school bus companies that contract with school districts can apply directly to the US Environmental Protection Authority for these grants. Instructions for the grant process can be found at [here](https://www.epa.gov/school-buses).

The rules for applying for these grants were expected to be finalized in May and the application process will be open for 3 months. School districts and contractors that submit qualified grant applications will be selected for funding by lottery.

Separately, the NJ Assembly Trans-

portation Committee has released a bill that would provide \$45 million in grant funding to get an electric school bus program up and running. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would administer the program and school districts would receive up to \$15 million yearly for the first three years.

The NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club, Environment New Jersey, NJ Environmental Justice Alliance, and others are in support of the legislation. Diesel-powered school buses have toxic emissions that affect the health of students who ride them. This legislation is hoped to begin the process of transforming all NJ school buses to battery power.

The DEP program would also help state leaders understand what is involved in making this process happen.

National Board Election

Voting in the Sierra Club's 2022 Board of Directors election concluded April 27, 2022. Cynthia Hoyle, Cheyenne Skye Branscum, Allison Chin, Aaron Mair, and Michael Dorsey were elected to three-year terms on the volunteer board.

A total of 52,924 members voted in the election. Ten members ran for the five board seats up for election. Among those elected, Hoyle, Branscum, and Chin were placed on the ballot by a nominating committee chaired by Chris Applegate. Mair and Dorsey were placed on the ballot by member petitions.

The new board of directors met for the first time in May. Ramon Cruz was re-elected to his third term as Sierra Club board president. Mario Klaus was appointed vice president of Conservation, replacing Ross MacFarlane; Meghan Sahli-Wells was named secretary, replacing Rita Harris; Patrick Murphy is the new treasurer, replacing Mike O'Brien; and Debbie Heaton is now vice president for Chapters, Groups, and Volunteers, replacing Patrick Murphy. For the Sierra Club's full election statement, visit <https://bit.ly/3MHXJ8T>



Cynthia Hoyle
Votes Received 28,865
Percent of Vote 11.52



Cheyenne Skye Branscum
Votes Received 34,187
Percent of Vote 13.64



Allison Chin
Votes Received 34,717
Percent of Vote 13.85



Aaron Mair
Votes Received 28,637
Percent of Vote 11.42



Michael Dorsey
Votes Received 24,186
Percent of Vote 9.65

REPORT FROM TRENTON

DEP Adopts Air Standards

Taking a regional lead to protect the public from industrial use of fumigants, the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has adopted permitting and emissions control standards for multiple chemicals that are highly toxic to humans. These include sulfuranyl fluoride, hydrogen sulfide, methyl bromide, and phosphine. Although federal standards do address the use of pesticides in fumigation, they do not regulate the emission of these substances to the ambient air. The DEP will require risk assessments as part of permit approvals for industrial level fumigations and impose fines for noncompliance.

The rules are expected to make a major difference at NJ ports where cargoes are routinely treated for pests. NJ business leaders protested that the rules exceed requirements in neighboring states and compliance will be costly, putting NJ exports and imports at a competitive disadvantage. The DEP noted that industrial fumigation operations in NJ tend to be close to environmental justice communities and residents must be protected. "As these gases are colorless and odorless, the sensitive population, if affected, would not know the cause," the DEP wrote.

Bridge Point Industrial Park Can Be Mitigated

By Kip Cherry • Central Jersey Conservation Chair

If you live in Mercer County or the lower portion of Middlesex County you should be concerned about the proposed Bridge Point 8 Industrial Park plan for seven large warehouses totaling 5.5 million square feet, plus about 500,000 square feet encompassing a hotel, an office building, and some retail. This project would be situated on the former American Cyanamid property at the northeast corner of Route 1 and Quakerbridge Road in West Windsor and is currently under planning board review.

This project brings with it potential for severe congestion on Route 1 and area roads, increased air pollution, and other problems. Insufficient information has been provided about the anticipated traffic increase or stormwater flow, which is critical in light of climate change.

Augmenting West Windsor's environmental oversight is its Green Development Checklist (GDC), which identifies many methods for mitigating environmental impacts, such as solar power, water efficiency, and electric trucks. Bridge Point has shown only a limited willingness to incorporate significant green checklist provisions into the project, saying this may conflict with tenant requirements. Such an issue is easy to remedy by inserting language into tenant leases requiring compliance with GDC local ordinances.

The developer objects to requiring that its tenants comply with sustainable measures including electric charging stations and the use of water conservation measures, such as drip landscape irrigation, low flow fixtures, drought tolerant plants, and grey water recycling.

Even more important are issues related to stormwater mitigation, flooding, and stream contamination. With extensive parking lots and regular spills and drips that include a variety

of oils, toxic chemicals, and the use of salt in the winter, Bridge Point needs to explain how it will prevent this contamination from entering local streams. Almost all nearby streams feed into the Millstone River, a primary source of local drinking water.

At a May 2022 planning board hearing, Bridge Point pledged that the buildings would be LEED-certified. This covers just the building envelope and the superstructure, not the critical interior building systems.

One last critical issue is the proposed system for vehicle access to the site. Nearby roads already have congestion issues and may not be appropriate for 18-wheeler traffic. The developer has applied to the state Department of Transportation (DOT) for a highway access permit along Route 1 at Nassau Park Boulevard. Unfortunately, we don't know how the DOT is responding to this application, since the DOT review process doesn't include hearings or public meetings. It can certainly be argued that the project is not ready for approval.

Towns abutting Route 1 can request the development of an access management plan (AMP) that could evaluate transportation alternatives to the proposed development. An AMP would help mitigate and respond to the impacts of Bridge Point.

A key to planning board review and approval are the conditions of approval. The public should focus on these—the more voices that say the same things, the more likely the public is apt to prevail.

For access to the applicable planning board files, please click on [Planning Board Information 051122](https://www.westwind-sornj.org/PlanningBoardInformation051122) ([westwind-sornj.org](https://www.westwind-sornj.org)).



Starwood Shuttles NJ's Last Two Coal Plants

New Jersey will finally say goodbye to coal power. The state's last two coal-fired power plants were scheduled to shutter around May 31. The Logan and Chambers plants are owned by Starwood Energy, which plans to decommission them and work with a clean energy developer to bring renewable energy projects to the sites. Both plants are along the Delaware River south of Camden.

The move from coal and fracked gas to renewable energy sources is a key objective for Sierra Club. Beyond Coal is the Club's national campaign advocating the closure of coal-fired plants and their replacement with clean, renewable energy. We all suffer when coal is used to generate power, whether from toxic waste, destructive mining practices, pollution to our water and air from power plant discharges, or toxic dust from coal-carrying rail cars. Burning and transportation of coal is a social justice issue, as the neighbor-

hoods that experience the worst pollution are often lower-income communities that are already overburdened with the effects of pollution.

In addition to the environmental benefits, the agreed-on settlement for closure of the Logan and Chambers plants will return nearly \$30 million in energy bill savings to Atlantic City Electric ratepayers. "We are pleased to continue our focus on sustainable energy transition," said Himanshu Saxena, CEO of Starwood Energy.

"This is a historic decision by the BPU," said Greg Gorman, conservation chair of the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club. "We're thrilled that Starwood Energy is looking to directly transition to cleaner, cheaper renewable energy at these sites, ending nearly three decades of pollution in Carney's Point and Penns Grove, historically overburdened communities on the Delaware River."

Preserve the Past With a National Park Designation

By Jonathan Wall • docjdwall@gmail.com

If, upon your next visit to Center City Philadelphia or to Central Park in New York, you could enter through a magic door and be transported to what these areas looked like 400 years ago, would you go through? Just a short drive away from these metro areas you'll find a wilderness with such lands—one of the gems of our national park systems—the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area! This well-loved but underfunded and heavily used park was established 57 years ago after the public fought and trounced a shortsighted pipe dream to create a dam to block the Delaware River. Today, this land needs some 21st century TLC.

One way to draw attention and resources to this land is to call it what it truly is—a national park. Acadia is the only national park in the Northeast. We deserve a well-funded and well-managed park that showcases the beautiful lands, byways, and historic river towns of our region. Before the sprawl spoils the last vestiges of bucolic lands that surround the park, we must protect the local views and reinforce the Appalachian land corridor, which offers safe passage for animals migrating to adjust to climate change. Outdoor equity demands that inner-city children have a nearby place where they can immerse themselves in nature, rather than having to travel hundreds of miles to see a beautiful vista or a bear munching on some berries.

If international travelers flock to visit the park once it receives the status of a national park, will the parking lots overflow and the trails become overcrowded and degraded? Folks, the parking lots are already overflowing, and, especially during the pandemic, vans from the city just dump people along the river where there are no bathroom facilities. Diapers and trash are already strewn along the river's edge from picnickers and tubers. But just looking at the Visitor Use Management Plan for the Delaware Water Gap

National Recreation Area and the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River gives us the answer. Well-managed national parks provide more resources that deal with these issues of overuse.

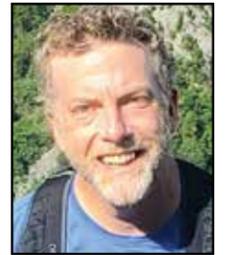
They offer shuttle service so a hiker does not have to do an overused loop trail but can walk to their heart's content. Afterward, hikers and bikers can get picked up and transported to their car outside the park.

When the preserve officially recognizes the traditional hunting lands of the Lenape nation, perhaps a reciprocal relationship between outdoorsmen and the Lenape people can showcase traditional activities for the next generation. In addition, outdoorsmen can teach inner-city

children about camping, tracking, hunting, and fishing.

We have an opportunity to safeguard these lands, all the while availing the public of a wilderness experience at their doorstep. You don't need a magic door to walk through; you need good public transportation, like the proposed Amtrak Manhattan-to-Scranton line (that could possibly be completed in three years) that will stop at the park's doorstep in Portland, Pa., where a shuttle could whisk adventurers off to the park. We all need some imagination to make the best of this land while protecting the animals, plants, and their natural habitat. A national park is the best means to educate our next generation about wilderness. Wise management and funding are needed. Redesignating the recreation area as a national park and preserve is the best way to unlock the door for us to step into the future.

For more information on the Delaware Water Gap Recreational Area redesignation effort, please go to: [Delvalpark.org](https://delvalpark.org)



NJ Chapter members with their Earth Day booty at Mercer County Park

Top, from right: Smokey the Dog ("frisbee cleanup") with owners Patrick Moran (standing) and Lindsey Szem (kneeling), Sandra Johnson, Tom Miller (back), Xiaoping Du, Joanne Pannone, Theresa Liu, Rey Mangual, Virginia Finley, George Fluck, and Lois Corwin.

Bottom right, Tom Miller and Taylor McFarland.

Photo credits: Taylor McFarland, Joanne Pannone.



Spring Heralds a New Generation

By Greg Gorman • ggorman@embargmail.com

During Earth Week, my daughter sent me a sonogram of my granddaughter, Eliana. Communities across the state exhibited Electric Vehicles, planted trees, walked along trails, and sponsored neighborhood cleanups. My Facebook friends posted pictures of blossoming flowers, greening trees, and roaring waterfalls. Their pages include videos of returning songbirds, scurrying salamanders, and frisky squirrels. The grandeur of spring is wonderful.

We also celebrated victorious campaigns to stop pollution, curtail climate crisis, and promote environmental justice. Starwood Energy and Atlantic City Electric [announced](#) the early retirement of the Logan and Chambers coal-burning plants, in South Jersey. The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) made the [Community Solar Program](#)

permanent a year earlier than planned. The BPU also plans to reallocate funds to [the Clean Energy Program](#) for energy efficient air conditioners and cold climate heat pumps. Unfortunately, efforts to pass the Build Back Better Act have stalled in Congress. This would accelerate clean energy investment and create an estimated 13,500 to 16,700 new direct jobs. As always, many more environmental victories are needed.

By the time you read this article, my granddaughter will have felt the summer sun shining on her face nestled in my arms. Please remember our commitment to the next generations so they, too, can feel the joy our planet brings.



SCHOOL LIAISON REPORT

Working With Local Leaders for a Cleaner Town

By Raghav Akula • School Liaison

Earth Day: It's the one day where everyone in the world is expected to keep the health of the planet in mind—but it's only one day. Earth Day shouldn't be an excuse to neglect the environment for the other 364 days of the year. If we're serious about preserving the mesmerizing diversity of this planet, we need to treat every day like Earth Day. That means that in every town we need to be doing everything we can to protect the environment.

In my hometown—a small, suburban community called Moorestown—individuals of all ages and the government alike are working together on environmental sustainability, even if it's just one step at a time. The mayor has declared that the theme for 2022 is “Year of the Environment,” with particular attention paid to sustainable food and energy use, reducing single-use plastics, and championing cleaner air. The Recreation Advisory Committee, of which I am a member, is working to advance the mayor's goals, and in the Sustainable Energy Subcommittee, we're making remarkable progress by proposing ways that recreational facilities around town can incorporate clean energy into their operations, ranging from cantilevered solar panels over parking lots to even geothermal fuel. We're hoping the town will embrace an energy plan for our public buildings and lands based entirely on renewables.

Cleaning Up Plastic Trash

Over in the single-use plastics subcommittee, we're trying to combat the trash that litters our parks. Too much plastic waste is strewn across our public lands, and volunteers have to clean it up. Our main project is to display all the trash that we pick up around town at a booth on Moorestown Day, in June, when we celebrate our community. In May, we organized a cleanup at one of our biggest parks, and we will use the trash we collect there to display the extent of our plastic pollution issue. Hopefully, this will help ingrain the plastics crisis as an issue common to all of us and promote the idea of reduc-

ing single-use plastic consumption.

But these projects are just the beginning. In a few months, some of my classmates and I will take over the reins of the Outdoor Service Club, which serves as the nexus for coordinating cleanups and beautification of parks, preserves and trails in Moorestown. Recently, I helped out at a local creek by removing invasive plants that threatened the forest around it, and a few of us planted flowers at the entrance to a park in preparation for spring. These are small, relatively painless projects, but it would make a huge difference for sustainability if every town had this kind of dedicated effort.

If young people in my town can do so much, the same can be accomplished in other towns. As a youth intern under the LEAD program of the humanitarian nonprofit Sewa International, I get the opportunity to participate in a range of environmentally focused projects all over New Jersey and Pennsylvania. An eight-acre farm in Cream Ridge called Ramblin' Sol Organic Farm offers us the opportunity to engage in sustainable farming, avoiding harmful pesticides and emphasizing regenerative agriculture. At Neshaminy State Park in Pennsylvania, we help a small nonprofit called Excel Events plant trees as a riparian buffer against the threat of floods from the Delaware River—another essential climate mitigation measure.

From a policy and grassroots-organizing perspective, there are practically endless opportunities to get involved in the environmental movement. In whatever ways we can, whether it's influencing the government or participating in cleanups, we need to be actively protecting and fighting for the future of the planet.

Join the Sierra School Coalition, a network of young people across the country working to protect our generation's future. To get involved, contact NJ Chapter School Liaison Raghav Akula at raku-l1225@gmail.com or visit the coalition webpage at www.sierraclub.org/youth

Chapter Volunteers Promote Driving Electric

By Judy Minot • Chapter Secretary

In April, Sierra Club volunteers took part in four events throughout New Jersey to promote electric vehicles (EVs). Part of Drive Electric Earth Day, the events offered a chance for anyone interested in buying an electric car to speak to owners of the vehicles about their own experiences. EVs are better for the environment, more fun to drive, cheaper to operate, and easier to fuel than gasoline vehicles. At the same time, driving a new type of car takes some getting used to and many people have questions, which is what these events are for.

The events, held in Flemington, Montclair, Newton, and Madison, attracted over 60 EV owners and dealers, who brought a wide variety of these vehicles for viewing, discussion, and, in some cases, test drives. In addition to many Teslas, owners brought EVs made by Ford, Polestar, Audi, VW, Jaguar, Mini Cooper, Chevrolet, Honda, Hyundai, BMW, and Kia. BMW dealers showed the i4 and the new iX. At the Montclair event, e-bikes were on display from Diamond Cycle.

Electric vehicle owners had many interesting stories to tell. Some had as many as 130,000 miles on their batteries. A Rutgers University student described how easy it was to keep his Kia charged even while living in a dorm. And in Montclair, a high school student brought the fully electric 2002 Dodge that he uses to commute to school. He purchased the car for \$550, sold the gas engine for \$500, and converted the ve-

hicle to electric using YouTube tutorials.

Electric cars are good for the climate and the environment [in many ways](#). In addition to having zero tailpipe emissions, many studies find that, even including the manufacturing process, EVs are responsible for considerably lower emissions over their lifetime than conventional vehicles.

And, as countries work toward greener electricity generation, both manufacturing and driving emissions will fall for EVs. Many consumers are concerned about the environmental and climate justice issues associated with battery production and recycling. While different studies produce differing results, battery production and recycling are the focus of a great deal of current research and development. Yet for some, locking in 10 or more years of a vehicle powered by fossil fuel—with the geopolitical, climate, and polluting implications—may seem like a graver concern.

For those who are in the market for a new vehicle, finding an EV owner to speak to can allay some of those concerns. If you missed a nearby Drive Electric event in April, look for more during National Drive Electric Week (Sept. 23–Oct. 2).

Many thanks to our co-sponsors across the state: GreenFaith, Central Jersey Electric Auto Association, Rodfather Gang, and Montclair Climate Action.

Reference

<https://bit.ly/395DuD6>



Top left, Chapter Chair Rich Isaac; Linda Isaac; Jeanette Hoffman, president of Marathon Public Affairs; and Jim Baye, treasurer, Jersey Shore Group. Bottom right, Sid Nathan (L) and Richmond Young (R), presenters for Rise Light & Power. Photo credit: Tony Hagen

In April, members of the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club visited the former E.H. Werner Power Station in South Amboy on the invitation of Rise Light & Power, which is competing to transform the site into a connection point for power cables from offshore wind turbines. The project would also lead to elimination of a once-contaminated brownfield site dating back to the 1930s.

NJ Chapter Seeks Volunteer for Membership Chair Position

The Chapter Membership Chair is a bridge between the Chapter's volunteer leadership and our members-at-large. This volunteer keeps track of membership for the Chapter and assists members with simple membership questions. Time commitment: two to five hours a month.

To learn more, please contact Chapter Chair Rich Isaac at richard.isaac@sierraclub.org or (973) 716-0297

Things to Remember When Purchasing an Electric Vehicle

By Abbas Salim • Home Solar Issues Coordinator

Electric Vehicle (EV) sales are growing faster than ever. Tesla maintains a majority EV market share currently, but many new options are becoming available. It's important to check out the best-selling EVs today and what will be available soon.

- Consider range, price, technology, warranty, reputation, and features available to decide if a new EV is right for you. The manufacturer's suggested retail price is what you'll usually pay, before any rebates or incentives. Prices may vary by model or location.

- Federal tax incentive: Most EVs are eligible for a federal tax credit of \$7,500. However, some brands such as Tesla and General Motors have already reached the maximum eligible vehicles for the credit and no longer qualify. Even if you can't get the federal tax credit, you may still qualify for state-level EV incentives, depending on where you live.

- An EV may pay off more quickly based on where you live, so factor in your state's EV incentives, electricity rates in your area, EV charger locations near you, and local gas prices.

- Key selling points: What are the standout features of each EV you are considering buying?

Other Details You May Want to Know Before You Buy

How much electricity does an electric car use?

- The efficiency of the EV is a factor in this calculation. Based on a cost per kilowatt hour (kWh) of 19.6 cents (Bureau of Labor Statistics average for the North Jersey area in February 2022),* if the EV consumes 0.35 kWh over 1 mile, the cost per mile is roughly 6.86 cents.

- Based on 19.6 cents per kWh, it'll cost \$13.72 to fully charge an EV with a 200-mile range. Most electric car chargers connect to a 240-volt outlet in your home's breaker box.

- Using the example above, the EV driven an average of 14,000 miles per year, or 38.4 miles per day, would cost \$960.40 in annual charging, or \$18.47 per week.

- Different model cars use different amounts of electricity and have different kWh-per-mile ratings. Assuming an average number of miles driven, and

again using 19.6 cents per kWh, here's how much electricity you would use (Table 1):

kWh per Mile	Monthly kWh of electricity	Monthly Cost (19.6 cents per kWh)
0.20	233	\$45.67
0.25	292	\$57.23
0.30	350	\$68.60
0.35	408	\$79.97
0.40	467	\$91.53
0.45	525	\$102.90
0.50	583	\$114.27

- At face value, an EV can look like a seriously expensive investment. However, it's vital to remember that you won't have to pay for gas anymore and maintenance costs will also drop significantly. The average fuel economy of a light duty vehicle in 2020 was 25.7 miles per gallon. Based on that, average gas prices of \$4.31 per gallon, and 14,000 miles driven per year, the annual gasoline cost would be \$2347.86, or 16.77 cents per mile—considerably more than the cost of driving an EV.

Table 2 clearly signifies this point:

	Gasoline Powered Vehicle	Electric Vehicles
Model 2022	Toyota Corolla L	2022 Nissan Leaf S 40 kWh
Cost	\$20,075	\$27,400 (\$19,900 incl. Federal Tax Credit)
Horsepower	139	147
Mileage	0.03 gallon per mile	0.3 kWh per mile
Range	436 miles	150 miles
National Average Gasoline Price	\$4.31 per gallon	NA
National Average Electricity Rate	N/A	\$0.14 per kWh
Annual Mileage Driven	14,000	14,000
Yearly Cost to Run	\$1,810	\$588
Average Yearly Maintenance Cost (first three years)	\$288	\$77
Yearly Operation and Maintenance Cost	\$2,098	\$665
Electric Vehicle Savings		\$1,433

Source: insidееvs.com

- EVs will almost always save you money on charging vs fuel and obviously will lower the carbon footprint.

- Visit EnergySage.com, an online marketplace for solar panel installation, to compare quotes from prescreened, local solar installers. The service is free for consumers; installers pay to participate. Keep in mind your current and future electricity usage and talk about how that could change with your installer for the most accurate quotes.

* <https://bit.ly/39pN18m>

Enforcing the Bag Ban

By Sylvia Kay • Zero Waste Coordinator

Enforcement is important now that the single-use plastic bag and polystyrene container ban is in effect. The state recently issued important information for this. The public can play a vital role by reporting a lack of compliance or questionable compliance:

- 1) Call the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at 1-877-WARN-DEP
- 2) Contact your County Environmental Health Act (CEHA) agent listed in the CEHA directory, <https://bit.ly/3Ldb9s1>

The law gives the DEP, CEHA agents, and municipalities the authority to enforce this law. Enforcement will likely be done at the county or municipal level and may look different throughout the state. Consult <https://bit.ly/3sGhbu0> for general information about restrictions on single-use bags and containers.

Our Nation's Recycling Program is a Bust; Just the Polluters Are "Cleaning Up"

By George Moffatt • Programs Support Facilitator

More than 50 years ago, the need to recycle our plastic waste was being discussed by the plastics industry. A key speaker at a chemists' conference in New Jersey said that inventing decomposable plastics "will be the holy grail of chemists everywhere."

In the mid '70s, the NJ legislature voted against making deposits mandatory on soda bottles because it would hurt the glass bottle industry—which barely existed. In 1980, Woodbury established the country's first mandatory curbside recycling program, but the state was still far behind. In 1981, the legislature enacted a voluntary five-year plan that set a goal of recycling 25 percent of the state's municipal solid waste stream by 1986. Then, in 1987, the state passed a mandatory recycling law that affected all 21 counties.

Around the same time, several corporations and civic leaders began a "Keep America Beautiful" campaign. Oddly, the key players included the oil and gas industries that provide raw materials for plastics, plastics manufacturers, distributors, and retailers.

These corporations aired a number of commercials, including an emotional TV ad of a Native American (actually an actor of Italian-American descent) staring teary-eyed as trash was tossed at his feet. Then a baritone voice intoned the message, "People start pollution. People can stop it."

Today's recycling logo is based on a Mobius-looking recycling logo developed in 1970 for a corporation promoting its recycled cardboard products. That logo gradually morphed into today's logo plus numbers indicating the chemical compounds of the different plastic products. These numbers had two functions. They reassured consumers the plastics would be recycled and informed recyclers of their chemical properties. However, they became meaningless to both groups as the mountains of waste overwhelmed recycling programs.

Recycling is labor intensive. Materials must be collected and sorted manually, cleaned, then shipped to plants to create new items. As a result, products made from recycled plastics can be more costly than products made "from scratch."

Eventually, recycling costs led the United States and other countries to ship plastics and other recyclables to other countries. Unfortunately, much of that exported waste was so contaminated with food, dirt, chemicals, and other unsavory matter that it couldn't be recycled. Consequently, this waste wound up polluting villages or was burned. Both were health hazards, but burning also released toxic fumes, such as hydrochloric acid, sulfur dioxide, dioxins, heavy metals, and many other substances linked to developmental disorders, endocrine disruptions, and even cancer.

When China shut its doors to plastic waste in 2018, the United States began exporting plastic waste and its hazards to other nations, principally Canada, Malaysia, Mexico, and Vietnam.

During the pandemic, American communities began collecting and recycling less plastic, according to a conglomerate of plastics producers that appealed to Congress to give the Environmental Protection Agency \$1 billion to stimulate community recycling and improve the nation's plastics recycling infrastructure.

About 91 percent (estimates vary) of our plastic waste still ends up as litter on our streets, in dumps, in the air—and even inside us! Plastic waste affects our economy, our quality of life, and even our health—especially in overburdened communities—because plastics don't decompose quickly and improper combustion poses serious health risks. Decomposition takes up to 20 years for plastic bags and up to 450 years for plastic bottles. Plastics first break down into smaller pieces, then disintegrate further into microplastics 5 mm or less in size.

Today, about 8 to 10 million metric tons of plastic enters our oceans each year—about 3,000 pieces of plastic litter for every football field-sized patch of sea floor. Since the Earth's sea floors are roughly equivalent to 72 billion football fields, that equals 216 trillion pieces of plastic in our oceans.

Good news! New Jersey is addressing the problem of plastic waste. Last November, Gov. Phil Murphy signed a bill banning single-use plastic and paper shopping bags; and this January, he signed a bill requiring that new plastic items include recycled material. For rigid plastic containers and beverage bottles, the percentage of recycled material must incrementally increase until it reaches 50 percent.

Further, the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act introduced in Congress, would require a broader list of reforms; and Coca-Cola, which produces about 120 billion plastic bottles a year, has said it intends to include 50 percent recycled content in its plastic bottles by 2030.

But that's hardly enough. With at least 330 million metric tons of plastic produced each year, we must demand stronger recycling programs that effectively counter the problem of plastic waste.

However, approving futuristic enabling legislation is not the same as writing more immediate enforcement regulations. We must constantly push our NJ state representatives (use the map to select your district) and US senators and representatives to pass legislation with "teeth" that is effective now, not in 20 or 30 years.

Resources

- The Guardian: "[Plastic investigation reveals America's dirty secret](#)"
- NJ.com: "[Our \(N.J.\) single-use plastic ban has begun](#)"
- Sierra Club: "[Who Recycles Your Recycling?](#)"
- Columbia Climate School: "[Recycling in the U.S. Is Broken](#)"
- Sierra Club: "[Plastics Fact Sheet](#)"
- National Geographic, "[A whopping 91% of plastic isn't recycled](#)"





Huber Woods in Monmouth County

By John Luard • Outings Leader and Jersey Shore Group Secretary

Walking is perfect.

It is the most natural activity we can engage in.

I urge everybody to get out of your cars. Leave those steel clamshells behind and stand up on your own two feet. We are not designed to sit on our butts.

In Monmouth County, New Jersey, we have easy access to some wonderful outdoor places, including Huber Woods in Middletown. There is a visitor center and reptile house at the main entrance.

The 400 acres of Huber (separated by a single paved road from the 800 acres of Hartshorne Woods Park) combine a dense middle-aged oak/hickory forest with views of the Navesink River. Parts of the acreage consist of former estates and farmland, gradually rewilding toward natural habitat. There are no steep hills or dangers. The undulating terrain can bring tranquility.

I suggest you visit these woods often and with different attitudes. On certain weekdays, especially near sunrise or

sunset, more especially when it is raining or predicted to rain, you might walk slowly and quietly, allowing the tranquility to pass from an old oak into you. Other times, you might stretch your legs by hiking the trail [Many Log Run](#) as fast as possible, or maybe you might even run it—the terrain will be rockier than you recognized on a slow walk. I like to think of Huber as a substantial part of my hometown and a remnant of the way things used to be: natural forest.

If you go to Huber often enough, you will see red fox and pileated woodpeckers (the only local place I know where these largest of the woodpeckers are reliably seen). There are hundreds of other bird species in Huber and coyotes are present but very rarely seen. I try to enjoy the deer and the squirrels, too, and not treat them as background. I feel sympathy for a squirrel panting on a tree limb on a hot August day. I argue for less salt on the highways, remem-



The author hugs a tree during a group hike in Huber Woods, Middletown. Photos courtesy of John Luard.



bering that Huber's deer, canines, and birds are relying on the tiny streams and man-made ponds.

One of the special treats is hearing the ocean. On a windless day just after a strong east wind (think March storm), the dull roar of Atlantic surf can be heard. It is just over a mile, as an eagle would fly, to the oceanfront at Sea Bright. And, yes, we have bald eagles—a nest has been in Hartshorne for several years.

We, the Jersey Shore Group, lead group hikes in Huber and several other places. They are fun and we try to be informative, but the nature of group hikes means conversation and a pace that

requires compromises from the fit and the less so. I urge you to use the group hikes to become acquainted with new places and maybe with new people, to interact with experienced leaders, and to stretch your legs. But, you will really enjoy the woods when you go alone or with a compatible friend or two.

Don't be foolhardy; learn to be safe. But don't confuse safety with comfort. To frequently go outdoors, to frequently hike, you need to accept some tiredness, some hunger, some heat and cold.

I hope to see you on the trail, using your own two feet and opening your senses to Nature, from whence we sprang.

BUILDING ELECTRIFICATION ISSUES REPORT

Electrify Everything to Cut Emissions, Save Money

By Steve and Pat Miller

In fall 2021, our 50 x 30 team sent a letter to Gov. Phil Murphy asking him to declare a goal for New Jersey to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions 50% by 2030 and to follow up with the rules and regulations that would make it happen. This 2030 goal would be an interim milestone toward the 2050 goal of the NJ Global Warming Response Act, updated in 2020, calling for an 80 percent emissions reduction by 2050. The governor did issue Executive Order 274 in November 2021 stating the 50 x 30 interim goal.

There has been substantial progress by the state in two of the three largest-emitting sectors: transportation and electricity generation. However, we have seen little-to-no follow-up on the sector that is the second-largest GHG emitter: buildings. Together, these 3 sectors account for 87 percent of GHG emissions in New Jersey. Without significant emission reductions in all 3 sectors, including buildings, it will not be possible to achieve the 50 x 30 goal.

In 2022 our team is focused on building electrification (BE), and our title has been changed to "NJ 50 x 30 BE Team." We continue to expand our membership and welcome NJ residents from across the state, some of whom

are owners or principals in heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning; architecture; or engineering businesses; and employees or retirees of key NJ administrative departments.

The basic goal of all electrification is to reduce GHG using the least-cost energy policy described in the 2019 NJ Energy Master Plan. As electricity evolves toward 100 percent clean in 2050, GHG emissions due to electric appliances and vehicles will disappear. The most effective action is to switch to high-efficiency, cold-climate electric heat pumps for both heating and cooling, thus minimizing both energy use (and costs) and GHG emissions. Cold climate heat pumps will keep residents warm in winter in a well-insulated house, down to an outside temperature of 5 degrees or lower, and cool in the hottest summer. Backup heat, if needed at low temperatures, can be either electric resistance heat strips or, prior to a complete transition to 100 percent clean electricity, use of the heat pump with your existing gas or oil furnace or boiler. Electric heat pump water heaters and dryers and induction stoves complete the electrification.

Clean, electric appliances improve air quality and safety in our communi-

ties, lower energy bills, use local clean energy resources, and help mitigate the worst impacts of climate change. The health benefits of electric appliances over those powered by gas are substantial. Fossil fuel combustion in buildings is a significant contributor to both indoor and outdoor air pollution and adverse health outcomes in New Jersey, particularly in low-income communities and communities of color, with over 250 premature deaths and \$2.8 billion in monetized health impacts annually. Households with gas stoves regularly exceed safe levels of nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide, among other pollutants, and have significantly higher levels of indoor air pollution than those with electric cooking. Studies have shown that children in homes with gas stoves have a 42 percent higher likelihood of asthma incidents.

We are asking the governor, state agencies, and the legislature to do their part in passing laws, regulations, and building codes that accelerate the transition to 100 percent clean energy and electrified buildings and vehicles. After seeing a press release that the governor has included in the upcoming budget over \$300 million to build 3,300 af-

fordable housing units, we sent letters asking that these homes be built to all-electric, zero energy building code standards. This would mean that the homes would be highly energy efficient; would produce as much clean energy (eg, solar) on an annual basis as they needed to power all heating, cooling, appliances, lighting, and vehicle charging; and would need no gas hookups. Fully electrifying these new affordable housing units can showcase New Jersey's commitment to its climate mitigation goals and be a proof-of-concept that building electrification using the latest technology is possible while providing energy cost savings to residents.

Email the authors at stevemiller@comcast.net and patmiller@comcast.net if you would like to join the NJ 50 x 30 BE Team.

Resources

Rewiring America "[NJ Benefits of Household Electrification](#)"

Acadia Center "[The Future is Electric - Helping NJ Live in Cleaner, Healthier and More Affordable Homes](#)"

NJ 2019 [Energy Master Plan](#) is the NJ strategic vision for the least cost path to 2050.

REPORT FROM TRENTON

Ramos-Busot Joins Open Space Review

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has created an advisory committee to update the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and set priorities for parklands and open space access and acquisition. Anjuli Ramos-Busot, director of the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club, has been named to the committee. The state is required to make periodic updates in the plan to remain eligible for federal grants. SCORP is administered by the Green Acres Program, and representatives from the state's Fish and Wildlife, Parks, and Forestry & Historic Sites programs will serve on the committee.

The stated goals of the update include enhancing climate resilience and sus-

tainability, investing in ecotourism, increasing the role of technology in conservation, furthering equity and environmental justice, and restoring biodiversity.

"Our state parks are some of the most heavily used in the country. Urban areas have a real shortage of open space and parks. It's critical that we have adequate funding for maintenance and improvements for our parks system, while protecting our unique ecosystems for future generations to come," says Ramos-Busot.

The advisory committee will work with the DEP for a year beginning this summer, after which there will be opportunities for stakeholder engagement. The final plan is to be released in late 2023.

Saving the Joseph Bonaparte Estate

By Joanne Pannone • Chair, Central Jersey Group

In February, the Hunterdon Warren and Central Jersey groups of the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club hosted talks on the 60-acre Bonaparte estate in Bordentown City and the Abbott Marshlands, which are adjacent.

D&R Greenway Land Trust President and CEO Linda Mead discussed the Bonaparte estate acquisition from Divine Word Missionaries in 2020. Abbott Marshlands Board President Pat Coleman described how the Abbott Marshlands were a homeland of the Lenape tribe.

On the bluffs in Bordentown, Napoleon Bonaparte's eldest brother Joseph lived on an estate called Point Breeze. Joseph Bonaparte was the king of Naples from 1806 to 1808 and then the king of Spain from 1808 to 1813. After Napoleon was defeated in 1815 at the Battle of Waterloo and sent into exile, Joseph Bonaparte fled to the United States.

Built in 1816, the mansion was the largest residence in the United States at the time. It was replaced after a fire, and Bonaparte continued to live on the estate until 1838. This area was almost lost to a large warehouse development. A land acquisition team led by Bordentown Mayor James Lynch and Mead was able to save the property.



Joseph Bonaparte's secretary, Louis Maillard, occupied this house at the entrance to Point Breeze Estate

Mead has led D&R Greenway since 1997. Over more than 30 years, Linda has helped preserve over 20,000 acres of land in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, including Greenway Meadows and Coventry Farm in Princeton, and St. Michaels Farm Preserve in Hopewell Township. She is adept at fundraising and structuring complex land preservation transactions.

The Skylands Group works with grassroots organizations to protect open spaces and water quality, promote clean energy, and oppose privatization of public trust resources.

CURRENT CAMPAIGNS: The Skylands Group advocates the protection of the Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area from logging done under the guise of creating "Healthy Forests" and opposes the proposed Tennessee Gas Pipeline compressor station in Wantage.

The Skylands Group supports the Green New Deal, Sunrise Movement, and transition toward a clean energy economy.

The Skylands Group also opposes the Munsonhurst Planned Residential District development, which will adversely affect the ecology of a Natural Heritage Priority Site.

HUNTERDON WARREN GROUP

(Hunterdon and Southern Warren counties)

Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/hunterdonwarren

Meetup: www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/sierraclub.hunterdonwarren/

OFFICERS

Chair	Jonathan Wall *	jonwall@jonwall.com
Vice Chair	Celeste Martin *	onecentral@mac.com
Conservation Chair	Chris Runion *	runionc3@gmail.com
Political Co-Chairs	Karen Becker *	karbecker@gmail.com
	Amy Weeder *	aweeder@comcast.net
Highlands Issues Coordinator	Cinny MacGonagle *	cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Outings	Jonathan Wall *	jonwall@jonwall.com
Social Media Coordinator	Matthew Avallone*	mattavallone@ymail.com
Treasurer, Secretary	John Kashwick	John.Kashwick@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Warren County Issues	Pat Banes *	patrick_banes@comcast.net
Webmaster/Listmaster	John Kashwick	John.Kashwick@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Fundraising Chair	Open Position!—please contact Jonathan if interested	
	* Group ExCom Member	

GENERAL MEETINGS: Meetings are virtual for the time being. Please check www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/hunterdonwarren for updates or to register for events. Registered participants will receive Zoom meeting information. There is no meeting in August.

June 1 (Wed), 7:30 p.m.: Corey Tierney, Director of the Warren County Land Preservation Department, provided an overview of Warren County's farmland, open space, and historic preservation efforts. Helpful information for landowners throughout the state who are looking to preserve their land and tips for all New Jersey residents who wish to support these endeavors was included. Presented by the Hunterdon and Central Jersey groups, this how-to on land presentation aimed to empower communities to advocate for land preservation.

July 6 (Wed), 7:30 p.m.: TBA

Sept 7 (Wed), 7:30 p.m.: TBA

OTHER EVENTS

July 14 (Thurs), 8 p.m.: Virtual online Executive Committee/planning meeting. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about the Sierra Club. Hear about and discuss issues, plan future events, and become more active.

August 28, (Sun), 12 p.m.: Tracey Heisler of the Skylands Preservation Alliance will conduct a walk and talk about local warehouse developments just down the street at Heritage Park, Asbury, NJ. www.skylandspreservationalliance.org/ Please bring a bag lunch. Easy walk.

CURRENT ISSUES

Warehouse Projects: There are several massive warehouse projects that are proposed for Hunterdon and Warren counties. We had some good news last year when the state rejected a plan for Franklin Township in Warren County to declare active farmland in need of "redevelopment" in order to give tax incentives for Safavieh to build a furniture warehouse. **Now we have even better news:** The state has acknowledged that there are intermittent streams running throughout the property. Hopefully, this fact will curtail much of the planned development. We are working with other groups to oppose these projects that threaten to spread industrial sprawl to our farms and natural areas. For more information, please contact Pat Banes at patrick_banes@comcast.net

Night Skies: Voorhees State Park in Hunterdon County is home to the NJ Astronomical Association Observatory, which relies on dark skies. The Hunterdon Warren Group and the Light Pollution and Dark Skies Committee are encouraging municipalities to curb light pollution by introducing ordinances that encourage proper lighting. We need citizens to take action and contact their environmental commissions, land use boards, and governing bodies to encourage them to support passing these energy- and tax-saving initiatives. Please help us in our campaign to have our county and local municipalities adopt stricter ordinances to reduce excessive light pollution which not only conflicts our view of the night sky but also wastes energy and harms wildlife and human health. Please contact the chair of the committee, Jonathan Wall at jonwall@jonwall.com, if you are interested in this issue.

NORTH JERSEY GROUP

(Bergen and Passaic counties)

Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/north-jersey

Meetup: www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/northjersseysierraclub

Twitter: @sierraclub_nj

Instagram: sierraclubnorth_nj

OFFICERS

Co-Chair Diane Scarangella* diascat@hotmail.com

>continued on page 12



There are 12 regional groups in the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club. All groups have open officer positions for volunteers and welcome new members. Interested persons should reach out to the contacts listed below. Participation in the Sierra Club is a meaningful and rewarding way to give back to your community and help create a sustainable and healthier environment for all.

Groups are listed in rough geographical sequence: North to South

SKYLANDS GROUP

(Sussex and Northern Warren counties)

Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/skyland

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SkylandsNJSC

Email: ggorman07419@embarqmail.com; Phone: 973-886-7950

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE and other OFFICERS (ExCom members are elected to serve 2-year terms; term-expiry date in parentheses)

Chair (12/31/22)	Greg Gorman	ggorman07419@embarqmail.com
Vice Chair (12/31/23)	Susan Williams	SkylandsGroup@gmail.com
Secretary (12/31/22)	Norene Haberski	norenehaberski2@gmail.com
Treasurer (12/31/23)	Norene Haberski	norenehaberski2@gmail.com
ExCom at large (12/31/23)	Dave Alcock	dwhoob@hotmail.com
	Nicole Guerrieri	SierraClubNicole@gmail.com
	Allison Orsi	aeorsi@hotmail.com
	Jill Aquino	jda1timeforchange@gmail.com
	Chris Dunbar	chrisdunbar458@gmail.com
	Joanne Morgan	jojommorgan@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair	Greg Gorman	ggorman07419@embarqmail.com
Outings Chair	Dave Alcock	dwhoob@hotmail.com
Outreach Chair	Joanne Morgan	jojommorgan@yahoo.com
Environmental Justice	Susan Williams	SkylandsGroup@gmail.com
Political Co-Chairs	Nicole Guerrieri	SierraClubNicole@gmail.com
	Susan Williams	SkylandsGroup@gmail.com
Publicity Chair	Joanne Morgan	jojommorgan@yahoo.com
Recycling/Zero Waste	Jill Aquino	jda1timeforchange@gmail.com
Chair Webmaster	Nicole Guerrieri	SierraClubNicole@gmail.com

GENERAL MEETINGS (Conducted via Zoom)

The Skylands Group of the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club serves Sussex and Northern Warren counties. We offer a variety of opportunities for the public to learn about and connect with their natural environment. We present informative films and speakers; exploration of the great outdoors on hikes, edible-plant tours, and picnics; public outreach via town tabling; and visits to schools. Our hope is to foster love and deep respect for our great outdoors.

GROUP NEWS continued from page 11

Co-Chair & Treasurer	Buddy Jenssen*	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Secretary	Laura Troy*	ltroy1019@gmail.com
Political Action Committee Chair	Ron De Vos	rondevos58@outlook.com
Outings Committee		
Co-Chairs	Mary Walsh & Buddy Jenssen*	north.outings.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org & buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Conservation Committee		
Co-Chair	Mary Walsh*	north.outings.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Co-Chair	Hanna Atlas*	h.atlas425@gmail.com
Member	Judy Green*	jugreen547@gmail.com
Climate Change Committee Chair	Jeff Rapaport*	jefrap@optonline.net
Marketing/Social Media		
Co-Chair	Marie Mannino	mmannino@yahoo.com
Co-Chair	Open Position!	
Youth Outreach/Outings Chair	Erica Cowper*	ecowper@drew.edu
Co-Chair	Open position!	
Diversity/Environmental Justice		
Co-Chair	Bushra Asfare	bushra_c.e@hotmail.com
Co-Chair	Open position!	
Special Events/Membership		
Co-Chair	Hanna Atlas*	h.atlas425@gmail.com
Co-Chair	Open position!	
Member	Bob Weiss*	bobweiss1967@gmail.com

*Elected North Jersey Group ExCom Members

INITIATIVES: The North Jersey Group is committed to coalition building through outreach and planning with other Sierran groups and with local and state nonprofit organizations. Our collaborative initiatives focus upon

- Encouraging municipal resolutions that support town-level adoption of renewable energy strategies and the environmentally friendly development of affordable housing;
- Opposing gas-fueled plants and the construction of pipelines, transport terminals and the use of tankers and trains to transport Bakken oil, liquid natural gas and other dirty fuels;
- Advocating for renewable energy sources;
- Opposing commercialization and development of county, state, and local parkland and open spaces;
- Advocating for removal—not capping—of contaminated soil on undeveloped public land and the restoration of that land to its natural state;
- Advocating for the cleanup of polluted waterways and for the transition to non-polluting sources of transport on the Hudson and other NJ/NYC waterways;
- Supporting access to affordable health care to address the harm done to the health of residents in environmental justice communities;
- Increasing group diversity, and
- Supporting the efforts of organizations who are “on the ground” in environmental justice communities.

We continue to focus our existing efforts upon fighting climate change; creating more opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy and appreciate nature; and collaborating with coalitions, such as Empower NJ and Don’t Gas the Meadowlands, and with other New Jersey groups to advocate for renewable energy and a moratorium on fossil fuel usage, preserve our waterways and protect our parklands.

UPCOMING EVENT: Sept. 14, 2022 at 7 p.m. (Save the date!)

SUSTAINABLE INVESTING: In-person at the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County on Larch Avenue in Teaneck, NJ. Learn about green and sustainable investments from panelists:

- Elizabeth Landau from GreenPortfolio, a financial technology start-up concerned with sustainable investing:
[GreenPortfolio: Find Ways to Invest in Renewable Energy](#)
- Tina Weishaus from Divest NJ
- Bill O’Hern: from offshore wind industry

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in any of these positions, please reach out to the contacts listed.

Webmaster: Contact Marie at mmannino@yahoo.com

Political Action Committee Co-Chair: Contact Ron De Vos at rondevos58@outlook.com

Conservation Committee: Contact Mary at north.outings.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org or Buddy at buddy.jenssen@gmail.com

Climate Change Committee: Contact Jeff at jefrap@optonline.net

Event Planning and Membership Committee Co-Chair: Contact Hanna Atlas at h.atlas425@gmail.com

Marketing/Social Media Committee: Contact Marie at mmannino@yahoo.com

Outings Committee: Contact Mary at north.outings.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org or Buddy at buddy.jenssen@gmail.com

Youth Outreach/Outings Co-Chair: Contact Erica at ecowper@drew.edu

Diversity, Inclusion, and Environmental Justice Committee Co-Chair: Contact Bushra Asfare at bushra_c.e@hotmail.com

GATEWAY GROUP

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

Please contact any of the leaders below if you are interested in joining our campaigns to protect the environment. There are several group officer positions open.

Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/Gateway/

Please also join the Gateway Group on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/pages/Gateway-Group-NJ-Sierra-Club/128998363842782

OFFICERS

Chair Bill Beren* 973-746-9661 Beren1@verizon.net

Conservation Chair	Caroline Kane*	646-961-9003	ckane678@verizon.net
Treasurer	Rachel Tarzia*	908-531-2168	Rtarzia6@outlook.com
Program Co-Chairs	Suzanne Trimel*	973-509-8335	suzanne.trimel@gmail.com
	Steven Yafet	908-354-2537	syafet@gmail.com
Publicity Chair	Amanda Zhong		zhong.amanda@yahoo.com
Political Chair	Claire Ciliotta	973-746-0438	ccili279@gmail.com
Fundraising Chair	Rachel Tarzia	908-531-2168	Rtarzia6@outlook.com
Membership Chair	Steven Yafet*	(see above)	
Newark Issues Chair	Jamie Bruno	973-393-2154	jjjjebruno@gmail.com
Environmental Justice Chair	Shelly Rollins	201-443-7004	volunteer4400@gmail.com
Passaic River Issues and Outings Chair	Steven Yafet	(see above)	
Webmaster	Christy Morganstein	732-718-4343	christy@medartsweb.com

*Group Executive Committee

The following Gateway Group positions are open for volunteers: Vice-Chair, Secretary, Elizabeth Issues, Recycling. If you are interested, contact Bill Beren at 973-746-9661.

Please contact our Program Co-Chairs if you have ideas or suggestions for a meeting-topic, program, or conservation project.

We invite YOU to join in our activism and ask your support as we strive to address the many issues facing our urban and suburban communities. Note the several vacant positions listed above.

CONSERVATION NEWS

The Gateway Group co-sponsored along with Montclair Climate Action and Green-Faith (a national interfaith climate-action coalition) a very successful Drive Electric Earth Day event in Montclair on April 24. There were over 20 cars exhibited, along with electric motorcycles and bicycles. For more details about this and other Sierra Club Drive Electric events, see the story on page 8.

The Gateway Group continues to work with community groups in Newark to oppose the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission’s plans to build a fracked gas backup power plant in Newark’s Ironbound neighborhood. Although it seemed like our efforts had Gov. Phil Murphy’s support when he directed the commission to delay action on the plant and reconsider renewable energy sources, the commission renewed its commitment to the plant at its April 26 board meeting, promising to mitigate the impact of the plant by converting to renewable fuels at some point in the future. However, it is likely that the commissioners mistakenly consider methane and other fossil fuels as “renewable.”

In April, Gateway members attended an interfaith demonstration in front of Wells Fargo bank on Broad Street, Newark, asking Wells Fargo to stop investing in fossil fuels.

HUDSON COUNTY GROUP

Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/udson-county

Email: HUDSONSIERRACLUB@gmail.com

Facebook: @HCSierraClub

Instagram: @HCSierraClub

Twitter: @HCSierraClub

OFFICERS (* = ExCom)

Chair Patricia Hilliard* hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com

Political Chair Ricardo Pereira* rh.pereira.1995@gmail.com

Delegate to Chapter Ricardo Pereira*

Outings / Events Steve Krinsky* stevekrinsky@comcast.net

At-Large Nancy Booth*

Open Positions!

Secretary, Treasurer, Conservation Chair, Publicity Chair, Conservation Co-Chair, Membership Chair

Meeting Schedule: The Hudson Group will continue to meet remotely for now. Meetings are held four times a year. Members are welcome and encouraged to join the meetings. Contact us at HUDSONSIERRACLUB@gmail.com for details.

Upcoming Events: We are planning a number of activities in the near future: nature walks, shoreline cleanups, and public forums. Always check the online calendar for details. Watch your emails! Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HCSierraClub

Current Campaigns: Please join in. We can use help with any of these:

Environmental Justice: Clean air for Hudson County! Low-income communities and black and brown communities suffer the most from environmental destruction: elevated levels of cancer, plus asthma and other respiratory disease from air pollution. Join us to push for **electric school buses and trucks** to reduce air pollution. Check our online calendar and watch your email!

Liberty State Park: The Liberty State Park Protection Act would end efforts to privatize the park once and for all! We attend and support all rallies called by the Friends of Liberty State Park. As part of our environmental justice campaign, we support the work on the interior of the park, which will create 180 acres of wildlife habitat and 50 acres of active recreation for the community.

Skyway Park on the Hackensack River and Essex-Hudson Greenway: The Hudson County Group of the NJ Sierra Club is working to support and expand green spaces in Hudson County. We want to connect existing parks and trails, as part of the Crossroads Campaign to connect greenways across Hudson County. Join up and learn how you can help.

Hudson County Group Goals/Projects for 2022:

- 1. Opposition to NJ Turnpike Widening:** We are forming a committee to oppose the widening of the NJ Turnpike Extension through Bayonne and Jersey City. This widening will bring more traffic, congestion, air pollution, and noise to our communities. Meanwhile, NYC is creating more pedestrian malls and closing off streets. A six-lane expansion will still have to bottle-neck into the two lanes of the Holland Tunnel.

2. Political Action: In preparation for upcoming elections in New Jersey, we hope to meet with sympathetic public officials. We support the Liberty State Park Protection Act, Protecting Against Climate Threats (PACT), the Essex Hudson Greenway, and the Clean Energy Equity Act. We support the efforts of the Don't Gas the Meadows coalition, in support of renewable energy for NJ Transit. Let us know if you would like to join our campaigns.

LOANTAKA GROUP

(Morris and Union counties (except for Elizabeth and Hillside), plus Livingston, Milburn and Roseland, approximately)

Contact: Allen Swanson. afswanson@newjersey.sierraclub.org

Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LoantakaGroupNJSC

Allen Swanson has stepped up to replace Paul Sanderson as the chair of the Loantaka Group. Paul had served as chair for over two decades. He remains the treasurer of the chapter and the group and a member of the chapter executive committee.

Allen was serving as the conservation chair and has been very active in the Sierra Club in recent years. He brings a long history of activism and experience to the position.

The Loantaka Group is working on expanding its active volunteer base and expanding its efforts to educate and influence decision makers in the group's region.

The group has participated in a number of events and plans are in place for many more this summer. Loantaka has participated in two Drive Electric Earth Day events, sponsored voter registration tables and presentations, testified and introduced resolutions to government leaders, passed a resolution in support of the Friends of Drew Forest, advocated for climate change action plans, and much more.

Throughout the summer and fall, the group will continue its voter information and registration drives, participate in street fairs, support advocacy efforts for climate change action plans, and more.

Recently, the group formed the Loantaka Community Action Committee. The committee is a group of volunteers who are looking at local issues and forming advocacy plans to educate and influence decision makers to make choices that will benefit our environment and people.

These efforts need volunteers, and we encourage members and prospective members who want to make a difference. To contact us at the Loantaka Group and join us in community action efforts, write to Allen at loantakachair@newjersey.sierraclub.org or visit www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/

Look for us at tables providing voter information and registrations, at street fairs, and other events.

Allen has made presentations at senior citizen centers, Rotary Clubs, and civic groups in the area. If you have an event or know a group that would be interested in an environmental presentation, or if you are interested in obtaining information about what is happening with the Sierra Club or environmental issues in New Jersey, contact Allen.

Finally, our executive committee is in need of people who can help coordinate media outreach, publicity, membership, and conservation issues. We also need help with events and other activities. Contact Allen with questions or to express your interest in participating.

CENTRAL JERSEY GROUP

(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/central-jersey Or find us from the NJ Chapter's website.

OFFICERS

Group Chair	Joanne Pannone	Jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
Group Vice Chair	Xiaoping Du	Du@yahoo.com
Secretary	Leona Fluck	Leona@Pineypaddlers.com
Treasurer	Arlene Ceterskiva	Va2c2015@gmail.com
Outings	George and Leona Fluck	Leona@Pineypaddlers.com
Programs	Joanne Pannone	Jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
Conservation Chair	Kip Cherry	Kipatthesierraclub@gmail.com
Recycling and Zero Waste Coordinator	Sylvia Kay	Sylviakay222@gmail.com
Trails	Dave Mattek	MattekDC@aol.com
Group Executive Committee Members	Joanne Pannone, Kip Cherry, Sylvia Kay	

We have scheduled in-person activities for Central and West and Raritan Valley combined for summer 2022; our lectures will remain virtual with exciting speakers discussing NJ environmental issues.

Our monthly lecture is held virtually on Zoom the first Wednesday of the month. We have speakers discussing environmental issues impacting New Jersey. All members are welcome.

We need you to get involved and get to know how we are working to protect open spaces, safeguard our water resources, air quality, transportation, and environmental legislation. Our members are working to be sure that the Hughes warehouse plan—6 million square feet at the corner of Route 1 and Quakerbridge Road—makes the minimum impact on West Windsor Township. We are following up on other developments in the Hamilton, Robbinsville and Lawrence areas. Conservation Chair Kip Cherry's commitment to obtain electric school buses is coming to fruition and Recycling and Zero Waste Coordinator Sylvia Kay deserves recognition for her support of the NJ Plastic Pollution Reduction Act, which prohibits retail stores, food service businesses, and grocery stores from selling or providing their customers with single-use plastic carryout bags.

Our members are working to protect open space, wildlife habitat, water resources, and clean air. We help our legislators design legislation. We work with local groups to provide information to protect from development that will adversely impact our lives. Local projects we've fought include Mercer Corporate Park (warehouses) in Robbinsville, and we've advocated for habitat development at Dam Site 21 at Mercer County Park. Statewide, we oppose the Gibbstown liquid natural gas terminal and NJ Transit's gas-powered electric plants, to name a few.

We must stand up for social justice in our communities. We welcome your input. Please join the Sierra Club. We are always ready to lobby at the State House for laws to fight polluters and climate change. We need a moratorium on new pipelines and fossil fuel projects to save the planet. New members are always welcome.

RARITAN VALLEY GROUP

(Middlesex and Somerset counties and surrounding areas)

Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/raritan-valley

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RaritanGroupNJSC

Twitter: www.twitter.com/RaritanSierra

OFFICERS

Group Chair	S. Pasricha	spjersey@gmail.com
Conservation Chair	Gary Frederick	609-203-3382 garyfrederick@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Membership Chair	John Miraglia	johnworks3@aol.com
Political Co-Chairs	Open Position!	
Publicity Chair	Open Position!	
Treasurer	S. Pasricha	spjersey@gmail.com
Webmaster Co-Chairs	Paul Ehrlich	p.w.ehrlich-nj@outlook.com
Outings/Events Co-Chairs	John Miraglia, S. Pasricha, Bernadette Maher	
Student Liaison	Varin Dharia	
Group Executive Committee Members	Gary Frederick, S. Pasricha, Teresa Callahan, Kevin Corcoran, and Paul Ehrlich	

Our monthly membership meetings are typically held on the fourth Wednesday of each month in New Brunswick. We discuss environmental news (impacting Middlesex and Somerset counties), upcoming events, speakers, volunteer efforts, etc. To confirm interest/attendance please contact the RVG chair.

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

1. Opposition to gas and oil pipelines and new fossil fuel infrastructure that threaten the air, water, and our health
2. Conservation and protection of the Raritan River Basin area
3. Passage of and responsible enforcement of environmentally friendly ordinances
4. Land conservation, preservation of open space, and protection of Green Acres

NEWS FROM THE RARITAN VALLEY AREA

• **Regional Energy Access Expansion Project:** The comment period for the draft environmental impact statement ended in April, 2022. We thank the many organizations and individuals who submitted comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission objecting to this dangerous and unnecessary fracked gas pipeline expansion by Williams Transco. Additional compressors doubling the emissions are proposed for Old Bridge (CS 207) and Neshanic Station in Branchburg (CS 505). An explosion in 2013 injured two workers at CS 505, and parts of Neshanic Station were under water during tropical storm Ida. In Middlesex and Somerset counties, miles of existing pipelines with aging welds will transport larger volumes of fracked gas at a higher velocity. The underground transport pipelines are situated near residences, schools, churches, and shopping centers: <https://bit.ly/35UtvPe>

• **Keasbey, Woodbridge Township:** Various towns have passed ordinances in opposition to a fracked gas power plant proposed by Competitive Power Ventures. New Jersey no longer requires that power suppliers prove that energy projects are needed.

• **Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) water contamination:** A class action suit by homeowners and renters is moving forward against Middlesex Water Company for PFOA contamination. Residents in South Plainfield, Clark, Edison, Metuchen, Woodbridge, and Carteret are receiving water drawn from alternate sources until the South Plainfield facility can be brought up to code under the new state Department of Environmental Protection thresholds. "Forever chemicals" found in nonstick cookware and other products are linked to cancer, thyroid issues, infertility, and developmental disorders. www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/pfas

• **The mega warehouse proposal** along the Raritan River on Glendale Road in Edison has been defeated. The town is raising funds (approximately \$12 million) to purchase the property for the community to use as open space or as a waterfront park.

We encourage you to get involved by attending your town's planning and zoning board meetings. If you are aware of development proposals in your town that may have a negative environmental impact, please contact us and join our meetings. We are 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)

Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/Jersey-Shore/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/JerseyShoreNJSC/

Instagram: www.instagram.com/sierraclub_jerseyshore/?hl=en

OFFICERS

Group Chair	Dennis Anderson	732-970-4327	dennisaza@aol.com
Vice Chair	6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747		
Secretary	Open Position!		
Conservation Chair	Bob Grize		
Fundraising Chair	Stan Greberis	908-415-9060	grapefruit@msm.com
	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445	

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Treasurer	Jim Baye	jimbaye@optonline.net
Political Co-Chairs	Robin and Harold Zullo	drzullo@optonline.net
Outings Chair	John Luard	732-708-9221 John.Luard@gmail.com
Outings Leaders	<i>Open Positions!</i>	
Membership Chair	Wael Kanj	
Program Chair	Mary Reilly	908-731-2466 Mary@reillygreen.com
Climate Chair	Steve Miller	732-671-5917 SteveMiller@Comcast.net
Fundraising Co-Chair	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445 faithtei@aol.com
Communications Chair	Wael Kanj	waelkanj@gmail.com
High School Coord.	<i>Open Position!</i>	
Letter-writing Committee	Steve Miller and Stan Greberis	

MEMBER MEETINGS

We present Zoom webinars, usually on the fourth Monday of every month at 7 p.m.

Speakers Contact: Mary Reilly, 908-731-2466 or Mary@reillygreen.com

If you are not getting emails announcing our webinars, please send one to Wael at waelkanj@gmail.com, or sign up at our webpage.

OCEAN COUNTY GROUP

Webpage: Meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Ocean-Group

OFFICERS

Acting Chair and Conservation Chair	Margit Meissner-Jackson	sylviaj1910@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair and Treasurer	Laura Stone	LauraS36@yahoo.com
Outings and Environmental Education	Terrance Brown	terrybrown@comcast.net
Recording Secretary	Nancy Brown	nancybrown624@comcast.net
Political Chair	Margaret Mary Piccolo	gogreenp1@yahoo.com
Membership Chairs	Ray and Cathy Kozakerich	raykozak@comcast.net
Group ExCom Members	William Rodgers	
	Peter Leighton	JPLeighton1@verizon.net
	Joyce Isaza	realtymstr@aol.com

Hospitality, Fundraising, Publicity, and Webmaster are all open positions!

ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES: Our group is focused on many critical issues. Locally and statewide we are fighting a myriad of overdevelopment problems. Along with our allies, we are working hard to save Barnegat Bay and The Pinelands, two natural gems in Ocean County.

WEST JERSEY GROUP

(Camden, Gloucester, and Burlington counties, approximately)

Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/west-jersey

Facebook: www.facebook.com/WestJerseyGroupNJSC

Follow us on **Twitter** @Wjsierraclub and **Instagram** @wjsierraclub

Log on and Like Us!

OFFICERS

Group Chair	Gina Carola	856-848-8831	ginaceee@verizon.net
Vice-Chair	Frank Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Secretary	Ellen Zinni		efzin4@aol.com
Treasurer	Trish Clements		patri3210@gmail.com
Publicity Chair	Anne Caridi		annecaridi@yahoo.com
Political Chair	Linda Rubiano		Linda_Maritza@yahoo.com
Greenways Coords.	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
Media & Communications	Tony Hagen		editor@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Outings Chair	Samantha Vanaman		samvanwanders@gmail.com

Open Positions! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8831

Pinelands rep, smart growth chair, programs chair, social media coordinators

GENERAL MEETINGS are held at 7:30 p.m. on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of ALTER-NATE MONTHS, September thru May, via Zoom. You do not need Zoom software on your PC or Smartphone, just send an email to ginaceee@verizon.net to get an invitation and link to participate.

Sept. 14: Denise Brush of the Chapter's Offshore Wind Committee will present "Off-shore Wind Primer."

In the meantime, please wear your mask, continue to physically distance, and stay safe and well.

Contact Gina to get involved in any of our many initiatives on climate change.

SOUTH JERSEY GROUP

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

Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/south-jersey

OFFICERS

Group, Outings Chair	Tom Boghosian	609-335-6907	boghosian1@verizon.net
Vice-Chair	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Conservation Chair	<i>Open Position!</i>		
Political Chair, Calendars	Dick Colby	609-965-4453	dick.colby@stockton.edu
Membership Chair	<i>Open Position!</i>		

Secretary/Treasurer At Large	Julie Akers Allie Horn	609-432-3280 julieakers56@gmail.com
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Most of the officers listed above are wearing out (at least with respect to the Club) and would more than welcome new blood with ideas and energy for local projects and perhaps meetings. Our consuming conservation issue, adopted just after the group was founded in the mid-1970s, continues to be protection of the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River (GEHWA). 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.

Dick Colby 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 (certified as a Maine Guide!), both ocean-going and in fresh waters, and is possibly willing to lead trips. Julie Akers also works with Atlantic County Friends of the Parks and is president of GEHWA. Allie Horn also serves as the chapter's legislative analyst and social media coordinator.

Current Issues: (1) We've been blue-blazing the southern portion of what will be a continuous footpath between the southern and northern tips of New Jersey, called the New Jersey Long Trail. Many others (and other groups) are contributing. Detailed maps and descriptions are now on the chapter website. Dick has also produced a brochure describing 15 historic walks in Egg Harbor City. Copies (electronic or paper) are available on request. Every municipality ought to have its own such brochure: This is a hint for you to try your hand at it! (2) We continue to hope for Community Solar opportunities for each municipality in South Jersey, operated by the Atlantic County Utilities Authority or other public agencies, promoted by the Board of Public Utilities, and with cooperative acceptance by the Atlantic City Electric Co. Many other South Jersey issues are described in previous issues of this newsletter, available on the Chapter website.

SINGLES SECTION

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

Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/sierra-singles

OFFICERS

Interim Co-Chairs	Ron Pate	ronpate31@verizon.net
	Jimi Oleksiak	The_Hikist@Mac.com
Executive Committee Members	Rozanna Fanelli, Ron Pate, and Jeff Sovelove	

The Singles Section has a need for volunteers. Contact the officers if you would like to serve as any of the following: Outings Chair, Conservation Chair, Treasurer, Social Chair, Vice Social Chair, Programs, Publicity, Membership, Nominations.

We're a friendly, active group of individuals who enjoy hiking, biking, canoeing/kayaking, as well as a variety of social and cultural activities throughout the year. This section was created to offer a variety of singles-oriented activities to NJ Sierra Club members.

PURPOSE: Our purpose is to acquaint single adults with the natural history and beauty of the surrounding area, to promote environmental conservation, and to provide recreational and social activities for members. All activities shall be consistent with Sierra Club purposes. We are not a local group; we're a statewide additional "layer" of club involvement. Everyone is welcome to join us.

COMMUNICATIONS: The best way to be notified of upcoming events is to join our free listserv. Anyone may subscribe by going to: <https://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 list on the online calendar on the Chapter's web site: sierraclub.org/new-jersey. You can also "like" us on Facebook: "Singles Group New Jersey Sierra Club." Activities will also be posted on Meetup.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS:

Social dinners: Join us for dinner the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at a variety of restaurants in different locations. Jimi Oleksiak, the leader, will announce the details one week in advance through a listserv message. An RSVP will be required as described in the announcement.

HIKES AND OTHER OUTINGS: The Singles Section sponsors many outings, ranging from beginners' level of hikes to advanced difficulty. Some of these are listed in the Outings section of this newsletter; others will be announced on our listserv, the Chapter's online calendar, Facebook and Meetup. Hikes are for anybody who is capable of hiking the distance described. It is up to the person who wants to hike to determine their own ability and limits. All hikers are required to sign a liability waiver.

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER (LGBTQ+) SECTION

Our mission is to support Sierra Club goals and to promote environmental activism and social equity. We are an inclusive group and all are welcome to join our events.

Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/

Meetup: www.meetup.com/njsierraclub

Facebook: www.facebook.com/njsierralgbt

OFFICERS

Chair	William Parish *	whparishiv@gmail.com
Secretary	John Kashwick *	John.Kashwick@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Treasurer	Jonathan Wall *	docjdwall@gmail.com
Outings Chair	Robert Zitzman *	robertmzi@yahoo.com
Fundraising	Matthew Lang *	matthewjlang58@gmail.com
Webmaster/Listmaster	John Kashwick *	John.Kashwick@newjersey.sierraclub.org

(* Section Executive Committee Member)

Please check website for further meetings and events.

SENIOR SECTION / FIFTY-PLUS SECTION

The Senior Section is a chapter-wide special interest section for members over fifty years of age. The mission of this section is to support the Sierra Club's goals through letter writing, phone calls, and other activities. We work through a listserv, by which members learn about current environmental issues, how these issues can be supported, and places and events of interest to visit in New Jersey and surrounding states. In the future we hope to appoint members who will be responsible for leading and carrying out efforts related to those issues.

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, a source of travel information for New Jersey and other states.

Paul Ehrlich is the vice-chair (phehrlich-nj@outlook.com). He vice-edits the Essays Section of the Senior Section web site. These essays are written by members of the NJ Sierra Club, and focus on environmental issues, including reports of environment-related news that may not be easily accessed by many members, opinions on how to deal with environmental problems, and support/criticism of environmental actions taken by organizations and individuals. Do you have anything you've been thinking about that you'd like to tell a large audience? Send an essay to Arline and Paul for editing and approval and it will be posted on our website.

The Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section is also accessible online at <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/senior-section>

Visit our webpage regularly to find out about activities and events, including hikes, clean-ups, social gatherings, dinner get-togethers, and other functions for members over 50.

ICO: INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS

(A special interest activity with the motto: "No child left inside!")

Co-Chairs Zachary Rose & Oscar Nazar chair.njico.sierraclub@gmail.com
Other Officers Amanda Gaglio, Mike Depardieu

New Jersey Inspiring Connections Outdoors: (NJ ICO) provides safe and fun wilderness trips for children and teenagers with limited access to the outdoors. Volunteer leaders collaborate with community partners to facilitate, lead and promote events that will educate and foster a love of nature and the outdoors for youth in New Jer-

sey who may not otherwise have the opportunity or the means. The program works to reduce barriers by providing gear, transportation, trip fees and leaders to create opportunities to explore, enjoy and advocate for nature. The chair welcomes inquiries from leaders of schools and other community organizations.

NATIONAL RECREATION ISSUES SUBTEAM

Do one, two, three, or even more of the issues below bother you? Interest you? Concern you? Upset you? Make you feel some action is needed toward better management?

- Off-road motorized vehicles (eg, motorcycles, electric bicycles, ATVs, snowmobiles, jet-skis) that conflict with hikers and damage ecosystems;
- Mountain bicycles on trails;
- Park overflights;
- Not enough accessible recreation;
- Recreation fees charged on public lands;
- Commercialization and privatization of recreation on public lands.



Let the Sierra Club's Recreation Issues Subteam hear from you!

Sierra Club's national Wildlands and Wilderness Team recently created a Recreation Issues Subteam and now seeks interested individuals to join.

The Recreation Issues Subteam's mission is to assist volunteers, build networks and help coordinate the Club's conservation efforts on recreation issues, primarily on public lands.

While all recreation activities certainly have some impact on the land and ecosystems, a major concern of the Subteam is the way that land managers, are steadily **converting nonmotorized trails into mechanized-motorized trails**. This mechanized use conflicts with potential future wilderness designations, among other problems.

If you would like to help our campaign to get better public lands management and better control of these issues, please contact Subteam Chair Karl Forsgaard at karlforsgaard@comcast.net

We welcome your story about electrifying your home with a heat pump. We will discuss at our Building Electrification monthly webinars. Reply to stevemiller@comcast.net.



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

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS

Chapter Outings Chair: Leona Fluck

leona@pineypaddler.com, (609) 259-3734

Skylands: Dave Alcock, dwhoob@hotmail.com

Hunterdon Warren: Jonathan Wall
psychologist@jonwall.com

North Jersey: Co-Chairs: Ellen Blumenkrantz

ellenblumenkrantz@hotmail.com,

and Mary Walsh, blehlwalsh@hotmail.com

Gateway: Open Position!

Hudson Co: Natalya DeRobertis-Theye

natalyadt@gmail.com

Loantaka: Kevin O'Brien, kbkob@aol.com

Central Jersey: Leona & George Fluck

Leona@pineypaddlers.com

Raritan Valley: John Miraglia, johnworks3@aol.com

S. Pasricha, spjersey@gmail.com;

Bernadette Maher

Jersey Shore: John Luard, John.Luard@gmail.com

Ocean County: Terrance Brown, (848) 333-7331

terrybrown@comcast.net

West Jersey: Open Position!

South Jersey: Tom Boghosian; (609) 625-0878 (H)

4794 Andorea Drive, Mays Landing 08330

boghosian1@verizon.net

Singles Section: Open Position!

LGBT Section: Jonathan Wall, dojdwall@gmail.com

and Robert Zitzman, roberttmz@aol.com

ICO: chair.njico.sierraclub@gmail.com

River Touring: Fred Tocce, (908) 453-2205 (H)

RD-1, Box 277, Washington 07882

Outing Leaders: Please send write-ups for October-December 2022 to your group outings coordinator (or, if you don't associate yourself with a single group, directly to the new chapter outings chair) before August 3. 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 to Group Outings Coordinators: Please submit your October-December 2022 trip write-ups by August 3.

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.

Registration is required for all outings, and all outings are limited to 10 to 12 people at the discretion of the trip leader. Face masks are not required for adults, but are suggested. Face masks are required for all children. Please keep appropriate space (6 ft) between you and other participants on all outings. If you are sick and experiencing any possible Covid-19 or cold/flu symptoms, do not attend the outing.

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 an email 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, nonmembers 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 writeup, as follows:

Atlantic Chapter, ACOC; Central Jersey, C; Gateway, G; Jersey Shore, JS; Loantaka, L; NJ Chapter, NJ; North Jersey, N; Raritan Valley, RV; River touring, RT; Singles (SS); Skylands, Sk; South Jersey, S; West Jersey, W.

JULY

July 9 (Sat): Hike and Optional Swim at Breakneck Pond, Harriman State Park (Orange Co., NY) 10 a.m., 6 miles in 5 hours, including swim time, hilly terrain. Views of lakes and mountains. Portable toilet at parking lot and pond. No pets; hiking boots and day pack with water required. Bring lunch (swimsuit and towel, if swimming). Register at www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/calendar. Directions will be sent via email to those who register. Leader, Jimi Oleksiak, the_hikist@mac.com

July 10 (Sun): Hike Clayton Park, Upper Freehold (Monmouth Co.) 3 p.m. We will walk through stately stands of oak, beech, ash, and birch, in gently rolling terrain. Our route will be less than 4 miles in about 2 hours. Supportive footwear recommended, bring plenty of water. Register online at: Jersey Shore Group | Sierra Club Leader, John Luard, will provide meeting place after you register. (JS)

July 13 (Wed): Nature Trail Walk and Guided Boat Tour at the Manasquan Reservoir (Monmouth Co.) 10 a.m., 3 miles, easy pace. We'll meet at the Visitor center on 311 Windeler Rd, Howell. Enjoy a leisurely walk to the Environmental Center and explore the wetlands, Cove Trail. Then walk back to the visitor's center for the naturalist guided boat tour. The cost is \$6 per adult. Life jackets are provided and must be worn. Bring water, snacks, and lunch for the lunch break before the boat tour. Rain cancels. Pre-registration is required; group size is limited. Co-leaders: John Miraglia (johnworks3@aol.com) and Leona F. (Leona@pineypaddlers.com) (RV)

July 20 (Wed): Canoe/Kayak at Lake Mercer in Mercer Park (Mercer Co.) 10 a.m. "It's National Hot Dog Day!" Paddle the 365-acre lake and explore the Assunpink Creek upstream. We'll see blue herons fishing at the water's edge and many other birds. Bring water and lunch. The snack stand will be open for hot dogs! Meet at the marina boat ramp parking lot, where we unload and launch our boats. Preregistration is required; group size is limited. Rain cancels. George & Leona F. (leona@pineypaddlers.com) (C)

July 23 (Sat): Summer Walk at Duke Farms (Somerset Co.) 10 a.m., 3-4 miles, leisurely walk with property highlights stops along the way. Duke Farms serves as a model of environmental stewardship in the 21st century. Meet at the Farm Barn Orientation Center, www.dukefarms.org/ Bring your camera, water, and lunch on the hike. Pets are not permitted. Rain cancels. Preregistration is required; group size is limited. Co-leaders: Sindhu P. (spjersey@gmail.com) and Leona F. (leona@pineypaddlers.com) (RV)

July 29 (Fri): Hike at The Watershed Institute (Mercer Co.) 10 a.m., 3-4 miles, easy pace. Keeping water clean, safe, and healthy is the heart of the institute's mission: working to protect and restore our water and natural environment in central New Jersey through conservation, advocacy, science, and education. Meet at 31 Titus Mill Road Pennington, NJ, <https://thewatershed.org/about> Bring water, snacks, and lunch. We'll tour The Watershed Center and then walk the blue trail to Wargo Pond. Leashed dogs are permitted. Rain cancels. Preregistration is required; group size is limited. Co-leaders: Leona F. (leona@pineypaddlers.com) and Joanne P. (jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com) (C)

AUGUST

Aug 4 (Thu): Hike at Smith's Woods and Smithville Park (Burlington Co.) 10 a.m., 4-5 miles, easy pace. It's India Pale Ale Day! Smith's Woods and Smithville Park feature a diverse collection of habitats as well as vistas of the Rancocas Creek Watershed. Meet at the Smith's Woods access parking lot, East Railroad Ave. Bring water, snacks, lunch and hiking poles, if you use them. Leashed dogs are welcome. Preregistration is required; group size is limited. George & Leona F., 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

>continued on page 16

Aug 13 (Sat): Hike and Swim at Camp Mohican, Delaware Water Gap NRA (Warren Co.) 10 a.m., 7 miles in 4 hours plus swimming time. Hilly terrain. Those who only wish to swim, can participate. Hilly terrain, Catfish Pond, Kittatinny Mountain lookouts. Restrooms at Camp Mohican and area for changing clothes. No pets. Bring hiking boots and day pack with water and lunch (bring swim suit and towel if you are swimming). Register via web at www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/calendar Directions will be emailed to those who register. Leader, Jimi Oleksiak, the_hikist@mac.com

Aug 14 (Sun): Hike Tatum Park, Middletown (Monmouth Co.) 2:30 p.m. Tatum offers a grove of mature holly, another of tulip trees, and many open meadows—a variety of terrain, with some opportunities for short climbs. We will walk about 4 miles in about 2 hours. Supportive footwear recommended, bring plenty of water. Register online at: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/calendar Sierra Club Leader, John Luard, will provide meeting place after you register.

Aug 21 (Sun): Cloverdale Farm County Park Nature Walk (Ocean Co.) 10 a.m., 2 miles. The Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Fund Program acquired Cloverdale Farm in 2004. Within the boundaries of this 90-acre park, we find the diversity of the Pine Barrens wetlands, uplands, and the beauty of 20 acres of cranberry bogs all year long. We'll tour the Interpretive Center and walk the self-guided nature trail. Meet at 34 Cloverdale Rd, Barnegat, NJ 08005. Bring snacks and water. After the walk, an option to drive to nearby Argos Farm for locally grown produce and other items in their market. www.argosfarm.com/ Preregistration is required; group size is limited. George & Leona F., 609-259-3734, or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Sept 11 (Sun): Hike at Duke Island Park (Somerset Co.) 10 a.m., 4-5 miles, easy pace. Duke Island Park includes trails, which are part of the Raritan River Greenway. We'll meet at the visitors center which is located near the main parking area and houses the park ranger office and the restroom facilities: Old York Rd., Bridgewater, NJ. Rain cancels. Bring snacks, water, and lunch. Leashed dogs are welcome. Preregistration is required; group size is limited. Co-leaders: Sindhu P. spjersy@gmail.com, and Leona F. (leona@pineypaddlers.com) (RV)

Sept 22 (Thu): First Day of Autumn Paddle Lake Mercer in Mercer Park (Mercer Co.) 10 a.m. Paddle the 365-acre lake and explore the Assunpink Creek upstream. We'll see blue herons fishing at the water's edge and many other birds. Bring water, lunch, and snacks. Meet at the Marina Boat Ramp parking lot where we unload and launch our boats. Preregistration is required; group size is limited. Rain cancels. George & Leona F. (leona@pineypaddlers.com) (RV)

Sept 25 (Sun): Hike Cheesequake State Park, Old Bridge (Middlesex Co.) 2 p.m. We'll use a couple of trails to create nearly 5 miles of walking in uplands near salt marsh. There are some ups and downs, bring plenty of water, supportive footwear recommended; 2 mph pace. Register online at: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/calendar Sierra Club Leader, John Luard, will provide meeting place after you register.

SEPTEMBER

Sept 8 (Thur): Palisades Hike at State Line Lookout (Bergen Co.) 10 a.m., 7 miles in 4 hours on paved paths and park trails. Views from the Palisades of the Hudson River. Restrooms at parking lot and lookout café. No pets. Hiking boots or sneakers permitted. Bring day pack with water and lunch. Register via web at www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/calendar Leader, Jimi Oleksiak, the_hikist@mac.com

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

All members are welcome to attend these monthly policy deliberations, held by Zoom video conferencing on second Saturdays. Zoom can be accessed from a computer, smartphone, or telephone. The Conservation Committee meets from 10 a.m. to noon and the Executive Committee meets from 1 to 3 p.m. For meeting link, contact secretary@newjersey.sierraclub.org.

Upcoming Meetings: June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10



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Please share this newsletter with a nonmember friend and invite them to join (see membership coupon this page).



THE JERSEY Sierran

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

REPORT FROM TRENTON

DRBC Undercounts Public Comments on Fracking

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) substantially undercounted the actual number of comments submitted on the DRBC's draft regulations on fracking wastewater import and water export to and from the Delaware River Basin, environmental organizations making up the Delaware Frack Ban Coalition said. In April, they wrote a letter of complaint to the DRBC.

The draft regulations in question would build on the landmark February 2021 ban on fracking in the Delaware River Basin by addressing issues of fracking wastewater imported into, used in, or exported outside the basin. These issues were not addressed in the ban. The coalition and its supporters agree that if the Delaware River watershed is to be fully protected, these loopholes must be closed.

The public comment period is an important opportunity during rulemaking for members of affected communities, as well as experts, to weigh in on an issue. According to coalition records, members of the public submitted at least 11,593 individual comments over the four-month comment period. DRBC staff acknowledged only 2,461 "submissions," with a note that "submissions may contain multiple comments." It appears that if multiple constituents raised the same issues, using mainly the same language, these were considered one submission with "multiple comments."

Advocates for the Delaware River Basin say there is no precedent for undercounting comments in this way. Each individual who comments deserves to be heard in their own right. "Our DRBC commissioners need to know how many residents are concerned," said Coralie Pryde of the Natural Resources Committee of the League of Women Voters of Delaware.

See the letter submitted to the DRBC Commissioners here: <https://bit.ly/3xjPEX9>

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Protect Liberty State Park

By Zoe Glavan

The future of Liberty State Park is uncertain, since people have been trying to take its land for a private golf course. The 1,200-acre park is extremely important not only for us, but also for many species of migratory birds and other animals. This park includes some of the few salt marshes in the North Jersey area—extremely important habitat for many creatures.

Salt marshes help maintain water quality in coastal bays and estuaries by filtering rain runoff and metabolizing excess nutrients. These marshes also help fight climate change by regulating and storing greenhouse gas. They are even more successful at this than rainforests.

Marshes absorb substantial amounts of carbon, and if Liberty State Park's marshlands are disturbed, all that carbon may be released into the atmosphere. Salt marsh could also release methane if the soil heats up or is disturbed. Lastly, marshes and wetlands help create storm buffers. The roots of the marsh plants trap sediment, creating coastal barriers. This could help save thousands of dollars in the future as storms increase in number, size, and intensity.

Today, marshes are becoming rarer and rarer because they are filled in for development or drained for agriculture.

Liberty State Park's wild animals are important to our ecosystem. Many are migratory birds, such as bald eagles, merlins (small, fierce predatory falcons), flycatchers, great egrets, and peregrine falcons. This area also is important to marine and land animals. The park and its marshes must be preserved for us all. Young children need to be exposed to the environment and its wildlife and learn the importance of protecting these treasures. This park can also be very nurturing for children in teaching them outdoor awareness. Adults also benefit from having a place to hike, take a casual stroll, or simply just relax and enjoy the views of the

river, lower Manhattan, Ellis Island, and our Statue of Liberty.

Unfortunately, some people now want to build an active recreation center in the park's interior, possibly for soccer, track, baseball, and football, which could reduce open space and tree cover. However, this is not a good idea.

Once an ecosystem is destroyed, it may take years for it to be restored to its former state, if ever. We can travel anywhere in the United States and find a sports field, but finding a healthy salt marsh is another story.

As of right now, Liberty State Park is not in imminent danger, but the threat is still there, such as billionaire Paul Fireman's desire to fill in the park's marshland to add two more golf holes to his already complete golf course. Fortunately, the Friends of Liberty State Park, a local environmental organization, stood in his way.

I hope you will help protect Liberty State Park—forever—by supporting a very important bill pending in the state legislature, the Liberty State Protection Act. The bill would prohibit the state Department of Environmental Protection from considering any proposal to commercialize, develop, or privatize the park.

I worry about what this world will look like when I grow up and whether the harm can be reversed. Too much of our land is being compromised or destroyed, but supporting this bill can help. We can do something to stop the tide of development, unchecked pollution, and animal extinction by protecting this small-but-symbolically rich park on the Hudson River.

Zoe Glavan is a sophomore at Mater Dei Prep in Middletown Township. Help Zoe by asking your NJ state representatives to pass the [Liberty State Protection Act](#). This bill is supported by the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club and Empower NJ, a consortium of over 120 organizations working to counter climate change.

REPORT FROM TRENTON

EPA Should Move Faster on Truck Emissions

An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) draft rule to reduce heavy-duty truck emissions may be too little, too late. The EPA stopped accepting public comment in May 2022 on the plan to phase in controls for truck ozone, greenhouse gas (GHG), and particulate matter. The draft rule would be the EPA's first to restrict heavy truck pollution since 2001, but to cushion the impact of related manufacturing costs, the agency is moving slowly. That delay could be very costly for human health and climate stability.

The EPA would require just 1.5 percent of new trucks to be zero emissions vehicles by 2027. Fortunately for New Jersey, the Advanced Clean Truck (ACT) rule adopted by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection in December 2021 would start this process much earlier, with at least 5 percent of new trucks sold in 2025 being zero emissions vehicles or qualified as such by pollution offsets acquired by the manufacturer. Whereas New Jersey is aiming for roughly 55 percent of new truck sales to be zero emissions by 2035, the EPA plan would not reach this goal before 2040.

As with toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) regulation, New Jersey is again ahead of the EPA. In New Jersey, trucks represent about 20 percent of transportation sector GHG. Although New Jersey will benefit from the ACT, federal action is necessary to move truck manufacturers into a zero-emissions market. Climate action cannot wait, and this proposed EPA rule must be done correctly to help with the effort.

Save Energy While "Keeping Your Cool"

By Jonathan Allen, Ph.D.

Summer is approaching, and with it the need to cool our homes. A central house air conditioner is the largest summertime energy consumer in a home. It typically runs 30 percent of the time during the four-month warm season, for a total of 860 actual running hours. While running, it draws 3 to 5 kilowatts (kW) per hour. Assuming a conservative 3.5 kW, it would consume about 25 kilowatt hours (kWh) per day or 3000 kWh during a four month season. Based on the NJ average residential cost of [15.77 cents per kWh](#), that is roughly \$473 per summer. For ethical reasons, such as reducing one's carbon footprint, we should seek to minimize this energy consumption, and there are practical ways to do it without major sacrifices of comfort.



The strategy begins by controlling the unwanted flow of heat from the exterior to the interior. The best possible insulation, including double-glazed windows and tight weather stripping will retard unwanted heat flow between indoors and outdoors. Note that these measures contribute even more toward conserving heat in the winter when the temperature difference between indoors and outdoors is far greater. Equipping windows with shades, curtains, or blinds whose outside-facing surfaces are white will also prevent a significant influx of heat.

We should know that an efficient modern air conditioner will use less than half as much energy as an older (pre-1990) less efficient model.

Even more important, but less obvious, is a smart strategy for using the air conditioner. This plan invokes some basic physics, which in this context pretty much coincides with "common sense." First, heat flows spontaneously "downhill," that is, from high to low temperatures, but insulation can slow that process. Conversely, to force heat to flow "uphill" (from a cool to a warm place) requires a refrigerating machine (in this case the air conditioner) which must consume power to do that work. Just as in pumping water uphill, the greater the temperature difference (corresponding to height difference) and the more heat you pump, the harder the machine must work, and hence the more energy it consumes.

During summer nights, however, you want to create just the opposite effect by opening up the house. Specifically, when the outdoor temperature drops below the indoor, open the windows and allow the hot indoor air to exchange for cool air. Installing a large window fan or attic fan to draw air through the house will considerably enhance this effect. Such a fan consumes about 250 kWh, or less than a tenth of what an air conditioner uses. Ventilate until the interior temperature approximates cool outdoors. This usually takes 3 to 4 hours with a fan. In the morning as the outdoor temperature starts to rise, seal up the house to shut out the daytime heat. This scheme works almost every day, enabling you to "keep your cool" with the indoor temperature remaining below about 80 °F until you repeat the ventilating cycle the next night.

Unfortunately, a few nights will be so warm that one cannot achieve sufficient cooling by morning, and if the day is forecast to be so hot as to require air conditioning, then it is best to run it for only an hour or two in the morning. This has two advantages. First, the air conditioner has to pump heat across a relatively small temperature difference, so it consumes less power. Second, it avoids imposing a heavy load on the utility grid during the peak demand period in the afternoon.

And now the results: Last summer, an elapsed time meter connected to our air conditioning compressor recorded only about 25 hours of running time over the entire summer season, and hence less than 1/30th what an ordinary air conditioning routine would consume. And, as explained above, even when the A/C did run, it had to pump heat over the smallest possible temperature difference.

We will naturally repeat the plan this summer.